

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Saskatchewan Provincial Council
Annual Reports 2019



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Saskatchewan Provincial Council President

Annual Report 2019

Chantal Devine

Our mission as members of the Catholic Women's League of Canada echoes through the reports of all three diocesan presidents in Saskatchewan. In this the fourth year of on-line reporting, the number reporting in the Regina Diocese almost doubled over the previous year! Fifty out of a possible sixty- nine councils reported. In the Prince Albert Diocese just over half of the presidents reported, thirteen out of twenty- one. The Saskatoon Diocese had a 71% response of thirty out of forty presidents reporting. Both the Regina and Saskatoon dioceses exceed the national average of 67.2%, in parish presidents reporting.

In all councils the position of president is filled. Over half report being a member for over 25 years and the same number, have previously held the position. In the Prince Albert and Regina dioceses, most fall into the 65- 74 years of age grouping. In the Saskatoon Diocese, however, we find slightly younger statistics. Forty percent of presidents fall into the 65- 74 years of age category, 37% are between 55-64 years of age, and 30% are between the ages of 34 and 44.

Nearly all presidents responded that members receive the majority of their information from **The Canadian League** magazine. The magazine serves as a positive tool in keeping all levels of the League connected. A close second to **The Canadian League** are, national communiques, as well as diocesan newsletters and communiques. About half use the national and provincial websites to find information.

The first Catholic Girl's League (CGL) in Saskatchewan, was started in the Saskatoon diocese in October 2019 and is being promoted throughout the province. Several other national priorities are being discussed and acted upon in our councils. Our national theme, **Care for Our Common Home** is well received by our members in Saskatchewan. All discuss the theme at their council meetings, and some bring in speakers to expound on the topic. Other issues which are of great interest are excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities and removing the Canada Summer Jobs program attestation put forward by the Federal Government. In the Saskatoon diocese, an Indigenous Awareness Evening was organized to help members learn more about their Indigenous Sisters. The resolutions on the rights of the pre- born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and establishing standards of testing and labeling for products deemed flushable were also discussed by about half of the presidents reporting.

The role of the spiritual advisor is very important to CWL councils in this province. Seventy percent of councils meet with him/her monthly. The majority of respondents feel their spiritual advisor is very supportive of the CWL, even though a few councils rarely meet with him/ her. This lack of contact could be due to the great distance priests need to travel in the rural areas, especially those priests who minister to more than one parish. To help increase the attendance of spiritual advisors at CWL meetings, councils should meet with him/her in September before scheduling the dates for their monthly meetings in order to accommodate their spiritual advisor's schedule.

Various resources are used for reference, training and discussion. The majority use the Executive Handbook most often to consult the duties of each chairperson. The Constitution and Bylaws, the National Manual of Policy and Procedure and the parish council's Manual of Policy and Procedures are used by over half of the councils. About one quarter, make use of Robert's Rules of Order and the Parliamentary Procedure booklet.

In most councils, over 90% of presidents sign cheques and banking documents on behalf of their council. More than half sign letters directed within the CWL, but very few sign letters to go outside of the CWL, nor do they sign many petitions.

One hundred percent of provincial presidents reported representing their council at church functions. This was followed closely by workshops, World Day of Prayer, regional and diocesan meetings, conventions and community events. It is unfortunate that only a quarter took part in the Remembrance Day Ceremony as this is a patriotic event that touches all of us. Also, taking part, gives all councils the opportunity to increase the visibility of the CWL in their communities.

Most councils do not subsidize their president to attend conferences, fundraising dinners and events. However, at least 60% of councils in Saskatchewan subsidize the total cost of attending provincial and diocesan conventions. Forty percent of councils either do not subsidize or pay for either half or a quarter of their costs. About 20% of councils completely subsidize the cost of attending workshops, while a few reported being compensated for half or a quarter of the cost. Very few councils reported subsidizing for the national convention, which is reflected in only ten percent of parish presidents attending.

Less than half of the councils in the province have a parish policy manual. Over half of those who do not have a policy manual would like to have one and would like help in developing it. This may be an area where either, members of the diocesan or provincial councils could hold a workshop on formulating a parish policy manual. About 6% of councils report making new policies this past year.

As stated earlier, the executive handbook is a valuable manual to all parish councils. They use it as a reference guide in reviewing the duties of each chairperson. This helps ensure their council is fulfilling the objects of the League as cited in the **Constitution and Bylaws** booklet.

Just over half of presidents provide an **annual report** to their members. Most choose to give an oral report, and very few, submit a written report. Some will send their report via email or have it printed in the parish bulletin.

Many of the larger councils, form committees to undertake their projects. Members of smaller councils work together as they do not have the numbers to set up committees. The most active group is the funeral lunch committee, followed closely by the annual events committees such as teas, bazaars, and visitations. Some councils have a committee to provide scholarships and bursaries to deserving individuals.

All councils reported that providing an honour guard at funerals for deceased CWL members is very important, and members feel privileged to be a part of it. Due to the provincial focus on the Canadian Northern Missions in the previous two years, many councils chose to continue that support. Councils are also very involved with Development and Peace, 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, Pro- Life, Cuernavaca, and Euthanasia. One president reported introducing a "Spiritual Book Club" in her parish. This is a very positive endeavour that draws members and non- members together in a time of learning and fellowship.

As mentioned previously, not many presidents write letters, as such, the League letterhead is seldom used. Also, with more members becoming computer literate, most notes and letters are in the form of an email or text message.

As leaders of their councils, presidents report speaking on all issues that affect their council and the League. They visit neighboring councils and bring anniversary congratulations, welcome members to conventions, or bring greetings to their fall regional workshops. They also speak on social justice issues and projects, euthanasia, and pro-life. They also promote Teen- aid in our province and prayers for our priests.

The majority of presidents say their greatest assistance comes from the immediate past president, and the secretary and treasurer of the council. About half said that former past presidents, the current executive as well as the diocesan president provide some assistance.

The greatest challenges for presidents are keeping members enthused about the League, recruiting new members, and attendance at meetings. This is followed closely by members not wanting to take on a leadership position resulting in not having a full slate of officers on their executive. Over half state they feel overwhelmed and undertrained. Other challenges mentioned are dealing with technology and finding the time to deal with the paper-work and the tedious policies and procedures.

Most presidents say they appreciate having a national theme which changes every two years with the election of a new president. The theme helps in bringing a new focus to their councils and makes them feel more connected to the rest of their sisters across Canada.

Presidents are most proud in the way members come together to be of service to others and to grow in their faith. As one president put it, "We are all interested in growing our faith and working together for the betterment of our church, God and Canada." Whether the council is large or small, this is the common theme expressed in all three dioceses.

The greatest challenge in completing this survey was finding the time to do it! Older members were frustrated in not having the computer skills to do the report and having to rely on someone else to do it. One person commented, "If everything is on- line by 2022, it will eliminate the older members, and as it's difficult to convince younger members to join, where will this leave the League?" Several said there was no challenge at all and were appreciative of those who had compiled the survey.

Along with the suggestions stated in my report, I also see a need for:

- workshops in completing and writing annual- reports
- leadership workshops to motivate members to take on an executive position
- encouraging councils to subsidize their president so she can attend the provincial convention and all diocesan conventions
- holding Strategic Planning Workshops in every region of the province to instill excitement about the League to encourage recruitment of new members
- promoting letter writing and signing of petitions on important social justice issues
- encouraging members to submit articles and to visit both the national and provincial websites

I feel blessed and honoured to be a part of this steadfast and faith filled group of women. Their commitment to "witness to the love of God through ministry and service," is highly evident in their annual reports. The mission of the Catholic Women's League of Canada will continue in Saskatchewan because of their faith and dedication. These qualities are very important in dealing with all the challenges we face in our daily lives, and particularly today, during this time of crisis, as we confront the current global COVID-19 pandemic.

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Prince Albert Diocesan Council President

Annual Report 2019

Helen Kayfish

I have 13 presidents who reported out of 21 councils .All 13 reported the position of president is filled. Most reported (8) they had been a member for at least 25 years,A couple (2) reported 11-15 years and 16-20 years. (1) reported 21-25 years. (Nine) or most presidents said they have held the position previously. A few (4) have not held this position before.

The age of the presidents fell into these categories:

65-74 years of age- most of the presidents (7) of the 13 reported being in this category.

55-64 years a few (3) reported being in this category.

75-84 years a couple (2) reported being in this category.

45-54 years one reported being in this category.

All presidents reported getting information from the League Magazine

Quite a few(9) reported from National communiques and diocesan newsletters and (8) from parish bulletins

Just less than half (6) use the local newspaper, (5) use provincial websites or newsletters and Google searches

Less than half (4) National website

Very little (1) from each CCCB, Catholic Organization for Life and Family, and other,

Other information used: Catholic Register Newspaper.

Current National priorities that have been introduced to and discussed or acted upon by councils:

Excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care/hospice facilities, most (12) reported discussions on this topic. Care for our common home, also most (11) reported discussions on this topic.

Removing Canada Summer Jobs program attestation, more than half (8) had discussion on this topic.

Rights of the pre-born under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, about half (7) reported discussions on this topic. Establishing standards of testing and labeling for products deemed "flushable, half (6) reported discussions on this topic. Canada's support for the treaty on prohibition of Nuclear weapons, only one reported as having discussions on this topic. One reported of not discussing any of those topics.

Methods used to discuss topics included:

Discussed the topic at a meeting, most (11) reported discussions on this topic were at a meeting. Engaged the standing committee chairperson, very few (2) reported having used this method. Arranged for a guest speaker on the topic, only one president reported using this method. Wrote about the topic in a newsletter/bulletin/email, also only one reported using this method. Not applicable, one reported that the above were not applicable to them.

Meeting with Spiritual advisors - The majority (8) said they meet with him monthly. A few (4) said they meet rarely with him. One said they meet weekly with him. All (13) presidents said their Spiritual Adviser is supportive.

Resources used to preside at meetings included:

About half (7) said they use the executive handbook as well as Robert's Rules of Order.

Just less than half (5) use council policy and procedure manual. A few (4) use the National manual of policy and procedure as well as parliamentary procedure. A few (3) use the constitution and bylaws.

Documents that were signed included:

The majority (12) said cheques. Most (10) said banking documents. More than half (8) said letters directed within the CWL. A few (5) said petitions. A few (3) said letters directed outside the CWL.

Functions that they represented their councils included: Most (11) said at church functions. Most (10) said at workshops and world day of prayer. About half (7) said at diocesan meetings and conventions. Also about half (6) at community events and sacramental events. A few (5) at regional meetings and Remembrance Day Services as well as special masses. A few (4) at community fundraisers, fundraising events and dinners as well as pro-life events. A few

(3) at anniversaries, conferences and retreats. A couple (2) at provincial meetings and conferences as well as National Conventions. One reported at school ceremonies and one reported other events. Other event was 12 hours for palliative care.

Amounts subsidized for attending events varied. For conventions, most (9) said not at all. A couple (2) said they were completely subsidized. One said half of their expenses were covered and one said one quarter of their expenses were covered. For other events the majority (12) said they were not subsidized at all. One said they were completely subsidized to attend. To attend workshops about half (6) said they were not subsidized to attend. A few (5) were completely subsidized to attend. One said they were covered for half of their expenses as well as one said they were covered by a quarter of their expenses. To attend the Provincial Convention just over half (8) said they were not subsidized to attend provincial Conventions. A few (3) said they were subsidized completely. One said half of their expenses were covered and one said one quarter of their expenses were covered. To attend the National Convention just over half (8) said they were not subsidized to attend. A few (3) said they were subsidized completely to attend. One said half of their expenses were covered and one said one quarter of their expenses were covered.

About half (8) said they did not have a policy and procedures manual. And a few (5) said they do have one. Just over half (8) said it would be useful to have one and a few (3) said no it wouldn't be. A few (3) said they would like assistance to develop one.

All presidents (13) said yes they have read the executive handbook and understand the duties of your executive team and said it assisted them in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of your council. If the executive handbook has not helped, what were you looking for but could not find? The reply was "nothing"

About half (7) said they provided an annual summary of the council's activities to all members. About half (7) said by oral report. A few (4) said in parish bulletin. A few others (3) written report. One by email and one by newsletter.

Most have committees, other than standing committees. Over half (9) said funeral lunches. About half (6) said Annual events such as teas, bazaars, etc. About half (6) said visitation. A few (4) said scholarships or bursaries, social events and donations. A few (3) said catering and fundraising. One said none and one said other. A lot of the categories take place under other specific parish umbrellas but CWL members are highly involved.

Issues that were spoken on behalf of their council this year include: Any issues that come up at a regular meeting. Social Justice issues and projects, fundraising projects. Anniversary congratulations to a neighboring council, Wakaw's 95th. Welcome to Diocesan Convention and Fall Regional Workshop held in our parish. Chalice, Christmas Catalog. Euthanasia, pro-life, csre for the common home. Pro-life, Euthanasia, Teen Aid, prayer...especially for our priests. Membership dues, Euthanasia and assisted dying. Assisted suicide. My husband was sick and dying this past year. He die 3 months ago. Therefore I didn't attend any conferences, conventions or workshops or speak on any issues on behalf of my council this year. Though members of my council did attend a regional workshop and the diocesan convention. Two responded that they didn't speak on anything.

Majority (12) do not have letterhead when responding to correspondence.

Those who provided the greatest assistance when they became president were:
Over half (8) said the immediate past president, the secretary and the treasurer provided the greatest assistance. About half (6) said former past presidents. About half (5) said current executive as well as the diocesan president. One said other.

The greatest challenges you faced in transforming into the role of president - Most (9) said that keeping members interested and recruiting members were their greatest challenges. About half (7) said not having a full executive. Also about half (6) said feeling overwhelmed and feeling undertrained. Just under half (4) said running meetings, inexperience, technology and delegation were challenges. A few (3) said resistance to new ideas, finding the time, amount of paper work, meeting expectations, member conflicts, tedious policies and procedures. A couple (2) said public speaking, organizational skills and other challenges. One said member criticism and one said trying

to please everyone. Some of the greatest challenges that were faced: "Trying for shorter meetings."
"procrastination."

Majority (12) said it was beneficial to have a National theme and/or logo through which you can focus your council activities and liked the change of theme with each new National president.

When asked what makes you most proud of your council:

Our executive council has been very helpful to me. They are always ready to help when I call a meeting or have some task that needs to be done. Members volunteer enthusiastically. We are a small group. But we work well together working together on projects creating new ideas everyone digs in and does their part. Everyone just always shows up and helps others without being asked. The willingness of members to help when we have events at our parish, especially the older members. I believe our council is one where the ladies feel they can grow spiritually and not just to work and pay their fees. We share prayer intentions at the end of every meeting, pray together and we ideally have one of us share about our faith journey for 10-15 minutes. We are a very small group yet we are all best friends working towards a common goal which is for the love and betterment of our Church, God and country. Our council organizes 95% of Parish events and are leaders in Liturgy, Sacramental prep, Adult Faith Education. We're small in number, 4 of our young members have moved & live in other communities but continue to pay their memberships to our council. They help us on projects whenever they are home. I'm proud of our Ladies, in that in the years that I've been part of this council (26yrs) there has seldom been discord. We are all interested in growing our faith & working together for the good of our little parish. That they work together. They are fantastic. Very supportive of anything we do.

When asked what their biggest challenge as president and how they intend to address it:

My biggest challenge is trying to get people to attend meetings; it is often just our executive group and only a couple of others, recruiting members to take on leadership roles. My members are happy joining in on activities, but generally they do not want to be the one organizing any projects or leading a standing committee. Many of them have been leaders in different capacities over the years of their CWL membership. They would like younger members to take on these roles, and they are willing to help out. They are worried about agreeing to coordinate a project and then being left to do the job on their own. While I haven't been in the parish long, it appears that this has happened often in the past. I have encouraged members to feel comfortable voicing their views on issues. We have a policy that if we can't answer 'yes' to the following questions, we do not take on a project: . Is the project worthwhile (i.e.) something we want to do? 2. Is someone willing to coordinate the project? 3. Do we have enough members willing to commit to work with the coordinator? If just one of these questions is answered with a 'no', then we do not go ahead with the project. Making our meetings shorter but still informative and engaging. I hope to use perseverance and patience. Lack of membership encouraging new members through one on one contact to keep the meetings running smoothly and on task. That younger members do not attend meetings and not willing to be on the executive. Biggest challenge is to find enough volunteers for funeral lunches, hosting workshops, Fall Suppers, etc. We have started asking more of the men and young people. This has also helped bring our parish together versus just seeing our events as CWL women events. To keep everyone excited and interested. our members have been active for 50 years or more and it's difficult to get them motivated. All members are very supportive so am very Blessed! My biggest challenge is getting members to attend meetings, keeping them interested. I will try to get someone in to speak on something, view a video, find a project to do. There was a very good response to the ""stuff the purses" and "lap blankets for the elderly" projects. Our new parish priest is musical. Maybe he can teach us some new hymns. I don't have a computer. I have to rely to someone else to do my printing etc. The greatest challenge in completing this survey: Time to do it. No challenge. I am not technological so rely on council members that are techs. None. trying to understand some of the questions, ie. # 33 the technology. I do not use computers and we get so much information by computers these days. Just finding the time to do it. It was actually much simpler than I thought..none none Getting the courage up to try to do this report without my husband's help. I'm not very computer literate !! I don't have a computer. I have to rely on someone else to complete it for me.

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Regina Diocesan Council President

Annual Report 2019

Yvonne Bachelu

After receiving the results of the President's annual survey's submitted on-line, I am extremely excited to report that 50 out of the possible 69 councils completed the on-line survey for the 2019 year. This is an overwhelming response! It is almost double from the number reporting for 2018. Thank you to all the councils that were able to complete this task!

In this report, I will try to capture the essence of all comments.

Of the responses that were received, the majority of councils have this position filled, which is a very promising fact. Many have been a member for more than 25 years as well, and have held this position more than once. This tells me that the Presidents of the councils have a wealth of knowledge and find this organization a very important aspect of the community. For the ones that have not been members for that many years, thank you so much for stepping up into this ever so important position for your council. It is important to understand how the CWL impacts not only your community, but the world as a whole.

Most members receive their information from the Canadian League Magazine, however the National communiques that are available are a close second. The National website, Diocesan and Provincial newsletters are also a sought after resource for information needed.

As our National theme changes with the election of every National President, it seems that our members consider this theme as a priority to introduce it and educate their members about it. Delivering this to your members thru council meetings, utilizing your committee chairpersons and arranging for speakers were the methods used.

Included in the survey was a question about Spiritual Advisors, specifically how often do you meet. Most councils meet with their Spiritual Advisors monthly, however one third of the councils rarely meet with them, although most, specifically 85%, are supportive of the CWL. Reasons that you feel prevent your Spiritual Advisor from being present? A lot of Spiritual Advisors, especially those in smaller communities, have more than one parish to administer to, and have to travel quite a distance between. Not sure how we can address this, but we will keep it on our radar and see what ideas we can come up with. Some are due to them being new, and not knowing much about the CWL. Well, we know how to solve that, don't we!!

Roberts Rules of Orders are a very popular resource used at meetings, along with the Constitution and Bylaws, Executive Handbook, as well as the National and council Manuals of Policy and Procedure. This is very exciting to hear! We provide resources just for that purpose and it's comforting to know that our members feel them to be just as important.

You reported that councils partook mostly in your church functions, followed closely by Regional meetings, Diocesan Conventions and meetings, World Day of Prayer, Provincial Conventions and meetings as well as fundraising events and dinners, workshops, pro-life events, retreats...all these are very important areas in the workings of our CWL.

While your councils were unable to subsidize the cost to attend conferences, fundraising dinners and events or workshops, a greater percentage of councils were able to subsidize the cost for attending Diocesan and Provincial Conventions, however a smaller percentage were able to subsidize the cost of National conventions. This result is understandable, however it is encouraged for members to attend as many conventions at each level as they can.

Parish policy manuals are an important tool to have available, and almost half of these responding do have this for their councils. Some consider it helpful to have one and would like assistance in developing same. Please remember that your Diocesan Executive is here to help. If you are one of those councils that would like to develop and parish policy manual and need assistance, please contact me and I would be happy to help.

The majority of councils have read and understand the Executive Handbook. You reported it has assisted you in the responsibility of overseeing the operations of your councils.

Most councils provide an annual summary of council's activities to members in a variety of methods, such as written and oral reports, emails and parish bulletins are amongst the most popular.

Various committees also exist in your councils, like funeral lunches, visitations, scholarships or bursaries. Honour Guard was another important part of your councils. Other issues important to your council included Regional meetings, Canadian Northern Missions, issues with the Development & Peace organization, the National theme Care for Our Common Home, H.U.G. Campaign, Palliative Care, Pro-life, Cuernavaca, Water Challenge, Laudato Si', 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care, Euthanasia, introduced a "Spiritual Book Club" to your parish, support for Women's shelters, Abortion issues and many more.

The League letterhead is available for use, but not many of you use it when corresponding. Please remember this is for your use, and it also promotes the CWL without you really having to do anything extra for it.

When asked the question of who provided you with the greatest assistance when you assumed the role of president, the majority responded that assistance from the immediate past president was received. Following very closely to that is other former past presidents, as well as the current executive, specifically the secretary and treasurer. The Diocesan President, which is currently me, did not provide a lot of assistance, and that's okay. You need to find help where you feel comfortable. Just remember, I'm only an email (or phone call) away, and I will always be available to help.

Your greatest challenge you faced with transitioning into the presidency role was not having a full slate of officers, followed by keeping members interested, recruiting, feeling overwhelmed, finding the time, technology, paperwork, feeling of being undertrained, and the list goes on. Remember, you bring certain talents to the position that others don't. Everyone brings something to the table, all different, which is what makes our CWL so diverse. Other councils commented having to hold the presidency position for more than one term. I thank you for not letting it go un(wo)maned!

Most of you find a new national theme beneficial and embrace it as it gives your council a focus during the year.

There are many positive comments on how hard working and dedicated members are, no matter the size of the council...be it 10 members, or 100 members, all are loyal and very supportive of each other.

There were a wealth of comments when asked what makes you proud of your council, such as genuine care and concern for each other, charter members attending anniversary celebrations, involved in various ministries in church and personal lives, many indicate they are small and elderly however still willing to do what they can and carry on, although small attendance at meetings members feel strongly about the importance of maintaining the council, excellent executive and support from Spiritual Advisor, tenacity to go forward when we have so few members, how everyone works together, unwavering commitment of members.

The biggest challenge you face and how to address it as president again came with many ideas. One council mentioned that it's difficult to find a time to meet, so meetings are set on whatever day most are available. Another challenge is when there are paying members that aren't active or not interested in assuming executive positions – by holding social events and announcing them during mass helps with the attendance. Increasing membership is always a challenge – so challenge members to ask women who currently are not members. Time is also a challenge, one member wearing more than one hat on the executive. However to help with this challenge is to talk to women personally. The feeling of being overwhelmed is also mentioned. Working together more and improving overall communication helps with this. Technology is something that members find challenging, however reaching out to other members helps. Another challenge is that one member is very versed in many aspects such as public speaking, computer, graphic design, etc., so taking on a lot and not being able to find a replacement, however it is being encouraged to share responsibilities.

Members were asked what was your greatest challenge in completing this survey...some commented they could not print it, time consuming, trouble finding it. One did find it easy and said many thanks for all the devotion put in for making CWL so effective. One member mentioned that they are a small council, so the president is having to complete all the surveys. Many did indicate there was no challenge at all. There was a comment that if everything will be online by 2022, it will eliminate the older members and it's difficult to convince younger members to join. It was suggested to change the time of year it needs to be completed due to just getting back into the routine of meetings, Christmas...maybe we could start the time period from Jan 1 to Feb 1...the Christmas season would be over.

In reading over the survey results, there were many many comments, which I feel are a very important part of providing feedback. However it is difficult to include all comments, so as I said at the beginning, I tried my best to capture the essence of all responses.

We need to keep in mind that many of our Spiritual Advisors do not have much experience with the CWL, and we need to help them learn about our organization. This will encourage them to attend meetings and conventions.

As I have mentioned in a few of my communiques this past year, I welcome members to contact me if they have any questions or concerns whatsoever. I'm available by email or phone.

May God bless you, may his love shine upon your soul, and may you feel his presence as he walks beside you as you travel your path of life.

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Saskatoon Diocesan Council President

Annual Report 2019

Ingrid Eggerman

In this, our fourth year of on line reporting, I received 30 out of 42 reports.

60% of our members have been a member for more than 25 years.

3% less than 5 years

67% of members have previously held this position.

40% of our ladies are between 65 and 74 years of age. From Provincial websites and

37% between 55 and 64 years and

30% between 34 and 44

Information to inform members is:

90% from Diocesan Newsletters and the League Magazine

70% from National communiqués

70% from Provincial websites and newsletters

A media site www.thecatholicthing.org was used

The current priority of National acted upon this year was;

83% prioritized excluding medical assistance in dying from palliative care.

73% Care for our common home

37% focused on the rights of the unborn

33% acted upon establishing standards of testing and labeling for products deemed Flushable

100% of councils discussed these topics at their meeting.

29% arranged a speaker on the topic

25% engaged the standing committee chairperson

14% wrote about a topic in their newsletter or bulletin

Meeting of Spiritual Advisor

50% of councils met with their spiritual advisor on a monthly basis

20% rarely met

87% of spiritual advisors were very supportive of CWL

A remark was made about not having a resident priest and the Parish Life director declining the invitation to act as spiritual advisor. 50% of the comments felt that their spiritual director was too busy with outside duties to attend meetings.

Main Resources used at meetings were:

60% Executive handbook

57% Constitution and bylaws

53% National manual of policy and procedures

47% Council manual of policy and procedure

27% Roberts rules of order

23% Parliamentary Procedure

Documents signed on behalf of councils were:

93% Cheques

70% banking documents

60% letters directed within the CWL

33% directed outside of CWL

33% petitions

Representation of CWL

100% in church functions

73% in Diocesan meetings and conventions

60% in Community events

- 57% in World Day of Prayer
- 50% sacramental events
- 43% community fundraisers
- 43% conferences
- 43% workshops
- 40% regional meetings
- 40% provincial meetings and conventions
- 37% fundraising dinners
- 33% anniversaries
- 23% Remembrance Day service
- 20% school ceremonies
- 13% retreats
- 10% National Convention

Councils who subsidize their members to attend conferences, fundraising dinners, workshop

- 80% do not subsidize

- 20% paid 100%

Councils who paid 100% to attend Diocesan convention:

- 60%

- 7% paid 50% to attend

- 7% paid 25% to attend

Councils that developed new policies;

- 6%

42% agreed it would be beneficial to have new policies, but would need assistance.

There is a great deal of pride, dedication and support in the councils and communities. Christian values are strong. Councils are able to accomplish much with a minimum of organization. When asked, members are willing to help out. They empower each other. There are concerns of aging members. There is gratitude to see all of the projects that are supported provincially nationally and globally. There is pride in belonging to the largest women's organization in Canada.

77% of councils found it beneficial to have a National theme or logo. 40% of councils liked the change of theme with a change of National President.

The biggest challenge as president is:

- Challenge of not having a council president

- Finding chairpersons

- Lack of knowledge

- Trying to keep meetings interesting

- Attracting members to leadership roles

- Scheduling speakers

- Declining membership

- Explaining to young women about the strength we have in numbers

- Getting to know members better and how they can contribute

- Keeping up with the correspondence

The biggest challenge in completing this survey:

- Getting the links to do it on line

- Not receiving the memo package

- Taking the time to complete it

- Need of better communication between Diocesan and National

- Finding the council code

- Printing the report

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Joint Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Annual Report 2019

Marion Laroque

I am happy to report that participation in the annual reporting process by our secretaries was improved this year. Our Saskatchewan executive members at both the provincial and diocesan levels made it a priority to encourage and help our parish level colleagues complete the on-line surveys.

Demographics

Our secretaries are loyal to the position, with the average length of term being over five years. As well, over two thirds of the secretaries have held the position before. These ladies are, for the most part, long-standing members of the CWL. In fact, only five percent have been a member for less than five years. What a wonderful resource they must be for the executive of their council. Unfortunately, these ladies are also ageing; only fifteen percent are under the age of fifty-five.

The Role of the Secretary

Our secretaries attend all meetings, transcribe and distribute the minutes. They faithfully bring the minutes book to the meetings. They also maintain a list of the executive and their contact information. Over half do not have a motion book. A motion book is a good resource, enabling the executive to quickly access a motion from past meetings.

Oddly, for those who identified themselves as the corresponding secretary, over half do not notify members of upcoming meetings and events. This task seems to fall on the president. In most councils, the corresponding secretary does not send out special occasion cards either.

Support for Our Secretaries

Our secretaries work hard to produce accurate minutes that reflect the business of the meeting. Unfortunately, only one quarter of these ladies receive written reports from executive members. A written report could improve the accuracy of the minutes and free up the secretary to fully participate in the meeting. Here is one telling comment: *...while trying to record various reports, I have to ask who moved the motion, and who seconded it. (My head is down writing so I miss who moved the motion!!)*. Let's help these wonderful ladies by giving them a written report either at the meeting or immediately afterwards.

Lack of computer skills was also often mentioned as a difficulty in doing the job of secretary. Could a workshop be organized to help them improve on their skills? Or better yet, could some members (possibly younger) with good computer skills step up and volunteer to be the secretary?

Several reports also pointed out that the secretary position is unfilled and other executive members are filling in. Also mentioned frequently was that the council does not have a president. Here is one comment from a council that did not have a president: *It was not perfect, but we got through a difficult time...I have learned that a secretary's duties are not always easily defined and sometimes you have to put in a little more effort than at other times.* How lucky they were to have her.

One secretary mentioned that she was asked to send out a notification at the last minute which she found frustrating since she is also busy with other commitments.

Areas That Might Need Improvement

Some comments were made regarding health issues of either the secretary or the president, as well as times when the president resigned or moved away. At the same time, almost half of the secretaries are not a signing authority for their council. It is recommended in the National Policy and Procedure Manual that there should be three signing authorities for each council, including the secretary. This best practice should be encouraged.

The average years of minutes that are kept before archiving was reported as four years. It is recommended in the National Policy and Procedure Manual that six years of minutes be kept before they are archived.

Final Comments

Difficulties with recruiting new members and filling executive positions was voiced by many ladies. At the same time, councils reported creative ways to continue carrying on, making the council work for their parish, no matter how small. They also reported many successful programs and events that reached out to their parishes and their community to serve the people of God.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Treasurer

Annual Report 2019

Helene Marceau

This year we had 74 councils submit their annual reports online. 100% of reporting councils have filled the treasurer position. 55% (41) were appointed; 45% (33) were elected. 1 person was also recording secretary. 49 % had been a member for more than 25 years. 10 % had been members for less than 5 years. 66% had held the position previously, 34 % were first-term.

100 % of councils reported using bank statements, 96 % deposit books and 93 % cheque books as tools with 48% using some form of computer tools such as computer programs or excel spreadsheets. 41 % of councils do not have their cancelled cheques returned to them. Records are kept for at least five years by all councils. All councils update books frequently, retain receipts, and reconcile account books to bank statements monthly.

Councils collected membership fees minimum of \$25.00 maximum \$35.00. 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. 97 % use cheques to pay accounts, others use debit cards or petty cash. For 99% two signatures are required on cheques and most councils have three signatories usually the treasurer, president and one other executive member. 41% only of councils prepared a budget and of those 20 present the budget to their parish councils for approval. Budgets are prepared at different times of the year depending on the council. 93% of councils present financial statements at the general meetings. 53% of councils have their books examined annually by an independent individual experienced in accounting matters.

Regular reporting to councils, dual signatures for bank accounts and annual review of books are all practices that should be followed to remain transparent to the council and avoid any misunderstandings. Preparation of budgets provides the council the opportunity to determine the priorities of the council and plan for the activities for the year ahead.

Councils undertaking fundraising initiatives include in descending order funeral lunches (62%), Bake sales, raffles, luncheons/suppers, catering, rummage sales, craft sales, bazaars, plant sales, and silent auctions. 3% of councils do not fundraise.

Donations made by Saskatoon & Regina & Prince Albert councils:

Coady International Institute	\$ 3,455.00
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition	2,577.00
Catholic Missions in Canada	6,722.00
CNEWA	2,140.00
National Bursary Fund	1 290.00
Development and Peace	100.00
Spiritual Development	23,464.00
Organization	12,186.00
Christian Family Life	23,780.00
Community Life	38,118.00
Education and Health	40,237.00
Communication	2,458.00
Parish	<u>98,775.00</u>
Total Donations	255 302.00

Thirty nine percent of funds donated are donated to the parish.

General Comments:

There were real challenges with getting on-line, logging in, difficulty accessing and/or completing the survey as it is slow to load and entering each member is time consuming. Printing/saving reports is an issue. Requests were made for clearer instruction for next year.

There were some comments that expressed that they weren't sure where to put the financial information and had difficulty trying to sort donations according to the category their donations fell under.

Request for "other" category. Some give their donations to Kinsmen Telemiracle, SK Pro-Life, Teen Aid, Ronald McDonald House, Face to Face Ministries, Chalice and Jim Pattison Children's Hospital to name a few instead of regular charities.

Councils are struggling with maintaining and recruiting members.

My personal challenge is with the dioceses not reporting their donations to me in a timely manner.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Organization

Annual Report 2019

Connie Crichton

Reports were received from all three of the Diocesan Organization Chairpersons summarizing the results received from 66 of the 131 councils in the province (50%). Prince Albert diocese had 12 of 20 councils report (60%). Regina had 31 of 69 councils report (45%) and Saskatoon had 23 of 42 councils report (70%). This was an increase of 18 councils from the previous year. Many of the councils not reporting were contacted and their failure to report was largely due to the lack of members in executive positions and lack of technology skills required to complete the survey online. Of those reporting councils we heard that most that held the organization positions were not the president elect and that their councils did not have a president elect. Thirteen councils did not have this position filled. This reflects the previous surveys results that indicate members are reluctant to take on leadership roles and this does not bide well for the future if we cannot turn this around soon. With the implementation of the five year strategic plan now underway, there is hope being generated that our future will become brighter as changes are introduced.

Demographics of Membership

Of reporting councils over half of the membership is over 70 years of age with less than 15% under the age of 50. Contact with those not reporting online would suggest that those councils are made up of members in the over 70 category as well likely bringing up that percentage even higher. The majority of the members do not attend meetings but some that don't attend meetings do participate in social gatherings, fundraising events, and spiritual gatherings.

Recruiting and Maintaining Membership

While reporting councils indicated 124 new members joined, provincially we had a net loss of 396 members. Some were through death but the majority were from non-renewal of membership. Reasons given for not renewing were: relocation, some elderly to nursing homes, others just not interested or too busy. Reporting councils indicated a total of 10 associate memberships. Only half of the reporting councils use the online membership. Considering many of the non-reporting councils did not respond to the survey because of lack of technological skills it can be assumed that manual reporting is likely closer to 75%. While there have been problems with the online system it is still the most efficient way to manage your membership and should be encouraged.

Personal contact was used in the majority of councils for recruitment in addition to 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.

Councils used many ways to keep in contact with members who can no longer participate. Phone calls, visits, sending cards, meeting minutes and newsletters, and taking communion or gifts are ways in which they keep in contact with these members.

Councils recognize their members by having new members and affirmation ceremonies, presenting service pins, special gatherings such as teas or wine and cheese nights, a thank you in parish bulletins, special CWL masses, and 15 councils presented maple leaf service pins. New members are welcomed at meetings and encouraged to take part in discussions and some councils provide them with a new member's kit. Diversity is celebrated through sharing of experiences and some councils have had events that have members share their heritage through dress and cuisine.

Leadership Development

Leadership development at parish council level was only offered in one diocese. Attendance at diocesan conventions for councils reporting was 207. Many councils reported no one from their council attended a diocesan convention.

This contributes to the sense of disconnect that these councils feel from the national organization, as it is at conventions that members learn and experience the connections that we have to the bigger picture. Councils need to be encouraged to provide support for at least an executive member to attend and bring back information and enthusiasm to do more. There was even less participation at the provincial convention where only 85 members were reported as attending. However, 36 reported attended the National convention as it was held in our neighbouring province of Alberta making travel less expensive. For most this may be their only opportunity to do so before we host our own national convention in 2024. Over half of the reporting councils had members who attended a strategic planning session that was given at regional and diocesan meetings. We are hoping to have more presentations as resulting changes are introduced over the next few years. There is the hope that changes will revitalize our struggling councils and attract new membership.

Just less than half of the reporting councils had members that have a role on either regional, diocesan, provincial or national levels. Two members from our province participate on implementation plan working groups. One member is part of the resolutions committee. Only one council reported any type of leadership training being provided at their council level. While more than half of the councils indicate they balance their meetings, the spiritual part is mostly covered by attending mass before the meeting. Many indicated there is no time for social as members just want to get home and the business portion has taken all the time.

Only half of the councils were familiar with what the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation offers and very few promoted this opportunity to their members. This was largely because of the older age of members who were no longer interested in leadership studies. We currently have three members in the province who are participating in this year's program and they have actively promoted participation at diocesan meetings.

League Resource Material

The main resource available for councils use is their Canadian League magazine and league prayers. Other resources are less available and although all the resources are available online, many councils do not have sufficient membership with the capability of accessing these online resources. Some councils may be using outdated materials as a resource. Most councils used promotional materials such as service pins, welcome brochures, prayer cards, Mass cards and CWL pens.

Annual Reports

Less than half of the parish council chairpersons had established guidelines for executive members to complete their annual reports. Many executives met as a group to complete reports and reviewed minutes or recorded activities to assist them.

Life Members

There were a few councils report having life members in their council. There are currently four Honorary Life members and 15 Life members living in Saskatchewan. In 2019 we had three new Life members honored with this distinction:

Chantal Devine - Holy Spirit Parish, Saskatoon

Susan Melchiorre - St. Philip Neri Parish, Saskatoon

Margaret Schwab – Holy Spirit Parish, Saskatoon

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.

Stories of Success and Challenges

Most councils acknowledged that while only a small number of their members attended meetings regularly, those that did were very dedicated to the work the CWL does in their parish and communities. They come for fellowship and support in their faith and personal lives. In smaller communities there are struggles to keep viable but existing members “recognize the need to be God’s hands and God’s light in our troubled world.”

Councils see they provide a spiritual support for faith filled women and a source of support for parish life. Through fundraising they are able to help organizations that support the marginalized while enjoying the fellowship that working together brings. Many activities such as teas and bake sales, social events, potlucks, fun nights, and guest speakers bring out not only members but other parishioners that helps build community.

Many of the members holding the position of Organization chairperson have no intention of taking the job of president. There are few willing to take on any executive position. Existing aging executive members have held positions for many years and there is no one to take their place. Younger women say they have no time to join much less lead.

Completing the surveys also proved challenging for many as problems accessing the site seemed to be a common response. Many councils don’t have all positions filled and those that were filled were filled with members who had no computer skills. Many councils had one member fill in all the surveys. Many asked for paper copies to submit and said the surveys were too long. The question on ages of members was difficult to answer as birthdates of members are not recorded.

Final Thoughts

When reading though the open ended questions at the end of the survey I couldn’t help but feel the love our councils have for the Catholic Women’s League and what it has meant to them in forming friendships and actively living out their faith through service and championing social justice causes. The reality is that this comes from a much older generation than those we need to carry on into the future. Each of us must make an effort to replace ourselves with a younger version and mentor and support them in taking on the leadership of the future. We need to provide them with our testimonies and our enthusiasm for the work we have accomplished and assure them that they are capable of doing that as well. We need to keep our light shining brightly to guide them into the next 100 years of the Catholic Women’s League of Canada.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Spiritual Development

Annual Report 2019

Position Vacant (prepared by Marion Laroque)

Slightly less than half of the councils in Saskatchewan responded to the Spiritual Development annual report survey. This process represents an opportunity for the national executive of the CWL to take the pulse of the grassroots members and a chance for standing committee chairpersons to celebrate their successes and find inspiration going forward. Hopefully next year more councils will take part in the process.

Demographics

The majority of councils have a spiritual development standing committee chairperson. In most cases these ladies have been appointed to the position and have held the position before. A full two thirds have been CWL members for over 25 years. Very few of these ladies are under the age of 55. Sadly, one respondent found the question of her age somewhat offensive. These ladies are valued for their example of enduring faith throughout all of the challenges that life can bring. They have our support and respect.

Programs

The theme *Care for Our Common Home* has resonated with the councils. More than two thirds studied it in various ways including reflections at meetings, preparing a prayer service and holding a retreat on the subject. More than half of the councils endeavor to spend one third of their meeting time on spiritual aspects in a wide variety of ways. This may be as simple as reciting the League prayer, offering seasonal prayers and saying the rosary. More ambitious programs included the *12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care*, holding special services for deceased who did not have a funeral and organizing a community prayer breakfast. Members in two thirds of the councils are able to attend mass either before or after their meeting. Over half of the councils celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel with mass. Their spiritual advisor was sometimes available to attend a council meeting.

Resources

The survey specifically asked about ten resources that have been mentioned in various communiques. The vast majority were not used. Why would that be? The resources that were for purchase and those requiring technology (apps and websites) were almost never used. Perhaps councils should be encouraged to have a budget item for spiritual development if possible. The use of technology will gain popularity although there are areas of Saskatchewan with very poor cellular service. This does not mean that these ladies didn't access any resources. Over 30 different resources were listed under *other* including the CWL website, various books, other websites, and EWTN.

Reaching Out

The majority of reporting councils support charities working primarily in Canada with monetary donations. Other donations included time, clothing, food and school supplies. Over half of the councils subscribe to the *Catholic Missions in Canada* magazine.

Councils did promote and participate in the World Day of Prayer in March, but few councils reached out to other denominations in any other organized way.

Leadership

Almost all of those responding take a leadership role within the church. From serving at the parish level on the parish pastoral council, parish finance council and other committees to serving at the regional and diocesan level. They also fully participate in the life of their parish. Liturgy ministries, decorating, leading the choir, cleaning and serving as a catechist are some of the many ways they contribute. Dare we say they are the backbone of the parish?

Personal Growth

For those ladies who did enroll in a program or retreat for their own personal spiritual growth lay formation, *Alpha* and the *Wild Goose Course on the Holy Spirit* were most frequently mentioned. These programs involve a significant time commitment.

Challenges

Time. The time required to prepare a reflection for the meeting, the time allocated at the meeting for spiritual development, and the time needed to look for new resources. Several ladies also voiced disappointment in the number of members who actually attend meetings. Could a reflection be sent to all members for their personal use as a means of engaging these members? Belonging to a prayer chain for the needs of members may also be a way for members who are unable to attend meetings to participate in the life of their council in a meaningful way.

Concluding Thoughts

The wide variety of resources used reflects the personal relationship each of us has with our God, and how we approach him. This same individuality also applies to our CWL councils. What works for one may not work for another. It is very helpful that our national executive works to make so many resources available for the spiritual development standing committee chairperson to choose from.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Education and Health

Annual Report 2019

June Gorgchuck

The survey was completed by 53 councils, 16 councils from the Diocese of Saskatoon, 26 councils from the Diocese of Regina and 11 councils from the Diocese of Prince Albert.

Most positions of this Education & Health convenorship was filled and most of them were appointed. Most of them were members for over 25 years. And most have had this position before. Ages ranged from 74 years to 35 years of age.

A greater number of members have been informed about the quality of religious instruction in our parish and the quality of religious education in our schools. Most have not actively encouraged parents to participate in their children's education. A large number of chairpersons have not investigated the need of Catholic schools that could be met by councils. The ones that did filled the needs of; scholarships, spiritual and faith development, school supplies, lunch programs, extracurricular activities tutoring etc. Some have no catholic school in their area.

We do not have access to Catholic schooling; parish volunteers teach catechism. The closest Catholic school is 1.5 hour drive away from this community. I have tried to access information from our diocesan office.

Leadership and religious grants and programs such as rosary clubs etc over half are not aware of family life programs being taught in their Catholic schools.

Most have not become involved in the Rites of Christian Initiation and some council members have participated. Most have not encouraged members to assist those who wish to improve their literary skills. Most councils do not have a list of Catholic universities or colleges in their diocese and some have no colleges.

A list of Scholarships and bursaries that could be assessed by women to further their education, are not available to most councils. Over half of the councils provide a bursary or scholarships or provide funds to another bursary. Who are the recipients; Catholic Christian Outreach---mostly not applicable Catholic women furthering their education---

mostly not applicable elementary aged school children....mostly not applicable high school children.. most provided a scholarship or bursary university/college students...most not applicable NETMinistries of Canada... most not applicable.

My Generation Youth Rally....an initiative by the diocese for the youth to come together. We assist with a monetary donation. Early Childhood Intervention Program....donated money. One Council set a \$500 budget in 2019 to support requests for funds to help with Catholic Christian Outreach and Catholic women furthering their education. While not specifically a bursary or scholarship it is still support for worthy endeavors. One council provides a Grade X Christian Ethics Award. One council supports CCO as individual families. A scholarship is given to the Quill Plains MUSIC festival. Support is given for education of a priest in Ghana. Support and funding is given to one council's local school of Religion. Most of the councils have not contributed to the National Bursary Fund or to the Coady International Institute this year.

A monetary donation was made to the Early Childhood Intervention Program. Quilts and a monetary donation were made to William Booth Hospice. Members were informed of workshops they could attend on various topics and have discussed issues at our meetings. Some members have attended the workshop on dying/Healed and are part of the Palliative Pastoral Care in their parish. Some councils wrote letters to members of parliament, hosted and attended palliative care conferences had speakers, informed members of updated actions in the community and discussed topics related to palliative care and hospices at their meetings and gave money. Some members do Eucharistic ministry at hospitals.

Most of the councils did not participate in the CWL Mental Health Postcard Campaign, some were not aware of such a campaign,

More than half of the councils have supported national organizations that focus on the health and wellness of Canadians. Some that were not on the list were; work at the blood bank, women's shelters, Serena Catholic Missions in Canada, donated to tele miracle, and members support many of these charities on an individual basis.

Almost all of the councils have not donated blood using the Partner ID.

12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care: Some councils emphasis was on other topics this year, others arranged a prayer space in the parish, prayer space at home, supplied brochures on local palliative care facilities, invited neighbouring churches, etc. The video "Fatal Flaws" was shown, prayed the Rosary together, the Stations of the Cross as a group. Due to hard work and little turn out for a parish event in 2018, for 2019 we encouraged members to pray at home. One council hosted 12 hours of prayer in their church from 8am to 8pm. Each hour a member led a prepared service from a booklet, with prayers, reflections, meditations, intercessions, hymns and the Rosary all included. Daily Mass at 9am was also part of the day.

Over half did not participate in the water challenge and did not celebrate the United Nations World Water Day. Some councils had speakers on the theme "Care for Our Common Home". One council focused on improving their parish recycle program. Some councils filled out participation forms and gave their intentions as to conserve water usage, continuing throughout the year and had discussions on how to save water.

Other initiatives undertaken:

One council had a project to raise funds to provide a well for a needy community and have had opening prayers focusing on water.

One council suggested to the Parish that we not use bottled water and another focused on environmental issues such as; recycling, reduce the use of styrofoam cups, reduce paper use, eliminate plastic water bottles, reduce water use, green bins for organic waste, compost, roadside or community clean-up, renewable energy, etc.

One council had a guest speaker, Sr Judy Schachtel speak on "New Understanding and Awakening of the Universe (Mystics and the Catholic Faith) April 2019; Sr Judy Schachtel on Laudato Si: Inspiration and Challenges; Information on how to calculate carbon footprint; Presentation on Sun Smart Saskatchewan.

One council hosted 2 speakers this past year at 2 of our meetings. One spoke on mental health and the other on Nashi (human trafficking). Our council seeks to host speakers for the purpose of education that interest our local membership.

One council is involved with their neighbouring high school and provides cash awards for academic excellence at graduation, and also acknowledge various levels of excellence (non-monetary) for students who have shown excellence throughout the year.

An ecumenical World day of Prayer was host or attended by a number of councils with a fellowship luncheon. No councils subscribe to the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute newsletters and some council indicated they would like to learn more about this topic.

One council reported: The only Catholic High School in our city was collecting toiletries for the homeless shelter, and our council collected items to contribute. The teacher and students involved were surprised at all that was donated. It was a very positive interaction with high school students. We provided gift cards for all parish altar servers as a thank you.

One council had a presentation on healthy eating and the Canada Food Guide and its recent changes. Another council hosted an evening event open to all women on decluttering our lives and homes to enhance our physical and spiritual wellbeing. Several members volunteer at the CBS Blood Donor Clinics by providing refreshments for the donors. Other members volunteer at the Flu Clinics in the fall.

One council reported that at each meeting we share on a relevant topic and our challenge to be actively aware of the topic...ex. Euthanasia, Porn, Pro-life issues, education of members in current health issues and challenges. Some councils support Catechism students with gift at First Communion, Confirmation and Gr 12 Graduation as well as provide luncheons to celebrate these occasions.

One council more as a service rather than a Fundraiser, cater to about 250 Gr 12 student's graduation banquet. Another council reported that at their meetings they reported on workshop "Dealing with Vicarious Trauma & Compassion Fatigue" (29 Jan 2019) Encouraged participation "Vicarious Trauma & Resiliency Skills" (11 April 2019) Presentation on Provincial Breast Screening Program (Oct 2019) Sustaining Health Conference - how physical, mental and community health affected by the quality of our environment.

One council supported a youth conference "Face to Face" as well as information table at Face To Face,

One council had a presentation on healthy eating and the Canada Food Guide and its recent changes.

Some councils support the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Foundation

Some councils took part in HUG projects in support of Interval House and other similar organizations.

Councils took part in mental health week and discussed self-care and mental health, gossip, social media and effects on mental health

Some councils recognized Catholic education week, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Support Saskatchewan Catholic School Boards Association - The 'Theodore Case'

Saskatchewan Provincial Council Christian Family Life

Annual Report, 2019

Marilyn Schuck

Not having statistics from last year regarding the number of councils reporting for Christian Family Life (CFL), I can report that the response has still been quite good with 42.5% of councils province wide sending in a CFL report. I think this reflects that many councils are small with aging members who are not comfortable with computers. Thank you to Diocesan and Provincial CWL Organization chairs who have been encouraging councils to fill out the survey even if they feel there is nothing to report.

Marriage and Family

Most council reported that they have not been promoting Family Life enrichment programs although a few councils have supported programs to support people suffering from domestic abuse. A few councils promoted/financially supported Natural Family Planning. Some councils help celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. One council gives a crucifix and card to newly wedded couples.

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 Life Chain, pro-life dinners, March for Life, Saskatoon Pregnancy Options, Regina Birthright, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, and Pregnancy and Support Services. Also, many councils promoted the showing of the pro-life movie, "Unplanned". Many councils have written and promoted the writing of letters to government regarding the CWL resolutions on abortion and euthanasia. A few councils have made the CWL Pro-Life Brochure available to their parishes. Prayers are offered for the protection of life. Only one council met with their legislator concerning pro-life issues.

Ministry to Youth

Most councils report encouraging young people to participate in liturgical ministry in their parishes, such as lectors, music ministry, ushers and catechists. Councils also support youth to attend summer camps and Vacation Bible school, Catholic Christian Outreach, NET ministry, leadership camps or retreats, World Youth Day and youth conferences. Some councils provide small gifts and celebrations when youth receive their sacraments. One council in Saskatoon has established a Catholic Girls League. Five councils purchase subscriptions to Catholic magazines, videos or books for use in the community, school, or parish.

Ministry to Disabled People

Most councils reach out to the disabled by praying for them, bringing communion, visiting, phoning, sending cards, providing transportation and organizing special events. Most churches have a designated space for parishioners who are in wheelchairs. Some councils financially support shelters or programs to assist the disabled.

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. Over half the councils have a policy to gift memberships to their senior members. Seven 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. Two councils have invited senior members to share their faith story. One council has 4 groups of women who help at the nursing homes taking residents to and from weekly Mass.

Ministry to the Widowed

Most councils are very good at supporting the bereaved. They send cards of condolence, host memorial services, and provide funeral lunches. Some also make a point of inviting widows to CWL meetings and events and some councils provide a prayer shawl. Councils are not involved in providing bereavement programs but should be encouraged to promote them to their parishes.

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. 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 hosted luncheons for priests and religious and offered Masses for vocations. One council sent spiritual bouquets, another supported the priestly retirement fund and another the traveling chalice/crucifix program.

New Ideas

One council participated in a “Dying Healed” workshop, served coffee and lunch at the breaks.
One council sponsored a workshop on mental issues and caring for ourselves.
One council joined with members of a nearby indigenous community for “Soup and Bannock” which has been successful in growing understanding amongst them.

Thank you to all who submitted reports, some with difficulty but great perseverance! I hope this annual report will inspire your councils with new ideas for future good works. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide you in all you do.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Community Life

Annual Report 2019

Marian Zsombor

Unfortunately, less than half of the Saskatchewan CWL councils used the online annual report system for this standing committee and of those reporting only two thirds had a Community Life chairperson.

Demographics

Most of these ladies were appointed to the position and have held the position previously. They are long-standing members of the CWL, with the majority over 55 years of age.

Dignity and Rights of Persons

Slightly over two thirds were familiar with the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. The councils provide donations to support various minority groups. Several councils had guest speakers on topics such as: prison ministry, bullying, domestic violence, homelessness, and human trafficking. Almost half of the reporting councils provided volunteer hours in support of minority groups. There is a high degree of awareness of the struggles of Indigenous women and five councils invited an Indigenous woman to be a guest speaker.

Most councils had not discussed bill C-262 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*. Human Trafficking was discussed by over half of the councils. One council invited a speaker from [Nashi](#), a group that has established the Maple Leaf House in the Ukraine that supports girls in danger of being trafficked. The work of KAIROS was not discussed at this time.

Social and Economic Justice

A few councils invited a guest speaker on social and economic justice. Most councils volunteered to help with social justice initiatives including; food hampers, food banks, emergency shelters, drop-in centres, clothing drives, and soup kitchens. Financial support was given to many of the organizations.

One ambitious group had a community garden plot where they grew potatoes for their local food bank. They also supported the food bank monthly by supplying food items that may not be readily available such as fresh produce.

Other great projects mentioned included: *Loved and Warm*, a project to provide toques and mitts to elementary school children, and *Nickels for the North*, a collection for the Catholic Missions in Canada organization

Refugees, Immigration and Citizenship

Awareness of the needs and issues relating to immigrants and refugees was generally good. Refugee settlement in Saskatchewan tends to be centered in the urban areas where the services needed are readily available. One council had a program called *Refuge for a Refugee* which was a fundraiser that supported another parish which sponsored a refugee family.

Developing Countries

What a large topic! Though daunting, there are many worthwhile organizations doing good work all over the world whose efforts our councils support. Financial support was given to twelve different organizations, of these:

Chalice, Save a Family Plan, and Operation Christmas Child were most frequently mentioned.

On a more personal level, one council sponsors a family in India, another sponsors a child in Bolivia through *Chalice* and another council supports a building project in Mexico both financially and with volunteers.

Concluding Thoughts

Although not part of the Community Life survey, councils mentioned taking part in the Centenary Committee H.U.G.S. project. This project suggestion resonated well with many of our councils. One group chose to send their donations to a newly opened shelter in a northern community.

Frequently mentioned was the small size of some of our councils and the ageing of the members as barriers for accomplishing meaningful Community Life projects. At the same time, prayerful support was listed for many areas. Our prayers are powerful! Perhaps choosing a Community Life concern to pray for each month would be a way for these smaller councils to participate in the most impactful way.

There were many comments highlighting projects that may fall under the Christian Family Life standing committee. As the Strategic Plan takes shape both of these standing committees should fit well under the Social Justice pillar.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Communications

Annual Report, 2019

Marge Appell

2019 was a busy year for those with responsibility for Communications portfolios in our province. Chairpersons realize the importance of the work at hand and we are dedicated to doing the best job possible. Many of the chair positions were filled by appointment rather than election, which could indicate reluctance on the part of volunteers to assume “announcing and communicating, by words and action, the Good News of the gospel” (Executive Handbook, CCMM-61). The “to do” list is daunting! Also, regarding councils registering annual reports on-line, it’s unfortunate that we continue to experience a lower number of respondents than we’d like; it seems numerous councils are not embracing this reporting system or have reported difficulty with it.

The Canadian League Magazine

Our League magazine is a bright spot in our organization. It is often used as a resource; readers find the content faith filled; and helpful ideas are generated by the articles. In the Winter 2019 edition, the articles most cited by our members were the “President’s Message”, “Jesus – the Best Communicator”, and “Our Father Who Art in Heaven”. Articles published in the Fall edition, 2019, that resonated most with our members were: “Dignity and Rights of Persons - Human Trafficking in Canada”, the “President’s Message”, and “Highlights from the 99th Annual Convention”. Regarding the Spring 2019 edition of articles that rated highly, the report summary I received listed only percentages but not titles of the articles, so I am not able to provide specific information as to which articles in that issue resonated with our members.

Media for Evangelization

Promotion/publication of faith-oriented programs and publicizing World Communications Day are listed under this category. SK councils are working hard at promoting faith-oriented programs in their parishes and much of their service work attests to this – our members support and are often involved in the delivery of RCIA and RCIC programs, and programs that enhance the faith formation of all members and parishioners through Advent, Lent, and other special liturgical seasons. They also promote and support programs offered in surrounding parishes/communities, when possible.

Media to Promote the League

Resolution 1978.03 encourages members to subscribe to and promote Catholic newspapers, periodicals, and magazines. Half of the councils that reported have not been involved in doing this. Salt + Light is not available in various areas of our province and Vision TV is a network to which many don’t subscribe. Print is becoming difficult to access and since the folding of the Prairie Messenger Newspaper, finding a suitable replacement has proven difficult.

Nor did many of our members view the convention speakers whose presentations were available on-line, but a better percentage were aware of the League sponsored Mass on April 26, 2019, and the use of Facebook and Twitter is increasing.

Our most successful use of media is logging onto our National website (cwl.ca) for information. According to the survey, SK respondents visit the site often and most find what they require. Besides this, half to three-quarters of councils reporting use media to advertise council activities/events, send meeting agendas/minutes to members, and personally contact members about upcoming events.

Few councils set aside a budget for publicity nor prepare press releases. That said, many make use of parish bulletins, bulletin inserts, bulletin boards, poster, and email trees for their advertising needs.

Media Evaluation and Promotion of Good Content

Of the councils who responded to the survey, less than half monitored media content. Those that did were most concerned about the issues of abortion, euthanasia, palliative care, and pornography. Letters/emails of concern were written and sent to elected representatives. Several additional comments indicated that members wondered if such action was effective. One council reported that a letter of concern re: adult pornographic websites was made available for all parishioners to sign if they wished. This letter was then sent to an elected official who told them the

letter could not be presented and that pornography postcards previously received were not effective. People lose heart when such things occur. If I might add a personal comment here, perhaps it would be timely to have an informative article in the League addressing such things – listing current best practices re: contacting MLAs and MPs – what is acceptable; what isn't; is one letter signed by many people as effective as individual letters? The letter writing guide available from National Office is useful but the members I have encountered seem to want/need more.

Newsletter and Bulletins

Most of the councils reporting do not produce newsletters. Of those that do, less than half publish annually, one third publish quarterly, and less than one quarter bi-annually. Email and parish bulletins are the preferred means of distribution, followed by regular mail, and parish mail slots.

Media and Relations

“Positive relationships promote positive images” is what is written in our Executive Handbook, (COMM-63), but over half of the councils reporting have not used local media for the benefit of the League. They have occasionally (slightly over one quarter of the councils) submitted material for publication and sent thank you cards after an event was advertised. A few have invited media specialists to a CWL event, but that seems to be the extent of council involvement with media at the local level.

Pornography

Slightly over half of the reporting councils read newspaper articles about the influence pornography has on children and adults, and just under one quarter reviewed current legislation on this issue. Involvement in other ways – attending a seminar or conference, contacting agencies such as Pornography Hurts, or viewing the website fightthenewdrug.org was minimal.

Unfortunately, Pornography Hurts postcards were used by fewer than half our councils and none reported promoting the Over 18 documentary. A few were aware of and promoted Red Light Green Light, but overall, the responses to the questions in this area were more negative than positive.

Resources and References

I'm addressing the strategic planning information here though it isn't listed as such in the Communications section of the Executive Handbook. It seems to me this is the place new resources/procedures will eventually be included!

I regret to report that Strategic Planning information has not been shared by all our councils at their meetings. Only about half know that changes are coming, and something new and exciting is happening. This information is acquired mostly through communiques and the League magazine. A significant number of councils have not accessed the information that is on the national website. Regarding Strategic Plan information articles in the Winter, 2019, League, most of the councils reporting were not very familiar with them, though they were aware of the 4 strategic planning goals, so there is hope.

Comments on the National website varied. It seems to boil down to the user – if a person is well versed in technology, then it's fine; if not, then problems arise. I think, from the top down, we must remember that our organization was built by dedicated women who gave much of their time and talents to establish something that, in Bishop Smith's words, “Needs to be!” That said, “Make (making) haste slowly,” (a comment made by a university professor I once had) seems prudent. Can we move forward at a pace that includes everyone? In the scheme of things and in my opinion, how CWL conducts business has changed significantly in a few short years. People need time to adjust to change and there seem to have been instances when that time has not been granted.

In closing, I have learned “a ton” in this position and I have a great deal more to learn. I am blessed to have CWL colleagues who help and support me and appreciate my efforts. I know the Communications chairpersons “out there” are doing the very best they can, with what they have, wherever they are (a quote, slightly changed, from Franklin Delano Roosevelt). God bless each one of them for the good work they do “for God and Canada”.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Resolutions

Annual Report 2019

Susan Melchiorre

Saskatchewan has 134 parish councils in three dioceses. Of these councils only 49 submitted Resolution annual reports. Most councils reported that they did not have a Resolution chairperson. But they did discuss the resolutions.

Comments were made that the resolution process is too involved and intimidating for most council members. Coupled with the lack of people who are available and willing to work on a resolution makes the process rather difficult to achieve.

Saskatchewan had one resolution get to the Provincial level in 2019, but the federal government passed legislation so the resolution was not passed on to the National Resolution Committee. The resolution was on regulating and enforcing the use of electronic logging devices in the commercial trucking industry.

Biggest Challenges. The difficulty, real or perceived, of the process of writing a resolution causes member to think this is not a committee for the parish level. Another challenge is thinking of an issue far enough in advance that it is still relevant by the time it is passed at national convention. Working on a resolution, or assisting in the preparation thereof would be of benefit to see what is involved. Other challenges were lack of time to focus on the committee and getting members to see resolutions as the right way to channel passion for an issue.

27% of the reporting councils did write letters to governments and study the resolutions. Only one council met with their local government.

Our challenges include finding a member willing to fill the position and the amount of work required to 'produce' a good resolution. As well, it appears that most members are not interested in this area of League activity especially in formulating resolutions.

There were reports that some have attended Resolution workshops but still felt inadequate to prepare a resolution. Also, they are still lacking understanding of the new supplement to Resolutions.

One Diocesan Resolution Chairperson concluded her report with this quote from one of her parish councils regarding resolution presentation:

"The sessions I have attended have been frustrating as resolutions often reveal that their authors do not understand federal and provincial jurisdiction. And quite often resolutions are the result of something that is too late to undo. Perhaps a line on a convention registration form signing up for emails of resolutions to be discussed would allow members who have an interest or specific talent or training to comment to the Resolutions Committee prior to the convention."

At the diocesan and provincial level, we know what resolutions are coming to convention floor so this may be something to consider. I know at the national level we do not know until the day before.

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Legislation

Annual Report 2019

Shirley Lamoureux

In the Province of Saskatchewan only 47 councils reported online with only 13 elected chairs of Legislation and the rest was completed by the president or acting chairperson.

The survey was responded to completely by 2 diocese but the other diocese understood the directions that only the chairperson of legislation was to respond to the part of the questionnaire concerning relationships with government representatives and they felt that responding this way became a very small sample of what is actually happening. Of the 7 of 27 councils with chairpersons all were familiar with their government representatives; the other 2 diocese felt that they were quite familiar with government representatives at local, Provincial and Federal levels.

One diocese reported receiving mail-outs from government and two do not receive mail-outs. Two diocese had councils attending a public forum, such as a breakfast sponsored by the Minister of Justice in Saskatchewan or some other government sponsored event.

One Diocese reported that no council has accessed the Hansard Report at all and one advised they had accessed the Hansard report to update themselves on the proceedings of the Federal government.

Bill C-57 – an act to amend the Federal Sustainable Development Act – one Diocese had not heard anything about this act and the of the other 2 diocese a little over half reporting had some knowledge of this act.

Bill C-75 – an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts to make consequential amendments of other Acts --- all Diocese reported that their councils had little or no information on this Act.

Bill C-418 – over half councils have a good understanding and know about this Bill through the Resolutions of CWL and follow-up actions of their councils and government submissions.

Actions taken on Resolutions 2019.02 and 2018.03 – most councils reporting to Diocesan Chairs have taken action regarding the two resolutions but no description of that action was given and one Diocesan chair did not complete this part of the survey.

One Diocese reported that responses to 2019.02 – UN Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Palliative care were unintelligible.

Steps Taken re Provincial Bills:

All 3 Diocese have taken the initiative to write to MLAs regarding the Conscience rights of Medical Care Professionals and continue to dialogue with MLA's importantly asking for a Provincial Bill to be put in place.

One Diocese has completed a letter writing campaign to Provincial Government for mandatory entry level training of commercial truck drivers.

A workshop on How to Write a Letter to Government officials was held in one Diocese to assist councils and members in keeping the Government officials aware of our position on issues.

BIGGEST CHALLENGES facing Legislation:

Issues are not coming to the meetings --- solution – resolve to bring at least one Bill or Resolution to the attention of the members for further study or follow-up.

Not having legislation Chairpersons in the councils so the information sent out is presented to the members.

Finding time to complete the surveys or to find someone that can help get to the online Survey.

How to emphasize the importance of the Legislation Standing Committee as it is not recognized by most councils

to bemoan that Federal Political parties seem to be chasing foolish ideologies and seeking to enshrine them as laws.

Activities of the Diocesan Chairperson:

Saskatoon Diocese:

Bill C-262 – An Act to ensure that the laws of Canada are in harmony with the United Nations declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples --- encourage members that attended the Winter Gathering to write letters to Senate to approve this Bill as a way to act on Resolution 2013.01 – Building Relationships and Partnerships with Canada’s Indigenous people.

2019– 2022 – Federal Sustainable Development Strategy – encourage members at the Diocesan Convention to look at this document as a source of ways we can act to decrease our impact on the environment, **OUR COMMON HOME**.

Regulating the Commercial Trucking Industry- informed members at the Fall Gathering of regulations passed by the Alberta Government to conduct spot-checks of new companies to ensure they are aware of and compliant with regulatory requirements, and suggested that they let the Saskatchewan Government know the same regulations should be put in place here.

One Diocese put forward the words of one council reporter: “most CWL members only want to serve locally and raise funds for causes important to them such as D&P. The Legislation Standing Committee is one they don’t really care to hear from. If it disappears we can focus on faith, social justice and service. I don’t think it would be missed much.”

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Saskatchewan Provincial Council Past President

Annual Report 2019

Margaret Schwab

An annual report was received from the three diocesan past presidents within our province. Just under half of the councils in each diocese filled out this part of the annual report survey.

The majority of the councils have the position of past president filled with almost half of those past presidents having been members for more than 25 years but there are a few reported having been members for 6 to 10 years. Most had held this position previously and are in the 55 to 84 age group; there are no past presidents under 45 years of age. The majority attend scheduled general and executive meetings, as well as social and spiritual events all or most of the time. Most are called upon for advice at least monthly and the vast majority felt their president felt supported and encouraged by their help.

Only about half of the past presidents look after the council archives. One quarter of the councils have another member doing this. A very small number do not have archives. Most archives are stored at the church with a few being stored at members' homes. Most past presidents know whereabouts of their council charter.

Councils reported that archives are kept in **labelled** photo albums (most popular), scrapbook, filing cabinets, bankers boxes. Several reported using memory sticks.

Half of the councils keep **annual reports** 5 years to indefinitely. A few do not keep them at all. **Books of Life** are kept indefinitely by most councils; a few do not keep them at all. Just over half reported keeping deceased **member histories** indefinitely; a third reported not keeping them at all. How long **financial records** were kept was pretty evenly split between 5 to 8 years and indefinitely. Most councils keep lists of **past executives** indefinitely, although a few reported not keeping them at all. Half of the councils report keeping **membership renewal data** indefinitely; the other half varied fairly evenly from 1 to 10 years. Again, a few do not keep that information. Minutes from **executive meetings** are generally kept indefinitely but about one quarter of the councils keep them from 10 years. A few do not keep. **General meeting minutes** are kept by a larger portion of councils (about three quarters) with the remainder reporting anywhere from not keeping to one to ten years. Most councils keep **records of pin and award recipients** indefinitely. **Written reports** from executive members are kept indefinitely by less than half of the councils. In this section, there was a larger number reporting that they do not keep them. Almost all councils keep track of the **years of service** of members. A vast majority of councils review their council archives as needed. Those that maintain a **history book** and those who do not were very evenly split.

Most councils have a copy of the Constitution & Bylaws and the Manual of Policy and Procedure but the majority report rarely using them. A few use them multiple times a year. Most councils do not have a manual of policy and procedure for their council. Those that do mostly update it when a policy changes. A few update it regularly anywhere from every one to five years.

Half of the councils report rarely seeking advice from the diocesan or the provincial executives. There were several councils that reported seeking advice from diocesan executive annually.

The numbers for those seeking advice from the provincial and national executives and the national office are very similar with most reporting rarely or never. A few say they would seek advice from one of these executives annually or quarterly.

Half of the councils seek advice from their spiritual advisors monthly, but almost an equal number report rarely doing so. For a few it ranges from never to a few times a year. The local bishop is almost never asked for advice and life members are also rarely or never asked.

Past presidents have been very active representing their councils at conventions, promoting their councils within their parish and community, assisting with social events, chairing meetings, organizing charity and spiritual events, filling vacant positions and chairing nominations committees. To a lesser degree these members have prepared agendas, checked out websites for information, organized funeral lunches, prepared newsletter or correspondence,

facilitated workshops, sent birthday and anniversary cards and organized honour guards for member funerals. A few report not being asked to perform other duties.

Making your successor's experience more enjoyable: being there when called on by the new president, teamwork, keeping good notes and materials to pass on, attending meetings, helping chairpersons to know their responsibilities and assisting by giving them direction if needed, assist president in preparing for meetings, encourage her to attend workshops, conventions, being a positive support. One council used a 'task list' with members volunteering for specific jobs which they took full responsibility for – got more people involved and the jobs got done. Another idea was preparing an excel spread sheet for the incoming president with monthly duties.

The majority of past presidents reporting supported the implementation of the envisioned future of the League through Planning Strategically. They participated in discussions prior to the implementation at conventions and workshops as well as in the fall as the implementation began. Some took part in surveys, others encouraged members to attend planning sessions and report back to membership, kept informed by reading the League magazine, discussions at meetings, invited diocesan and/or provincial executive members to present information, and by prayer.

The greatest successes: the starting of a prayer shawl ministry, hosting the Regional workshop, 'our success lies in the sisterhood of our members', spiritual adoption program for Africa, making quilts and afghans for babies and children, raising funds for a new community hall, assisting in refugee sponsorship, prayer blankets for newly baptized children, doing the job of archivist, Silver from the South which connects with a parish in the North, hosting a fall workshop, Heading the registration committee for last diocesan convention and provincial convention 2020, council retreats, annual Pink Night and the revitalization of driving pool for CWL rides to meetings.

Challenges: finding new executives, rural areas have very few new members, aging membership, having to cancel workshops due to lack of registrations, time, getting members to attend meetings, technology and use of computers, younger members are inactive, and updating the archives. Another challenge is not having the ability to talk to someone at the national office which has made keeping track of memberships very difficult. The inability to converse with the national office makes it look like national does not want to hear from members and is not willing to serve them.

Challenges in completing this survey: survey would not allow some to go on to the next question if the answer to previous question was 'no', some problems with printing and saving (could not save as a pdf file), accessing survey was mentioned several times as 'difficult', sometimes questions are irrelevant for smaller councils, need better communication between Diocesan and National when setting up annual survey, one person having to fill out several position surveys. Quite a few reported they had no challenges.

Other Council activities: Anniversaries, heading the Hospitality Committee for the last Diocesan convention, hosting an Annual Senior Supper in December, Fall Supper, Graduation Mass, Christmas party, annual church cleaning, hosting a study of the Ken Yasinski videos "Pursuit of Purpose".

In closing, our participation in online annual reports is still lower than I would have expected. Hopefully, this is something that councils will see as the way of the future and eventually embrace.

Some 'flags' popped up as I read the diocesan past presidents' reports. One was the use of memory sticks for archives. With changing technology, we cannot assume that computers will always be able to read memory sticks. Archives must always be kept on paper documents. Another concern was the many varied answers about what was kept and for how long in the council archives. There is obviously some confusion as to procedure. There is an excellent section on archives in the National Manual of Policy and Procedure. Both of these issues will be addressed in the next past president's communique to the diocesan past presidents and hopefully passed on to councils.

As past president, it is also my responsibility to encourage council to refer often to the Manual of Policy and Procedure and the Constitution and Bylaws. As noted, most have them, but are not using.

In closing, our councils are struggling with lack of new members and new leaders. Hopefully, we will be able to address these issues in future to see the League enter into the next one hundred years as a continued strong voice for the voiceless in our world.