

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council  
Chair of Organization**



**DATE: November 2018**

**COMMUNIQUE: #5**

**TO: Diocesan Chairpersons of Organization President Elects**

**CC: Provincial Executive (for information)**

**CC: National Chairperson of Organization (for information)**

**FROM: Judy look \_\_\_\_\_, Provincial Chairperson of Organization Development**

Happy November! I am sure all the pumpkin pie has been devoured, the Halloween candy has either been thrown out or gone to “waist” and our attention has turned to fall craft sales, suppers, bazaars, memorial services, elections, etc. Make yourself a cup of tea, reach for a cookie and ponder the few things I am going to share with you. As most of you know, I believe our success of building relationships and effecting change as councils and as a League is rooted in prayer, our Blessed Mother and the Holy Spirit. As our League is under the patroness of Our Lady of Good Counsel, I am encouraging all to pray “Our Lady of Good Counsel’s” prayer as well as the League prayer to the Holy Spirit for guidance, insight, flexibility and understanding as we embark on our major restructuring project. The following is the “Our Lady of Good Counsel’s” prayer:

**Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel**

Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel;  
filled with the Holy Spirit,  
you were a faithful disciple of Jesus, your Son.

Intercede with your Son for us  
that we be faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer,  
and generous in the service we give  
to our sisters and brothers.

May the Spirit of the living God,  
who graced you with the gift of counsel,

lead us in the way of truth and love.

With the help of your prayers,  
may we come to rejoice forever  
with you and the great company of saints  
in the kingdom of heaven.

Amen.

This does not mean we stop praying the League Prayer but we widen our scope of prayers.

### **Three Cups of Tea Membership**

Last memo ( First Cup of Tea) you were encouraged to try at least one new approach to invite members to join our sisterhood of faith, fun and fulfilment.

Remember there are three categories of members:

- our faithful renewing sisters (those who attend meetings and those who do not),
- our newly recruited sisters
- our shut-in members.

All deserve our attention and all deserve to feel part of our sisterhood. Don't be afraid to ask a non-Catholic woman to become part of our sisterhood.

### **Organization**

#### **Annual Reports:**

The presidents received in their packages a memo on annual reports. I have lifted and copied from this memo the most important information for organization chairs to know and process. Remember this is an opportunity for you to evaluate yourself as well as the council's activities as you go through the questions.

The reports will be available on line **November 1** at [www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153798435991](http://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=153798435991)

#### **Deadlines:**

Paper	December 15, 2018
On line	January 15, 2019

Organization Committee Code: 153798435991

- There is no need of a password
- You can complete the survey on a computer, tablet, or phone.
- You will be prompted for an ID number which is your **Council Code**. Your Council Code can be found with the membership packages sent out in October or by phoning national office
- You can log in as many times as necessary and make as many changes as you like but **once you submit your report there is no way of changing it.**
- If you want to do your report on paper contact national office and they will send you a link to a printable copy of the surveys. Please fill out the copy that you have printed from the pdf file. **DO NOT photocopy.** Please send in the report unfolded as it will be scanned into the system as soon as it is received

## **Leadership**

### Action

- Although you are not president you could play an important role in helping the president create her agenda for the meetings. Talk with her about agenda items. Discuss whether there will be motions and if so who will make them.
- Visit the CWL websites to keep current on the broader issues.
- Have a written report for your executive meeting.
- Keep the executive apprised of your council members, who are active and inactive, who are new members and those who have died
- Create or review the new members package
- Plan a new members information get together
- Develop a buddy system for each new member.
- Plan some kind of mixer so new members have an opportunity to meet other members

## **Strategic Planning**

In the Fall League magazine on pages 34 through 36 there is outlined the essence of the CWL of Canada Plans Strategically program.

### Action:

- Encourage your membership to read and become familiar with the Purpose, Core Values, Mission Statement and Envisioned Future, the Four Goals and the Critical Issues.
- Each meeting draw their attention to one of the goals and its objectives.

## **Awards**

### **Elsie Yanik Award**

One submission has been received. Submissions from last year will also be considered.

#### Action:

- Please review the criteria on the provincial website and identify a member who you know lives the spirit of Elsie Yanik. The application form is there as well

### **Bellelle Guerin Award**

This award goes to an exemplary member who cannot provide service at the national level, as a life member.

#### Action:

Check out the criteria on the national website. You may have a member who has served at the provincial level but cannot go any further who you could honour with this award.

### **Maple Leaf Service Award**

Do not be afraid to acknowledge the hard work of your members with a Maple Leaf Service Award Pin. Often there are members who go way beyond the call of duty without any recognition.

#### Action:

Check out the criteria on the website.

### **Walter Krewski Membership Awards**

You will be working on these awards as you encourage women to join our organization as well as nurture your present membership.

Action:

Talk about Father Walter at one of your meetings.

**Life Membership Nomination Form** (Life Membership recognizes dedication and invites women to a commitment of long term service )

Check out the national website for the nomination form. Remember this is not a “reward” award but an award that continues to call you to service.

## **Funds Bursaries**

### **National Development Fund**

“The funds purpose is to assist councils that would incur financial hardship by hosting a workshop. Total expenses submitted for reimbursement will be reduced by council profits on the event incurred by charging registration fees.” ( #4 point 6 of the guidelines). Please check out the national or provincial website for the form and guidelines.

### **National Bursary Fund**

1. In her third consecutive year of service and any year thereafter, a member may apply.
2. Applicants must demonstrate an active involvement in pastoral services and be prepared to serve the church in their province, diocese or parish.
3. Programs may be taken prior to bursary acceptance, but must be taken within one year following acceptance.
4. Upon proof of acceptance into the designated program, funds will be forwarded by national office in the decided amount to the institution administering the program or to the applicant if proof of payment is submitted. Proof of acceptance must be received within 30 days of approval of the award; otherwise the bursary will lapse.
5. The applicant will provide acknowledgement of completion of the course, seminar, workshop, diploma or degree programs along with a letter from the applicant expressing what she has gained from the program and how she will be sharing this with her community in the future.
6. Applicants receiving an award may reapply for a maximum of three additional one-year periods.

Application and Guideline Forms are on the national website.

### **Elections**

Action:

Start to pray about possibilities for a president-elect. If a person’s name enters into your mind ( a nudge from the Holy Spirit) sow the seed of letting her name stand for nomination by taking her for a cup of tea and chatting about it.

So ladies you should have finished your cookie and your tea cup empty and you are ready for action. As we focus on our relationships and effecting change let us begin praying Our Lady of Good Counsel’s prayer daily. Let us reflect the love we have for God through the actions we do. Let us see each sister as a gift from God and collectively using all of our gifts bringing God’s presence into a world so in need of love.

So remember, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it", as today is the only day we have to make a difference in another's life.