

Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Past-President Oral Report, June, 2018

Madame President,

As Past Presidents, when we think on our role, we need to be aware of our responsibility as a mentor – to the president and to our own council at whatever level we serve, and to others in the League who come to us with questions. We have a less direct role of leadership and this sometimes takes some getting used to. For many Past Presidents, this role is long awaited after the busyness of different tasks leading up to this position. As Past President, we need to let our President learn and to do things in her own way. We appreciate the leadership we have experienced from you this past year and pray that God may continue to guide you in this role.

Since the Provincial Midwinter meeting, we have had the opportunity to work on updating the Provincial Policies. These were passed at the Pre-Convention meeting. These policies reflect the increase in per capita fees, proper usage of terms - for example provincial doesn't hold officers' meetings; just executive meetings (i.e. meetings include the diocesan presidents), include guidelines for the website administrator, reflect the change in print media to social media, included a section on the role of Spiritual Advisor and how we address an assembly recognizing the First Nations, Metis and Inuit lands. (*These are available on the provincial website.*)

<http://www.cwl.ab.ca/ProvincialPolicy2018.pdf>

We have been organizing a Parliamentarian Workshop, to be led by John Noonan, professional registered parliamentarian, for the Provincial Executive; that is the President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairpersons of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the five diocesan councils as well as

the Diocesan Presidents-Elect in late October. We will be applying for national funds to assist in the costs of the workshop. We will have room for 20 to attend so if there are any spaces available after these people have indicated their ability to attend, this will be sent out to you in the Fall.

It is an exciting time to be involved in the League and in politics in Alberta and Canada. As we find our voice and influence, we want to share this with members in our own councils. We have been asked: “What is the League Policy if my council considers inviting a candidate from our constituency to speak.”? A communique has been prepared to address the issue. The first thing to consider is what our Constitution and Bylaws says. From the ***Constitution & Bylaws, Part V: Policy*** it simply states:

“The policy of the League shall be: 7. To remain politically non-partisan.”

This is interpreted to mean the CWL at all levels will not endorse a political party or candidate or be perceived to endorse a political party or candidate.

Councils are strongly advised to remain neutral and choose apolitical speakers. If the candidate of one party is asked to speak as that person is the best choice for a topic, so too should the candidates of the other parties be given the same opportunity.

This concludes my report.

Submitted by:

Cathy Bouchard

Alberta Mackenzie CWL Provincial Past-President

