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M E M O

To: Parish Council Past Presidents
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
From: Betty Anne Brown Davidson
Date: April 22, 2016

Good morning to you! Today it dawned on me that past presidents are the “grease monkeys” of councils!

1. We drain out the old oil, i.e.:
 - We collect the photos, news clippings, reports, minutes and information about council activities.
 - We “dispose” of it. That is, we
 - Preserve what needs to be kept for historical reasons.
 - Organize and celebrate records for the benefit and enjoyment of members.
 - Ensure succeeding executive members have a copy of the report from a past event with its lessons learned and its recommendations for success in the future.
 - Share interesting stories to bring a human face to a memory.
2. We allow the “machine”, the parish council to take a breather and come to terms with its present state of affairs in the grand scheme of things.
3. We replenish the council with fresh, new oil by acting as a consultant to its good health by
 - Recommending members attend meetings and conventions at the next level.
 - Sharing information we may have about current issues.
 - Leading members to the source, the “bones” (the rules and regulations) of this amazing organization found in the *Constitution & Bylaws* and *National Manual of Policy & Procedure*.
4. When the job is done, we wipe our hands clean, satisfied by a job well done! That is, we
 - Smile and have positive words to say about the League and our particular place in its “universe”.
 - Encourage other women in the parish to “Come and see. May I pick you up for the meetings?”
 - Continue to explore the spiritual gifts offered through membership.
 - Maintain our interest, perhaps by offering our talents (organizational skills, investigation, outgoing personality, teaching skills, spiritual insight, etc.) to the next level of the League.
 - Freely share the wisdom of past experiences while allowing the new generation to decide upon its own manner of operation.

You have heard the phrase, “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.” I believe a well-oiled machine is a wonder to behold and a dream to operate. May you savour your role as “Gertrude the Greaser” or “Olivia the Oiler!”

Peace, mercy and joy to you,

Betty Anne Brown Davidson
National Past President and Chairperson of Laws