

FRATERNAL LEADER



A Message from our President and CEO Bill O'Toole

Dear Fraternal Leader:

The end of summer is fast approaching, and hopefully you've had a chance to relax and enjoy all this season has to offer! It's been our pleasure to see many of you, along with thousands of other members and their families, at some of our regional events this summer, such as the Milwaukee Brewers Game and our gathering at the Wisconsin State Fair. Summer is also the traditional time for the Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group (FLAG) to come to our home office in Milwaukee for their annual day-long meeting, held this year on July 20.

A primary focus of that meeting was to review feedback received from chapter leaders at our workshops held earlier this year. At those sessions, we discussed two important governance questions related to the Convention: direct election of the Board of Directors by all adult members of the Society, and giving the Board of Directors full authority to approve all Mergers and Acquisitions. Thanks to all of you able to participate in those discussions. Based on your feedback, FLAG made the following recommendations:

FLAG agreed that there are advantages and disadvantages to electing the Board by either direct election or by delegates. However, the group felt that the current system works well, with the Nominating Committee reviewing each candidate's qualifications, recommending to delegates those the Committee believes are best suited to meet the current needs of the Society, and empowering delegates to cast their vote. **Therefore, delegates will continue to elect our Board of Directors.**

FLAG also recommended that the Board be given full authority to approve Mergers and Acquisitions of organizations smaller than Catholic Financial Life, requiring a two-thirds vote in favor, but requiring delegate approval for organizations of equal or greater size.

And though it may still be more than a year away, the 2018 Triennial Convention is really just around the corner! Preparations are well underway for that event, at which we will elect our Board of Directors, vote on changes to our bylaws, and also celebrate our fraternal roots going back 150 years! Special guests already confirmed to join us at the Convention include Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop Jerome ListECKI, and Bishop Emeritus Louis Gelineau.

If you are interested in serving on one of our Convention Committees, please contact Joe Gadbois or Sally Krochalk in the Member Engagement Department. More information on those committees is provided on page 2 of this special edition of *Fraternal Leader*. Please also note the timeline for electing delegates and alternates from your chapter. We want to be sure every chapter is fully represented at the Convention!

The next twelve months will be both busy and exciting, as we finalize our plans for the Convention. Watch for more information in future issues of *Fraternal Leader* and in our *Radiant Life* magazine. Wishing all of you good health and success with your chapter activities this fall, and beyond.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill".

William R. O'Toole
President and CEO
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Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group - July, 2017

Convention Committee Opportunities

"The elective form of government," important to fraternal benefit societies like Catholic Financial Life, is demonstrated through our Triennial Convention process. The convention offers our members another opportunity to make their voices heard, through the delegates elected to represent them at the convention. In addition to electing our Board of Directors and voting on changes to our bylaws, delegates are also eligible to serve on one of the five major convention committees. They are:

The **Judiciary Committee** reviews, considers, and potentially recommends proposed amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Society, for consideration by the delegates.

The **Nominating Committee**, consisting of nine delegates, obtains and reviews all information needed to determine the eligibility of an applicant for the Board of Directors. It certifies the eligibility through a thorough examination of the application for the board, an interview process, and any other activity deemed necessary by the committee to ascertain the applicant's qualifications to serve on the board. It then recommends the slate of most qualified candidates to delegates.

The **Finance Committee** reviews and reports on the expenses of holding the convention, including delegate expense reimbursement. It recommends to the delegates compensation for the Directors, excluding the President and Secretary, for the ensuing three-year term.

The **Credentials Committee** examines, tabulates, and approves the credentials of the delegates.

The **Grievance Committee**, consisting of six delegates, reviews and makes recommendations with respect to grievances ONLY regarding issues directly affecting the convention.

Committee members are selected by the Board of Directors, the Fraternal Leaders Advisory Group (FLAG), and the President and CEO, each appointing one-third of the members of each convention committee.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please submit your name to Sally Krochalk at sally.krochalk@catholicfinanciallife.org; call 800-927-2547, Ext. 6604, or Joe Gadbois at joe.gadbois@catholicfinanciallife.org; call 800-927-2547 Ext. 6601.

Preliminary 2018 Convention Timeline!

• September 30, 2017

End of Third Quarter Chapter Membership Count

The number of delegates/alternates allocated to each chapter will be based on this count.

• October 2017

Initial Mailing of Delegate Election Materials

This mailing will include instructions for carrying out your election of delegates, delegate qualifications, delegate/alternate report forms, and more.

• January 1 to April 15, 2018

Election of Chapter Delegates/ Alternates

Even if your chapter has just two delegates, those generally being the president and secretary of your chapter, please hold an election of alternates for the convention!

• September 21-23, 2018

Convention

Please be sure to note these dates on your calendar!

If you have any questions regarding topics in this newsletter, please contact:

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