

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
Past President COMMUNIQUE #1 January 2014

The Catholic Women's League of Canada EXECUTIVE HANDBOOK explains the role of the Past President is a consultative and advisory one. How do we accomplish this? By allowing others to draw on our experience in order to make the best decisions for the council concerned.

It is important for us to remember that each level of the League has a 'Past President': parish, diocesan, provincial, and national. All levels have the same responsibilities with varying degrees, depending on the level and size of the council.

The second noted duty is the responsibility for archives and history. "History is not found in the past: it is found in the present." "If those things that record our history are not treasured and preserved today, our stories will not be told tomorrow." ¹

What should we save? Notes taken from the January 2012 workshop given by Life Member, Rose-Marie McC:

- Report forms which include numbers - e.g. volunteer hours stipulating who we volunteered with / for and what work was done. Even though we are not a fundraising group, we need to record the money we have been stewards of through our CWL activities.
- Membership figures and names are important.
- Awards and acknowledgements need to be recorded. Celebrate our accomplishments and by sharing what we do, we will encourage new members.
- Photos of specific events, which include the name of people photographed as well as the date the picture was taken. Some examples are Funeral Honour Guard, annual bazaar, and delivering Meals on Wheels. It is important that we 'toot our own horn' and get recognition for the work we are doing.
- Minutes of meetings, financial information, original letters and reports; also special cards and notes, as they all provide a comprehensive picture of the League.

The Past President does not have to be the only person working on the archives and history of the council, but she should be on the committee. Perhaps there are members who are interested in this area of 'work for the League' and would like to have the chance to contribute their expertise.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, and let me know what you would like me to help you with.

God bless, as we continue to work for God and Canada

Sheila

¹ PRESERVING WOMEN'S HISTORY, 2002; page 6; Patricia A. Myers