

Guidelines for an E-Society

An e-society, otherwise known as e-LWML, cyber-society, or virtual LWML, is a group of women who conduct their regular Bible study and business via e-mail rather than in face-to-face monthly meetings.

The main benefits of an e-society are convenience and flexibility. The member can open her meeting e-mail and participate whenever and wherever she chooses. This allows women who work outside the home, have major family responsibilities, or have limited transportation or mobility issues to be a part of LWML without committing to attendance at monthly meetings. In addition, “attending” a meeting via computer allows immediate access to the LWML Web site for resources and information.

The purpose of an e-society is the same as a traditional LWML society -- to serve the Lord with gladness. Properly structured, there are opportunities for spiritual growth, mission service and outreach, gathering mites, and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

The following suggestions are to help you get started in establishing an e-society in your congregation. The guiding principle is to be flexible and do what works for your group. There is no right or wrong way to conduct your e-LWML activities.

Requirements of Members

Each member of the e-society is asked to serve on the planning committee for at least one activity or project during the year, contribute dues to cover the cost of the *Quarterly* and some project expenses, and donate to the LWML mite goal.

Officers

Officers will vary depending on the needs of the group. They could include:

- facilitator (serving one year) – sends out meeting e-mail
- facilitator assistant (serving one year and then moving to facilitator)
- treasurer
- archivist – keeps a file of all group e-mails
- PR person – keeps congregation informed of group’s activities
- spiritual coordinator – writes or secures monthly Bible study material

There is generally no need for a secretary as all members get the same e-mail.

Regular E-Society Meetings

On a regular basis (usually monthly) the facilitator sends out the e-mail “meeting” with a Bible study and/or devotion, prayer requests, project reports, treasurer’s report, any business, and the listing of upcoming projects and the responsible committee members. If decisions need to be made, discussion is conducted using the “Reply All” button. There is a deadline and members are asked to “vote” by pressing the “Reply All” button. Members

are asked to respect the e-mail list and not to forward “those really cute or inspirational” e-mails to this list, since everyone’s in-boxes are already full.

Annual Meeting

Once a year members have a face-to-face meeting to elect officers, decide on projects for the next year, and determine a budget. Prior to the meeting members submit their suggestions, and discussion and vote are held at the meeting. Everyone signs up to help with the planning of at least one project and a chairman and the month for it to be completed are designated.

Projects

The planning committee makes all the decisions concerning the project, including how to raise any needed funding. They can do it themselves, or they can involve the whole e-LWML group and/or the congregation. They generally make their plans by e-mail. Gathering to do the project offers the opportunity to develop relationships with other LWML sisters. After the project is completed, a report is made to the group.

Working with Other LWML Groups

The e-society may wish to coordinate activities, participate in joint projects, such as LWML Sunday, or hold an annual social with other LWML societies.

Affiliating with LWML

An e-society would become a member of the LWML the same way a traditional society would, by submitting an application to the LWML district.

E-Societies are new entities and are still evolving. As with traditional societies, they can organize, structure, and govern themselves in a manner that meets the needs of the group. The above suggestions will get you started in forming your group. God bless you as you serve the Lord with gladness through this new and exciting format.