

LCWR Region 9

Legislative Network Report

Fall 2021

Representative at Network Meetings

ACTION: Leadership of each congregation will continue to encourage their representative to Leg-Net to participate in semi-annual meetings. Meeting currently by Zoom. **Next meeting: Jan 18, 2021.**

SUMMARY OF Legislative Network FOCUS AND ACTIVITY:

- Congregations/provinces based in Wisconsin have more than 2,000 members. Although not all these live in Wisconsin, the Leg-Net is in a position to engage more than 1,000 Catholic Sisters in the state. The Leg-Net was established as a working group of LCWR9 in the 1990's with the unique niche of educating about and advocating for Wisconsin legislation affecting social justice issues. Three members of LCWR 9 are members of the Legislative Network: Rose Jochmann OSF, Ellen Sinclair SDS, and Toni Harris OP.
- Since the last LCWR 9 meeting (April 2021), the Legislative Network met by Zoom on June 28, 2021, and Sept 28, 2021.
- Actions and Issues:
 - Congregations' plans related to the **Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP)**: Some will commit on Oct 4th. Most represented have not signed on to the platform. There seems to be some confusion as to when congregations will make a public commitment. It looks like November 14, 2021 will be date for official enrollment. LSAP will continue to be an item on upcoming agendas.
 - Volunteer efforts for **Afghan refugees at Ft. McCoy**: The efforts at Ft. McCoy are still very fluid with background checks taking quite a long time to clear but there will be need into the winter as it is estimated there are around 13,000 Afghan refugees at the camp.
 - Sainthood campaign for Fr. Mychal Judge: Franciscan Friar who was the first certified fatality of 9/11; cause for canonization discussed.
 - Invite Exec. Director of WRC to next meeting.
 - Affirmed name and continuing areas of focus as described in "Understanding" with WRC.
 - Planning to meet quarterly so as to better address collaboration with WRC.

WRC + LEG-NET – UNDERSTANDING:

The Wisconsin Religious Collaborative (WRC) stated that the social justice portal "committee members will be expected to contribute expertise, advise on direction, assist in identifying additional resources, and facilitate connections." Based on our experience as the Legislative Network of LCWR Region 9, we believe that we are able to contribute the work of our committee and its members to WRC. Rather than forming a WRC social justice committee, which would likely draw members from the people already serving on the Legislative Network, we propose that LCWR 9 Legislative Network be the Peace and Justice "arm" of WRC offering the following services.

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- Analyze Wisconsin legislation and recommend action
- Carry out LCWR National issues: currently the intersection of Racism / Climate change / Migration
- Share resources: among communities (those with hired staff share with those with no hired staff)
- Facilitate collaborative response on current justice and peace issues
- Stay connected with other Wisconsin groups on issues such as Catholics at the Capital and Wisconsin Catholic Conference

We propose that the director of WRC be part of LCWR 9 Legislative Network.

We believe that, with the collaboration of the different communities' communicators, a system to facilitate this kind of sharing via WRC can be established.

HEADS-UP:

Earth Day – Apr 22, 2022

ACTION: At the fall 2019 LCWR 9 meeting, members agreed that beginning with Earth Day 2019, religious congregations in Wisconsin will observe annually a period of “contemplative mindfulness” inspired by the principles of *Laudato Si*. The LCWR Region 9 Legislative Network (Leg-Net) will provide promotional reminders to save the date and a common prayer resource for all religious congregations in LCWR 9. All are requested to use it on **Earth Day or during that week**. Prayer resource was distributed in early April. It should have been shared with the person who will facilitate this observance in your congregation. All LCWR 9 women religious are encouraged to observe this day in solidarity.

(Submitted by Toni Harris OP – October 2021)