



THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

Provincial Organization Standing Committee
Oral Report to Convention (June 4, 2016)

Madam President;

With One Heart, One Voice and One Mission the members in Alberta Mackenzie have been working to increase membership in their councils. In 2015 there were 9671 members in our province. Fifty-nine (59) councils posted an increase in their memberships and some experienced a decrease while others retained the same number from the previous year. From reading the annual reports, the majority of councils reported that one of the best ways to recruit new members was by personal contact. When new members join, it is a great idea to give them a 'Welcome Kit.' On my display table is a sample of this. Perhaps develop a buddy system for new members, where they are paired with long time members who could help inform them about the League. It is important to keep current members well informed of events and to try to involve all your members in some kind of project. Regarding lapsed members, perhaps a visit or a phone call to find out why they have not renewed, might just make the difference. Personal contact is so important.

Thank you to Cathy and Dorothy for the workshop they gave yesterday regarding the new Annual Reports. With the information that they shared, we hope that the new reporting system will be much easier for everyone to follow. Your reports provide all levels of the League with the important information on issues that our affecting our society and thus enables us to look at developing resolutions that will hopefully be addressed to government.

Under this convenorship we also have the privilege of recognizing and recording special awards that are presented during the year. Let's recognize members who go above and beyond the call of duty by nominating them for the Elsie Yanik award. The deadline for this award is December 31st of each year. On a sad note, Hilja Jones, the Elsie Yanik recipient in 2010, passed away this past February. We were also deeply saddened to learn that Ella Ell a former Provincial President passed away in December. At the Edmonton Diocesan convention, I had the honour of receiving a Life Membership in the League. As a new member to this coveted position I am pleased to have the opportunity to be an accredited delegate at all conventions and to have a permanent place on the National Council. But these honours are not taken lightly, as they carry with them the responsibility of supporting and actively serving the League for life. We were notified that changes to the process for Life Membership applications would take effect in March 2016.

Councils are encouraged to seeking funding from the National Development Fund to help provide members with workshops and other programs that will help enhance their knowledge of the League. The better informed you are, the more information you can share with other women, and hopefully this will encourage more women to become members of this great organization!

This concludes my report:

June F.

Alberta Mackenzie President-Elect