

President Report
ABMK PROVINCIAL CONVENTION
June 2nd, 2018

Today, I would like to share with you the activities that I have participated in since I became Provincial President last June. This past year has actually gone incredibly fast and I have been so blessed to have travelled and met so many members from across our province and territory.

My first duty after becoming Provincial President was my orientation to the National Executive which included reading a 94 page document entitled “How we Serve”. I have to admit it made for some very good bedtime reading, but it really was an informative and helpful document that helped me navigate my role, timelines and expectations.

So on to my first big event, attending the 97th Annual convention of the National Catholic Women’s League in Charlottetown, PEI. What a week it was. I arrived on Thursday and began with the “Planning Strategically” workshop that was presented to the National Executive before the town hall meeting that was held during the convention. My report that I presented at that convention went very smoothly thanks in large to Sr. Susan Scott, Provincial Community Life Chairperson as she created a wonderful power-point picture show that depicted members from across our province and territory doing incredible work in their parishes. Our provincial dinner on the Tuesday night was also a highlight. We were joined by both Archbishop Smith from the Edmonton Diocese and Bishop McGrattan from the Calgary Diocese. I think everyone enjoyed the great convention, the good food, the endless entertainment and the opportunity to meet so many sisters from across Canada.

Over the last year, I have had the pleasure of being invited to many wonderful celebrations and anniversaries where I brought greetings and presented special certificates. This included:

- ❑ The annual brunch for Good Shepherd CWL in Edmonton, where both their adopted seminarian and I were asked to be guest speakers
- ❑ 35th Anniversary of St. John Bosco CWL in Edmonton
- ❑ The annual CWL luncheon and award ceremony at St. Joseph Basilica in Edmonton

- ❓ The 75th Anniversary of St. James CWL in Okotoks
- ❓ The 50th Anniversary of Our Lady of Good Counsel-Skaro & St. Michael the Archangel in Skaro
- ❓ Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society Mass & Luncheon at St. Joseph Seminary
- ❓ A Canada 150 Farewell Tea on December 31st, held at the Chateau Louis Conference Centre in Edmonton
- ❓ A dedication mass for Lacombe's new church on January 6th and celebrated by Past Edmonton Auxillary Bishop Greg Bittman
- ❓ The 35th Anniversary for Good Shepherd CWL in Edmonton
- ❓ The 40th anniversary for St. Dominic Savio CWL council in Edmonton
- ❓ And I was invited to be the guest speaker for the Camrose CWL at their annual general meeting and award ceremony on February 5th

In November, Mary Hunt, Provincial Education & Health Standing Committee chair and I were invited by the President and the Executive Director of the Alberta Catholic School Trustee Association to meet and discuss how are our two organizations could partner in order to work together to promote and defend Catholic Education in our province.

Following this meeting I was invited to attend the 60th Annual Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association convention at The Westin in Edmonton, where Bishop Emeritus Henry spoke on "Education for Freedom".

Mary and I also met with Ron Schuster, State Deputy for Alberta/NWT Knights of Columbus, to discuss how are two groups can work together to support the Alberta Catholic School Trustees in their work.

I attended the Fall National Executive meeting that was held in Winnipeg on Oct 26th to 28th and the Mid-winter National Executive meeting that was held February 16th -17th, in Toronto. Our business meetings were filled with lots of information sharing, team building and fun. A highlight of the fall meeting was travelling to Fort Alexander with Father David Reilander from "Catholic Missions In Canada" to see firsthand the good works that Catholic Missions is doing in so many missions and parish across the North. My role on the committee for the 'Faith, Fitness & Fun Run/Walk' in support of Newman Theological College and St. Joseph's Seminary is to represent the CWL. The ABMK Provincial Executive supports this event by supplying chocolates for the participant bags. The event was held last

Saturday, May 26th and they had approximately 402 participants take part. Our Provincial executive meeting was held in September at the Star of the North Retreat House in St. Albert. Roxanne MacDonald one of the members of the strategic planning committee presented an hour-long session on the information that was gathered from members from across Canada during the National convention town-hall session. This gave us an opportunity to have additional input and suggestions for possible changes to the League.

In January we met again at the Star of the North for the Provincial midwinter meeting and we were pleased that Archbishop Richard Smith was able to join us on the Saturday for a Q&A discussion. Dr. Gordon Self, a Senior Executive and Vice-President of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality for Covenant Health spoke to us as interested stakeholders for Catholic Health Care.

At the National Convention last year, Resolution 2017.02 ‘Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites’ was passed and our Provincial executive order 10 screenings of the “Over 18 Documentary” in order to inform our members about how easy it is for our young children to be able to access pornographic websites. Along with giving each Diocese 2 copies of this DVD, we also ordered 20,000 redesigned postcards in the hope that members will send these cards to their Member of Parliament to urge them to ‘enact laws requiring mandatory age verification mechanisms for adult pornographic website’.

This year I had the pleasure of attending four out of the five Diocesan conventions. I travelled to Fort McMurray to attend the St. Paul Diocesan convention, then to McLennan for the Grouard-McLennan Diocesan convention, followed by a trip to Yellowknife for the Mackenzie-Fort Smith Diocesan convention and then south to Drumheller for the Calgary Diocesan convention. I was asked to present the “Planning Strategically” workshop at two of the conventions, along with bringing greetings and also being the guest speaker at one of the banquets. This was a great opportunity to meet members from across our province and territory. Each diocese is unique, but it is evident that the ladies share the same common goal of living their gospel values through their service to the people of God.

This past week, I received a call from the office of Archbishop Richard Smith in Edmonton asking if I could meet with the Bishops of Alberta for a one hour discussion. They are interested in hearing about the work that we are doing and how they can support us. I look forward to meeting with them and letting them know about all the good work that is being done in our Province and territory by the members of the Alberta Mackenzie Catholic Women’s League.

This concludes my report
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ABMK Provincial President