

# Serra Presidents' Roundtable March 29, 2021



## Club Presidents' Roundtable Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Formation issues (10 min)
3. Best Practices presentations (30 min)
4. By-laws changes (15 min)
5. Future discussion topics (5 min)
6. Closing Prayer

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## Club Presidents' Roundtable Protocol

- Sign in with First and last name
- Mute yourself until you have question or comment
- Always give your name & club name/area when commenting
- Use "Chat" feature if you cannot comment directly
- Post-meeting comments, questions or requests:  
[mike.downey@downey.com](mailto:mike.downey@downey.com)

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## Club Presidents' Roundtable Opening Prayer

### The Our Father

Please follow along silently.

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# Serra Presidents' Roundtable March 29, 2021



## Club Presidents' Roundtable Formation Issues

- **PURPOSE:** Sharing and Communications
  - Between clubs
  - Between clubs & US Council Board/Officers
  - Enhance awareness of being part of something larger than just one club
- **WHO:** Club Presidents, President-Elects and recent past Presidents
- **HOW OFTEN:** between one and four times per year (poll)
- **ELIGIBILITY** to represent clubs (small, medium & large) at US Council Board Meetings (poll)
- **GOVERNANCE CHAIR?**

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## Club Presidents' Roundtable BEST PRACTICES

- **Think Worldwide with Zoom presenters**
  - Tom Lupinacci, Serra Club of DuPage Co. IL ([tom@freedompartners.net](mailto:tom@freedompartners.net))
- **Rosary for Priests\***
  - Patricia Fielding, Serra Club of Lehigh Valley PA ([pfielding2012@gmail.com](mailto:pfielding2012@gmail.com))
- **Growing Membership during the Pandemic**
  - Candice Tyrrell, Serra Club of N. Houston TX ([ctyrrell@comcast.net](mailto:ctyrrell@comcast.net))
- **Clergy Connect program**
  - Sally O'Neill, Serra Club of Omaha NE ([oneill.sally7@gmail.com](mailto:oneill.sally7@gmail.com))
- **Annual Bishop's Meeting**
  - Lee Crutchfield, Serra Club of Kansas City, KS ([delcrutchfield@aol.com](mailto:delcrutchfield@aol.com))
- **Vocations Outreach to Hispanics\***
  - Homer Radford, Serra Club of SE Kansas City MO ([hradford2@comcast.net](mailto:hradford2@comcast.net))

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## Club Presidents' Roundtable BY-LAWS

- **No Club is required to adopt By-Laws changes**
  - **Exception:** Clubs recently reinstating non-profit status **required** to include specific IRS language
  - Other Clubs: recommended but optional
- **Club By-Laws cannot be inconsistent with S.I. By-Laws**
  - Inconsistent does not mean identical
  - S.I. By-Laws should be viewed as minimum requirement
- **Changing By-Laws is two-step process:**
  - US Council must first approve requested changes to by-laws
  - Requested by-law changes must then be approved by SI
    - SI approval of changes can only be granted at SI Convention via vote of delegates

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# Serra Presidents' Roundtable March 29, 2021



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**By-Law Changes**  
**Group 1:**

**Non-controversial changes to reflect how clubs currently operate, e.g.:**

- eliminate 50% attendance requirement;
- eliminate requirement to meet 2x per month;
- eliminate requirement to have prospects go through orientation prior to induction;
- Minor cleanup and grammatical changes
- inclusion of IRS required tax language to maintain non-profit status

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**By-Law Changes**  
**Group 2:**

**Provide Naming Flexibility to Clubs:**

- Official name remains "Serra Club of (location)"
- For local purposes, clubs may use any name that includes the word "Serra" and the location. E.G.:
  - St. Serra Club of (location)
  - Serra Ministry of (location)
  - Serra Vocations Ministry of (location)
  - Serra Apostolate of (location)
  - Use of the prefix "St." in front of 2, 3 & 4 above
- Advantages: eliminate confusion with Sierra Club; eliminate the word "club" – "elitist" and considered a barrier to other Catholic cultures joining Serra
- Possible concerns: branding issues and confusion

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**By-Law Changes**  
**Group 3:**

**Change eligibility for half price dues from under 35 years of age to under 50 years of age**

- Goal: attract younger members (45-50 yoa) to join and to retain those who currently join under 35 yoa but drop out soon after (about 1/3 drop by age 37 and another 1/3 soon after)
- Financial implications to Serra Intl and US Serra unknown since very few birth dates have been entered into the portal

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**By-Law Changes**  
**Group 4:**

- **New membership category: Serra Cultural Ambassador (SCA) at half of Full dues**
  - To engage leaders from cultural groups not represented well in a Club (e.g., Hispanics, Sudanese, Vietnamese, Nigerians)
  - To help build bridges into cultural groups encouraging them to pray for vocations from their culture (e.g., Hispanics, Sudanese, Vietnamese, Nigerian)
  - Maximum of 4 per club/ revenue neutral

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Club Presidents' Roundtable  
**By-Law Changes**  
**POLL:**

- **By Group:**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure

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Club Presidents' Roundtable  
**Future Discussion Topics**

**Ideas (if time permits) ?**

**Forward by email to me  
if no chance to present**  
**mike.downey@downey.com**

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# Serra Presidents' Roundtable March 29, 2021



## Club Presidents' Roundtable Closing Prayer

### St. Serra Club of Des Moines Prayer for Vocations:

God our Father, today may I have an opportunity by my actions to encourage a vocation to the religious life. Help me to conduct myself in a Christian manner that I might give proper example, particularly to the young. Through

the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, may I also support those in religious life in their vocation to Your Church.

May the sincerity of my prayers and my concern for vocations result in an increase of laborers for Jesus and His Church. Amen.

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## Spring 2021 Club Officer Training Webinar

Six Sessions (2 options for each session):

- 1. Overview of Serra & US Vocations**  
Apr. 24 (Sat) 10 am Central or Apr 26 (Mon) 7:30 pm Central  
Recommended for all club officers
- 2. Club operations, leadership & Event/Planning Calendar**  
May 1 (Sat) 10 am Central or May 3 (Mon) 7:30 pm Central  
Recommended for all officers especially President, President-Elect and V.P. Programs
- 3. Vocations & Programs**  
May 8 (Sat) 9:30 am Central or May 11 (Tues) 7:30 pm Central  
Recommended for all officers especially President, President-Elect and VP's Vocations & Prog
- 4. Membership & Communications**  
May 15 (Sat) 10 am Central or May 17 (Mon) 7:30pm Central  
Recommended for all officers especially President, President Elect, & VP's Mem & Comm.
- 5. Treasurer training**  
May 24 (Mon) 7:30 pm Central  
Recommended for President and Treasurer
- 6. Club Foundation Representative**  
June 8 (Tues) 7:30 pm Central  
Recommended for President and Foundation Representative

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