



REGION 12 NEWSLETTER

January 17, 2018

Dear Fellow Serrans,

I recently attended The Serra Rally held in Phoenix on January 11-14, 2018. There were 140 Serrans in attendance which included 15 members from Region 12. Clubs represented from our Region were: Portland (5), Tri-Cities (4), Seattle (2), Cascade (2), Everett (1), and Spokane (1).

It was one of the most spiritual rewarding Serra Conventions which I have ever attended. This was attested to by a verbal survey conducted of members of the United States Council Board following their last session on Sunday morning. These individuals acknowledged the joyful spirit of all attendees as evidenced by the spirited group gatherings following each session. Visiting between members was at an all time high.

This outpouring of enthusiasm was facilitated in part by the dynamic talk by **Tom Thibodeau**, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership at Viterbo University, a Catholic institution located in Lacrosse, Wisconsin. I will attempt to summarize his points of emphasis from his talk entitled: "Servant Leadership"

- Our Vocation is to make the invisible God visible
- Do we see the goodness in others?
- Our call is by Jesus—"Come and See"
- Our goal is to know, love and serve God in this life and to be with him in the next.
- Goodness always continues to spread.
- Our lives are predicated on the service to other people.
- If service is beneath you, leadership from you is impossible.
- Our youth want to have lives of service and meaning.
- The greatest disease of our time is loneliness
- Do we have enough time for reflection?
- Prayer is the school of love
- God chooses to work through me
- The role of the laity is to transform the world
- Virtue—we become what we do
- Have integrity—do we tell the truth?
- Jesus said: "I am the Way, **the Truth** and the Life.
- Have the ability to speak the truth with love
- A leader sees more possibilities that are to be accomplished.

Greg Schweitz, President of the United States Council in addressing Leadership Issues made the following comments:

- It takes many talents to create the whole (body) of a Serra Club
- Trustees are in the role of Servant Leadership :
 - They are responsible for the operation of the organization
 - Should form Leadership Councils within their club
 - Be responsible for placing members into proper roles which utilize their talents
- We need constant flow of ideas to remain relevant to the changes in society
- The joint meetings of the Serra International Board at the same time and place as the United States Council Board have brought about a unification of purpose
- A new position is being created (Membership Coordinator) to take over the functions formerly performed by Peter Cunningham

Vocations Committee - John O'Halloran V.P.

The Vocations committee conducted a survey of the 214 clubs with responses from 171 of them regarding the question as to which programs they utilized the most. The responses showed the following:

- Club 31
- Traveling Crucifix
- Holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration

The format for all of these programs is set forth in the SPARK resource kit described below.

SPARK - Presented by Judy Cozzens , President–elect USA Council

SPARK is the name for “Serra Promotion and Resource Kit “which has come to fruition after many years of effort. It is a resource tool for Vocation Directors throughout the United States. It currently contains 23 different programs and will be added to as necessary. This resource includes the original 5-Star Programs of

- Traveling Chalice
- Priesthood Sunday
- 31 Club
- Promoting Vocations in parishes
- Holy Hours
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In addition, Vocation Directors may reference other programs prepared specifically for them at their request such as:

- Vocation Talks for Elementary, Middle and High Schools
- Video Resources on Religious Vocations for Different Ages

The entire Spark Program is readily available on line at serraspark.org It is an excellent resource for all clubs to use and demonstrates the tremendous value received by all Serrans from their dues paid to the United States Council.

Programs - Richard Arians, V.P.

The program committee has prepared three new programs based upon the address of Pope Francis to all Serrans while in Rome for the International Convention in June 2017. These programs are:

- Befriending Priests
- Embracing Serra's Future
- The Renewal of Serra

Treasurer - Ray Vales

If any club has issues with the IRS regarding the filing or failing to file their Form 990 , please notify the United States Council office in Chicago. They have employed legal counsel being assisted by law students from Kent University to resolve these issues on behalf of all clubs at no cost to you.

The United States Council Board passed a resolution approving a budget for 2018 as follows:

Anticipated Revenue	\$367, 900.00
Budgeted Expenses	<u>\$378, 100.00</u>
Deficit	(\$ 8, 200.00)

The anticipated loss for 2018 is to be funded form a carryover of surplus funds anticipated to be \$194,700.00 at the end of 2017 accounting year. Final figures not yet available. These funds are from two estate bequests received in 2016.

A question was raised about what to do under our By-Laws with a member who does not attend meetings but continues to send in their dues. President-elect Judy Cozzens stated:

“Don't turn away members for non-attendance, but rather write them a nice letter thanking them for their dues payment and giving a brief explanation of how their dues will be applied to the clubs activities and that you look forward to their returning to club meetings.”

Membership - Allan Eckert, V.P.

We currently have 214 clubs in the United States Council for a total of 7608 members. The future growth of Serra in the United States is vital to the success of our apostolate. We continue to experience a net loss of between 200 to 400 member Serrans per year. The trend is not sustainable and is having a serious negative impact on our finances. It is essential that individual contact and conversation with potential candidates be the new norm. Don't live in the past and rest on your laurels. Look for opportunities to invite new qualified people.

The goal for new members this year is 1300 new Serrans. He who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Many clubs fail to send in their Presidents Report of Incoming Officers and this results in the failure to receive the “Always Forward—Never Back” publication which keeps all clubs informed of significant dates and events happening in Serra.

Awards

This is the second year for awarding the “Face of Serra Award” which was instituted by President Greg Schweitz. This award recognizes a District Governor from a Region for outstanding performance. Our own **Andrew Tassani, Governor of District One North** was this year’s recipient for Region 12. Congratulations Andy for a job well done! You are most deserving.

The United States Council reviewed Newsletter from the various clubs and awards were given to the top ten. Region 12 Best Newsletter Award was presented to the Serra Club of Spokane along with a gift credit card of \$50.00.

Our Presidents

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the work done by our two presidents. First is our own Portland Serran and President of Serra International, Dan Jones, who has served with much enthusiasm and devotion to duty as well as grace of the position. He goes out of his way to speak to all Serrans and acknowledge their presence making all feel welcome. Thank you Dan, for your many years of service to Serra.

Our second individual is President of United States Council, Greg Schweitz. President Schweitz spent the past year visiting numerous clubs across the nation and sharing his thoughts on how they could become better at fulfilling our mission. He has conducted all meetings on a business like basis and with great compassion and reverence to the individual.

We have been blessed to have such great leaders and owe them a debt of gratitude. I have noticed a great growth in spirituality amongst Serrans following a resolution of our past difficulties.

Very Truly Yours,

Martin G. Weber
Region 12 Director

To all the Serran leaders in Region 12

Congratulations to your outstanding Regional Director for an excellent summary of the recent Serra Rally in Phoenix and to Andy Tassani for his award as an outstanding district governor. Thanks also to all who attended and I hope more will consider attending next year in **Ventura, California scheduled for January 17-20, 2019**. It will be hosted by the Los Angeles Archdiocese Serra clubs at the Marriott. A Serra-hosted pilgrimage at the northern missions will follow.

As your Serra International president, but also as a Serran of Region 12, I would like you to consider two issues. First, have an annual membership drive. In fact, I would ask that if you have a club that has less than 25 members (this is the minimum under Serra International Charter) you consider two drives; one in the spring and another in the fall. Members of a larger clubs should volunteer to assist. As leaders, please ask all your board members to invite and sign-up a new member and then ask all members of your Serra Club to do the same.

Who should you ask? Start with your family; families of priests, sisters and seminarians; daily mass participants; and especially LEADERS in your parish community. While you are soliciting new members, don't forget starting new Serra clubs. This three step process (increasing membership through annual membership drive; helping smaller clubs grow; and forming new clubs) has been a hallmark of Region 12, so let's continue with those objectives!

Second, please consider reinstating our annual Regional Conference. There is considerable value in meeting face to face once a year, to meet old and make new friends and also to talk about our successes and failures and how we can "Always Move Forward, And Never Back". The spiritual activities of our prayers, celebration of the Eucharist, Serran prayers, and love of being together will bring the joy that Christ desires for each of us in our clubs.

Thanks you for all each you have done for Serra. God Bless you and your family!

Dan Jones
President of Serra International