



## Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council Organization Report 2012

**Provincial Chairperson:** Dorothy J.

**Diocesan Chairpersons:** Carol S. – Calgary  
Gwen E. – Edmonton  
Linda V. – Grouard-McLennan  
Theresa H. – Mackenzie-Fort Smith  
Betsy F. – St. Paul

### Membership

Calgary:	3,941 members in 54 councils
Edmonton:	4,700 members in 68 councils
Grouard-McLennan:	576 members in 20 councils
Mackenzie-Fort Smith:	67 members in 3 councils
St. Paul:	620 members in 19 councils
Total Alberta Mackenzie:	9,904 members

Recruiting and renewing members continued in 2012.

Organization chairs worked hard to maintain the membership and an increase of 3 members was realized in 2012 for the Provincial Council.

### Recruitment of New Members

Successful initiatives included the promotion of the League through short-talks at mass, having the pastor speak on the importance of membership, hosting a booth at a stewardship fair, advertising in the church bulletin and posters, better one-on-one communication, community involvement, member recognition, letters of invitation and renewal, early-bird draws, personal testimonies on what membership has meant to individual members and more fellowship activities. Councils invite all ladies of the parish to Christmas & Advent celebrations, Feast Day luncheons, dinners, fundraisers, teas and bake sales, Many councils offer first year membership to RCIA candidates, refreshments after CWL masses, invitations to special events. They also provided information about activities and structure of the League, going table to table at Pancake breakfasts and dinners inviting ladies to join and presenting the workshop entitled "To Belong." One council reported that it prepared a Power Point presentation of council activity pictures with a descriptive script to be used at their membership drive.

Two diocesan councils reported giving each new member of a kit consisting of the CWL pin, the League Prayers booklet, a booklet on the League and the *Constitution & Bylaws*.

### Renewal of Members

Social activities varied widely from one council to another and included introductions and name-tags for meetings. Ice-breakers and interactive games are used as well as the sharing of stories at social times particularly those that bring laughter. Prayer partners/sisters and faith sharing were important to many members. Some council members are becoming more acquainted through an afternoon of cards, crafting bees, Bible study time, fundraising and sharing church maintenance duties.

Many councils reported out-reach to elderly members who are no longer able to attend meetings. This was provided by fellowship taking the form of visiting long-time members at home, in senior's lodging and in care centres, and by remembering them with birthday and special occasion greetings. Some councils pay *per capita* for members with 50+ or 60+ years of service or for those over 80 years of age.

### Recognition

Pins, certificates, prayer cards, gifts and flowers continue to be awarded during the year to members for years of service, thank-yous and gifts of appreciation, Ceremonies are held to welcome new members and to recognize the gifts of current members. Birthdays and anniversaries are recognized at meetings and in newsletters.

More formal recognition took place with the presentation of the Bellelle Guerin Award and the Maple Leaf Service Pin. Edmonton Diocesan Council reported that Pauline McBain and Terri Gosche received the Bellelle Guerin award in 2012. Thirteen members in Alberta Mackenzie received a Maple Leaf Service Pin from their council for exceptional service in 2012.

### Leadership Development

Some councils report holding planning and budget meetings and an annual evaluation of a CWL year including events that were held in that year. Goals are discussed and yearly calendars are prepared by some. One council continues to have each committee chair share her focus for the year and a handout is distributed to each standing committee chair which outlines the responsibilities and duties, followed up by the president having a one-on-one meeting with new executive members. In some cases, a buddy/mentoring system is put in place for new executive and new members. Most councils are giving handout information to new members and all members are being encouraged to attend conventions and workshops.

**Catch the Fire** development days have been held and more are scheduled for the new year.

Leadership development consisted of watching the Elsie Yanik DVD and the For God and Canada DVD, and attending a Communications workshop.

### League Resource Material

Members keep current by reading from *The Canadian League*, *Be League* and going online to the CWL websites. Mini-workshops on Leading the League have been facilitated by a Life Member in one Diocese. It was appreciated that much of the resource material is available online to all members.

### Life Membership

In 2012 there were four Life Memberships awarded in the Province. These were awarded to Vi Lake, Gloria Lundberg, Florence Bernakevitch and Shirley Hazen, all of the Calgary Diocese.

Submitted by:

*Dorothy J.*,  
Alberta Mackenzie President-elect & Organization Chairperson