

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
Organization Standing Committee Report  
June 2015**

**Madame President,**

**Annual Reports**

- “Annual Reports allow us to capture a unique view of the dedication, enthusiasm and love of the League that is displayed by our members throughout the diocese.
- In no way are Annual Reports an attempt to “check up” on councils or to police the work that they are doing. Rather, they are a window into the soul of each council – giving a clear view of the issues that concern them, locally, nationally and around the world. By reporting their activities, councils allow us to see what is important to them, and to explore programs and initiatives to deal with these concerns.
- Parish CWL Councils are truly the grassroots of this great organization. It is here that concerns are voiced, ideas are born, and action begins to take place. Diocesan, Provincial and National initiatives have more often than not developed from a seed planted at the Parish Council level.
- Reporting your activities would seem to be a relatively simple matter. However, knowing where to report which activities is often confusing. There is much overlapping of activities in the various Standing Committees, which naturally leads to a lot of confusion.” [Carol R., Organization Chairperson, Kingston Archdiocesan Council, 2009, Checklist for Completing Annual Report]
- The officers appreciate the work each council is doing. As a provincial body we will continue to be looking at how we can assist in providing information about what you do without making that task too challenging. During the summer, could you think of comments that you may have to share with your Diocesan President, President-Elect or Provincial Officer so that we know what you are thinking about this.

**Life Membership**

In my role as President-Elect and Organization Chair, I have maintained the email contact with the 35 Life Members in Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Most Life Members have email. There are only four without email. We were fortunate to gain another exceptional Life Member: Honorary Life Member Vivian B. moved to Medicine Hat this past year. I was fortunate to have been added to the ranks of Life Member in our province this past year.

**League Resource Material**

- The National Council continues to work on developing new materials to assist us. The latest update is to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* (P & P). A digital, current and searchable version of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* is available on the League website <www.cwl.ca> under “Resources.”
- The original Table of Contents covers material to page 201 but there are only 103 pages. When a page is missing, the previous page reports the next page number. You are not missing pages.

Other changes to the P & P:

- Members are restricted from serving in the same position more than once, except as stipulated in the C&B Part XVI Section 2(b)
- The secretary provides the elections register in an election year, not every year.
- The national treasury pays the premiums for parish council liability insurance and outlines the current policy on diocesan and provincial insurance.
- National has created a new pamphlet for Spiritual Advisors this year.
- The S’mores package is available online so that individual councils may use portions of it without having a Catch The Fire! presentation. (See <www.cwl.ca> under “Resources”)

**Membership**

- When we give out the Fr. Walter Krewski Membership Awards, other councils ask what the secret is, what did their council do? A handout called Membership Ideas has been prepared. This is a collection of ideas from many presidents, councils and from the annual reports you have submitted. These

- councils shared their ideas. I have tried to recognize the sources as much as possible.
- Members remind us that the many resources from the national office can assist our work – if we take the time to read them and use them. Bring the resources with you when you are going out to your meetings or to the Regional or Zone meetings.
  - Our best and latest source from the National Council to increase membership is the Catch The Fire! Workshop. These are tremendous for encouraging members to become more involved and to assist in getting new members.
  - Another piece of advice is to check what other diocesan, provincial and parish councils have on their websites. Use their materials if it will help and remember to credit them.
  - Please continue to share your ideas with each other – this is how we can grow.
  - Recognizing our members for their contribution to the life of the CWL council is always appreciated! This recognition can renew peoples’ passion for the League. We encourage councils to recognize their members with the Bellelle Guerin Award, or a Maple Leaf Service Pin. Recognition is one way to keep the members refreshed and enthusiastic about remaining in the League. Some dioceses also have their own award within their diocese to recognize members.
  - **Council Anniversaries** – This year we have a certificate for each council in the province who have reached a significant milestone – 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years.
  - One of the most obvious things to do is to pray for success and membership and work for success and membership. In our own personal prayer, pray for our Sisters and the League.

#### **Walter Krewski Membership Awards**

- The awards for greatest increase in total number and greatest percentage increase are based on the year-end results provided by National Council. The Diocesan Treasurer forwards this information to the Organization Chairperson.
- We encourage all councils to submit their information using a mail-in form or by email for the members brand-new to CWL for the Father Walter Krewski Award next year. Please submit this information while you are doing your Annual Reports.
- 36 Parishes increased membership (new and previous members) in the last year.
- Greatest *number of new members* – 12 members – Two councils tied for this: St. Michael, Bow Island and Assumption, Hay River.
- Greatest **percentage increase** in membership = 61% for St. Bernadette, Calgary.
- Greatest *increase* in membership in Alberta Mackenzie – 30 members – St. Peter, Calgary (You should notice that this council won a Fr. Walter Krewski award last year for greatest number of new members at 22.)

As we reflect on our annual activity in the League, each President and Standing Committee Chairperson should be able to report that her term was challenging and rewarding. Each of us needs to grow from our experience on the Executive.

I conclude my report with this quote:

“Before you are a leader, success is about growing yourself.

When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.” – Jack Welch

Ask yourself: where am I on this growth curve?

This concludes my report.

*Cathy B.,*

President-Elect and Organization Standing Committee Chairperson

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council

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