

2019 Chapter Leaders' Luncheon

Best Practices for CLS Attorney Chapters

CHALLENGES

- Finding “Disciple Makers” willing to disciple
- Pridefulness
- Consistency in attendance
- Getting priority in lives
- Finding a niche
- Geography/Proximity
- Rebuilding fellowship
- “Cliquishness”
- Political perception
- “Participant” to member
- Participation
- Leadership
- Genuine relationships
- Christ-connectedness
- Fear of identification
- No \$\$
- Competition with Christian organizations
- Integration of faith/practice
- Getting word out
- Ideological challenges
- Critical mass
- Inter-generational rift
- Transition from law school
- Diversity & inclusion

2019 Chapter Leaders' Luncheon

Best Practices for CLS Attorney Chapters

****Whole group chose the 4 top challenges, then each of the 4 tables shared thoughts on how to address each issue.****

FAITH/PRACTICE

- Not just a Sunday sermon
- Telling HIS stories boldly about our practice
- Using hypotheticals for faith in practice
- Christian dilemmas
- Finding the right tools (devotions, etc.)
- Having prominent/known member of profession share integrating their faith into practice
- Q&A – separate meetings with facilitators to discuss this (i.e. not lecture)
- Member spotlight
- Personal sharing/struggles
- Christian perspective – ethics
- Prayer group
- Speakers sharing testimony (clients)
- Partnerships with other organizations
- Pro bono work together
- Have mission statement with core values

FELLOWSHIP

- Food: 1-on-1, groups
- Restaurant dinner or lunch – separate room with separate checks, followed by speakers, and pay for law students
- Dinner at home
- Speaker – engaging
- Topics address vulnerability (i.e. stress/anxiety) with scripture and small groups
- Structured discussion/talks
- Invite people other than lawyers
- Encourage friendship, not just a business connections – be intentional
- Mentorship
- Social events that can include families (BBQ, etc)
- Young lawyer events
- After work receptions (include law students)
- Service project (serving together)
- Community within churches
- Prioritize fellowships (celebrate diversity within practice)

2019 Chapter Leaders' Luncheon

Best Practices for CLS Attorney Chapters

CONSISTENCY

- Free food (esp. for law students)
- Advance notices/reminders
- Consistency of time and location
- Prayer
- Format – small group discussion
- Maybe less is more? Less frequency but bigger events?
- Building personal relationships
- Engaging programming – create value
- Regularly proclaiming the gospel
- Different types of events
- Perseverance
- Personal calls
- Forgiving/no guilt if you haven't been coming
- Livestreaming meetings
- Taping (video) meetings & posting to website for future viewing
- Job posting/sharing
- Respect timeliness
- Automated reminders with technology

TRANSITION TO MEMBERSHIP

- Demonstrate value of membership
- Permanent nametags for members
- Privileges of memberships
- Importance of membership
- Communicate expectation of membership
- Promote national conference
- Service opportunities (Christian Legal Aid)
- Cost – flexible cost (without shaming for lower cost, or do a 1st year special rate, etc.)
- Talk about how money is used
- Focus on connective (not divisive) between red and blue
- QR codes for membership/laptop to sign up @ meeting
- Shaming
- Designate natural salesperson in chapter to be a membership chair
- Membership event – special event (food, speaker, etc.)
- Have designated nametags/cards for existing members
- Dues sharing – awareness
- Law student scholarships for CLS National/regional conferences **OR practice funding to get skin in the game