

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council
Provincial Organization Standing Committee

Date: 09/02/19

Communique # 6



To: Diocesan Organization Standing Committee Chairpersons
cc: Provincial Executive (for information)
National Organization Standing Committee Chairperson (for information)
FROM: Judy L, ABMK Provincial Organization Standing Committee Chairperson

February. Time for our cup of tea!

As you know I broke my arm in the first part of January. I have a 6 to-8-week period of healing which means I can do basically nothing until my humerus bone decides to reattach. In this period of “nothing” I have had a lot of time to read and reflect on our new theme Care of Our Common Home. I read a while ago that God created humankind last as God knew that humankind was very fragile and would need all of creation to look after us. The earth therefore provides us with everything we need and so we must view it in terms of interdependence. This interdependence begins with respecting and caring for each other. We must all value God’s most fragile creation, the human being, and in doing so we will begin to look after the home God has created for us which includes plants, animals, water and air....the Earth. In doing this we must be present to each other which requires our time and talents. We must begin to live the Beatitudes because there we find our template for caring. As organizational chairs let us encourage our councils to help to flesh out our new theme by making our relationships with each other and our God through Jesus our priority. In loving one another we will want to look after the planet which sustains our lives.

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

Let us remind our councils that we have three categories of members and each category needs special attention from the Org. Chair.

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

- As council membership drives should be complete, it's important to give them a gentle reminder to get their information in to the National office as soon as possible
- Go over your membership roster to see who has not renewed Give them a call to find out the reason why and encourage them to rethink their decision
- Send a card of welcome to your new members and encourage them to come to meetings and to become involved
- Invite a seasoned member to become a "buddy" with a new member
- Develop a "sister" system where two ladies become prayer partners and look out for each other in the month

Organization

Part of our work is making sure our councils are connected to the National Council. We do this through our annual reports. In reviewing our results of the reporting process, it seems councils need encouragement in this area. We need to help them see the importance of evaluating their work for the growth of their own councils.

Action:

- Help councils understand that annual reports are not a make work project but an energizing activity that can give new life to their councils
- Encourage Org. Chairs to look over all the submitted reports. As each report covers **ALL** areas of council activities the Org. Chair can see the strengths and weaknesses of their councils' program
- Encourage them to make a summary of the submitted reports and share with their membership at their general meeting
- Invite them to find areas in their councils' activities that embrace the new theme: Care for Our Common Home
- Invite them to share with you some of their plans to make the theme viable in their council and parish

Leadership

Action:

- Send an e-mail or card of congratulations to the new president elects
- Stress the importance of understanding their leadership role and the importance of educating themselves
- Suggest that they memorize the League Prayer so that when it is prayed their council members will realize that it is a prayer, they should all know
- Have them do an inventory of their resources which should include the executive handbook, their own council policies and the National Policies and Procedures manual

Strategic Planning

You will have all have read the following memo from Fran Lucas National Chairperson of Organization

"Hello provincial presidents and president elects!

All CWL councils in Canada are excited and talking about "CWL Plans Strategically!" As the steering committee had hoped, the conversations are positive and thoughtful. We want and need the excitement to continue. This is a gentle reminder that as the Implementation Committee works on the next steps and

presents to the national board for approval, we ask for your help to ensure duplication of efforts are not happening at other levels. Adding to material supplied by national or initiating new material could cause confusion or disappointment; for example, suggesting ways that strategies could be actioned. Being a national initiative use of the material and PowerPoint supplied after convention is the way to go.

Some news - In the very near future there will be information tied to the core values released for you to use.”

Action:

- Continue to 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 draws their attention to one of the goals and its objectives

Awards

Elsie Yanik Award

One submission was received. The submissions from last year were also considered. The president will communicate with the chosen applicant and her council

Maple Leaf Service Award

Action:

- Please encourage your councils to have criteria for this award in their council policies. Each council should read the criteria on the National website and then develop their own criteria with that in mind

Walter Krewski Membership Awards

Action:

- Please encourage your councils to submit their membership information to provincial as soon as possible

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.

So, we have now finished our cup of tea. Each cup we drink together makes us stronger as we educate ourselves in what it means to be a CWL member. This communique concludes with the following thoughts. Our work as president elects is rooted in the servant leadership model witnessed by Jesus in his public ministry. He rolled up his sleeves and was present to all who he served. He prayed, taught, listened and acted as communicated through the Gospels. His ability to do this was through the relationship he had with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He always spent time in prayer before any of his busyness and he taught disciples to do the same. He gave them the ministry to build the kingdom of God which has been handed down to us. His work was rooted in relationships; so, must

ours! Remember, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." When we do that our work will always be blessed.