



Ways to Add Variety to Sister in the Brotherhood Meetings

Sometimes it helps to do something different at SIB meetings. Why? Because people can become bored at hearing the same thing, presented in the same way, delivered by the same people. Making changes can make a difference. For example, Sisters might help more with committee functions or become more involved in committee events. If you think adding a little variety could benefit your Sisters, consider these ideas:

A. Change Something

Look at everything about the format you use to conduct meetings. Start this process by asking the following questions:

1. Who opens your meetings?
2. Who closes your meetings?
3. What topics do you cover?
4. When do you cover those topics?
5. Who covers each topic?
6. How long do you devote to each topic?
7. What handouts do you use?
8. Who takes notes?
9. Who distributes materials?

If your answers reveal that your process is the same and your activities involve the same people, consider making changes. For ideas, look at these documents for ways to involve all sisters in SIB Committees: [Involving Sisters](#) and [Using Members for Committee Operations](#).

B. Add Something

Think about the needs and interests of your Sisters. There may be opportunities for you to include something new that Sisters have asked for or that you know would be beneficial. Consider the following examples:

1. Invite a speaker. See the documents [Guest Speaker Ideas](#) and the [Speakers Evaluation Form](#).
2. Add something new at the beginning of your meeting. The Newfoundland Women's Committee has a Sister deliver a security minute. Check out their list of [Best Practices](#).
3. Include a development activity. You could add this with other topics or make it your entire meeting.
4. Add a new topic. Maybe your Sisters could benefit from devoting an entire meeting to a different topic. If so, these [11 Sample Agendas](#) can help.

C. Remove Something

Reflect on your meetings with a focus on what *did not work well*. If these things occur once or twice, ignore them. If they occur frequently, make changes. Consider these questions:

1. Do we have problems that frequently occur before the meeting?
2. Do we have problems that frequently occur during the meeting?
3. Do we have problems that frequently occur after the meeting?
4. Do we have things that Sisters frequently complain about?

Let your answers guide your decisions on what to remove or stop.

Bottom line on adding variety: try it once! You may be pleasantly surprised at the reaction of your Sisters.

Adding Variety to Meetings - <https://www.carpenters.org/sisters-in-the-brotherhood/>