

AFFILIATING WITH OTHER GROUPS

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Executive Director

Councils at all levels are regularly presented with opportunities to unite with other groups to promote particular causes. Often the question is asked of the national executive, “Can we support this group? Does ‘national’ endorse this group?” The answers can be found in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

The League’s policy is “to cooperate at all levels with other organizations where and in whatever manner the council concerned agrees is necessary or desirable to accomplish the objects of the League.” (*Constitution & Bylaws*, Article V). On the national level, the League is officially affiliated (by motion) with the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations and the Catholic Health Association of Canada.

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for a common objective.*

Also on the national level, and through contributions sent by members and councils to the national treasury, the League officially contributes to Coady International Institute, national pro-life organizations, Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, MaterCare International, Catholic Missions In Canada, World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations and the 49th International Eucharistic Congress.

Beyond the foregoing, the national level will cooperate with other organizations for short term or temporary projects but does not officially endorse other groups. “Cooperation” means working together for a common objective.

At the parish level, and by cooperating with the many community-based worthwhile organizations and offering financial assistance, members across Canada are upholding the Objects in accordance with the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

Parish councils that wish to cooperate with a particular group are well advised to follow the established guidelines before entering into any joint project. These guidelines are:

1. Review the organization’s constitution, bylaws, list of offices/officers, sponsors, policies and objects.
2. Ensure that the policies and objects of the organization conform to the objects and policies of the League.

3. Investigate the reputation of the organization in the community.
4. While League involvement with another organization may focus on one common issue or concern, the council must ensure such involvement does not give credibility to or condone other stands taken by the proposed coalition/affiliation organization which are not compatible with the objects and policies of the League.
5. It is not advisable for councils to affiliate with any other organization/group by payment of membership dues.
6. Determine how the proposed coalition/affiliation would affect the League in matters such as:
 - (a) circulation of common material by either i) the coalition/affiliation; or, ii) the League
 - (b) the duration of the coalition/affiliation between the organizations
 - (c) if the League name is to be used in publications and what control the League has over publication content
 - (d) if League participation is for a specific issue/topic and if the issue/topic is to be named
 - (e) if the coalition/affiliation is to be allowed to include the League’s name in advertising and in any common publication or material, and what control the League has over the content of such material
7. Participation in a coalition/affiliation shall be determined by a motion of the members at a council meeting, after matters outlined in sections one to four have been determined and agreed upon by both the League and the coalition/affiliation organization, or by motion to become effective subject to the satisfaction of all such matters.

When due diligence in the form of research is applied, members can rest assured that their executive is supporting worthy and worthwhile projects that, at the same time, uphold the Objects of the League. †

Magazine Deadlines:

February 28, 2007

August 31, 2007

November 30, 2007

All copy should be sent to national office.