

Guidelines for Women's Ministries in the USA

Note: Women's Ministries is the umbrella term that covers all ministries offered to women in The Salvation Army, which includes Home League and Women's Ministries Outreach Groups.

Fundamental Purpose – Women's Ministries Mission

To win women for Christ, encourage spiritual growth, and provide Christian fellowship

To promote a purposeful life

To work toward the betterment of the home, the community, the nation and the world

To recruit soldiers and link families to the fellowship of believers

Aim

Women play a vital and definitive role in shaping society through their influence in the home and family. The aim of any Women's Ministries program is to provide Christian fellowship and practical help that will benefit not only the individual and her family, but also the nation.

Programming of meetings and activities should be varied and informative and include the four-fold purpose of:

- Worship
- Education
- Fellowship
- Service

Expectation

A variety of Corps programs can be used to win women (and their families) for Christ, to minister to their needs, and to encourage their spiritual development. Among these: the Home League is unique in that common requirements must be followed to ensure its international unity and maintain the worldwide fellowship.

- Minimum Standards – 44 combined Home League and Women's Ministries meetings
- Observance of Women's Sunday, Annual Meetings and World Day of Prayer
- Involvement – Corps, World Services, Territorial, Divisional, Corps Projects (financial/in-kind)

Where there are several women's group leaders, one should be appointed as the corps Women's Ministries Secretary.

Introduction to Guidelines Expectations

The Role of the Corps Officer

Among other officer-related duties, the Corps Officer is responsible for ministry to women, which includes the Home League and Women's Outreach Groups. The Corps Officer should periodically lead the meetings. Duties may be delegated to assistant officers as needed. The Corps Officer gives oversight to all matters pertinent to his/her special ministry. Local leadership should be sought and encouraged, ongoing training provided, liaison established and maintained between groups and corps.

The Corps Officer must:

1. Have a vision for ministry to women in the corps and community. The officer should be thinking of innovative ways of meeting needs, thus fostering a desire in the women to hear the message of the Gospel.
2. Ensure a regular spiritual emphasis at meetings, and encourage the spiritual development of members. Make the women aware of every opportunity to involve their family members in corps programs.
3. Visit active, inactive and shut-in members.
4. Support local leadership in every way, showing understanding and giving guidance in any area of concern.
5. Encourage leaders and potential leaders to attend leadership training seminars conducted at the corps or arranged by divisional or territorial headquarters.
6. Convene the meetings of the Quarterly Planning Council.

Corps Women's Ministries Secretary

1. The Corps Women's Ministries Secretary must be a Salvationist
2. The Corps Women's Ministries Secretary (and/or the Home League Secretary) will serve on the Senior Corps Pastoral Care Council as a representative of the corps women's groups
3. The Corps Women's Ministries Secretary, where applicable (or the Home League Secretary), shall preside over the Program Planning Council

Women's Ministries Structure

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International Headquarters

Women's Ministries/Home League Finance

1. Each member should be encouraged to financially contribute to the Women's Ministries/Home League program and projects.
2. Any Women's Ministries/Home League group may establish a custodial account where money is directly deposited into the corps financial books.
3. All money received must be counted and checked by two unrelated responsible persons, then banked and handled according to territorial policy.
4. A receipt must be obtained for every payment made and kept on file with the proper expense voucher which has been signed by the recipient of the payment.
5. Any financial grant made to the corps funds from any Women's Ministries/Home League fund must be done in full consultation with the local officers/lay leaders of the Home League group. Any transaction must also be done with the consent of the officer/corps administrator and with the endorsement of the Divisional Director of Women's Ministries.
6. A brief financial report should be given monthly or quarterly to each group that has an account.
7. An annual financial report should be prepared and distributed at the Annual Women's Ministries/Home League meeting.
8. An up-to-date inventory of equipment should be kept. These items are Women's Ministries/Home League property and may not be borrowed without permission.
9. Every Women's Ministries/Home League is to participate in three projects: World Services, Territorial and Divisional.

The corps officer/officer-in-charge/corps administrator and leaders of the Home League are together responsible to ensure that accounting for group finances is carried out in accordance with Salvation Army policy.

(See The Salvation Army USW Minutes for Women's Ministries/Home League finances in the Minutes and Procedures database in Lotus Notes.)