



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Archdiocese of Edmonton

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PRAY FOR US

PAST PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2010

51 councils reporting out of 71

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The Past President plays a key role at all levels of the League and in the continuation of our Parish Councils. Past Presidents attend executive meetings where councils have them and are a constant presence at the general parish council meetings. They chair new committees and represent their council at diocesan and provincial meetings and report back to the council. They chair council meetings in the absence of the President or President-Elect. Past Presidents personally recruit new members and are involved in the education of members at council meetings.

Past Presidents keep the 'story' and the archives of their council through keeping a copy of the minutes, news clippings, scrapbook or photo album, bulletin notices and obituaries. Many Councils have created their own 'Book of Life'. Some councils have a designated archivist or delegate some of the history-keeping to different Standing Committees. The majority of Past Presidents report occasionally on items related to council history and archives.

As Past President, women give presentations to their councils particularly on meetings they had attended such as Zone meetings, Diocesan Fall, Midwinter, Pre and Post Convention meetings, as well as on the Convention itself. Past Presidents continue to lead in their council through the gifts that God has given them to keep in communication with members, bring awareness of social justice to their councils, and lead music and prayers for their council and zone. Other Past Presidents have taken another Standing Committee as well. One Past President serves as the 'Sunshine Chairperson' sending out cards and radio announcements for birthdays, anniversaries and other sacramental events and has masses said for the needs within the council. Another Past President encourages her President that when she has completed her term to use her gifts at a different level of the League such as the Zone or Diocesan Level. A Past President spoke about making the CWL 'visible' to her parish through RCIA presentations on Stewardship and on the Rosary. "Each of us become a representative of the CWL in the greater world; people know who the League is and what we do by observing us."

Past Presidents learn the gift of diplomacy in this role. They are present in an advisory role to their president and other council members but do not step in unless asked or needed. They give gentle guidance and advise when asked. They assist the president when called upon. Those who spoke about this reported that it was a challenge to 'step

back' from their active role in leadership but how necessary it was for the President to grow in her role.

Some recommendations or suggestions from Past Presidents to their counterparts is:

- It is important for the past president to become a resource for the current executive. Stay involved with your parish council as well as remaining 'in tune' with the activities of the CWL at all levels.
- Keep informed of what is happening in the League at all levels in order to support members of the executive.

- Develop a good relationship with the new executive. Get to know their strengths and encourage them to go further in the League.
- Act as a role model to younger CWL members and support older CWL members.
- Keep archival material digitally if possible to save space.
- Keep everything up to date rather than leaving it collect for years. The Past President's job can be huge. Share out the different components of the role.
- Know your role and share your past experience with others.
- Encourage your membership to keep active and use their talents within their work and everyday life as we work for god and others.
- Promote the unique spirituality of the CWL, which is different from other secular organizations; an opportunity to grow in our gifts in a supportive environment.

Past Presidents report that they appreciate the directives and newsletters sent to them. They would like to continue to be informed on upcoming meetings and workshops especially the direct mailing or emailing of communiqués or newsletter articles to them. Past Presidents would like others in the to share ideas for recruiting executive and new members and retaining members and success stories of other councils. They would also like others in the same role to share ideas of how to serve the council in a significant way without interfering in the work of the President.

Becoming involved with the CWL has been very enlightening and rewarding. Past Presidents report that their most important role, in fact for all of us, is to pray for the League, especially their council. "We pray that good and faithful women would say 'yes' to the call of leadership in the CWL so that the League may continue."

Respectfully submitted,
For God and Canada

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