



THE LEADERSHIP FORUM: SUMMARY OF THE BREAKOUT ROOMS

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SUBMITTED BY

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Question 1

How would collaborations between Sister Clubs benefit your members? Would you be interested in program exchanges between Clubs? What about Regional Conferences? What about a Biennial Conference in the future?

- Virtual Leadership Forums are an excellent way to have more women attend and help them solve problems together. In-person meetings could be expensive.
- Forums are a good way to exchange information and learn more about each other culturally.
- Digital platforms provide exposure to a broad range of topics and programs that can be shared among clubs.
- Hosting virtual events in English helps those learning English and opens programs to more women. For example, Welcome to Taipei put on a Healthy Living program in English.
- Clubs should include WCI information across all Sister Club platforms, i.e., in digital newsletters and on websites.
- Clubs near each other could get together for a Regional Conference—less expensive with a more relaxed program.
- Reviving the Biennial Conference. We all need to refresh and make new friendships.
- We must be sensitive to what different Sister Clubs are experiencing.
- Some clubs may need encouragement to participate.

Question 2

What are you doing to get the club members you want—members who represent the demographics in your region?

- Providing and promoting cultural events—such as a Turkish Tea to invite guests to join. This activity was part of an international cooking class.
- Having in-home tea for new members to meet each other. New members received a handwritten invitation.
- Publishing articles on activities as well as birthday dates of members in the monthly newsletter.
- Reaching out to diplomatic circles and other cultural clubs in the area to invite as guests to one of the club meetings.
- Offering a wide range of interest groups to attract a variety of women.
- Balancing intellectual and illuminating experiences with social events.
- Working to retain existing members.

Question 3

Covid and other external events affected how Clubs responded. How are you preparing for future challenges?

- Making full use of digital platforms—website, Zoom, Mailchimp, Canvas, etc.
- Increasing member comfort level with digital platforms, including educating Board members who did not previously participate in online meetings.
- Training members on digital platforms, and maintaining funding for digital tools.
- Creating online interest groups, such as Online Bingo.
- Sending holiday and birthday cards to stay connected.
- Moving activities outdoors—picnics, walking tours of historic districts, etc.
- Purchasing Board insurance against liabilities.

Question 4

How do you see your Club benefiting from WCI's Consultative Status in the UN? Would you like to participate in a UN program?

- Having a Consultative Status distinguishes us from other clubs and enhances our sphere of influence.
- Being part of the UN can help us attract new members and allow us to share our vision of friendship and understanding around the world.
- Receiving information about WCI's Consultative Status with the UN is welcome.

Question 5

How often would you like to hold Leadership Forums? Were the survey questions helpful?

- Answers ranged from holding Leadership Forums from once a year to four times a year.
- Holding Board meetings once a year.
- Survey questions were "good," "not bad."

Question 6

How can we keep the legacy and vision of Marian Adair alive as we move forward? Would you be interested in learning more about Marian's story?

- Welcome to Florida gives a Marian Adair award at a luncheon, and the recipient is featured in the directory. The club highlights Marian Adair in its history on its website.
- Welcome to Washington has a Marian Adair program on its website. They have a history book shared with all new members, and every communication refers to friendship and understanding. Club-wide events have a memorabilia table showing historical items from the club's early days.

Most Break Rooms ran out of time. Women were glad to see each other and they shared many good ideas and stories. It was a worthwhile event!