

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Saskatchewan Provincial Council
Annual Reports 2021



Care for our

Common Home

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council President

Annual Report 2021

Chantal Devine

Despite the encouragement and support provided by provincial and diocesan executive members, only forty one percent of councils in Saskatchewan completed annual reports in 2021. This was down from the numbers reported in 2020. Out of 128 parish councils, a mere 57 completed the annual reports. Over half of the councils had not met in person during the past year because of the pandemic. They felt that if they hadn't been meeting, it was unnecessary for them to fill out a report. However, several councils, by using creative methods, maintained their activities when they were unable to meet in person. They kept in touch by email, newsletters, phone calls, and even had fund raisers and welcomed new members into their councils.

Only one of the councils reporting was amalgamated. It was formed by combining four former parish councils. The position of president was filled in most councils, and council presidents were predominantly in the 65- 80 age group. The majority, 72% had previously held this position, while only four were new to this office. Nearly half of the presidents reported having 25 years of experience. Three presidents had been a member for less than 10 years, and no president had less than 5 years' experience.

Several resources were used to keep their members informed. The Canadian League magazine continued to head the list, followed by national communiques, the national and provincial websites, diocesan newsletters, church bulletins and the Catholic Register. Councils spent most of their time on two issues, the national theme, "Care for Our Common Home" and Bill C-7, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code, Medical Assistance in Dying, (MAiD). A few councils studied the "The Rights of the Unborn under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child," and Canada's support for the treaty on "Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons."

Overall, spiritual advisors were very supportive of the League. They assisted the councils by offering mass before meetings, attending CWL functions, and assisting with prayer services. Nearly half of the councils met monthly with their spiritual advisor, while the other half only met occasionally. Councils kept in touch with their spiritual advisor by email, phone calls and meeting in person. Some councils celebrated their spiritual advisor's birthday and priestly ordination anniversary.

The most popular resources parish council presidents used at their meetings were the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, the *Constitution & Bylaws*, and *Robert's Rules of Order*. Presidents also referred to the *Executive Handbook*, the council's manual of policy and procedure, past agendas and sought advice from past presidents, the diocesan president and life members. In most councils, cheques, and banking documents, directed within or outside the CWL, were signed by the council president.

Many in person functions were cancelled in the past year, which resulted in very low activity. However, when possible, presidents represented their councils at church functions, diocesan, and provincial conventions or Annual Meetings of Members (AMM), anniversaries, fund raising events, and retreats. Only three members reported attending the national virtual AMM, which may indicate a sense of apathy, as the AMM was available to them virtually in the comfort of their own home. Very few councils subsidized their presidents to attend any of these CWL functions. This is something that should be reviewed.

Over half of the councils reporting sent an annual summary of the council's activities to their members. This was done through email, newsletters, parish bulletins, written and oral reports. Besides the standing committees, many parish councils also reported having committees for scholarships, telephone tree, annual events, social gatherings, fund raising, catering, donations and over half had a funeral lunch committee. A few also had a gratitude project committee, World Day of Prayer, and Food Bank committees. Two councils in the province, were actively involved in supporting their Catholic Girl's League (CGL). Interestingly, the second CGL was started during COVID and was thriving!

On a few occasions, presidents were asked to speak on behalf of their councils, concerning the pandemic, sanctity of life, World Day of Prayer, palliative care, pornography hurts, and to promote League activities taking place in their councils. A few councils promoted Chalice for Christmas gift giving, and membership to pro-life organizations.

While most councils don't use letterhead when corresponding, the letters they received from the national, or provincial levels used the League letterhead. Communications from national, provincial, and diocesan were quite satisfactory and met an approval rating of 86%. Regional councils received a rating in the upper 60th percentile. The relevancy of the communication from all levels is usually around 70% for national and provincial councils and slightly higher at 75% for diocesan councils. Regional councils were at 64%. Even though a third of the councils reported occasional overlapping in the information, the clarity of the communication was usually rated in the upper 80th percentile for the three higher levels and slightly lower for the regional councils. Nearly half of the presidents reporting claimed they were notified in time to act on the requests received from provincial and diocesan councils.

Experienced members on the executive and immediate past presidents gave the newly elected president the most support. Some also mentioned they received help from former past presidents, the diocesan president and life members.

The inability to motivate members to take on a leadership position, seemed to be the greatest challenge for parish council presidents, as this resulted in not having a full slate of officers. About 25% of presidents reported that technology, lack of time, feeling inexperienced and overwhelmed, public speaking, and the amount of paperwork coupled with the many tedious policies and procedures were also, all very challenging. Many presidents reported that COVID overshadowed all challenges, as it prevented councils from meeting and carrying out their usual activities, which included welcoming new members into the League.

Over 90% of council presidents were in favour of having a national theme and logo as it gave their council members a focus in planning their activities. Changing the theme every two years with each newly elected president, was thought to be very good by one third of respondents, while the most popular choice was extending the theme from three to five years.

Being a part of a faith-based organization, where members cooperated in fulfilling the required tasks, gave our presidents a great sense of pride and satisfaction. They acknowledged that the longevity of their councils was due to this cooperative spirit. For example, one council was in its 99th year while another celebrated their 94th year. Whether members were involved in a prayer chain, membership drive, supporting the CWL Clothing Depot, starting and working with a Catholic Girl's League, "Calling with Love" through their phone tree, fundraising and in numerous other projects, members did so with a sense of dedication and commitment in supporting the objects of the League. Presidents described their members as having the sister spirit, being compassionate, supportive, prayerful, helpful, and having a faith-based approach to life.

As stated earlier, the biggest challenge presidents faced this past year was the inability for councils to meet in person due to pandemic restrictions. When councils attempted to gather their members through virtual meetings, another huge challenge presented itself, lack of technology. A few members had no internet connection, several members did not have access to computers, and many, mostly elderly members, had no computer knowledge. This was very frustrating, as presidents had to devise other ways to connect with those members who could not join the virtual meetings. Other issues were the decline in membership and difficulty in recruiting new members; an aging membership; keeping members motivated and engaged in the League; filling executive positions; lack of fundraising opportunities during COVID and late mailings from national.

This past year has been difficult for all members of the League, but especially for our parish council presidents. Due to the pandemic, most of their usual activities were cancelled because they were unable to meet in person. Even though public restrictions have been lifted, after two years of closure, presidents have had a difficult time in overcoming member apathy. Diocesan presidents expressed concern that many of the smaller rural councils with elderly members, will likely disband within the next two to three years. Diocesan and provincial councils aware of this situation, in March 2022, reached out to all members through the Staying Connected Project. A letter of gratitude was written by both the provincial and diocesan presidents and mailed to all parish council presidents in the province. They in turn, were asked to reach out in gratitude to each of their council members. To date, I've received several emails from parish council presidents telling me they did not see a need for this project as they'd

been contacting their members regularly throughout the year and their councils were doing well and even welcoming new members! This was wonderful news, but we know that this is not the case for most councils. For those who are struggling, hopefully this project will reassure members on how much we value them and how important they are in the success and continued life of the League. To also help turn the tide of apathy, executive members on both provincial and diocesan councils should make it their mission to travel to all parish councils in the province and extend a hand of friendship in presenting a workshop on the new resources recently released by the strategic plan working groups.

I was blessed to have been able to lead the League in Saskatchewan for the past three years as provincial president. The members in this province are faith filled, industrious, and loyal to the Catholic Women's League of Canada. They are beacons of light who will ensure the future of the League in our province.

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Prince Albert Diocesan Council President

Annual Report 2021

Priscilla Wakelin

This year 7 of our 21 parish presidents completed their annual reports. Majority of these ladies have been members of CWL for more than 25 years. With a couple being a member for 11 or more years. All presidents reported that they have held this position previously. We have one President who is in the 55-64 age range and 4 ladies in the 65-74 age and 2 in the 75-84 age group. All these ladies have gotten their information from a variety of sources to share with their members. They all used the League magazine. Most used the diocesan newsletter, national website and national communications. They also used the provincial website or newsletters. A few also reported using parish bulletins and Google searches and local newspapers, while only one used the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the catholic Organization for Life and Family. They have also used sources like past presidents and other executive and diocesan presidents.

The current national priorities that have been introduced and discussed acted on by our councils this year are. Care for our common home, by almost all of our councils .the majority of these said they acted on Bill C-7 an act to amend the criminal code(Medical assistance in dying). Where one focused on the rights of the pre-born under The UN Conviction of the rights of the Child. One council reported not working on any of the above mentioned.

Most Presidents meet with their spiritual advisor monthly. While a couple said they met weekly, and a few met really. All said that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL. There were many different ways that the councils included their spiritual advisor with the CWL such as inviting to meetings, join in the discussions, have a scheduled time to talk at meetings. Saying mass before meetings, praying for members and their families. Celebrate his birthday and anniversary. Ask him for his guidance on a specific matter. Keep him informed of what our CWL is doing. Invite him to all CWL functions.

The resources that were used to preside at meetings included several resources. With the majority using the National manual of policy and procedures , councils' policies and procedures and the executive handbook. While some others used parliamentary procedures or Robert's Rules of Order, and one uses the constitution and bylaws.

The types of documents that have been signed on behalf of the councils have been cheques , banking documents, and letters directed within the CWL. Some have signed petitions and letters directed outside of the CWL. They have also represented their councils' events such as church functions, spiritual functions like World Day of Prayer, workshops, conferences, special masses,, fundraising events and dinners. a couple also represented at retreats and Diocesan and provincial meetings, conventions and anniversaries. Some also attended school ceremonies, years of service events, membership drives, prayer services and "Canada needs Mary" in a neighboring town. Only one council reported that 25% of her existence was covered or subsidizes by her council. And the rest said they were not. This was the same for Workshops and conventions at all levels of the league.

All Presidents have read the executive handbook and understand the duties of their executive team. They all said that this has been helpful assisting them in the responsibilities of overseeing the operation of their councils. Most of the Presidents provide an annual summary of events and activities of their councils in an oral report.

Some councils also have additional committees like fundraising, donations, funeral lunches, catering, annual events, bursary and scholarships and social events. A few also had a gratitude project committee and food bank project ,and World Day of Prayer committees.

Some topics and issues that have been spoken on , on behalf of or councils this year have been abortion, palliative care, pornography hurts, a bakeless bake sale, policy and procedure updates for Diocesan, promote Chalice for Christmas gift giving, and membership for prolife. And a few have spoken on nothing as they have not had meetings for all of covid.

Many of our councils use the league letterhead when corresponding, they also refer only to the membership total of their councils when doing so. Most Presidents were always satisfied with the communication they received from the national council and a few were usually satisfied. This was the same for the communications from the Diocesan and the provincial councils. Many said that the communication they received were relevant to their councils were others said it was usually relevant to their councils. They felt this Same way with the communication they received from Diocesan and regional councils. Most felt that they were clear and concise. Majority felt that the communication were relevant. With only one saying it was not. They felt this about all levels of communication from our league. Majority said that they did not receive duplicate information from National, Provincial and Diocesan. Just about all councils said they had enough time to participate 8n activities they had received from all levels of the league. Presidents stated that they received the greatest assistance from the secretary when they assumed the role as president. Followed by the past president and the treasurer and then the current executive and former past President and a personal mentor. The greatest challenges that were faced when transitioning into the president were. Not having a full slate of officers, recruiting and keeping members, keeping members interested, technology meeting expectations, and a feeling of being overwhelmed. As well as some resistance to new ideas, and all the paperwork. Not to mention dictating and public speaking.

All felt having a national theme and or logo was beneficial to focus council activities on. They were all equally divided on the very good , good and poor changing of the theme with each new president and felt that it would be better if the theme changed every 3-5 years.

Some of the things the Presidents were most proud of were.

- Consistent members able to attend meetings
- Friendship and support with anything they decided to do.
- Members helping others when needed
- Members participate in activities
- Strong encouraging executive
- Organized workers
- Our faith and spirituality
- Promote faith connections through ZOOM meetings.

Some Of the biggest challenges were and what they are doing to try and change it.

- Technology
- Coaching members about technology who don't want to know about it
- Getting members to take an executive position, step down hope someone will step up
- Covid19 and not being able to have meetings because of lack of technology and internet
- Keeping interest with so few meetings
- Getting new members no matter what we try no interest.
- Age of our members
- Attendance at meetings tried changing meeting times

The greatest challenge in completing the survey were.

- The time it takes
- Technology
- Cover and lack of activity
- Frustration of getting on web addresses once I got help From

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Regina Diocesan Council President

Annual Report 2021

Janette Rieger

As of December 31, 2021, there were 68 CWL parish councils in the Regina Diocese. Responses to the survey were received from 29 councils or about 43% which is a decrease of 4 councils from the previous year. Thank you to all councils who submitted a report, as it gives our diocesan executive a sampling of what is happening around the diocese.

Of the 29 responses only one is an amalgamated parish which was formed by combining 4 former parishes. Almost all councils have a president, the majority of which (72%) have previously held the position. I congratulate the 3 presidents who have actually been a CWL member for 10 years or less. Half of the presidents have been a member for more than 25 years. Whether a relatively new or an experienced CWL member, remember to call on your fellow council members or your diocesan executive if you have questions or need help.

Presidents used many resources to keep their council members informed. The most common were the national communiqués, The Canadian League magazine, diocesan communiqués, the national and provincial websites, and parish bulletins. Three national priorities were introduced to parish councils. The two most common were 'Care for Our Common Home' and 'Bill C-7 An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)', while only a few councils looked at the 'Rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child'. However, from the responses it does not appear that much headway was made in advancing these topics, such as getting a speaker.

Half of the councils meet with their spiritual advisor frequently, while the other half rarely or never meet with him. It is not clear if this is the normal response or if this is due to the COVID virus and many councils being unable to hold meetings and gather in person. However, the vast majority report that their spiritual advisor is supportive of the CWL. The councils are engaging their spiritual advisors by keeping in touch with him through email and personal invitations. He is invited to attend the meetings, to say mass prior to meetings, to say prayers at meetings, to attend events, special projects, and all council activities. One council has asked their spiritual advisor to speak to them at each meeting on some spiritual instruction of his choosing. They also purchased a CWL stole for him.

Half of the council presidents report using Robert's Rules of Order, the Constitution & Bylaws, and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure at their meetings. A third of reporting councils use their own council's manual of policy and procedure and the Executive Handbook. Only a few uses Parliamentary Procedure and the national website to help preside at meetings. One president gets her assistance from using the agendas of a past-president. Most of the presidents are responsible for signing the cheques and other banking documents for their council, with half signing letters directed within or outside of the CWL.

Council presidents are busy ladies representing their council at over 20 different types of events. The most common are church functions, diocesan and provincial conventions or meetings, and fundraising events. A few presidents attended special masses, dinners, meetings, workshops, community events, school events, prayers services, and conferences. Only 3 reported attending the national convention even though in 2021 it was online and available at no charge. One president reported meeting with a politician. In the comment section it appears that COVID is responsible for the low participation numbers as many events were cancelled.

The question as to whether the council subsidized, in full or in part, for events that the president attended is difficult to interpret. For example, not one of the 29 council presidents reported being reimbursed for any fundraising dinners and events, workshops, or the national convention. Is this because their council has no money or does not reimburse? Likely not. The most likely explanation is that these presidents did not attend any fundraisers or workshops due to COVID, or if they did attend any, they were likely virtual and offered at no charge, like the national convention. A few presidents reported that their council reimbursed them in whole or in part for attending conferences, the diocesan convention, or the provincial convention. Again, this might have been a reporting error if these presidents are thinking

of previous years and not specifically 2021. In 2021 there should have been no charge for the diocesan or provincial conventions as they were both presented virtually.

The vast majority of the presidents indicated that they have read the Executive Handbook and that they understand the duties of their executive team. As a president, if you have not read the Executive Handbook, this is something that you should strongly consider because 100% of the presidents who reported that they have read and understand this book said that it has assisted them in their role as president. Remember that this handbook can be purchased from the National Office or it can be downloaded and printed at no charge. (#606 under 'Manuals').

A small majority of the presidents provide an annual summary of their council's activities to their members. Those that do give this information to their members use a variety of methods: email, written report, newsletter, oral report, and parish bulletin.

Many of our councils have committees other than the standing committees, with over half having a funeral lunch committee. About one-quarter of councils report having committees for scholarships, visiting, annual events, social events, fundraising, and donations. Four councils have a catering committee. One council has a Catholic Girl's League.

Presidents have been called to speak on behalf of their council regarding COVID, Pro-Life, World Day of Prayer, and in promoting their council and the CWL. The majority of councils do not use letterhead when corresponding.

Presidents receive communication from the various levels of the League – national, provincial, diocesan, and regional – and the satisfaction rates from all 3 higher levels are always or usually satisfactory to the clear majority (79%-86%). The satisfaction rate from the regional council is 67% always or usually satisfactory, with a 14% satisfaction rate for each of sometimes and occasionally. The relevancy of the communication from the 4 levels for always or usually is around 69-71% for national and provincial councils, 75% for diocesan councils, and 64% for regional councils. The clarity of the communication from the 4 levels for always or usually is around 86-89% for national, provincial, and diocesan councils, and 76% for regional councils. One-third of councils find that the communications from the 4 levels occasionally or sometimes overlap. Almost half of the councils agree that when they receive communication from the various levels which requests or invites participation that they have enough time. The other half feel that they are given enough time only sometimes or occasionally.

Presidents responded that when they assumed the role of president, they received the most assistance from their current executive and the immediate past presidents. The former past presidents and diocesan president also provided assistance to a lesser degree.

The greatest challenges to the presidents when they assumed the role was not having a full slate of officers, keeping members interested, recruiting, and technology. Other challenges to a smaller extent were having enough time, feeling overwhelmed, the amount of paperwork, inexperience, trying to please everyone, feeling undertrained, delegation, and the tedious policies and procedures. A few presidents reported that they were criticized by other members, lacked confidence, and were challenged in running meetings, public speaking, and being organized. The presidents were asked to describe in two to three words the greatest challenge they face, but one word was all that was needed: COVID.

The vast majority (90%) find having a national theme and logo beneficial, but only one-third find the change with each national president to be very good, while under half find it to be good. When asked how many years there should be between theme changes, the range was from one to five years, with three years seeming to be the most popular choice.

The presidents were asked to list two or three things about which they were most proud of their council. There were many responses that were duplicated. What stood out are these words: *passionate, supportive, loyal, dedicated, committed, cooperative, involved, helpful*; and these phrases: *the sister spirit, good communication, work well together, pray together, members' willingness to participate and help others, new friendships and comradery, appreciation shown by members, working relations with our spiritual advisor*; and these thoughts: *"the willingness of executive members to fulfill their duties and assume their roles as CWL women. Their faith-based approach to life. Their guidance and prayerful example."*, and *"Starting a Catholic Girl's League in 2021, and keeping their interest when the first meetings were virtual."*

The presidents were asked to list their biggest challenge. By far, the issue of 2021 was COVID in terms of not being able to meet in person and the difficulties that many councils have with using technology for online meetings. Other issues included a lack of membership, and an aging membership. Other issues were in having a full executive and in getting people to take positions of leadership, especially the role of president, and just general difficulties in keeping members interested in the League and engaged.

In conclusion, this has been a challenging year for many of us. I would like to thank the out-going president Yvonne Bachelu. Yvonne completed her 2-year term in spring but was tasked with a 3rd year due to COVID, as were many of you. Due to her work and family commitments, I assumed the presidency in June of 2021. I wish Yvonne the best and look forward to her support when she takes on the role of past-president. I keep all of you in my prayers. Please keep me in yours as I endeavour to serve you as Diocesan President. God bless you all and may you stay safe and healthy throughout 2022!

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Saskatoon Diocesan Council President

Annual Report 2021

Audrey Zimmerman

The operating year of 2021 found about half of the Saskatoon Diocesan parish councils active and only 21 of 41 councils completing annual reports. I suspect with about 20 councils not meeting or meeting only a very few times that they felt that it was unnecessary to fill out their annual reports.

The presidents report that half of them have had 25 or more years of service as members aged 65-84 with no presidents reporting less than 5 years of membership. The majority of presidents are returning to this role with only 4 new presidents in the diocese.

They reported finding information to share with their councils from the provincial and national website, diocesan newsletters, The Canadian League, Diocesan emails, parish bulletins, Google, CCCB, and the Catholic Register.

The topic most discussed at council meetings was Care of Our Common Home, followed by Bill C-7 the Act to Amend the Criminal Code of Canada (MAID), Rights of the Unborn under the U.N. Convention of the right of the Child and Canada's support for the treaty on Prohibition of nuclear weapons.

Only 9 councils report their spiritual advisor met with them monthly but almost all councils say that their Spiritual Advisor is supportive saying mass before meetings, assisting with prayer services, attending CWL functions and staying informed about CWL plans. A few Spiritual Advisors always make time for the CWL and offer words of encouragement and a message at meetings. They keep each other informed by talking face to face, by phone and email.

Resources used by Presidents to preside at meetings were the National Manual of Policy and Procedure, the Executive Handbook, Constitution and Bylaws and the advice of past presidents, contacting a Life Member or Diocesan President when necessary.

Our council presidents represented their members at church functions, diocesan, provincial and national meetings, masses, anniversaries, retreats, sacramental services, World Day of Prayer, Pro Life events, Honour Guards and school ceremonies.

It was eye opening to find how few parish councils (4) reimburse their president for attending Diocesan, Provincial or National conventions, or workshops.

13 councils send an annual summary of council activities to members by email, newsletter, orally or through the parish bulletin.

The councils are satisfied with the clear and relevant communications received from all levels of the League but do prioritize the Provincial and Diocesan messages with 30% finding time to act on requests.

The greatest challenges faced by presidents is motivating members and getting members to take leadership positions. Technology, public speaking, feeling overwhelmed and inexperienced are personal challenges for 25% of presidents.

The National Theme was thought to be beneficial with most favouring the change with each new National President but a few wanting the theme to stretch out to at least 3 years.

Things that make our presidents proud were the maintenance of their council (keeping going after 94 years), the willingness of their members to assist when asked and being able to fulfill their donation obligations. The level of support they have for each other, the honour they give to their deceased members and the building up of their spiritual lives brings them a sense of pride.

They manage to work well together even with few members and are proud of their support for the CWL Clothing Depot, prayer chain, Calling With Love phone tree and getting their memberships collected on time and often in person. Their efforts through prayer and communication and not giving up when it was difficult to find a president show the dedication and commitment to the League that they are proud of. Their small but mighty councils inspire friendship and doing good work for others keeps them motivated. We have diversified and resilient members who are willing to change and love to celebrate our milestones.

The biggest challenges facing presidents that they have difficulty addressing are recruitment and member involvement (e.g. filling executive positions), coping with Covid, declining membership, elderly members, technology, no support from parish staff, low meeting attendance, late mailings from National and lack of fundraising opportunities during Covid.

The Saskatoon Diocesan area of the CWL certainly has its share of difficulties in 2021 and one of our councils has disbanded but the perseverance of this strong faith-based organization continues to light the way for Catholic women in Saskatchewan.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Joint Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Annual Report 2020

Marion Laroque

About one third of the parish councils in Saskatchewan completed the annual report for secretaries. This is unchanged from the previous year. While the percentage may be low, the reporting councils encompass a broad cross-section of our province, from three villages with populations of less than one hundred people, to our parishes in the major cities.

Generally, the secretary had the dual role of both corresponding and recording secretary. Very few councils had two secretaries. Three councils had not filled the secretary position.

Role of the Secretary

All of our secretaries take minutes, however, several respondents mentioned that taking minutes at virtual meeting was more challenging. One enterprising secretary reported that although there were no in-person council meetings, she kept notes of the events their CWL council was involved in. The percentage of secretaries reporting that they were a signing officer for their council has increased in the past year. Most secretaries receive written reports from the executive members either routinely or at least sometimes.

Almost all secretaries are in charge of the council papers, including the council charter and they also maintain a list of the executive. There was a slight increase in the number of councils that have a motions book. Well over half of the secretaries have a copy of the *Handbook for Secretaries* and the *CWL Personal Letter Writing Guide*.

The great majority of responding secretaries reported being satisfied with the communications from all levels of the CWL. They found them to be relevant, clear and concise, arriving in time for the council to accomplish any requests. Occasionally communications were duplicated.

Comments

Difficulty filling the core officer positions, whether it be president, treasurer or secretary was mentioned by some respondents. One comment summed up the dilemma: *“Wearing so many hats...was overwhelming at times!”* Several ladies mentioned that they were looking forward to better times in the year ahead. This concludes my report.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Treasurer

Annual Report 2021

Helene Marceau

This year we had 53 councils submit their annual reports online as compared to 60 in 2020. 93% (49) of reporting councils have filled the treasurer position with 8% (4) held combined positions.

100 % of councils reported using bank statements, 98 % deposit books, 94% cheque books, 60% ledger books, 43% receipt books, 8% disbursement books, 4% other as tools with 47% using some form of computer tools such as computer programs or excel spreadsheets.

Councils collected membership fees minimum of \$20.00 maximum \$40.00. The majority of membership fees are collected in November, December and January and most send in their fees by the end of February. Most councils work with their organization chairperson in remitting per capita to national office.

Councils follow proper banking practices. For 100% two signatures are required on cheques and some councils have four signatories usually the treasurer, president and two other executive members. 94% of councils give a financial report at meetings, 6% do not. Treasurers have noted a variety of ways that financial reports are given. The reports in most cases include balance at beginning of month in chequing account, income and expenses as well as balance at end of reporting period. Savings account balance is also reported. In some Parishes, a printed statement is given to members in attendance.

51% of councils prepare budgets and 55% have someone review the books, annually. Preparation of budgets provides the council the opportunity to determine the priorities of the council and plan for the activities for the year ahead.

39% of councils reporting are satisfied with communication from National, Provincial and Diocesan Councils. 4% are never satisfied.

39% find the communication from National and Provincial relevant. 48% find the communication from Diocesan to be relevant. 57% find the communications from all levels clear and concise.

41% receive duplicate communications from all levels. 44% have enough time to participate in requests from upper levels.

Councils wish to share the following:

To enable the annual report to be saved as pdf. file as unable to print or save to print at a later time.

The questionnaire does not allow other local charities to be noted, such as Development and Peace and Palliative Care kits.

Prior year's financial statements in place of formal budget to help guide financial decisions.

Since our council is small with few expenses and income items, therefore not necessary to have books audited.

Found the communication questions difficult to answer, since they do not apply. There should be a N/A option.

COVID greatly affected councils with no fundraisers to contribute to usual donations.

CHARITY	DONATION (Treasurer's Annual Report 2021)	Saskatoon (Diocesan Annual Report 2021)	Regina (Diocesan Annual Report 2021)	Prince Albert (Diocesan Annual Report 2021)
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$ 2 225.00	\$ 1 000.00	\$ 1 050.00	\$ 175.00
Coady International Institute	\$ 1 035.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 125.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	\$ 885.00	\$ 360.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 125.00
CNEWA	\$ 855.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 175.00
National Bursary Fund	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 50.00
Development and Peace		\$ 320.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Donations to Parish	\$ 22 132.00	\$ 10 058.00	\$ 10 905.00	\$ 1 669.00
Other Donations	\$ 55 503.71	\$ 21 712.98	\$ 25 443.56	\$ 10 702.17
Total	\$ 82 685.71			
Total		\$ 34 430.98	\$ 38 498.56	\$ 13 021.17

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Organization

Annual Report 2021

Connie Crichton

Reports were received from all three of the Diocesan Organization Chairpersons summarizing the results received from 45 of the 130 councils in the province (34%). As four of the councils indicated this position was vacant, data for only 41 councils was completed (32%). Prince Albert diocese had 7 of 20 councils report (35%). Regina had 19 of 67 councils report (28%) and Saskatoon had 19 of 42 councils report (45%). This was a decrease of 4 councils from the previous year. Many of the councils had not met since March 2020 and felt they had nothing to report on, some are still challenged with using technology and some of the councils have not been participating in the annual reporting for many years. Filling leadership positions continues to be a challenge at all levels including diocesan and provincial executives.

Demographics of Membership

The reporting from rural and urban areas was pretty much an even split. While the larger councils tend to be in urban areas, there are several rural councils that have 50- 100 members.

Taking a further look at council sizes in the province:

- Almost a quarter of the councils have less than 50 members. That is 94 of the 130 councils representing 40% of provincial membership (2201 of 5516 members).
- There are 27 councils with between 50 to 100 members representing 37% of provincial membership (2061 of 5516 members)
- Only 9 councils have over 100 members and contain the remaining 23% of our provincial membership (1254/5516) members.

Whether a larger council or smaller council, finding members to take leadership roles is always a struggle, most positions are appointed, with less than a quarter of the reporting councils organization person being elected to the position.

Recruiting and Maintaining Membership

Saskatchewan had 5,622 members on January 1, 2021. Membership decreased overall in the province to 5,516 members on December 31, 2021, a reduction of 106 members.

Personal invitations were most used for recruitment and is still the most successful for signing up new members. Other less successful methods included advertising in bulletins, presentations at masses, and membership teas and other social events. Reminders and collection of membership fees is done at meetings, setting up a table at Sunday mass times, phone calls, bulletin announcements. Almost half of the reporting councils indicated they had new members join with almost half of those being under the age of 40. There are 8 associate members in our reporting councils.

While cultural diversity in membership is present, the majority of councils do not feel this represents the cultural diversity of the parish and general community. The same can be said of the number of members under 35.

In response to the July 2021 release of *Embracing Diversity: Tools for Council Use*, almost 60% had heard of the tool but few had downloaded or used the tool kit. This tool was highlighted at our fall provincial workshop along with a reminder of the *Welcoming Program*. While the *Welcome Program* was presented at both the 2020 and 2021 Fall virtual workshops, only three quarters of the reporting councils said they had heard of the program. One of our

three diocese had the Welcome Program printed and distributed to all of their councils (67). Only 4 councils indicated they have implemented the program in their parish.

As many Covid 19 restrictions were in place across the province in the fall of 2021, gathering opportunities were very limited to acknowledge any cultural celebrations. Saskatoon councils did promote a Filipino Christmas Novena “Simbang Gabi”. Another council had a gathering with an Indigenous parish, Our Lady of Guadalupe, that began with a mass that incorporated Indigenous spirituality. The mass was followed by sharing circles where our Indigenous shared their experiences at residential school and our members shared their histories in learning about indigenous issues and residential schools. Another council sewed ribbon skirts and presented them to the elders who belonged to this same Indigenous parish.

The online system has only a 64% usage among the reporting councils. Executive members lack of knowledge in using technology is still a problem in adopting the use of the online system and extends to the completion of the annual surveys. Using technology was also a barrier for members to engage virtually when the opportunities to do so presented themselves. While half of the councils had heard about the *Executive Orientation*, only three councils indicated they had accessed the package, and none had done the training. This product was also introduced at the Provincial fall workshop. Several of the Diocesan councils did review several modules virtually.

While updates on the Strategic Plan were provided at the provincial fall workshop, The Canadian League magazine, and on the National CWL website, only 2/3 of the councils reported being current on the latest activities. Just over half of the councils indicated they included members’ input in setting annual goal/plans. As many councils were not meeting through most of this past year, that is not surprising.

Many councils produced newsletters to keep in touch with their members. Phoning trees and parish bulletins were used to keep members informed. Some of the councils inserted membership renewal forms with their newsletters to assist in collecting membership fees. This proved to very successful for those who chose to do this.

Councils recognize their members by presenting years of service pins, sending cards, special CWL masses, and giving small gifts. Many are waiting to have recognition ceremonies once pandemic restrictions and COVID risks lessen to allow members to gather again.

Leadership Development

Just less than half of the reporting councils have members who play a role on an executive at diocesan, provincial, regional, or national level. Members other than executive members help in planning and organizing events in the councils. Many executives did not have all positions filled and most positions were filled by appointment. While many held the Organization position, most of them were not the president-elect and did not have a president elect on their council. Not being able to meet has not been helpful in keeping the interest in holding leadership positions.

Members in Saskatchewan continue to be involved as members of various working groups and being a part of leading the way to an envisioned future of the league. There are still many opportunities for our members to get involved in this very rewarding work.

The Provincial and Diocesan councils continue to use virtual meetings to continue the work of the league. AMMs as well as fall and spring meetings were held virtually by all three Diocesan councils as well as the Provincial Council. Some parish councils also met virtually.

A Lenten and Advent retreat was offered by our Saskatoon council and the Provincial executive invited all members to pray the rosary together every Wednesday evening. The provincial Facebook page continues to inform our members of up coming events and share the many social media posts generated by our National Facebook page. Keeping members engaged has been challenging because of the pandemic and the ability to connect virtually has been a life saver.

League Resource Material

While many new resources have been created by various working groups, the inability to meet has been prohibitive to putting much of it to use. Virtual workshops, while reaching some of our members, do not take the place of in person gatherings where our members are able to share ideas, socialize and share refreshments and meals together.

Annual Reports

Just over half of the reporting parish council chairpersons had established guidelines for executive members to complete their annual reports. While most of the respondents were positive about the reduced version of the annual questionnaire, there were many negative comments when asked about the challenges of completing the survey. Technology restricted the input for some as people holding the positions didn't necessarily complete the survey. The age and ethnicity questions were not well received as members do not state their ages or ethnic backgrounds when they join. While National may want to know if their initiatives were being carried out in the parish councils, the parish councils would rather report on what they did do and not what they didn't choose to do. The open-ended questions provided the most useful responses that focused on what parishes did.

Life Members

Our honorary life and life members are not being accessed as resources by parish councils. Only three of the reporting councils indicated they had sought their assistance from these members. There are currently four Honorary Life members and 13 Life members . We had no new life members nominated in 2020 or 2021.

Honorary-Life and Life members provide mentorship, guidance, and a wealth of knowledge to assist councils at all levels. We are blessed to have them in our midst. While the survey does not indicate they have been used by parish councils, many are asked for guidance by the diocesan and provincial councils.

Stories of Success and Challenges

Some councils cover memberships of their more elderly members who are in nursing homes or are over the age of 90. Members visit shut ins and make personal contact with those considering not renewing their membership.

Final Thoughts

While we had many hopes for 2021 and the end of the pandemic, this certainly never came to pass. With renewed hope our members look again to 2022 for again being able to meet, socialize and resurrect our passion for our faith, service, and social justice. It will also bring many challenges for leadership in igniting the flames to fuel that passion. We will do this with God's help.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Spiritual Development

Annual Report 2021

Tillie Aessie

It is indeed very sad to report that only 41 out of 128 or 31.2% of the CWL parish councils in our province responded to the annual survey. That is down by 6% from last year. However, many councils are just getting back to meeting in person again after a challenging two year set back due to the Covid restrictions. As the reports were coming in from my Diocesan counterparts I was amazed at the quality of the activities that were actually recorded. The ladies looked into their toolboxes and used their imagination to find new ways to interact with their members.

Spiritual Growth of Members

About 50% of the represented councils stated they would start their meetings with a short prayer, a spiritual program either with Marian devotions, rosary, or Holy Mass. Some councils organized outdoor rosaries, the “Red Sand project”, a memorial mass for deceased members, or a Remembrance Day service. All were followed with a short business meeting and a pre-packaged snack. The Spiritual advisor was usually present for all these occasions.

One council was fortunate enough to have someone available to live stream Mass, followed by a short business meeting for members. This was achieved to primarily invite members to participate more fully when the business portion of the meeting was dedicated to take part in the instructed voting process on the proposed motions to come before the National Convention in August. This was primarily done to make sure a quorum was reached.

From two out of three Diocesan councils who did not spend the preferred one third meeting time for faith enrichment, remarked this way: “Meetings were too long and members wanted more time to socialize and that, “the business portion of the meeting was essential to keep our CWL current and active”.

It was noted that all three Dioceses held virtual retreats online (duration: about two hours) during Advent and Lent to enrich the lives of their members and to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Lord. The number of virtual members present was not recorded. Our Provincial Spiritual Advisor Fr. Peter Nnanga MSP regularly posts reflections and prayers on Facebook. Our Provincial Go to Meeting site has the executive and other members involved in reciting the rosary every week on Monday and Wednesday nights. We even had a special evening set aside for The Year of St. Joseph on his feast day to pray the special rosary of St. Joseph, along with some other prayers.

Members continued to develop their spiritual life by reading *The Word Among us* daily meditations, *The Canadian League magazine*, *The Chosen*, viewing Zoom Masses from our Diocesan websites, *National CWL Retreat*, *Fireside Chats*. For the members who have access to the internet, use the resources found on websites like *Crosswalk*, *Bruce Downs the Catholic Guy*, *Centre for Action and Contemplation (Richard Rohr)*, *Your Daily Prayers*, and *Formed*.

Members also are very faithful in attending mass on Our Lady of Good Counsel feast Day, 12 hours of prayers for Palliative Care, and celebrating CWL National Faith Day. The Provincial workshop speaker’s topic this year was “Spiritual Motherhood of Priests” which was very well received.

Study of Catholic Teachings

Almost every council reported spending time on the national theme *Care For our Common Home* and used the wonderful materials National provided.

Again, most councils have not yet studied Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti”, but have mentioned it at their meetings. One council was so inspired by this encyclical, that what they saw in the Development and Peace fall action campaign, “Deforestation of the Amazon”, were compelled to write a letter to the Government asking on the petition that large corporations be held accountable for their actions.

Role of Women in the Church

Our members are very active in volunteering for positions within their church life; 60-75% serving on Parish council, financial committees, holding bible study classes, helping with RCIA and RCIC, marriage prep, youth club and many more.

Many others are involved outside their parish with Diocesan endeavors such as, Refugee Committees, working in Soup Kitchens and clothing depots, Holding positions as Trustees for the Catholic School Division and Development and Peace.

Evangelization and Mission Assistance

About 50% of our members thru the work of their parish councils support Catholic Missions in Canada. One council supported “Nickels for the North” and another the Mission in Sandy Bay by supplying them with bedding, clothing, religious articles and baking transported by truck twice a year. Other missions supported through the province were Esk-Omi Native Valley Ministry, Cody National Institute, Catholic Christian Outreach and many other local mission outreach centers in our cities.

Lay Ministries

Our members are fantastic at volunteering for ministries in the church! If it weren't for the ladies of the CWL, fewer “Alleluias” and “Hosannas” would be sung. There are about 60% of ladies from each council that are involved in being lectors, communion Ministers, liturgy coordinators, catechists, decorating the church for the different seasons, and sacristans.

Ecumenism and Interfaith Endeavors

The CWL has many opportunities in which to participate in when it comes to Interfaith Endeavors and Ecumenism. Our Province and Dioceses reside in the middle of traditional lands belonging to a large indigenous population. Our activities include reaching out and helping them in any way we can. Guadalupe House in Saskatoon was presented with ribbon skirts sewed by members of one council. Two councils organized a Mass which included Indigenous spirituality and was followed by a sharing circle with residential school survivors. Members were also involved in a walk on National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and participated in National Orange Shirt Day.

Some councils participated in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, and Women's Inter-Church of Canada. One council mentioned taking part in ecumenical activities provided by WUCWO in May of last year. No one mentioned any participation with Jewish, Muslim or Buddhist groups. Even though the De Margerie Lecture Series on Christian Reconciliation and Unity – “In conversation: Perspectives on Ecumenism, Reconciliation, and Pathways for Renewal” was offered at St. Thomas Moore College. However live streaming will be offered this year.

Spiritual Development Standing Committee Chairpersons Summary

It was noted that members who are on this committee would be overjoyed if there was a Spiritual development workshop explaining actual ideas and how to implement them especially when there is a new theme involved. A Zoom workshop would be helpful at the beginning of the year. This would help in setting the councils goals for the year so that their answers would coincide with the questions asked on the survey. Communiques should be sent out early to arrive well before the actual events so they could be properly actioned.

Another challenge is that not all members have computers and those living in rural areas have limited internet services, so paper copies would have to be made available.

It is my hope and dream that in person meetings will again bring our sisters together!

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Education and Health

Annual Report 2021

Marian Zsombor

Saskatchewan is divided into 3 dioceses: Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. Regina having the most councils and Prince Albert having the least, in total there are 130 councils in Saskatchewan.

Statistics

There has been a decrease in participation in the survey from last year, 36 councils or just under 30% participated. Due to the pandemic many did not gather. They did not do any activities and so they felt they had nothing to report. 50% of our councils have a Chairperson of the Standing Committee Education and Health. Over 80% of the filled positions have been appointed and the remainder 20% have been elected. The age group of the members holding this position varies from 35 years to 85 years; with over half being over 65, quarter being 75-84, and the remainder the other age groups.

Catholic Education

Many respondents do not have any interaction with Catholic schools, the fact being that rural councils do not have a Catholic school option. Where there are Catholic schools in the area the majority responded as to not receiving information about the quality and availability of Catholic religious education instruction in the parish and in the local area schools. Less than half of the councils encourage parental participation in all areas of school activity.

The needs identified: breakfast or lunch programs, clothing drives, field trip or recess supervision, extracurricular activities, school supplies, and sacrament/faith development. In areas where there are separate schools most councils offer scholarships or bursaries to high school students. One council makes a contribution to the Native Ministry in Labret. The funds go to helping children with school supplies, clothing, etc. This council also contributes to Save a Family

Literacy and continuing Education

In response to awareness of family programs some councils reported becoming involved in the sacramental initiation programs in the parish, as well as the RCIA program either by teaching or sponsoring new candidates. A few replied as not becoming personally involved. Many councils do have access to a list of scholarships and bursaries available for CWL members to further their education. However, some rural councils reported having no access. CWL members are encouraging and/or assisting members to improve literacy skills in Continuing Education. One council raised awareness about "Grow Hope Sask".-the council also provided financial support.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Councils reported the promotion of the National Bursary Fund, the Coady International Institute, Catholic Christian Outreach and Net Ministries of Canada. One council donated to Blackstrap Youth Camp and Face 2 Face Youth Ministries. Majority of councils have not ordered the revised bursary certificate from national office for download, only very small percentages have. More than half of the councils are not familiar with the criteria for applying to the National Bursary Fund.

In addition to the National Bursary Fund the Regina Diocesan Council presents a \$1,000.00 annual entrance scholarship to the child of a CWL member enrolled in Champion College.

Wellness and Sickness/Disease

The pandemic is still very much affecting ever part of our lives. Many councils due to the health restrictions did not meet in person. Some councils met by Zoom or Go To Meetings, some connected with phone calls or newsletters, others didn't meet at all.

A comment was made that maybe National could have given us some direction and guidance as how to deal in a pandemic such as Covid-19. Prayers were offered by many for an end to the pandemic. The provincial CWL continued with the virtual rosary prayer for the needs of our members.

Three councils participated in the CWL Mental Health Postcard campaign. Less than half the councils supported any national organizations this year that focus on health and wellness. National organizations supported by councils were: Ronald McDonald House, Canadian Red Cross Association, Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, Mater-Care International, Cystic Fibrosis Canada, and Relay for Life. A small percentage did not support any organization but some of their members supported them on their own.

Almost half of the respondents are not aware of the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) Partners for Life program. 2 councils donated blood using the Partner ID (CATH011269). Another council has members that volunteer at CBS Blood Donor Clinics by providing refreshments to the donors. One council presented information on vaccines and the ethical dilemma that relates to the use of human cell lines derived from elective abortions.

More than half of the councils participated in the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care." Members were provided with the 12 Hour Prayer for Palliative Care Kit, 5 councils organized praying in their homes- 12 members for 1 hour each, 1 council held a virtual service. Less than half of the councils used the Palliative Care postcards. Advance care planning information was provided by 5 councils.

Environment

Most did not celebrate: World Water Day, Earth Day, or use the Water for Life guide. 1 council planned activities for Earth Day. Less than half of the councils participated in the Care for Our Common Home initiative. Several councils participated in cleaning up ditches, streets, alleyways, or community clean up. Some are committed to reducing use of Styrofoam cups, eliminating plastic water bottles, using green bins for organic waste, reducing paper use, alternatives to plastic bags, eliminating use of plastic straws, using reusable cups and dishes at meetings. Seventeen councils have planted a tree to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the League. There are still some councils that are planning on planting a tree this year. The number of members present for the tree planting varied from 2-12. Locations for the trees included: church grounds, parks, cemeteries, and city walkway (a plaque recognizing the donation placed on a commemorative wall at City Hall). Provincial Council also planted a tree. The tree was planted on church grounds in Regina, thank you for so graciously providing the space.

Genetics

About half of the respondents considered their knowledge of technology to alter genes in the light of Catholic teaching as good, the remainder answered fair to poor. Some respondents indicated that this is not a topic of interest to them since most of them are seniors. No council subscribes to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletter. 1 council may consider subscribing.

Final Thoughts

The combination of the low number of respondents and the restrictions imposed on councils by the on-going pandemic does not allow the report to present a true picture of council activities. Many found creative ways to engage with their members, by the use of technology or newsletters. All councils are anxious to be able to meet in person and resume their regular activities that they were engaged in prior to Covid-19. Hopefully this will be a more fruitful year. Due to factors such as: age of members, technological changes, sizes of councils and communities, etc; councils are not finding time or people to engage in many issues which are important as a national organization.

We as women of faith are committed to service; with the grace of God we will be able to be more fruitful this year. We must look ahead with optimism as this is our path going forward. The last couple of years have given us an opportunity to re-evaluate our values and make necessary changes on how to survive the pandemic. We can be certain that God was with each and everyone on us on this journey.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Christian Family Life

Annual Report, 2021

Marilyn Schuck

The lack of activity by councils due to the pandemic was the reason for low response to the Christian Family Life survey. Out of 169 councils in the province, I received reports from 37 councils. Just over half the councils reporting have this position filled, mostly by appointment, and by members who have been active for more than 25 years, although some reported less years as a member. Thank you to Diocesan and Provincial CWL Organization chairs who have encouraged councils to fill out the survey even if they feel there is nothing of significance to report.

Marriage and Family

Two councils planned events recognizing the Pope's "Amoris Laetitia Family" year but most councils were preoccupied with other topics. Only one council celebrated National Family Week by putting an insert into the church bulletin and preparing Prayers of the Faithful for the theme. National Family Week occurs in Canada the week before Thanksgiving and resources are available at www.familiescanada.ca. Most councils do not have a way to support people suffering from domestic abuse, but 9 councils reported doing that. Some of the ways were collecting items for abuse victims in crisis, sending cards on significant anniversaries, supporting a community food program, praying, prayer blankets for the sick or those in difficult situations, and supporting Visitation House and Isabelle Johnson YWCA charities (Regina) for youth and women. One council collected items to support women and children at the Crisis Nursery (Saskatoon). Some members watched the virtual Palliative Care webinar in May 2021. One council had a Pregnancy Options Baby Shower and contributed to Mary's Meals (an organization that feeds hungry school children).

Sanctity of Life

Most councils work in this area, probably because sanctity of life has been under attack in our country for many years, and most members see this as a priority for action. Most councils have a pro-life membership and support pro-life organizations financially. These include local pro-life groups, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Saskatoon Pregnancy Options, Regina Birthright, Pregnancy and Support Services and Campaign Life. More than half of councils have participated in pro-life masses, life chain, pro-life walks, March for Life, 40 Days for Life, and pro-life vigils. Only one council has participated in a presentation on Pope John Paul II's Theology of the Body. Prayers are offered for the protection of life by most councils. No councils have met with their legislator concerning pro-life issues. About one-third of councils have made the CWL Pro-Life Brochure available to their parishes, and I still encourage councils to buy these from National, only \$.70 each, for each of their members and supply copies to their parishes. More than half the councils have written letters to legislators regarding the CWL position on abortion and euthanasia. The responses, regarding the resolution calling on Canada to Honour its Commitment on the Rights of the Child to provide legal protection to children before birth, were particularly good with over half of councils educating their members about this resolution, almost half recognizing the Day of Prayer for the Unborn, January 22, monitoring the government's response to this resolution and seven councils wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Ways that councils have protected the sanctity of life include all of the above reported areas with the addition of a Spiritual Adoption program consisting of a "birthday" party with parishioners donating baby gifts and money and one council in Saskatoon supporting Sanctum 1.5 that provides housing for pregnant mothers who are HIV positive and sees them through their pregnancy and for the first year of the baby's life until the mother can support herself and her baby on her own.

The Saskatchewan provincial council purchased a pro-life banner in 2020 with the plan to use it for the annual March for Life usually held in Regina in May. This event was not held at the provincial level in 2021, but local pro-life groups were encouraged to have smaller events in their communities. The Pro-life banner awaits the March for Life in 2022.

Ministry to Youth

One council has begun to promote the next World Youth Day to be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 2023. About half the councils reporting have participated in supporting programs for young people, such as Sunday school, Catholic Christian Outreach, summer camps, NET ministries, youth conferences, and leadership camps or retreats. There are two parishes with a Catholic Girls' League in the province with one started this year in Moose Jaw. Other ways include encouraging young people to participate in Mass ministries and parish activities, support Filipino families and gatherings, confirmation retreats, providing scholarships for post-secondary education, gifts and prayers for First Communion and Confirmation, instructing children for sacraments and leading children's liturgy, and purchasing bibles for Grade 4 students.

Ministry to Disabled People

Four councils participated in support groups and respite care for caregivers. This is an area of service that we as CWL members should pay attention to. Most councils reach out to the disabled by praying for them, bringing communion, visiting, phoning, sending cards, and involving them in CWL events. A small number of councils have shared a meal, initiated social programs and events. Only one council has reached out to the disabled through visitation and monetary donations.

Ministry to Seniors

Saskatchewan councils are very good at keeping in contact with their senior CWL members and others in the community. Most bring communion, visit, involve them in CWL events, pray with them, and provide transportation to meetings and other events. Almost half the councils have a policy to gift memberships to their senior members. Five councils prepared and shared a meal with seniors. Many councils have invited newly retired women to join the CWL. Some have organized specific social events at senior homes but the involvement in these activities was very much impacted by lockdown orders at senior and nursing homes during 2021.

Ministry to the Widowed

Most councils are very good at supporting the bereaved. They send cards of condolence, provide prayer and support after the death of a spouse, host memorial services, and provide funeral lunches. Some also make a point of inviting widows to CWL meetings and events.

Ministry to Separated and Divorced

This ministry has not been attended to by many councils. While a few have supported their members, who fall into this category, there is more that could be done. I suggest that each council purchase a few copies of the new CWL brochure, "Annulments Today – Merciful and Just" and make them available in their churches. Four councils in the province have purchased these brochures for use in their parishes. Also suggested is having someone from the diocesan marriage tribunal give a presentation to the church community.

Vocations

Most councils participated in prayers for vocations, some have adopted or supported seminarians, and some have encouraged families to invite priests and religious into their homes. A few councils have sent spiritual bouquets, hosted luncheons for priests and religious, and invited priests and religious to speak on vocations. One council has supported a discernment event for youth. No councils reported viewing the World Day of Prayer for Vocations website. Other ways to support vocations were including the parish priest in family gatherings, welcoming a seminarian to a meeting to offer a reflection and answer questions, and giving monetary gifts to our priest.

Thank you to all who submitted reports which has allowed me to compile this report for the Provincial CWL. May God bless you in your work for God and Canada.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Community Life

Annual Report 2021

Margaret Schwab

As we enter into a new phase of CWL with many new developments coming through from the planning strategically working groups, it was somewhat disappointing to see that only 41 out of 30 councils (%32) responded to this survey. We need to reach out to our parishes and encourage them to share the good works they are doing because we know that good things are happening.

Leadership Profile

For the year 2021, the three diocesan councils sent in a report from their community life chairperson. Most reports having this position filled with the majority of those holding the position being in the 65 – 74 -year age group. As well, the majority have been members for 25 plus years and have held this position before.

Dignity and Rights of the Person

Most members are familiar with the Universal Declaration for Human Rights. Members supported those suffering from poverty, bullying, domestic violence, homelessness, poverty and racism through financial donations. Two councils reported having speakers on those incarcerated and those suffering from domestic violence.

There was little knowledge passed on to members regarding Human Trafficking and no councils seemed aware of February 22, Human Trafficking Awareness Day or February 8, International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking.

There was also no discussion on the 2018 Human Trafficking Consultation Report on January 14, 2020, *Building a Safe and Resilient Canada*. No councils monitored the Canada Summer Jobs applications when they became available.

Many chairpersons were aware of the struggles of Indigenous women, while fewer had discussed Bill C-262, *United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous People*.

Social and Economic Justice

The majority of reporting councils helped and supported social and economic justice by providing supplies, finances or volunteering.

Most typical areas of support were food banks, food hampers, soup kitchens, clothing drives and homeless shelters. All areas listed were supported by prayer. Most were supported financially with the majority being before, during or after school programs, clothing drives, emergency shelters for those experiencing domestic abuse, food banks and hampers. Many were supported through volunteerism with the highest numbers being at soup kitchens, drop – in centres and clothing drives.

Over half of the respondents did not support organizations that assist Indigenous people. Others supported through clothing drives and financial assistance for northern communities, food drives for Indigenous parish community, financial and volunteer aid to Friendship Inn and Door of Hope, donations to Esk-Omi Missions and providing personal care products to women's shelters.

A large number (93%) of councils did not celebrate National Indigenous Peoples day on June 21, 2021. Those that did featured it in our summer newsletter with links to information and prayers; others said a special prayer for Truth and Reconciliation, repentance and solidarity.

The first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 30, was recognized by many councils (70%). Members were asked to support the day through prayer; some councils had special masses said for Truth and Reconciliation; members were notified by newsletters and provided with special prayers and members were encouraged to educate themselves on the topic.

Less than half the councils reported members having worn orange on that day.

Councils did not physically participate in prison ministry or with the restorative justice program but a few donated funds and one council collected new Christmas cards for use by those incarcerated to connect with family and friends.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) – a few councils spoke to their members at meetings about it; a few had pamphlets available, but most emphasized other topics this year.

Most councils did not celebrate the CWL Day of Prayer for Christian sisters and brothers in the Holy Land and Middle East. Some did have mass and prayers and others circulated a copy of the prayer to members asking them to pray on their own on the 21st.

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

Most chairpersons felt they were not informed about Canada's official immigration and refugee policies and could not explain them to others.

Very few rated members' understanding of the needs of immigrants and refugees in the community as very good while most fell into the fair or poor categories. Over half of the chairpersons felt they would not be able to explain the difference between a temporary foreign worker, immigrant and a refugee.

Councils largely support the poppy campaign and at least half participate in the Remembrance Day services, but very few participate in citizenship ceremonies or wear red on Fridays in support of Canadian troops.

None of the councils reviewed or monitored Resolution 2016.01 Equal Access to Permanent Resident Status.

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace

Exactly half of the councils said their members are familiar with the League's program for CCOOP, but only 15% took part in the program.

Developing Countries

The majority of councils were not interested in supporting Mary's Meals. While a few members do support it privately, councils that did discuss it either had low funds due to the inability to fundraise, or they felt they would prefer to donate elsewhere. One council did report donating.

The awareness of child labour in developing countries was evenly split between 'no', 'yes' and 'somewhat'. The majority of members are not aware of the implications of trade laws or become knowledgeable about the economic difficulties of developing countries. Councils felt they had somewhat criticized structures that put profits before people. Very few councils (4%) had invited a speaker from a developing country to speak at a meeting.

Organizations which have been supported in descending order; Chalice, Operation Christmas Child, Save a Family Plan, Samaritans Purse, World Vision, Canadian Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity. Sleeping Children Around the World and Doctors without Borders were not supported and those not mentioned here were supported in very low numbers.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your council during Covid-19?

It was very difficult to meet due to restrictions. Some councils were able to meet virtually or outdoors when the weather permitted. Communication was kept up with members by monthly newsletters, 'Connecting with Love' phoning tree.

Two members co-founded Phone Link and it is now partnered with the Canadian Red Cross. This is a telephone circle created to optimize safety for seniors living in their own homes. Phone calls are made in the morning and evening to ensure the seniors are safely waking up or in their homes ready for bed. Emergency protocols are in place for unanswered phone calls.

Many of us go to adoration and mass daily, say chaplet of Divine Mercy and the rosary

Members have made items (clothing, blankets, toques, mittens, bags, gift bags, quilts, etc. for those in need in our area and in bigger cities.

Does your council have a community success story that you would like to share with other councils? Please describe.

We are still surviving as a council with 40 some members after 94 years.....95 years in 2022!

The community success story would be we support and contribute personally to very many of these activities but not necessarily as a council. Certain members of our council are involved more than others as their interests are varied.

I would say that the above described Connecting with Love project and wonderful Newsletters are very much loved and received by our members. Our Annual Advent Retreat at the lovely Queen's Retreat Centre has always been loved and well attended. Our plans are to go ahead this year with vaccinated members. Mass followed by a Christmas meal and Speaker., as well as the fundraising raffle draws. Members bring money or baby gifts in support of Pregnancy options.

We support the Saskatoon Clothing Depot with volunteers, donations and volunteers who serve on the board of directors for the depot. Our parish donated 900 pairs of socks to the depot this November.

We initiated a Spread the Joy project in our community. Through the purchase of a \$10 voucher anyone could enter the names of 3 people whose day they would like to brighten with a flower arrangement if their name was drawn. draws were made bi-weekly. It was well-received in the community and brought a little cheer during Covid.

We only have 7 members. Our council's president, secretary, treasurer, and spiritual development positions are filled; we are active and visible in our church.

We have a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Several hundred have been distributed across Canada

Phone Link - described above

We held a protein food drive in December in support of a local program that supplies household items and some food items too families referred to them. Our little parish collected over 100 lbs of protein foods.

I feel our success this year was making members aware of Mary's Meals and providing a financial donation to the organization. Secondly, learning about or more about the temporary home for children in times of family crisis. Many of our members did not realize this service was in existence.

Our council provides a couple of birthday cakes to a local nursing home throughout the year. We provide volunteers to deliver the cakes, which are always very well received by the residents. We also ran an initiative in the parish to raise awareness for the Pornography Hurts Campaign. Parishioners were asked to sign letters and postcards that petitioned the Prime Minister and other Members of Parliament to enact tougher legislation on the porn industry. We promoted this in the bulletins (paper and email), in announcements in the weeks leading up to that weekend, and had volunteers stationed at each door after mass to distribute information and letters. The postage on each letter was free for parishioners.

Two of our members, once a week in the church hall, hold Zumba and Yoga classes for the ladies in the parish. Proceeds from the classes will be used to purchase student back packs and school supplies in the fall. Members also sewed grocery bags, book bags, face masks, coffee mug holders, and Christmas stockings. Materials were donated by a local business.

Our council and parish continued to support 2 major local charitable organizations. A fall drive for toiletries for a women's drop-in centre garnered a huge collection. Also, a Christmas drive to collect men's toiletries, warm clothing, food and coffee cards (Robin's Donuts or Tim Hortons) for our local soup kitchen was a huge success, having collected a car full of items and nearly \$900 in gift cards. Support of Sanctum 1.5 for the last three years; a home for women who are HIV positive and pregnant through collections of personal supplies and baby needs. A parish monetary collection to provide Christmas stockings for the moms and babies and raised over \$800.00.

What is your biggest challenge with community life and do you have plans to address it?

COVID - half our members are not on-line so information sharing is limited.

We have had problems attracting and keeping younger women active. The same faithful members who attend meetings usually are the ones who volunteer. Have a list of ladies who have offered to help in areas of interest. Will need to make more of an effort to contact them individually, rather than just recruiting at meetings or by email.

Lack of member involvement. Hoping to get some of our younger members involved in CWL.

Knowing where and what information is available and what we can do.

The Vax - No Vax division that has been created and emphasized has created problems. How do we address this? Good question. For now, we pray and love each other.

I see just from the questions asked on this questionnaire that we could be educating our council members on more subjects. maybe get them interested.

We are recruiting for the position, and hope to have it filled for 2022.

It is my first year in this role and there are a lot of initiatives that we could partake in. It can be overwhelming to know here to begin, or how and what to get involved in. As I progress in this role, I am learning more and getting a better understanding of what initiatives might be the right fit for this convenorship and our parish.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Communications

Annual Report, 2021

Marge Appell

2021 marks my third year of submitting an annual Communications report for SK. The 2019 report began with my saying it was a busy year, that chairpersons of this portfolio worked hard, and were dedicated to doing the best job possible; in the 2020 report, I said the communications portfolio responsibilities were often daunting and made ever more so by the arrival of a global pandemic. This year I reiterate all of that and more. The struggles experienced in every sector of society across the world extended to the Catholic Women's League of Canada, and the reports I received from my three diocesan counterparts in the province attest to that fact. The learning curve attributed to our reliance on technology was astronomical and councils everywhere were overwhelmed by the changes necessitated by circumstances beyond their control.

COVID-19 played a major role in the changing landscape of CWL meetings and activities. In-person meetings were sporadic, virtual meetings were attempted but overall, not well attended, and this was, in part, because numerous rural areas of our province do not have strong internet connections. Communication became more important than ever as we tried to keep our members connected and engaged. Sadly, slightly over one-quarter of all the councils in our province completed annual reports and that tells the tale all by itself.

The Canadian League Magazine

Reporting councils said the League magazine is a highlight in our organization, though numerous comments indicated disappointment that some issues will only be available on-line in the future. Articles that resonated consistently with members were the president's and Spiritual Advisor's messages. Others that were cited were Winter 2021: Action in the Time of COVID-19, Pornography Hurts, and Care for Our Common Home; Spring 2021: Reasonable Stewardship, Make Valuable Use of This Time, and The Many Faces of Leadership, and Fall 2021: Highlights of the 100th and 101st National AMMs, A Moment in Time, and Honouring the Gift of Service. Numerous councils reported that they couldn't remember all the articles so only chose a few.

Media for Evangelization

Attending to this responsibility was difficult because councils couldn't/didn't meet, and parishes were either closed or few people attended services. The best promoted events were World Communications Day in June and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in September.

Media to Promote the League

Most reporting councils do not have a budget for publicity, but they do encourage members to log on to the National and Provincial websites. Preferred methods of staying in touch are church/parish bulletins and bulletin boards, email, and personal contact with those who aren't connected to the internet. Some councils used National Office promotional literature/brochures. As well, some members subscribe to Vision TV and/or Salt + Light but only a few councils subscribe to Catholic newspapers.

Media Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

Very little attention was given to this area. Some councils reported that a few members monitored media content but only a few councils reported letter writing or email campaigns to raise awareness or voice concerns about resolutions listed in the questionnaire.

Newsletters and Bulletins

In one diocese, almost all reporting councils produce newsletters to help them stay in touch with members. Some are quarterly, some monthly. In the two other dioceses newsletters are not used regularly but parish bulletins are used extensively as are parish mail slots and email messages.

Media and Relations

Once again, this was an area that received little attention. Due to the health crisis and suspension of meetings, few events were held and many that had been planned were cancelled.

Pornography

More than half of the reporting councils distributed Pornography Hurts postcards to their members; the cards were then sent to government leaders. The documentaries “Over 18” and “Red Light Green Light” were not promoted. A general comment was that reporting councils were aware of the issue and tried to keep informed by reading articles and checking the National website for related articles.

Resources and References

Members were aware of the Strategic Plan, but not all followed the process closely. About half of the reporting councils shared this information with their members though they encouraged them to check the National website for updates. A few recited the prayer for renewal at meetings they were able to hold.

Comments on the National website varied from it being very useful to it being hard to navigate. The areas most accessed were communiques, resource needs, and membership. Use of the website generally came down to the comfort level of the member looking for information. There is a wide spectrum of ability levels regarding the use of technology, and this is the biggest issue.

Summary and Final Thoughts

In my estimation, this section gave the best overall picture of what happened/is happening in our councils. The pandemic caused meetings to be suspended; on-line platforms were tried, some successful, some not. Isolation from families and communities, cancellation of parish council activities, and general unrest have taken a toll and the road back will be difficult and challenging.

Many members are hesitant to return and those who have are overwhelmed by the tasks at hand. Thankfully, the League Magazine and the National website are two ways we have kept connected across Canada, however the on-going changes with the magazine, according to comments made, will also influence our members going forward.

Still there are glimmers of hope. I read some comments about councils embracing The Gratitude Project, accessing more spiritual content available on television as well as virtual platforms, sourcing new ideas for fundraising for those councils who need to generate funds to stay viable, and the need to reach out in more tangible ways to keep members connected. A personal phone call is still the best way to ensure that members feel valued.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Resolutions

Annual Report 2020

Susan Melchiorre

Of the three diocesan councils in Saskatchewan, I only received annual reports from the Saskatoon and Regina Councils. Prince Albert Diocesan does not have a Resolution Chairperson and did not report. Regina Diocesan had Councils Reporting: 11 of 68 councils approximately 16% response rate. Number of Reporting Councils with Resolutions Chairpersons: 4-all of which are shared with the legislation standing committee for those councils.

Saskatoon Diocesan Council had 13 out of 42 councils or 30% that submitted an annual report for the resolutions standing committee. Number of Reporting Councils with no Resolutions Chairperson: 7. Of the thirteen respondents nine of the council resolutions standing committees are vacant. Two members were elected, two were appointed. Three of these positions are shared with the legislation standing committee.

Most of the members completing the survey were members of the executive of their parish council. (9/14)

None of the members who replied to the 2021 annual survey have attended a workshop pertaining to resolutions this year. The communiqués and reports are read by all of the chairpersons. Positive comments were made that the information was concise and helpful. There was some interest in topics that could lead to a resolution. One council did form a resolution and prepared it 2 years ago. It was submitted to Regina Diocesan CWL for presentation at the 2020 convention. Unfortunately, Convention was cancelled and so the Resolution has yet to be presented. It was also reported that another executive member brought forward ideas for resolutions. She consulted the provincial chairperson regarding Resolution time lines and was provided with “very good detailed information”.

Issues that councils reported being passionate about in 2021 included euthanasia and assisted dying, pornography, abortion, and indigenous issues. National resolutions that councils acted upon in 2021 included: [2018.01](#) Attestation Requirement on Canada Summer Jobs Program Community Life, [2019.02](#) Canadian Support for the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Legislation, 2007.02 Global Accountability for Canadian Registered Mining Companies.

Some of the actions undertaken by councils regarding resolutions were to raise awareness through meetings, e-mail or newsletters, write letters, and sign petitions. Specific actions to support resolutions adopted at any level were letters sent to federal or provincial governments, made members aware through meetings, emails or newsletters and signed petitions. One council indicated that the provincial executive had provided them with 50 ‘Pornography Hurts’ postcards which they distributed to their membership for mailing. A guideline had been given regarding the message to write and which MLA should receive them. They also requested MLA support for Senator Julie Miville-Dechene’s Bill S-203 Protecting Young Persons from exposure to Pornography. Petitions were signed in collaboration with the parish, so it is unknown how many council members had signed.

Eight councils indicated that they attended the diocesan annual meeting, six attended the provincial meeting and three attended the national meeting. Three councils had attended all three annual meetings. Challenges around this committee were mostly, as can be expected, related to the Covid -19 Pandemic and not being able to meet in person. Other major challenges included not being able to fill the position of chairperson/no standing committee, so much information, and just being able to generate interest.

Accomplishments

Success Story – Using the Pornography Hurt postcards that were professionally made and distributed by the provincial executive was extremely helpful. Some smaller councils would not have been able to purchase these cards on their own. It was noted that “Leadership from the provincial executive is very important”

Conclusion

Resolution development takes time and effort. It is difficult at the council level when there isn’t a resolutions chairperson to encourage members to think about social justice issues and then to act on issues that are identified.

We are fortunate that one council made the effort to draft a resolution, and although delayed yet again this will be hopefully be presented at Diocesan Convention 2022.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Legislation

Annual Report 2021

Shirley Lamoureux

This report is based on results of 36 councils in Saskatchewan that completed the online report for Legislation for the year 2021.

Of the councils reporting a very low 39% have the Chair of Legislation filled on their executive and only 14 have a chairperson. Nine were appointed to the position and 5 elected. In order to fill the positions on the executives it was strongly suggested that a workshop be presented to the councils explaining the importance of legislation to daily living and how informative it is to CWL for their work in their communities. The Workshop “Faith in Action” will be used as soon as able.

Most councils are aware of the names of their local, provincial and federal government representatives on all three political areas (municipal, provincial and federal) or agree it is an easy matter to google search for that information if needed. More than half do not receive any information from elected representatives on the municipal, provincial or federal levels. One council attended a public forum sponsored by Government (any level) and then brought back the information to their council. It was, because of Covid, an on-line forum.

Half councils reporting felt they were somewhat informed of the issues being discussed by municipal government; and 36% felt they were well-informed and 14% not informed at all.

Provincially 50% (7 councils reporting) said they were somewhat informed; and 1 council felt they were not informed at all on the Provincial Level of Government. The same percentage for being somewhat informed and well-informed; and not informed at the National Level of Government.

Resources accessed by Councils for the review and study of federal legislation ae federal department of justice website (4 councils); other websites (4); Hansard 1 council and 1 council uses the LEGISinfo website for researching information. One council googles emails from various organizations that monitor legislation such as CLC, Pro-life etc.; all are aware of the availability of information on the National CWL Website under the Legislation Portfolio; and one council refers to the Catholic Register newspaper and the Regina Leader Post for information.

Only half (18) councils reporting they only had some knowledge that Bill C-7 (medical assistance in dying) was monitored nationally; 47% were very aware and only 1 council was not aware. On Bill C-233 sex-selective abortion; 64% stated they had some knowledge this federal bill was monitored nationally; 19% were very aware and 17% not aware at all. On Bill C-268 – Intimidation of health care professionals – 56% had some knowledge; 25% were very aware and 19% had no knowledge that this bills was monitored nationally.

Some councils responded by writing letters when asked regarding federal bills; others have not gathered at all so have not done letter writing or taken action on; Some of the Bills responded and acted on were Bill C-7 (bill to amend Bill C-233) Bill C-268 Freedom of Conscience; Bill C-6 (conversion therapy) and Bill C-8 – Truth and Reconciliation; Bill S-203 letters were sent to the Senator asking for restrictions to a young persons access to sexually explicit materials. The message of support was sent out with the Pornography Hurts postcards. Everyone received the Pornography hurts postcards to be mailed out;

Other federal bills that were monitored by councils or worked on:
Assisted suicide; Sex selective abortions; CERB;

Most did not monitor or acted on Provincial bills on this year, but one council contacted Provincial representative regarding the Bill 605 (No bubble zone – around Health centers preventing peaceful pro-life witnesses from being near place that perform abortions). One council monitored the changes in which the provincial government dealt with people on Social Assistance wherein the rent was paid direct by government agencies but to give the people more independence and responsibility to pay their own expenses which led to more homelessness and poverty. The Government has since repealed this decision. Members were informed of the Supreme court ruling that overturned the previous decision that only Catholic students attend Catholic schools, thus allowing children of all faiths to attend Catholic Schools.

Only through CWL Communiques was any monitoring legislation or federal bills.

No one has yet to use the “faith in Action legislation workshop yet because of the inability to meet in person. Several have plans to conduct the workshop as soon as all Covid restrictions are lifted. Only just over half of councils reporting were aware of the workshop with 27% of members showing no interest in the workshop but 23% showing an interest in it.

All councils indicated restrictions in place that prevented our meetings in person caused a general lack of activity in Legislation and in CWL in general. Most councils received the Pornography Hurts postcards and filled them in, some added letters, and sent them to the Prime Minister and other Cabinet Ministers. The Postcards were also made available to the Parishioners.

Some the challenges as chairperson of Legislation are the person completing the report is not always the chairperson but someone assigned to complete it for the council and they are not aware of all the issues. Others felt it is too time consuming to take on the position. Councils because of the lack of chairpersons of Legislation have combined it with Resolutions if there is a chairperson there. It is too much information and too hard to sort out which Resolution is which.

Some suggestions for the committee were to give more direction in which bills the League would like council to be actively involved in. Give more clear directions. Offer ideas to Presidents and councils to encourage members to take on the position of Chairperson.

The biggest challenge to completing the survey were: it was hard to find the survey online; make instructions easier for the less adept computer users; trying to fill in the survey when you are only a fill-in for the purpose of doing the report; not knowing what is happening because there is not a chairperson and the information sent out is not being circulated. Lack of information being sent out.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Past President

Annual Report 2021

Margaret Schwab

Due to another pandemic year, council activity is perhaps not what we would expect. Hopefully, that will change in the upcoming year with help from a decrease in pandemic issues and assistance from the national strategic plan.

Leadership Profile

For the year 2021, two of the three diocesan councils sent in a report from their past-presidents. 24 councils of 130 reported (%18). Most report having this position filled with the majority of those holding the position being in the 65 – 74 -year age group. The other age group reported was 55 – 65 years. As well, the majority have been members for 25 plus years and have held this position before.

Serving in a Consultative Capacity

Most past-presidents attend scheduled meeting and spiritual/social events, a few do not attend any. Half of the past-presidents are called on less than once a month and one quarter are called on monthly. Most felt that their presidents feel supported and encouraged.

Responsibility for Archives and History

Most past-presidents are responsible for the archives. A few give this responsibility to the council secretary. Storage of archives is mostly at the church in a designated CWL space while other storage is in a place in the church not designated just for CWL. A few are kept in homes of members. Some councils have access to storage in a museum. One diocesan council has their archives stored at the diocesan offices within the cathedral.

Most (93%) of the past-presidents knew where their council was. Photo albums are the most numerous types of storage with filing cabinets and scrapbooks close behind. Bankers' boxes were use by almost half the councils and memory sticks work for about one quarter of the councils.

Most councils responded that they keep books of life, deceased members histories, lists of past executives, minutes of all meetings, records of awards and years of service records indefinitely. About half of the councils keep annual reports, financial statements, membership renewal data, and written reports from executive members indefinitely.

A few reported not keeping annual reports for any length of time and a very few do not keep financial records.

The majority said they review the archive as needed with a very few doing so every five years.

Just over half of the reporting councils maintain a history book while the vast majority maintain labelled photo albums.

Facilitate Study and Implementation of the Constitution and Bylaws

Most councils have a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, with only three reporting that they did not.

Half said they rarely consulted it to help guide a decision. One quarter of councils use it once a year or every couple of years. A few said they used it multiple times a year.

Almost all councils have a copy of the National Manual of Policy and Procedure.

Again, few said they consulted it multiple times a year while most said rarely. Responses of once a year, twice a year and every couple of years were evenly split to make up one third of the responses.

Just over half of the councils do not have their own policy and procedure and most update it when a policy is changed. For those who do not have a policy and procedure manual, a very large majority said they would not start one (92%).

Just over half felt they would approach diocesan level for assistance in preparing a council P&P, while it was quite evenly split between provincial and national for assistance. A few said they would approach life members.

For the most part, councils rarely seek advice from the diocesan council, the provincial executive, life members or the national office. They are more likely to seek advice from their spiritual advisor and only rarely from their bishop. One diocesan council reported that they often consult their bishop as well as make use of their life members for advice.

Perform Other Duties as Assigned by the President

Most other duties fell under the category of promoting your council in your parish and community, while chairing a meeting, organizing a social/charitable event, finding information from websites, filling a vacant role, organizing funeral lunches, representing council at conventions and chairing the nominations committee all placed a close second. About one quarter said they were never asked to perform other duties. One council reported that the past-president is also responsible for funeral protocol for CWL members as well as mailing appropriate cards to members and their families.

Communications Satisfaction Survey

Not quite half of the respondents are satisfied always or usually, with communications from National council, Provincial council and Diocesan council. There were also a small number that reported they are never satisfied with communications from the above-mentioned levels. The only diocese with Regional councils followed the same trend as above.

The relevancy of communications from National council, Provincial council and Diocesan council was similar to the satisfaction rate of the councils.

Most felt communications were clear and concise usually or always from all levels of the League.

Most responded that they receive duplicate communications from all levels of the League occasionally or sometimes and most councils felt that when they received communications regarding invitations or request to participate that they had enough time to do so. A very few felt they did not.

Summary and Final Thoughts

Reflecting on your term a president, what could make your successor's experience more enjoyable?

Always be there as support, for information gathering and reporting.

Always be a mentor to new president and new executive members; always be available to answer questions. Be encouraging.

Good to bounce ideas off of the president and past president.

Keeping in touch with president through phone calls when meetings can't happen.

Sharing information and knowledge and be willing to answer questions and concerns.

Co-presidency works well with people who have gifts in different areas that compliment each other.

Remind an overwhelmed president that she is doing her best and that is all that is expected.

While discussing past ideas with new executive remind them that those are not the only ideas and new ideas are always welcome.

If I could magically get her a full executive of interested members willing to try new things...We do have members who could be an asset in this regard but they are reluctant to try.

Keep file organized, offer to assist and work alongside. Take on a leadership role for specific events.

People who do not have computers find it very difficult to function in this world of technology. Some have to ask other to print off emails or send documents. Others are cut off from new about the League due to the online format of some League magazine issues. Many councils cannot afford to print off copies for all of their members who are not computer literate. Many of these members are elderly and have been long time members. If the per capita fees are raised, they will quite possibly, give up their memberships.

Support of the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through Planning Strategically 2018 – 2020

The responses to this question were split evenly between yes and no.

Those who supported did so by pray, supplying input to the working groups; attending zoom meetings; listening to President Fran Lucas at diocesan convention; am a member on a working group so reported back often to my parish; had discussions on the changes as they are released; very encouraged by fewer executive members but don't want to see change just for the sake of change as in wording; encouraging members to read all the information the is given about the topic; attending diocesan conventions and sharing ideas; attending special information meetings; participating in surveys when offered and speaking positively about it. One council mentioned that they have not received practical information on how/when to implement these changes but rather only theory.

Share your greatest success (new ideas, projects, workshops)

Quilting project for unwed mother, pro-life.

Was able to set up a phone email to members who had phones able to receive emails and the rest are updated with phone calls.

Maintaining contact with members during days of COVID restrictions.

Working as a group to bring about good things for the community. (plastic mats for homeless, ribbon skirts for Truth and Reconciliation, Red Sand Liturgy to bring awareness for human trafficking.

Becoming adept at zoom meetings.

Held a bakeless bake sale and raised as much as we would have at regular bake sale!

One council had a prayer blanket ministry where blankets sewn by members are blessed and gifted to those who are ill along with inclusion in the CWL prayers. They also have started a junior CWL group; very active and enthusiastic. This group is lead by two members who were teachers and are enjoying leading the girls. As well, a tree was planted for the 100th anniversary of the national CWL.

A great success was being able to meet in person again.

The Connecting with Love phoning program which is now in its second year. Many lasting friendships have developed between the phoners and the recipients of the calls.

Helped facilitate an Advent Retreat for our council.

Getting new members was mentioned by two councils as well as having a young woman join the executive.

One CWL feels that they are a very strong presence in their parish and when able raise funds to help others.

One donated a quilt to raffle for funds and assisted another member in purchasing supplies to make birthday cards for students in three schools.

Share your greatest challenge in your council work

Getting new members and getting members to take executive positions are the biggest challenges mentioned most often by this group.

No face-to-face meetings; reluctance of members to attend; communication is difficult as newsletters are expensive but not everyone has email.

Working a full-time job makes it difficult to participate in meetings, retreats, etc.

Time restrictions with other things in my life as well as the time it takes to travel to where the CWL is.

Not having a past-president.

Multiple reports requested by provincial and national.

Vaccinated and un-vaccinated issue.

Aging membership; not wanting to be active and involved.

People not attending church or wanting to be involved with church.

Remarks by Provincial Past-president

Thank you to all who took the time to fill out this survey.

From the results on communications, I feel that we as a provincial council need to do a better job of getting information to the parishes in a timely manner.

There is also work to be done on parish policy and procedures. Although many feel they are not necessary, it is still a conversation worth discussing.

Leadership – we struggle with this at all levels and we must come up with some ideas for councils to promote leadership not as a ‘job’ but as an opportunity to grow in knowledge of the League; to make use of the gifts given to all of us by the Holy Spirit, to really become involved in the sisterhood that is the League and to celebrate the League together as we go forward.

May God bless your journey.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Life Member Liason

Annual Report 2020

Susan Melchiorre

Saskatchewan has 5 honorary life members and 13 life members.

With 2021 still being a year of the pandemic, the Saskatchewan Provincial Council did not meet in person during the year. I was, however, able to keep the Honorary Life and Life Members aware of our activities. All Communiques from the National Life Member Liaison (NLML) were passed on. Birthdays were remembered, provincial news and activities were passed on to the NLML for inclusion in her communiques. Any video meeting, prayers services and on-line activities and national events were shared with these ladies. We sent birthday cards, get well greetings, special events cards and remembrance cards. Information from the provincial executive and diocesan executives was shared with these ladies.

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