



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

Provincial Organization Standing Committee
June 10th, 2017

Madam President;

Since we met at convention in 2016, I had the opportunity to attend the following events on behalf of the ABMK Provincial CWL:

- the 2016 CWL National convention in Halifax
- annual brunch and awards presentation for St. Joseph Basilica's CWL
- the opening night of the 50th Annual convention of the Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association in Edmonton to hear keynote speaker 'Josephine Lombardi'
- the funeral service for Elsie Yanik on December 12th in Fort McMurray
- the Calgary Diocese's 'Snowflake Gala' held January 28th, which was a fundraiser to help with hosting the 2019 CWL National convention.
- the Edmonton Diocesan convention held April 21st -23rd in Edmonton
- the St. Paul Diocesan convention held April 28th -29th, in Lac La Biche
- the annual "Faith, Fitness & Fun Run/Walk" in support of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College
- the brunch and pin presentation for Good Shepherd CWL council

This past year, councils for the first time participated in the new online annual reporting. From the reports that I receive it was evident that our members are "Inspired by the Spirit" and are responding to God's Call. There were still some councils that used the old forms, but as we get used to the new reporting system we hope that eventually we will have 100% usage. As of December 31st, 2016, Alberta MacKenzie had 9699 members and 55 councils reported an increase in membership. However, a large number saw a decrease, some were minimal, but, a few that had lost a large number of members. We understand that some of the losses may well be due to a death or moving away. When you have large decrease, please follow up with these members and find out why they have not renewed. If we know the reason for not renewing we can hopefully look at ways that we can make changes that would attract these members back. From the annual reports, member indicated that the number one tool for recruiting was personal contact. And if you have invited someone to join, continue to mentor and encourage them so that they will have a better understanding about the work of the League. Please note that the membership for the current year is to be submitted to National and paid no later than August 31st, 2017, to ensure that all members receive their permanent membership cards in October. Another important note, is to make sure that National is notified of any address changes for members.

This year marks the marks the 20th anniversary of the inception of the "Elsie Yank" award which is given out annually at our Provincial convention. Sadly, on November 27th, Elsie Rose Yanik passed away in her 99 year. She had a remarkable life and many of us had to pleasure of meeting Elsie when she was able to attend our convention and help present this award. I was honored to represent the ABMK Provincial council at her funeral service on December 12th in Fort McMurray along with Kathryn Bourque from the St. Paul Diocese. From listening to the many tributes and accolades at her funeral and in news articles, we are so fortunate to have this award to now honor her memory. We cannot stress the importance if submitting the name of members that you feel would be most deserving of receiving this award. There have been times when we have received 3-4 outstanding submission, but we can only pick one. Therefore, it was suggestion that we keep the submissions for a period of possibly 3-5 years, to be reviewed along with the new submissions. This would save councils the extra work of resending the information or worse, not submitting any information on these ladies again.

Councils are encouraged to seek funding from the National Development Fund to help provide members with workshops and other programs that will help enhance their knowledge of the League. This year Provincial CWL received a \$5,000.00 grant from National which will be divided evenly among the 5 Dioceses to help subsidize members for their expenses to attend the 2017 Provincial convention.

I want to remind the Dioceses, that if you are planning to nominate a member for a 'Life Membership', that the new deadline for submissions is now September 15th. The form and criteria for this special nomination is in the Policy and Procedure manual. As a reminder, new updates were to P&P were recently sent out, however, this manual is available on the CWL National website and is very easy to access.

In closing, I wish you all the best as you work to promote the League. I believe each of us have been inspired in a different way by the Spirit and we truly are responding to God's call.

This concludes my report:

June F.

Alberta Mackenzie President-elect