*Whether vaccinated or not, if you’re planning to gather with community members, think about what you can do to help keep yourself and your loved ones safe from COVID-19. Washington Department of Health offers the following guidance in a multitude of languages:*

[*https://coronavirus.wa.gov/information-for/you-and-your-family/safer-gatherings*](https://coronavirus.wa.gov/information-for/you-and-your-family/safer-gatherings)

# Have a Purpose

Have clear goals and objectives or a cause of immediate interest to potential members. Create a concise statement about your group and its purpose to make it easier for multiple people to convey the same message when reaching out to the community.

# Listen

Few people will come right out and say, “I’d feel really fulfilled it I could do \_\_\_.” Try to listen between the lines and hear what triggers their enthusiasm. When your community group can offer something that is in sync with what an individual or community needs, everyone benefits.

# Be Accessible

Make it easy to become a member. Have membership information available online, in print, and in person in multiple translations if there is a need in your community. Some ideas for possible platforms to share updates include:

1. **Up-to-date neighborhood association website or Facebook page.**
2. **Distribute, mail, or handout a membership brochure or newsletter** to community members in your neighborhood.
3. **Community events in your area:**
   1. Fairs, festivals, and parades.
   2. Sidewalk and garage sales.
   3. Local faith-based events.
   4. PTA/school events.

Check out the Department of Neighborhoods Events Calendar ([www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/event-calendar](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/event-calendar)) or the Department of Neighborhoods bi-weekly e-Newsletter ([www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/outreach-and-engagement/newsletter](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/outreach-and-engagement/newsletter)) for upcoming community events.

# Have Fun

Be enthusiastic about what you’re doing. Have a party and invite the whole neighborhood. Have interesting and lively meetings. Socialize and have snacks after meetings. Do hands-on projects and invite non-members to participate.

# Be Appreciative

Thank people for whatever they contribute – time, funds, or materials. Being appreciated can help keep people involved and active.

1. A personal thank you – a heart-felt hand shake or a hand-written note – is probably the most effective form of appreciation.
2. Public acknowledgement – at the annual meeting or celebration, in the newsletter, on the website – is also good.
3. Other options include arranging for discounts at local stores or handing out freebies (group t-shirts, mugs, pens).