

Find below 257 success stories that witness efforts in our Ontario councils to attract, maintain, engage, and/or regain a former member or members. These are the questions that were asked in the 2016 online parish reports: Why do women continue to attend meetings and/or functions? What do you see as your most desirable asset as a council? Is there a special activity that you engage in that attracts women?

#	Response
1.	<p>To recruit new members, we asked all members who attend meetings to look around when at mass and find 3 or 4 women who are not on the League. They were asked to hand those names in. We sent out the postcards and followed up with phone calls.</p> <p>The pres has worked on getting the meetings to be done at a reasonable time and to keep the internal chatter down to nothing. That has helped with more people attending.</p> <p>We have a new parish priest and he is now the Dioc Spir Adv as well. He is a huge supporter of the CWL and promotes us at every opportunity. That has a huge impact on growth.</p>
2.	<p>As chairman of the Organization Council, all women in the church are encouraged to pray for and support the CWL. We ask our parish women to support the CWL, not only through membership but also any special gifts they can share with CWL members and the parish. A number of our members are inactive, however our Council can count on them to provide assistance at our many fundraising events held throughout the year.</p> <p>We encourage all members to attend our Communion breakfast in May and crowning of the Blessed Virgin. We sit together as a unit and members participate in the mass as lectors, gift bearers, eucharistic ministers and choir members. It is a spiritual and uplifting event shared by all members.</p> <p>We also have a special Christmas event that brings all our members together.</p> <p>We try to keep our meetings short and stay on track. After our meetings we have a coffee and a special treat.</p>
3.	<p>i believe our council's diversity and co-operation with each other is our greatest strength. We are a team and each component is just as important as the other . One for all and all for one</p> <p>We have adjusted our meeting to incorporated spiritual games which are interactive and spiritual activities which have attracted new members and our spiritual members to attend meetings.</p>
4.	<p>I joined as a new member last January. After a while I receive an email that was asking for women leaders so I decided to give it a try . I think I have brought the council a little more in the 21st century by using social media. I have helped women open and connect with a</p>

	Facebook account and they like checking our page from time to time as I post inspiring spiritual messages.
5.	The members of our council work very well as a team and this is seen by others in our parish. We are regularly complimented on our positive attitude and support for others. When we approach women to become members "time" seems to be the biggest factor in their decision not to join. We offer various levels of commitment but it always ends up in them not wishing to commit if they cannot serve.
6.	The ladies who come out to our meetings and are fully engaged in activities enjoy the spiritual and social benefits. We are a small but powerful force in our parish - always active in our own parish and for funeral receptions and in many local community organizations as well.
7.	Two ladies bought a membership for their friend.
8.	Potluck Dinner is a success. Pin award/Strawberry Social is well attended
9.	Many members stay active in the League because they believe in the value of The League. One of our most desirable asset is the spiritual camaraderie which leads to bonding friendships.
10.	two members collect memberships at the back of the Church on Sat night and Sunday morning masses for the month of January
11.	we are a very Spiritual Council. We enjoy our council retreat each year during lent. We use our prayer chain often.
12.	Our Past President and present President will approach women in our parish and invite them to join the League...seems that is the only way we have recruited any new members in the past few years. The members who have left have either died, moved away or have become unable due to ill health - stokes and cancer being the main two. We have an elderly council but whenever there is a function we all pitch in to help either with monies, supplies or working - we have an annual Spaghetti Supper, Senior's Potluck for the parish and Spring Tea as well as two Penny Sale tables per year. This year for the first time ever we are not holding a Raffle as no one stepped forward to organize it. As we do not have an Organization chairperson - I volunteered to collect memberships, deposit the funds, forward the funds to HQ and make up a membership list - but I do not do any of the Leadership Development end of the position. (President does that.)
13.	I telephoned a member who had not renewed and the reason was that she had spoken to several members of the executive about her service date being incorrect and no one had addressed it. I convinced her to give me a chance to correct it and when I followed up I realized that she

should have received a 25 year pin. I presented her with a pin and certificate and also a new membership card. She was pleased and renewed her membership.

Our Council had stopped awarding 10 year pins several years ago but I reinstated them in 2015 and presented them retroactive. Disgruntled members started coming out to meetings again.

14. At one time we used to have fundraising to purchase coats and winter apparel for the children, the ladies were very active and thrilled to come and help now everything changed because we no longer have fundraising.

15. My favourite activity that I feel attracts new members and encourages most members to participate in the League is our annual spring Mother/Daughter Brunch. We usually have 60 members attend and gather after mass to eat, pray and sing. We also hand out service pins. This year my mother received her 45 year pin. I received my 20 year pin and my sister her 10 year pin. It was a special milestone for all of us and we were so proud and honoured to share this occasion with our League sisters. Another member received the Maple leaf pin for her years of dedication. Our League is truly blessed with wonderful women who love to bake, care about others and want to serve the Lord.

16. Ladies like to participate in our Annual Fowl supper-- e.g. assisting @ the meal and visiting with each other.

17. A member shared that she continues to renew her membership because she personally experienced the unbelievable support of a member who adopted a child she provided care for. Our member attended events because they like to be a part of something and share their gifts with others. we have women with lots of first to offer who care deeply in making a difference as demonstrated by our recycle, reuse program.

18. Our council women continue to attend meetings, as we do prepare and host many exciting dinners for varied members of the Clergy, including Bishops, noted CR (Ressurrectionist Clergy) in our Diocese. The ladies love to participate in these presentations, along with our annual Yearly Dinner - Oplatek.

We always request ladies from the parish to assist in these functions.

19. We had a weekend campaign on one Saturday and Sunday after all masses. Welcoming women to take a CWL pamphlet and inviting them to attend one of our general meetings.

We live by the CWL mission statement. Faithful to our baptism, fervent in prayer, and generous in the service we give to our sisters and brothers.

20. A special activity that I engaged in that attracted a lot of CWL members as well as parishioners was the International Food Festival. There were five countries participating and we profited more than \$6,000. A lot of parishioners and CWL members contributed food and their services. They helped from the beginning till the end. From set-up of tables,decorating,selling tickets,selling food,counting of money, cleaning,putting away all things and garbage,recycling,thanking all guests,donors and volunteers till the end of festival, it was

overwhelming for me as a chairperson of this activity. I saw all the sisters coming out together for the success of this event.

21. We are truly a loving and supporting group--a true sisterhood. Members appreciate the closeness and the history of their many years together as a parish. Many have known each other for more than 60 years and are like "family". There is an understanding of traditions, customs, language, food, etc., that has been passed down through many years and generations.

22. The average age of our council is 85 years.

Camaraderie built over the years is the greatest asset especially since most of our members live alone. Accompanying each other to appointments, shopping etc. is priceless so much so that some refuse moving away to another city to live closer to family.

Members like coming to meetings to socialize, stay informed and pray for their loved ones as we always do a round of intercessions from members.

23. Our council is vibrant and very visible in our Church, helping in most of the activities. We have a group "Loving Hands" that knits, crochets items. This group has attracted a lot of parishioners and created fellowship.

24. Our council has a handful of active members that have convened activities for many years. These members are the ones that continue to attend meetings and events throughout the year. Without their help and leadership we would not survive. We do continue to look for ways to attract new members or show that we care about the community we live in as we support so many local initiatives.

25. We are a small parish and have a very large percentage of our women that belong to the CWL.

We are very supportive to each other and to our larger community.

We attract and keep members because there is a strong code of conduct that encourages new members to join and stay with us. We have fun together and we like each other.

26. We are a small chapter with many of our members older and in poor health. They are zealous in their support of the League but not able to play the role they once did. Meeting attendance is low so we do not have a full complement of executive and distinct committees. Questions here do not address the circumstances of small councils with only a small number of active members.

Our small executive organizes all activities and designs them so that ladies with limited stamina and mobility can participate. e.g. pie bakes, Christmas party. Tasks are organized so that everyone can take part. Our newsletter and bulletin inserts are designed to keep all members informed about our activities and issues e.g. campaign against human trafficking, campaign in favour of funding for palliative care etc. Hopefully they will still feel that they are a valued part of the League.

Our newest members are recent retirees who now have time to take on the League and a few young mothers who will some day have the time to be more active. Keeping them informed and active in any way is the key to our future success.

27. We are a small parish. Personal - approaching new women who attend services and inviting them to social gatherings sponsored by CWL. Inviting all parishioners to participate in spiritual bouquets or prayer activities. When we have a concern about Legislation announcing at mass and inviting all to participate. Took 3 years to get one lady to join. She was impressed by our "example" of community involvement. Sometimes it takes more than talking.

29. Most women attend meetings for fellowship, spiritual development and community service. We aid the church. We have speakers and our tea

30. At our meetings, we help one of our members when needed to make red heart - shaped pillows for the local hospital to be used by heart and lung patients. We have four 60- year members that inspire us.

We do lots of activities in our community, such as, bring communion to our local nursing home, sing at the nursing home twice a year and work at the Community meal and Lion's Car Draw.

31. We meet as a Council monthly, we always pick a worthy project for Xmas and we always have a food drive. The Parish sees us now as we are staying around and women come to us to ask questions about our CWL.. We had a 1/2 day of reflection on Works of Mercy and we gained three new members and more visibility in our Parish.

33. Our current President is very positive and encouraging.

She has also organized different activities to make our monthly general meetings meaningful as well as fun.

Consequently, I believe that with this leadership, the members of the executive are motivated in their particular Chair to make our Council a success.

34. We are a struggling group with 95% of our members over 75. They enjoy the meetings to keep up the social contact and try to participate in our annual bazaar. However they are aged and tired. We have repeatedly tried to encourage new and younger parishioners to join but they are too busy. They do attend and contribute to the bazaar but in a very minimal way.

35. Personal Invitations

Potluck Dinners

Special Activities at Meetings--Special Speakers

Coffee and Dessert after each meeting

Bingo Games and Prizes

Occasionally give Door Prizes for members attending meetings

	Our women enjoy the fellowship of CWL
36.	Ministry fair attracts many women of parish and also collects membership dues approx. half. Women like to attend for social, spiritual and love of League. Fellowship. Our annual bazaar.
37.	Many of our members are now widows. We encourage them to join us for socials and bring a friend. They like to dress up, participate in a bake sale and a prayer service. We always have transportation available, for shopping, doctor's appointment or groceries. We say to them that we are a phone call away and not to hesitate to call. Visits are a welcome asset. They love Tim Horton's, so next week that's another outing.
38.	Smile is the best attraction for them to come and attend the meeting or any function that we have. Respect and love that we are all sisters.
39.	I've only been a member for 4 years and became organization chairperson shortly after joining. Sadly, our monthly meetings are attended by the same 10-15 women only (approx. 10% of membership). Suggestions have been made by myself and others for encouraging member attendance but none of these ideas have ever been approved and put into effect.
40.	We find that many of our members are older women who just want to be praying members. The younger ones are working jobs and are unable to attend meetings. We did have a special event for 2 of our ladies who have been on the Christian Family Life committee, and Community Life for 25 yrs, gave them certificates and also pewter ornaments that we bought. We also put there accomplishment in the League Lingo, and Parish Bulletin for all to see..
41.	Instead of our usual evening meeting in September, we invited members to a Tea and Chat event. This was well attended since we have many senior members who are not able to attend meetings in the evening. We also check to see whether someone would need a ride to the evening meetings. Our Council hosted the Diocese Convention in April and that event was well attended and we received praises of our hospitality and a statement that it was one of the best conventions they attended.
42.	CWL Sunday, Potluck Dinner in December, Annual General Meeting June Dinner with Guest Speakers, July 1st strawberry social after morning mass with Parish
43.	Members of our council have mentioned that they find our group to be the most welcoming and positive women's group they have experienced. Some were members of other councils in other areas and they were turned off by gossiping and infighting. We began as a new council of 10 and made a commitment that we would not allow negative comments or gossiping in our group. We try to affirm everyone and thank them each time they participate in an activity other than a meeting. We continue to invite and encourage them to work with long time members in spiritual and fun activities. We laugh together and nursed one of our older members after knee replacement surgery. When her family couldn't be there we took turns spending the night with her, helping her to the bathroom, cooking meals, etc. After she was

able to do things on her own we continued to drop in just to spend an hour or two watching TV with her and chatting. One parishioner joined our council after seeing how we responded to a sister in need. We truly care about each one of our members and attempt to find an area where they can shine. If they struggle making sandwiches we ask them to pour tea, or greet people at the door. All gifts are welcome. We are truly blessed with our council.

44. We host an annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon which brings in church members who otherwise would not attend parish functions. We include members who do not attend meetings to volunteer their services in preparing and serving luncheons for funerals. Many of our members are included in various parish ministries and we invite other members to consider volunteering in this service.

45. In 2016, we hosted the Alexandria-Cornwall Diocesan Convention. This was a special year as it was the Diocesan Council's 90th anniversary and our parish council's 95th. Many of our members attended and worked hard to make it a wonderful success.

We have occasional speakers who educate us on various important topics.

We contribute a good deal to charities. We usually have a good turnout for wakes and honour guards at funerals.

46. Pot Luck dinners seem to attract people. We gather as a group and share stories and ideas while enjoying fellowship.

47. We encourage all of our members to renew their membership. We advertise for 3 weekends in the church bulletin and let the ladies know we will be available before and after all masses for 2 week-ends to collect memberships. If current members have not renewed their membership by the end of April, I send a letter to remind them that their membership is important and encourage them to submit their membership fee.

48. We are a very small council where everyone knows each other, so any social event put on by the CWL is an opportunity for women to get together to share a meal and renew friendships (i.e. Christmas Social).

49. A member was going to drop membership as she felt she was not a part of the group, left out. After speaking with the Membership convenor, she stayed as a member and is still with us and feels more a part of our council.

Our council is very close-knit friendship community, always welcoming others. This is evident in the yearly increase of members, at least 3 to 6 new members annually.

Our council holds a membership drive yearly. All potential women in the church are given a CWL Newsletter, flyer and answer any questions on their way out of the church after mass

50. We have 1 potluck supper and a Christmas turkey dinner for the members. We have donut and coffee Sundays twice a year.

51. In order to maintain and engage our present members and former members, we are constantly

in touch with them either by telephone or by home visits. Also the CWL credits itself with Exercise classes given twice a week to our retirees and non working members who are still able to get around. Our highlight for the year is our Annual Fall Dinner/Dance which is held the 1st weekend of October. At this we show case the many different talents by our members and this is open to the Parish Community, as a means of fellowship. Our members are visible within the church community serving in various capacity such as : bringing communion to the shut ins, Readers of the Word, Eucharist ministers, choir members, Greeters and serving as First Communion and Confirmation Teachers not forgetting assisting with the weekly Children's Liturgy.

52. Open, friendly and engaging in our parish. Invite new parish members to join our council. Have coffee after mass each Sunday for socialization.
53. Pot Luck dinners twice a year and Hospitality Sundays 6 times a year.
54. We have our scheduled social events in June and December as well as the Our Lady of Good Counsel Luncheon and additional parish activities such as: line dancing, square dancing, making apple pies, bazaars and parish picnic.
55. Wednesday morning gathering "Busy Bees" to make crafts and fellowship.
We have 2 annual dinners - in June and December.
Our Annual Christmas Tea attracts women who may join our CWL.
56. The last few years we have held a tea where all members are welcome. It recognizes our Sr. Ike members who can't get out to meetings or sometimes church. It is well attended and appreciated by the older members.
57. Our annual bazaar attracts many members along with the community. We work together to prepare and serve funeral luncheons as well.
58. We have a very vibrant council. Our members encourage each other, pray for each other. We visit shut-in members. We have social events that encourage our members to come out-ie potluck dinners, May crowning, service awards presentations .. We have guest speakers at our general meetings and invite members to the meeting and bring a friend.

We have members going to the Funeral Home to serve as Honour Guards and say prayers in support for our deceased members.

We have some CWL members serving cake and refreshments at the Nursing home . We try to be witnesses of faith and lead by example to those in our community that are less fortunate and that I believe shows other non CWL members who were are.
59. Contact by telephone and also Sunday mass requesting membership and attendance at meetings. This has proved to be very successful. We are planning to make an announcement in the near future at the weekend masses. Special activity is our Annual June Luncheon.

60.	WE ARE VERY ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH AND DIOCESAN
61.	Open-house presentations leading to informative discussions regarding these issues.
62.	We do try to encourage young people to join the League. NOT an easy task. Everyone is SO busy. The older women feel obligated to attend the meetings and to continue to be a member of the League. Our most desirable asset is that we the members work most diligently to keep our church going. We are the ones the priest asks for ideas for fundraising. I do think that in days gone by it was a great way for woman to socialize. Not now. The young women of today are very busy. They don't mind paying their fees, but don't want a job.
63.	We have 61 years of continuous service to God and Canada. One of our members has been on the Diocesan Council for a number of years, has served on active committees, gave workshops, became President of Diocesan council and is still active on the council. This is a big accomplishment for our League.
65.	2016 has proved to be a difficult year for Holy Name of Jesus CWL. In May, we suspended council meetings and activities until our November meeting. At that time we were unable to put together a new executive and so with 25% of our membership present, it was voted to inactivate our council. We held general meetings in Jan., Mar., May and Nov. We ran a bake sale in Feb., and starting on April 6th, our council made a weekly visit and prayed at each of our Diocese's 5 Holy Doors for this our year of Mercy.
66.	<p>Our Council's success story this year - one of our members with 40 years of service presented a very inspiring talk at all Sunday Masses in early January; we gained 14 new members. Letters were sent to members whom did not renew in the past 5 years, from this action two members reinstated their membership. Women continue to attend events/meetings because our President leads with a well organized agenda, most general meetings focus on a topic of interest with a guest speaker.</p> <p>Our most desirable asset as a council is our members sharing their time and talents for God and Canada.</p> <p>This year our special activity was hosting a "Muffin Sunday" one Sunday a month, this event gave us opportunities to display League materials, and chat with potential members. Many women of the parish participate by sharing their home made baking.</p>
67.	Pin presentations and installation of officers has been done at Mass. Personal contact with individuals who may have missed a few meetings.
68.	As one of the newer members of our Saint Francis CWL league, when I joined I had a few new idea's to help attract, inform and update our members on what is going on in our league as well as announce and advertise any special events for fundraisers. I developed a SFX-CWL face book page for this purpose where we upload event notices and posters I created for the event, as well as post photo's of the event afterwards to hopefully entice new members to join us when they see the good work that we are doing.

With the help of our CWL president I developed a CWL brochure that is distributed during our membership drive in November to announce the new or current council members, as well as publish what our CWL does and the events that are planned for the upcoming year.

I also initiated a CWL newsletter that is prepared with the CWL President near the end of her second or outgoing term to highlight all of the events and accomplishments that happened during her term. We also list all of the facts & figures indicating the groups we sponsor, the events we contributed to as well as a well summary of the monies we raised and where it went. And last but not least we also invite our Pastor & Spiritual Adviser to give an update on his role within our CWL council and its effect on our parish.

69. Members are notified of all upcoming meetings, including guest speakers and other events in the church bulletin.

In the last 3 years, several guest speakers have been invited to speak on current topics, often falling under a standing committee's concern. The members appreciate these talks.

70. Because we have gone to a simplified model with fewer meetings, members attend. They will miss something if they don't attend."fun activity" at each meeting

71. The St Pius X continues to attract new members. We have the majority of our members participating actively in meetings, fund raisers and social activities. We provide a sense of community for our parish families by hosting regular Coffee Sundays. This is also an opportunity for us to network and engage new members.

72. We have instituted a pot luck supper after Mass and before our meetings. The members appreciate and enjoy this time of sharing. Our attendance at meetings is growing.

73. We gear our meetings to spiritual and social presentations with minimal reports from chairs

74. 3 of our Charter members (1956) who've maintained their membership all through the years have received their 60 Year Service Award pins!

75. The outgoing nature of our members contributes to maintaining our membership and developing the interest of new members.

76. had 2 baby showers this year, end meetings at 9pm, have theme meetings for fun: Wine & Cheese in Sept, Costumes in Oct, Xmas Dinner catered, Red Hat/Ugly Sweater Social in Feb, OLOGC Dinner in April and Strawberry Social in June bring people out.

77. Our Thanksgiving Pies Fundraiser attracts a lot of interest from members and non-members (even one man participates and is welcomed). Spending time together in the kitchen of our parish hall has helped to forge lasting friendships and inspired several non-members to jointl also raises the profile of our Council in the Parish. There is indeed Power in Pastry!!

78. A seniorCWL member felt that she was too old to contribute to the League but she was convinced to stay because we asked her to pray for the League members and that is one way in which she could still contribute.

In another situation a member decided to leave because of a difficult situation. When things had calmed down she returned and was happy to do so.

79. I was an immigrant to this country and though I was married I felt I needed to belong to something. I looked at my church, cultural and community opportunities to see which would suit me best. After much thought, I felt that the church would give me continuity for my entire life. I found that the CWL at Holy Family held similar values to me. I have received friendship and companionship and feel so much more fulfilled. The CWL at Holy Family is the back bone of the Church and I feel that the Church could not function without the CWL.

80. We enjoyed the comradery and socializing during our Fall and Tea social and silent auction and we have great attendance to our Christmas Dinner and Fall Dinner

81. Our CWL weekends, where we are visible by wearing our scarves and sashes, were a huge success! Different members have participated and members in service ministry show that they support parish and the League.

In October we received 3 new members at our membership drive. In January at our Service Pin ceremony we welcomed 6 new members, and recognized 3 members with the Maple Leaf pin.

82. We were pleased to have 6 new members and possibly 4 more this coming year. These are younger women,so hopefully we can encourage them to be a part of the exec.

I spoke with Margie our diocese pres and will attempt to give out small jobs to these ladies so they can feel more comfortable,if they decide to take on a position.

I try to make the meetings interesting,arranging snack time earlier.

Dec meeting is short with a little social,prizes games etc. We are calling all new and any wantabes to invite to this afternoon social.

83. Very poor attendance at scheduled meetings.

Good attendance at FREE luncheons which provide opportunities to sign up new members.

Participation in Ministry Fair resulted in new members.

Most desirable asset is ability of council members to reach out to others and be visible within the parish.

84. Our members enjoy the special meeting events that involve food and lot of time for socializing ,so we try to pan a meeting around a potluck supper or dessert and coffee or pizza. Our fundraising efforts are also well supported .

85. I find the best way to obtain new members and keep members is by personal contact. Simply asking someone to join. One of our new members joined this year because she said no one had ever asked her before.

I think women continue to attend meetings and functions to share with a group of women with like minded values, beliefs and concerns.

	Our most valuable asset of our council is our members. They are all very friendly, supportive and welcoming.
86.	Two ladies joined because of our involvement in the legislature.
87.	<p>We have a very active Council, I think, and we are encouraged to have younger members showing an interest.</p> <p>We try to be welcoming at all our meetings.</p> <p>We are in the process of forming a Canadian Girl's League.</p> <p>Since April 2007, we have hosted a weekly group where seniors come and play cards, enjoy each other's company and share refreshments. We support various charities from this group.</p> <p>We have been fortunate to have had nearly a full executive for several years.</p> <p>We have no difficulties enlisting help for any of our activities. Ask and the members are there!</p>
88.	<p>We have an Honour Guard at our funerals, which is really appreciated by the families and it is a nice way for our members to say farewell.</p> <p>We also have a memorial Mass for our deceased members.</p> <p>We support our ladies and everyone feels most welcome, especially new people to the area.</p>
89.	Our Council offers a monthly luncheon-The Lord's Kitchen- the last Friday of every month- except June , July , and August. Members who like to work and participate in activities volunteer to help. Too many of our members do not attend "meetings" that often are organizational and unfortunately boring. Our Council is presently seeking to find interesting mini workshops to entice members to come and participate in order to grow and develop our spirituality which I believe is a goal our Council has lost in the past few years. Our Council must try to place " Fund Raising" activities on the back burner and focus on prayer ,meditation and fellowship. From here, I believe that we can more easily focus on issues that arise from our standing committees be it Christian Family Life, Community Life or Education and Health.
90.	Our members enjoy the community spirit of our council. We have a strong volunteer base when we need to get jobs done. We are very supportive of groups outside the parish as well, always willing to help out....the art of "voluntelling" is very strong in our council...but all is done with a positive attitude. We are very proud of our funeral committee and sick and visiting group.
91.	We have a dinner in December and a Recognition Dinner in June which are well attended. We do fundraising events at least twice a year which promote community among the participating members. We always invite all women of the parish to attend any meetings or events to encourage new memberships and encourage more participation of current members.
92.	I personally feel that our meetings have more interest from our ladies if we have a speaker, that usually increases our numbers.

This year a brochure was prepared and handed out after each Mass (for 2 weekends) to each lady in the parish with a special invitation to join.

Many of our members are constantly on the look out for new parishioners who would like an invitation to come to a meeting.

We do continue to pay for members who no longer are able to pay their dues, or who don't have a family member to take care of it.

93. Through personal effort, I was able to encourage a former to return to our council as an active member. I have formatted a letter which will be circulated in the new year to encourage women in our parish to join our council. As a council, we are very welcoming and encourage all women in the parish to attend our functions. Our annual bazaar is extremely well attended by members and parishioners alike.

94. we encourage members to reach out and talk to the women of the church and invite them to our events and meetings to encourage new members to join.
we also encourage members to help other members pay for their fees if they are unable.

96. We have annually 4 meetings a year that we provide either potluck or a catered meal.
This is always well attended. We use these opportunities to implement special spiritual events.
I use my talents with multi -media and provide clips or power point presentations and these are always well received.

97. Our members come forward when we need them - but they are not interested in attending meetings or holding executive positions etc. We do ask one on one but very few come forward or say Yes.

98. Although most members do not always attend meetings, they continue to pay their memberships.

Functions are always well attended for the socialization.

I am fully committed to my responsibilities of the organization committee.

Annual tea and bazaar, musical soirees and yard sales.

99. We have many elderly members who are not able to attend meetings in the evening. In September be arranged for a Sunday afternoon "Tea and Chat" meeting. This was very successful since many members were able to attend and it was success. We plan to do the same in the coming year.

100. We are very much engaged as a membership. We do have the same members who continually give 100% of themselves to help our membership continue. We are always eager as a membership to accept/recruit new members.

Our membership really is a family of Women who come together especially in times of need for

Parish members and Fundraising events.

As a whole we continue to move forward with working together to grow on our Membership Roster.

We meet once a month and always keep all members on board with what the Diocese and Parish is or will be doing.

We are our own family and definitely support each other always.

101. Most desirable asset - Willingness to serve the parish community as well as our local community

102. We offer a variety of social events: coffee Sundays, dinners, bake sales, etc, parishioners see our efforts and join us. we recruited at least two members this way.

We have several young 16 and less years of age, volunteers, and this year, one of them became a member after she turned 16.

We want to continue encouraging young members by initiating and running youth events, such as movie night at the parish.

103. While our council struggles to encourage participation in gatherings, the response to assist with our annual fundraising Christmas Tea & Bazaar is amazing - probably due to personal contact and to making it a good experience.

104. We co-ordinated a Pilgrimage to Martyrs Shrine back in September and it was very successful.

As a result we are thinking of having another one during 2017.

Our last get together party was very vibrant for those who attended, both new and member who cannot attend our regular meetings. These have put some thoughts for the 2017 calendar

105. Speakers or some type of entertainment at each meeting followed by a snack and fellowship and then do our business part of meeting. Special Activities that attract all our members are our bazaar and spring tea and fashion show.

106. Two meetings a year are luncheons following Sunday mass. Social group, a venue to pool resources and support the needs in our community and council. We visit other councils at Christmas. We honour members at different membership stages at our June Garden Party.

At present we do not have an organization chair I am the membership chair only.

107. We offer socials after our meetings and share rides to get to and from meetings. We encourage people to attend social events and offer rides.

We invite women of the parish who are not members to sign up.

We invite speakers and offer activities of interest during our monthly meetings.

I believe women continue to attend meetings or functions because we feel a need to attend

our spiritual duties to our parish and community. We feel proud of our many donations to local and abroad less fortunate.

108. Our membership enjoy many parts of our meetings. Our spiritual development gives us many ideas on how to live our life in Christ. This involves charitable works which we carry on throughout the year. We are very involved in many parts of our community with donations to charities. Of course our ladies love the social part of our meetings as we have such a variety of speakers who come to share and give us information on their organizations.

109. Our Annual Bazaar attracts a lot of women in our Parish as we reach out to the parish for donated items, baked goods etc. It is a fun day for everyone to gather together.

Our service pin Mass & ceremony had great attendance with reception afterwards with meeting. A lot of ladies attended that normally do not come to meetings.

We do funeral luncheons, again ladies who come out to help at the luncheons do not always attend the meetings.

110. fellowship and camaraderie
a sense of belonging
they feel needed and are giving back

111. We meet at lunchtime, open with 'The Angelus' and then socialize while enjoying lunch. There is much sharing and camaraderie between members. We are inclusive. Anyone and everyone helps at funerals, cleaning and decorating the church for special events, and enjoys a lovely lunch afterwards. We contact our members by email, and by telephone, which allows me a wee chat as well. Our council runs a successful bazaar in Spring and pre-Christmas, where members donate, sort, bake, run a Tea Table, and sell, sell, sell. We have lots of fun bargaining with buyers. Monies earned from these and other fundraisers are used to offer scholarships to area Catholic students entering universities and colleges. We use some of these for our elementary students so that they will be included in school Special Days activities. Many of our ladies have family members at both St. Mary's and Jean Vanier HS, so they feel we are helping their own. We share a strong faith, pray together for each other and our families.

Our executive motto to encourage present and new members is "We do good and have fun."

114. Soup luncheon
Annual night out in appreciation of our members.

115. We are a welcoming Council. We make new members feel welcome

116. Unfortunately we are in an aging parish and so it is very hard to attract new active members. The some what younger members in our parish are more involve in the Legion of Mary or St. Vincent de Paul. We try to combine efforts but we can only draw 37 members.

Last year we got three new members because we emphasized the fact that we lobby

government for change and people did not realize this.

Our other problem is that the older members who have been here for years do not like change.

117. Our talks after Mass on first Sunday in November have been very well accepted. Offering a free membership to those who pay by Dec. pot luck hastens the collection process.

118. In 2016 4 previous members came back. Whenever there is a CWL event we have many volunteers and they bring non members as well. There is a real feeling of community when we are together and working together. Our best asset is there is no one or two chiefs but a joint administration.

119. Children of 3rd. generation want to belong to the league because of the unity and example of God's love!

120. Women like the "half and half" process we use.....in a 2 hour meeting we do 1 hour of some type of prayerful, religious activities pertinent to the time (eg: a Video presentation of Mother Teresa's devotions in Sept) followed by 1 hour of social activities (eg: a Fancy Fall Dessert Party in which the Executive served the ladies wonderful desserts as a fun start to the new season and the ladies dressed in fancy hats, etc).

As we have an older contingent staying on time and getting the ladies out by 9:00 is important.

October: Palliative Care presentation for first hour and then Sparkly Pumpkin Decorating for 2nd hour.

121. Executive member pulpit talk on how she became a CWL member. This brought in at least 10 new members.

Attracted to fund raising activities

Discussions on personal relevant topics

Presentations on current issues, e.g., Palliative care

The use of email on pressing issues

Large Bazaar

122. Talking to a past member, she spoke about wanting to be a member again, however she cannot attend meetings, so she thought best not to be a member. After explaining CWL is not all about attending meetings, there are so many other things she can do, she became reinstated!

Enjoy the friendship/sisterhood, spirituality

Advent Tea, Friendship Luncheon meeting, after which we make Valentine cards for the Shut-ins and those in the nursing home, potluck dinner and bazaar.

123. I have always enjoyed CWL. I enjoy the meetings and of course Mass. Many young women who I invite share with me that they don't join because they don't want to get a job. I try to

	explain that they are not required to be on the Executive or committees if they don't want to.
124.	After Mass, Father allowed our president to read a recruitment letter to the congregation that spoke of the value of belonging to the CWL and the values of the CWL. It had a significant amount of history, included resolution information etc. It was a compelling speech that received compliments from members of the parish.
125.	Each month a notice is placed in our Parish bulletin reminding members of the upcoming meeting & inviting ladies interested in joining to attend. When a special CWL event or will be taking place we ask that this be announced at the end of the Masses prior to the recessional hymn. In January a display table is set up in the Narthex of our church with resource materials about being a CWL member. Our Organization officer is present to meet with those interested in joining and to accept membership fees.
126.	Our Parish has amazing Presidents who lead by example. They are compassionate, very welcoming and engage the members in a positive way. This enables the members to attend meetings and engage in parish activities and fund raisers like our Potato festival, garage sale, Christmas bazaar to name a few. Parishioners come out and support the CWL events to make it a success, be it by contributing, donations or volunteering their time.
127.	During March 2016, we held an Orientation meeting for new and lapsed members. The names were culled from membership lists of 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016. Fifty members were invited and 25 attended. All the executive members participated in the visual and verbal presentation covering all the major activities of our council's year. Each executive member had a chance to talk about the work they do. Question period was followed by a social with everyone interacting. As a result, four of these new or lapsed members have accepted participation as chairs or co-chairs on the 2017-2018 Executive Committee.
128.	We are a small and friendly council. Although our meeting attendance is low, our members readily lend a hand when asked. When we see a need we work as a group and accomplish our goals, knowing we have the support of our fellow parishioners. Our parish, and many local charities benefit from our fundraising. Our parish benefits from the many council members who take an active role in our church.
129.	Support local food bank Host a ladies Christmas dinner Host a St. Patrick's Day Dinner Would like to host a ladies night out sometime in 2017
130.	We have several members with 55 years of service who started our chapter in 1961. Some are not active but some are still very active and passionate about the C.W.L. We have one member with 75 years and another with 70 years. We have craft/bake sales twice a year. We have craft

day every Wednesday where any-one is welcome. We always have an excellent turn-out for our work-shops and dinners. We visit a different member each month who are unable to get out and offer transportation to meetings or activities.

131. Through members sharing their own experience of the league has brought our council new members. Our council is also very visible in the parish as well as the community. We share our love for the league and through our advocacy of the league this also helps us to not only maintain our members but to increase membership. Any unfavourable incidents are addressed in a mature fashion, often times making a negative situation a positive one, as this very important tool in order to give members a warm of sense of belonging. We encourage members by recognizing their talents, even though they may not be able to take on an executive role, but to let them know that they count and every little thing helps the growth of our league..

Our spiritual aspect and little socials seem to attract more members.

132. With pastor's permission, we have a speaker at Mass during membership drive, to outline the work of the League and encourage new membership. We recognize members through presentation of service pins, Maple leaf pins and certificates of merit.

133. Honour guard at funerals

134. Organization Chair is President Elect in our council, and we are using cards and posters from previous years to encourage new membership but realize that we need to update our methods.

135. I feel that serving others is our council's strength. Money is raised for many charities, bereaved families are supported through funeral luncheons, outreach to the elderly in nursing homes, support of healing masses, ecumenical activities, social activities for the parish. Catholic women with a desire to serve are drawn to our CWL

136. Our Council works hard at making General Meetings interesting for members by inviting a guest speaker and/or including a social event such as Valentine's Tea, Christmas Potluck, etc.

137. We are a very small council and maintaining a vibrant presence in our church and our community through fundraising, laying of Remembrance Day wreath and a variety of other activities is our main goal.

138. We continuously focus on awareness on membership by ushering on the last Sunday of the month at the 9:30am mass. We have CWL information table at our annual fund raising event where brochures and literature are displayed and also a knowledgeable CWL Members who invite visitors to come and see and answer any question they might have, we have literature info and our calendar activity on bulletin the CWL bulletin board in our church foyer. CWL contact name and phone number on our bulletin and church bulletin regularly. Participate in all church activity as needed.

139. We are very fortunate to have a group of very dedicated members who have been with the Our League for many years, they step up to assist. Although attracting new members continues to be difficult due to the numerous other ministries in our parish, we continue to encourage and invite ladies to join. I have tried to encourage attendance at the TDC Annual Convention by offering to drive to and from the venue on both days. This made it possible for more members to attend, we had a total of 16 members attend the convention / banquet this year. I am hoping to get more attendance in the provincial and national conventions this year, this way members see the good work other member councils do, and feel proud about the work that we do.

I am putting together a very informative new member orientation kit that includes Women on a Mission video and includes information on the different charities we support. I have gathered feedback from members and hope to be able to implement a few of their suggestions so our meetings could be informative, interesting and fun while we do the work for God and Canada.
God Bless.

140. Our council has been in decline in the last few years. Our numbers are down. We have begun to come back in the last two presidencies as younger members take over.

Our Italian night dinner has been a success for many years. It features catered lasagna and salad. an accordionist plays lively music. donated wine is served. After wards the ladies dance alone or in groups. last year we had 75 ladies attend at \$30.00 per plate. it is mainly a social. Though we sometimes make a profit. We did in October of 2015. We are going to have another in February of 2017. We are printing 100 tickets and are considering for the first time inviting male family members - this will have to be voted on at the next meeting.

Our parish has many organizations and is reasonably well off. We are a large parish. Over 1000 envelopes. It can be impersonal and lonely in the crowd. We get 35 to 50 ladies at a meeting and make contact, friendships and maybe do a little bit of good along the way.

141. 2017 is the 40th anniversary of our council so we're reaching out to past members to join us for some activities. Hopefully some of them will re-join!

142. The success of this council in 2016 was the recruitment of many new members and the positivity at meetings and events that kept the members happy, friendly and together.

143. Support from parish priest

Executive members at back of church x 3 weeks in Nov. for membership

Letter from president as insert in bulletin to name all the things we do/ things we support financially

Personal invitation at church or by phone

Increased membership from 56 - 78 this year (increase of 40%)

5 new members this year (1 brand new)

Work well as a council. Not huge attendance at meetings but members are great at participating in activities etc. when asked to help out

CWL Christmas dinner is well attended - Mass, catered meal and entertainment

Started a Secret Sister club this year for all ladies of the church.....14 members and hoping to increase numbers next year as a great way to get to know women in the parish.

144. We continuously focus on awareness on membership by ushering on the last Sunday of the month at the 9.30am mass. We have CWL information table at our annual fund raising event where brochures and literature are displayed and also a knowledgeable CWL Member invites visitors to come and see and answer any question they might have, we have literature info and our calendar activity on bulletin and CWL bulletin board in our church foyer. Also CWL contact name and phone number printed on church bulletin regularly. Participate in all church activity as needed

145. A young new member brought an idea forward at one of our meetings. Our council took it on which gave the new member a sense of belonging and self worth as a member.

The women of our parish are dedicated and generous members who give of their time and efforts on their own accord and when asked to assist in any of our endeavours.

Our big fund raiser for the year is our meat ball sale. The members arrive early in the morning and work all day diligently while singing, chatting, snacking and lunching. They are will to give of their time in a congenial and selfless manner to raise money so that others in our community and abroad who are in need can be assisted.

146. We communicate well, and enjoy visiting with all members. We try to do fun things and keep things interesting. Each December meeting, we hold a potluck for all ladies of the parish, which ends with a riotous snowball fight! (soft cotton balls)

147. We had our 50th anniversary as a council in May of this year that attracted many new, present and past members

We in involved in a Christmas bazaar, funeral luncheons that other parishioners see and I think this allows them to see how active we are in the parish

148. We provide friendship and activities which make us feel useful and needed. We are a support system for each other. We work for the benefit of our parish.. at this time we still maintain a significant debt as a parish and our council works hard to contribute to its payment, while at the same time we contribute to the maintenance and improvement projects of our beautiful church, hall and rectory. We also contribute to our local schools and community which are important to each of us as members of our city,.

149. The ladies enjoy the comraderie of being with other women in our community.

We occasionally have evening meetings so that our members who are still working during the day can attend. By having other interesting activities at our meetings like demos of how to

blend your own tea, make lotion bars, etc. these bring out members or other ladies from the parish who would not normally attend our CWL meetings.

150. All of our members renew every year. Almost every lady that attends church is already a CWL member so it's very difficult to increase membership. Everyone has been invited to join and though a few not wish to join they always assist when asked to.

151. CWL membership at St. John's parish in Toronto, gives us an opportunity to join our voices together as Catholic women. Our CWL sisters are very active throughout our parish. They organize and support daily masses, the educational programs of our parish youth in faith formation, fund-raising, community-building, raising awareness around important issues and maintaining the parish garden, as a few examples. We are proud to have such as active membership that builds our parish community. Our CWL runs different events, such as Unplugged Family Night, June Potluck dinner and Christmas Craft & Bake Sale, to interest and serve the needs of our parish members.

152. We enjoy a social time after each meeting. we are visible at all church functions. We do a living Rosary ceremony for the school children as well as members of the parish. we visit sick and shut in members.

153. An annual Twilight Retreat, with well know guest speaker. Begin with session, followed by Mass, dinner in parish hall, another speaker session and conclusion. Starts at 5:00 pm and finished about 9:00 pm. We invite ladies from neighbouring councils. A long tradition in our parish CWL

154. Our Spiritual program attracts many members. This includes our funeral service. Many women have joined because they want that service and then they come to meeting to get involved.

155. Parish Retreat Days has been very successful.

Looking forward to our Chili/Zumba Eening

Monthly meetings: Prayers, meeting and social

Social Activities such as Yoga, Health and Nutrition workshop

156. We attract members by speaking at each mass on a particular weekend in January, providing information about the CWL. We present service pins acknowledging members' years of service.

We distribute Christmas stockings to parishioners. They return them with items for the underprivileged and we sort and pack them for delivery to local shelters and missions.

157. Our members are very visible at parish functions, often serving coffee and goodies. Our big events that are well attended include our Christmas Bazaar and our catered Christmas dinner. We have a CWL Sunday where our members do all the ministries for mass and we wear our CWL sashes. We also readily provide an honour guard for our deceased members and serve a funeral luncheon.

We bake for the Sarnia Rayjon group who support Haiti and we also help our Knights of

Columbus members. We provide gifts for the children receiving First Communion and Confirmation.

158. Our President is in her early 30's and is active in our parish. She is encouraging other young members to join and take leadership positions.

We have many women who attend our "meal meetings" in December and June which take place at Swiss Chalet. In so doing, more of them have begun to attend our regular council meetings the rest of the year.

159. The afternoon knitting group was formed in answer to members wish for more social time, particularly in day time hrs.

The group has been a community building experience for those attending as well as answering the need for works of charity and mercy.

With some help from local yarn shop/community members we were able to provide a few hundred toques and socks for Kenya help. This was inspired by speaker Nancy Stevens at our diocesan convention in the spring of 2016.

We provided toques for a fun, worthwhile, new booth at our St Paul the Apostle CWL Bazaar. Customers were asked to pay a toonie to then choose a toque which was donated to local homeless. Money raised from this will also be donated to a charity, yet to be chosen. Some toques will be included in Blessing Bags which will be packed and given to local St Vincent de Paul at our annual December pot luck.

Above and beyond the charitable works we've accomplished, Tuesday afternoons have become a time to get to know our sisters in the league, who we are, our needs, strengths, faith and to share all of these with each other.

160. Our Annual Bazaar still attracts members and non-members of our Parish each year. The women who attend our general meetings are looking for an outing with the members and an update of info from Provincial and National. We moved our Nov to May meetings to the Catholic School beside the Church as it has better parking and lighting and heat than the previous venue. This was a positive for the ladies attending.

161. Our special activity that we engage in annually is the Fall tea. This seems to get out our membership and parish women, we have been successful in renewing memberships at this event.

162. Our membership has grown steadily, through new members and regained memberships. We attribute this to our evident commitment to the values of the League and to our strong, visible to our community..

163. We recruited 3 members on a CWL Sunday so that is our success story.

Most don't attend the meetings but are always willing to help at fundraising projects.

Many of our members are elderly and unable to participate.

	We do a lot to support our parish and that is our most desirable asset.
164.	I am a fairly new member to the CWL and to Lindsay. I found the St Marys CWL a great group of ladies doing wonderful work in the community and I found I have made some great close friends. Others have said the same thing and they felt they could call on anyone if they needed someone to talk to, needed a ride or just company over a cup of tea because they were having a down day. We feel we are more than a group of ladies working together, we are almost like family.
165.	As Christian women, we feel the need to promote Gospel values (Year of Mercy) by helping the needy, visiting the sick and providing food for the food banks.
166.	We have found that keeping things simple and light as we make the transition into the CWL arena has helped us to maintain our membership.
167.	Small but very supportive ,co-operative group of women who work well together for God & Canada. Our Annual Bazaar seems to attract the women to be very supportive of our efforts and also the Memorial Service we hold in November for our deceased members.
168.	Thought about this survey: this is not user friendly eg, if you want to go back a page already done then you have to start all over again. this was frustrating not only for me but for others. We are a small council and a lot of these questions may have been answered wrong as the choices were not applicable however unable to proceed unless answered.
169.	I am the Membership Co-ordinator as well as Treasurer. We are a small council and have no Organizational Committee.
170.	- Introduced a newsletter (expect to publish three times per year) -50th year celebrations - introduced events that brought in new people from the parish & community hosted by the CWL (e.g.guest speaker) for an evening of fellowship. -Treated our members to a subsidized lunch. -Visit members who can no longer attend meetings -Women attend meetings/functions for fellowship. spiritual, information and inspiration -Our most desirable asset is fellowship
171.	new young adult member has successfully invited new youth members to join our council
172.	We are a small group of women who come together to serve others. We focus on activities at the local level.
173.	Members who attend our meetings and/or functions are devoted members. We strive to have fun and always end our meetings with a social including refreshments and goodies. Our end of

year social is open to all C.W.L. Members as well as ladies of the community who assist at funeral luncheons. We have our annual Turkey Dinner & Christmas Party which is open to all ladies of the township 16 or over. During this celebration, we send out meals to the lonely, sick and shut ins and elderly members of the community.

174. Our annual spring luncheon is always popular. Members are encouraged to bring family and friends. It is an opportunity to acknowledge achievements, present awards, and years of service pins. A time to renew memberships and recruit new members.

Members continue to attend meetings and functions, because they enjoy the camaraderie of friendship. Building community through these meetings and communal prayer, we realize spiritually we are stronger.

A sincere desire to pray and help others in need, unconditionally.

Our Christmas Bazaar attracts many women in the community, both members and non-members. Together, volunteering their time to help make it an amazing success.

175. talking to the ladies of the parish

176. Our CWL Parish Council keeps a record of each members' birthday. Every monthly meeting, we celebrate each members birthday. If the member is not present at the meeting, a birthday card is mailed to the member.

We engage everyone by getting them all involved in our annual Spring Tea & Fall Luncheon fundraising.

We have a group of Telephone Coordinators (we have nine (9) with at least 12 to 13 members each) who calls members to remind them of upcoming events such as the monthly meetings, retreats, social events, etc. Everyone is kept informed and in touch.

We have a friendship circle involved in visiting former members who are now in long-term care facility.

It's one big happy family. True sisterhood.

177. This year we signed 11 new members. These ladies were invited to our CWL functions and they witnessed how we as a group come together to share our knowledge, wisdom and generosity. We worked very hard to help our community by volunteering, providing and serving meals to the needy.

It was a challenged to recruit new members as there are so many different groups within our parish.

178. Our June Luncheon which has been sometimes potluck/ other times it has taken place at a restaurant includes a pins presentation. An invitation is mailed out to members who qualify for 10 years, 25 years, 40 years, 50 years or 60 years pin. At the luncheon, pins are blessed by our Spiritual Advisor and given to the recipients during a little ceremony. If they are unable to attend the luncheon, the pin is either sent to them by mail or delivered.

179. we are very visible in our church-we always wear our banners or scarves at church functions
we lead special events like stations of the cross and themed masses
we invite friends to all social activities like Friendship evening, Advent candlelight service

180. At our annual membership drive in October we hand out a leaflet to all women in the parish that encourages them to consider joining the League. The leaflet portrays a puzzle with a piece missing and we ask the women that are considering joining to be that missing piece to our puzzle.

181. I have noticed our members become more engaged when they are working together on our common goal and making a difference, e.g. bazaar. The new members appreciate receiving regular follow-ups from our President or myself.

Our President is well liked as she always brings to the table a decisive, open, firm, strong and fair personality. She is always available and very supportive. She provides answers, guidance and encouragement.

Our Spiritual Advisor provides not only spiritual advice but wisdom and has an excellent sense of humour. By his constant presence, he is a great source of support to all members and encourages new members to join our Council.

182. Our most desirable asset as a council is the ability to plan and run very successful fund raising events. When called upon, our members will help and/or support our event. We have fun at these events and I think the members enjoy being a part of that.

However, attending meetings is a different story. We have very low attendance, especially in the winter months. As per this survey, 88% of our members are over 55 yrs old. (56-70=44% 70+=44%) We are trying to bring in, interesting speakers and of course we play up our 'social time' to meet more of the women of the league. We also plan to perhaps do more of a spiritual type retreat meeting in the new year.

We would be very interested in hearing what other leagues are doing to raise their meeting attendance numbers.

183. We try to have guest speakers at every other meeting that will be of interest to our members. We usually ask what or who they would like to hear about.

We try to have at least 3 meetings in the afternoon so the members who do not like to drive at night can attend. We also offer to pick up members when they need a ride.

We send e-mails to keep members informed of what is going on, meeting reminders and prayer requests for members who are ill or struggling.

Each year we have a Christmas Bazaar that encourages members to get together weekly to make crafts, cook, bake, knit sew and donate their time in making a plated lunch, setting up and taking down of chairs etc. This is also advertised to all the local churches and other Catholic parishes and we have our membership table set up.

We have 4 Funeral teams that provide a buffet luncheon after the funeral (for a cost)

We have an annual Spring tea for just the church members. Tickets are sold and skits /plays .entertainment is put on with a lovely lunch provided mostly by donation.

We have a newsletter every few years and we also collect clothing for an orphanage in the Philippines. stamps for :leprosy and glasses for the seeing impaired in Africa

184. We get a good turnout at potlucks, Christmas and year-end dinners.

185. "COMMUNICATION", "COMMUNICATION", "COMMUNICATION"!!!

In Our Lady of Sorrows CWL, our President sends to all members who consented to the use of their e-mail address, monthly updates on CWL news as well as ad hoc e-mails throughout the year as necessary.

As Treasurer and Organizations Chair I make personal phone calls to all members and former members (where possible) at least 2 times each year.

We endeavour to have Guest Speakers on many varied topics at our General Meetings to entice members to attend and to bring a friend(s).

Socializing at the General Meetings with delicious treats and warm and welcoming chats.

Organizing, facilitating and socializing at Friendship Sundays for all Parishioners following Mass - usually once per month. Also wearing our CWL Sashes we were Greeters and Gift Bearers at the Masses on these Friendship Sundays.

At the June Dinner and in the follow-up President's email to all members, the attendees were invited to submit ideas of what they would like our CWL to do and we have followed through as much as possible this year where circumstances permitted, i.e., (1) Went on a Pilgrimage - visited various Churches and the Madonna House, went through a Holy Door; (2) Pray the Rosary together in our homes during month of May; (3) Have Guest Speakers at our General Meeting on topics such as Autism, Heart Disease, Palliative Care, etc.; (4) Invite CWL members from other Parishes to join us for social events/dinner.

The sincere, warm, welcoming, compassionate, friendly and fun-filled attitude portrayed by our members truly working very hard to practice and share our faith by helping others who are in so much need is what I see as our most desirable asset as a Council.

186. Personal phone calls to members as reminders for dues annually and collections of memberships during first two weekends in December after mass.

187. We have a breakfast brunch - get a good turnout.

Planned a pilgrimage to Quebec to visit Holy Doors.

188. Mainly focused on maintaining new recruited members; encourage new silent members until they are can actively participate; invite for coffee to develop comradeship and rapport.

189.	Barbara Clouthier and the president organize three CWL Membership Sundays, with promotional CWL material to interest current and attract new members
190.	Women continue to attend meetings or functions because it is a way of getting out and meeting people. Our most desirable asset as a council is recruiting new members and keeping all members. Our High Tea attracts women.
191.	One of our success stories is we talked a former member of another Council to join our Council. Which she did. We have been trying to get more speakers to encourage our members to come to our meetings.
192.	Most desirable asset---assistance to our parish priest and our CWL prayer list.
193.	They feel a sense of belonging and acceptance. Their ideas are welcomed & embraced. The members creativity, generosity and helpfulness.
194.	We are open and welcoming group who continually strive to bring new and interesting activities and fundraising ideas forward.
195.	<p>We have about 15-20 women attend our general meetings. They are well advertised, and there is a clear agenda on what will be discussed at the meetings.</p> <p>Most ladies attend, as a social gathering(they are 75-85 age range.</p> <p>They like to learn about the events we are conducting, speakers from our various charities, activities and parish events.</p> <p>We have seen a big decline in attendance and participation at our spiritual events... Bus tour to holy door, and CWL Oakville, Advent celebration., Mass for CWL deceased, and combined events with the parish . I think this may be because these events are at night and these ladies, do not like to drive at night.</p> <p>What attracts women, to the council, is the " busy activities" of doing things, whether for charity, fund raising, or working on a common goal.</p> <p>Annual Bake sale... full participation, Fall Bazaar, we had more and different (younger women) wanting to participate.</p> <p>Older members retain their membership , because they want to be in the Book of Life(National), and like the Honor guard, for all members (event those who have lapsed). This seems really important to them.</p> <p>No one is taking ownership to run a committee, however they will volunteer to help and our election process..becomes a non starter.</p> <p>I get many complements as the president, that we have"revived" our dying council..and we are getting a lot of recognition, for our charitable efforts in the parish.</p>
196.	We held a membership weekend where both the President and I did a presentation at all the masses followed by being present to take renewals, returning and new memberships this fall. I

spoke personally with some members encouraging them by telling the importance of having their support in regard to legislation and resolutions and the need for our World Church and for our own personal growth in faith.

Our council is a very warm and welcoming group of ladies which I have experienced during my years as a member. My husband was quite ill these past two years and I realized during this time that these ladies really care and have compassion for not only myself for all members of our parish council and our community as well.

As for my contribution to our Council I co - chair the funeral Luncheons and work with a wonderful group of ladies. I also contribute to the annual bazaar and help with promoting CWL by selling tickets for our annual raffle at local venues.

197. Our main activity used to attract new members is our annual Box Lunch. Current members invite women to join us in a box lunch which we provide. It is a time of friendship and fun which engages new and former members into joining. The fact that we are so busy in the parish has given rise to member participation as well. Members seem to be eager to assist in activities which benefit the parish.

198. We have developed a council structure of a maximum of 35 CWL members who commit to attending all meetings and major events, and sit on or convene a function. These members are nominated by the membership annually. This has its good and bad points. The good is that we have a strong commitment of willing ladies to do the work and the bad is that, to some parish ladies, the group appears to be closed to the rest of the membership so they do not see the point of being a member. Annual, we have a Ladies Night. A group of ladies practice for 6 weeks and host a 2-night event for just ladies. The ladies who come bring pot luck and watch funny and musical skits and dance at intermission and at the end of the skits. The past few years have been sold out crowds. This is a big fundraiser for us but it also brings the ladies from all walks of life together to just have fun!

199. We are a very active community and we reach out to CWL members to participate and be active and be front and center to parishoners. We recently encouraged our members to bring new members to our meeting by incenting members who bring new members to receive a draw ticket for a gift!

200. Our council is a small one dedicated to our small community and to the international priorities of The League. As dedicated community members, we stay active by fundraising for local and global charities and by praying for and assisting those in need,

201. Inviting Guest Speakers to meetings has attracted former members. We held a Retreat day in November for members only & we had a wait list, want to continue on a yearly basis.

202. Personnel phone call to those that haven't paid their membership by mid February.
January our meeting is a planning meeting. Members are asked what speakers they would like to have come to a meeting. We have a social after each meeting. Begin meeting with spiritual

reflection. Practice the three "F's" Faith, Fun, Fellowship. We have a bi-weekly craft group members attend, bring their lunch and make crafts for our annual bazaar.

203. We are not an active council as so many of our members are older and cannot get out to meetings and many of our ladies work full time jobs and find it difficult to come out in the evening when they have small children to attend to. However, when we have a project, bazaar, funeral luncheon, we always have plenty of members present and I believe other women see the camaraderie and spirituality in these women during these events.

204. We are trying to maintain our membership and revitalize our council.

205. All our social events have a better turn out compared to our meetings. The reason being is because our social events allow our members time to interact with each other outside the general meetings.

206. The ladies in our CWL love to attend meetings and chat about what is going on. It is a community and they do everything possible to help out in any way. We discuss ways to increase membership and now have to get to the planning stage of it.

207. 1. Regular monthly meetings (except January, summer and December), with guest speakers whose topics relate to women and Catholic lives.

2. We have a car pool available for those women who do not drive.

3. We email minutes even to the women who could not attend meetings.

4. New members from our parish Spanish community. Spanish speaking executive member talked to other Spanish speaking ladies causing them to join our CWL.

5. Feeling a sense of belonging that drew an old executive member back to joining the cwl again.

208. Our biggest attraction within our council is the annual bazaar which takes several months to prepare for. With this event we earned more than \$30,000 for each of the past two years (2015 and 2016). It is an activity that women of many ages and different interests and abilities can participate in. While it is a lot of work, there is also a great amount of satisfaction in knowing that the money raised is going to good causes, and can help our community at many different levels.

In the spring of 2016, we had our 1st "Girls Day Out" event. It was aimed at young girls from the age of 10 to 13, to spend a day with their mother (or other adult female figure) learning different activities (crocheting for example) The purpose was to show the girls what being part of a faith community is about, and making new friends. This also worked with the mothers - showing them that we are active with all ages of the parish.

209. Most members in our council are holding great responsibilities in our SMG Parish and in our community as well. Some are involved and committed in leading the ministries such as; Choir, Eucharistic, Greeters, Lectors, Pastoral Care Visitors, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Catechism,

Sunday School, The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), and The Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC). Others are volunteers in our parish to do the daily undertakings such as: office tasks, bread giving, money/donations/offering/tithes accounting, cleaning, etc.

Activities such as Pilgrimage in our church and to different churches attracts women and parishioners.

Last year, there was no Catch the Fire workshops, and S'Mores workshops in our region.

210. For our council, having a variety of events and collaborating with other ministries increases our presence and engagement. Our activities range from social events to retreats to symposiums on current issues. One activity that attracts women is our Mother's Day Afternoon Tea. This is a free event, afternoon tea with refreshments and entertainment.

211. We have a strong loyal group ,who regularly attend meetings and social functions and who see the importance of belonging to CWL

213. WOMEN CONTINUE TO ATTEND MEETINGS AND/OR FUNCTIONS OUT OF A SENSE OF DUTY, SOCIAL REASONS, SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

THE SPECIAL ACTIVITY THAT WE ENGAGE IN THAT ATTRACTS WOMEN WOULD BE OUR ANNUAL BAZAAR.

214. Three new charter members because of 60th Anniversary

215. The C.W.L. is a strong presence in our church and women come together to keep the bond. The community supports the league in keeping the spark alive will interest new members.

216. We are a very active Council but have small attendance at our monthly meetings but our June Potluck always draws a good turnout because we have our Service Pin Presentation at this function.

I think also our presence at the back of the Church at Membership time does help to attract new members or does bring back members who might not have renewed their membership the previous year for some reason.

217. We have a large number of younger members- part of this is because of our parish dynamics but I believe that it is also due to getting them involved in our annual fundraiser, which is a dinner and skit night for the women in our community and surrounding CWL councils. The younger members enjoy acting in our skits and encourage their peers to join in.

218. After my membership speech, I had a visiting Catholic Women's League member compliment my passion and the obvious love among our members. This made my heart sing!

219. We have been successful in planning speakers and events coinciding with the parish to interest all members and parishioners in an effort to connect CWL to the whole parish. Of course, our struggle is to interest new members. Spiritual events are always successful. We continue with

the support of our Pastor and Spiritual Adviser and the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

220. We, at Alexander CWL try to do different things to attract new members. We have successfully had a few fashion shows that were more than 100+ in attendance. We had members being our models and helping with every aspect of the events. We also do special outings to different faith based destinations. We find this really helps the women get together and chat. We also do a special new members ceremony. At the ceremony the new members are given a beautiful gift bag and we do presentations of pins at a special mass as well. We try to contact our members regularly, using both email and telephone. And when our elderly members cannot get out we actually go and see them personally. We do CWL coffee Sundays and we sponsor different events throughout the year where we bring in guest speakers as well. Our monthly meetings are a little social event where we serve coffee, tea, and goodies before and after our meeting. We also encourage our members to ask a friend if they'd like to come out and hear what we're all about.

221. We hold meetings on Sunday morning after Mass and have a breakfast meeting with members taking turns in preparing the meal. This has brought a few new members, and allowed older members to attend as many don't like going out in the evening.

222. On Sunday April 24/16 our annual CWL ladies Breakfast was well attended. The following pins were awarded in recognition to celebrate our members. 2 Maple Leaf service pins; 2 new member pins; 5 -40 year pins; 4- 10 year pins; for a total of 13. The proceeds of \$120.00 that was made over above costs plus an extra \$35.00 received in donations went to the Hamilton Diocesan Pornography Bus Campaign.

We make a plea in the church bulletin in November for the Snow birds who head south for the winter to pay their annual CWL membership fees prior to them leaving for the south.

I believe our members continue to come to our general monthly meetings for the social contact as many are in the 70+ age group. They are long time members and these are their friends. They also like to keep abreast of the current issues the league is involved in as many of the members who attend have held some executive position in the past or been involved in other ways.

223. Our Membership drive continues to attract new members. We make it a point to talk to each lady to ask if they are interested in joining . It is an on going process and we make it a point o invite them to see some of our functions.

We seem to be having a positive outcome and we continually are raising the bar to attract new members .

224. In June we have a Night of Spirituality with dinner and a guest speaker. The ladies of the parish, CWL members and non-members alike gather together with ladies from our other Guelph parishes this past June to be fed by Father Joe LeClair's message. There was a tremendous turnout.

Many women, especially our older ones, look to meetings as a time to connect socially, while our younger members like to have engaging speakers for personal growth along with an opportunity to connect with others.... it's sometimes a challenge to balance these two views.

225. A "Special Activity" we perform at CWL Members' Funerals is an "Honour Guard" complete with lit candles carried by our members. This special activity has generated a significant number of positive comments from attendees at the funerals, (particularly family members and friends) as it demonstrates the "Sisterhood" that the CWL represents, by the respect shown to the deceased member. This special activity also encourages/enhances a special closeness among the members participating.

226. We have a very successful Fashion Show every Spring. It is well attended. Our members look forward to this. We also have a retreat meeting with our spiritual adviser during Lent. The women like to attend this during that time of year.

Our council has shown dedication to preserving Christian Family Life. We support the rights of the unborn and other social justice issues, such as euthanasia and pornography.

227. Phone calls for meetings and special events

Annual newsletter containing news of upcoming events and an envelope to submit membership

228. I don't know the answers to those questions. I can't answer for anyone. It all depends on the reason why each member join the CWL and wants to remain a member of the CWL.

229. We have a yearly Membership luncheon on Membership Sunday usually in October and we have an invited guest from Diocesan or Provincial Council to speak to us about the League.

Our members love to pray and socialize during our monthly meetings.

I am an organizer and I love to interact with our members because I tend to be outgoing and positive. In the last 8 years I have learned the names of most of our members. I also have computer skills that have proved to be a great asset in communicating with our members through our 88 emails list and sending them reports of all our events, activities.

We also send emails requesting prayers for the sick and the deceased. We also share happy events.

Our members enjoy our 2 fundraiser card parties in Spring and Fall where 70-90 players have fun playing bridge or euchre. Our members donate desserts and door prizes (usually 20-25)

230. 2017 promises to be a renewal year with several new members signed up to date.

A full slate of officers will begin their League duties in January 2017.

231. As an older parish we on the executive have been involved for many terms + in different jobs + seem unable to recruit or interest younger people to join us.

232. We aim to provide:

fellowship, consistency, compassionate outreach, have 'a presence', spiritual support through prayer, spiritual bouquets and Mass cards, teamwork+++

233. We hold potlucks twice a year, have guest speakers from the diocese and also from the community at our general meetings. We partner with the Girl Guides for their help at our potlucks and had the Knights of Columbus provide a breakfast - brunch for our service award recognition lunch. We liaison with other church ministry - RCIA, Children's Liturgy, Music Ministry, and Stewardship. We have a cantor, reader, and altar girl at our monthly mass before each general meeting. Our organist plays the organ at each mass, including our regional day mass. We invite all ladies of the parish each month to our meetings and have them help out at our activities such as our annual Christmas bazaar, events providing reception to First Communion events or to Confirmation ceremonies, and bake sales. We try to maintain a close community.

234. This past year we had a potluck supper in June at a former League members home. She had moved away, so we called the ladies of the church and others who had belonged to come and join us at her home. New members to our church enjoyed themselves, getting to know the women of the parish. They were each given a special invite to our Christmas dinner and gift exchange in December. They truly felt welcomed.

237. We have been able to maintain our membership over the past 2 years even with the passing of several members

238. I personally donot have a story to share.Our ladies come to our meetings for a update on the League and we say the Rosarey at every meeting

239. Past President speaks yearly at Masses to encourage new members.

240. We are a small town and the women enjoy helping our church and community. I have seen in a couple of instances where a member has paid for another person's membership. The gift Memberships were given when the other was unable to afford the cost of the yearly amount owing. Our annual pierogie making to prepare for our Christmas bazaar attracts younger members from high school as well as even members of our community who do not belong to our church but enjoy coming to our church bingo. They enjoy getting together and helping. The most desirable asset as a council is the bringing together of women of various ages to share stories and bolster confidence in their abilities to live their faith.

241. Our spirit is alive the energy is so full women are drawn

242. We now have two meetings yearly that are considered business meetings. All other meetings are in support of a specific group or have a guest speaker. These are the best attended meetings.

243. We host 2 main parish/CWL events each year plus several "coffee parties" to boost fellowship

and parish spirit. We invite all ladies of the parish to participate in all these activities and we try to maintain a welcoming atmosphere whenever we can .

244. Our league consists of very caring ladies, warm, willing to help anyone in need. They volunteer in many roles in the community, as well as in our parish. They are a prayerful group who also like to have fun. They are welcoming to new people and visit our shut-ins. We enjoy Christmas and June dinners where guests are welcome.

245. - ask for and the implement suggestions from members or tell them why not.
- get input from bereaved for intentions at opening mass offered for deceased family members
- welcome non-members to meetings and events and encourage them to participate
- people like to be associated with group that donates large amounts to the Parish

246. Our Council took part in many activities relating to the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. We all feel very blessed to have done so. Our membership continues to enjoy events and activities shared in prayer and fellowship.

247. the development of our cwl website has become a good resource/tool to communicate the activities and accomplishments of our cwl parish council.

We have really focused on reconnecting with our former active cwl members who have been unable to attend meetings or attend mass due to age related challenges. We have sent cards keeping them updated on current activities in our parish and messages of our gratitude for their past support or just to remind them we are thinking about them. We have received a lot of positive feedback from the women and their families. We have really focused on three aspects of our meeting combining spiritual by beginning our meetings by praying the rosary together in the chapel with special prayer intentions then follow with our meeting and finishing the meeting with snacks and conversation.

248. Rarely does a women come and ask how does one become a member. That happened to me last year when a young woman wanted to know how does one join the League. It was a pleasant surprise to have someone come forward. I told her we wish more women would do the same. She became a member.

249. we try to have a social dinner twice a year , once at christmas and one in june to mark the end of the year.. we open these dinners to all ladies of the parish and also of our sister parish our lady of hope..

we have a baby shower every year in may for the infant food bank.. we have someone dress up as the expecting mom and open up the gifts and have games and prizes..

we try to have a couple of game nights in the winter months to get the ladies out of the houses..

we have cwl sundays the first sunday of the month.. and the ladies collect the offerings and present the gifts to the priest, and our lay minister who are in the cwl participate in

communion and the readings.

250. Have been working on personal contact to encourage/retain membership. Development of the Mom's Group with mentorship of CWL Members is developing awareness among younger women that CWL is not just for "older, retired women". Have opened up pot lucks/socials to all women in the Parish to try to encourage fellowship and interest as well as in special guest speaker events. Have also publicized that you can be a "non-active" member in order to support CWL causes, but not necessarily have to be involved in events that you may not feel have time for.

251. During this past year, under the leadership of our new President, our council has been brought into compliance with the CWL's mandate, by introducing the C&BL's, the National P&P, and all other resources to that help and guide the activities of the league. Our council was also reconfigured in accordance with the structure of positions in the C&BLs. In addition, we have directed our efforts and mandate to be a more spiritual organization as opposed to fundraisers and a ladies social group.

253. MANY MEMBERS ARE RECRUITED BY FAMILY MEMBERS, PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS; I.E. MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS, GRANDMOTHERS, AUNTS, NIECES, ETC. WOMEN ATTEND MEETINGS TO KEEP INVOLVED AND ENJOY GIVING THEIR TIME TO WORTHY CAUSES. THE MOST DESIRABLE ASSET IS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT; EVERYONE'S PERSONAL TALENTS USED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY.

FUND-RAISING EVENTS SEEM TO BRING THE WOMEN TOGETHER, WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY, WHETHER IT'S A FALL SUPPER, CARD GAMES, FUNERAL LUNCHEONS, THERE IS AN UPLIFTING FEELING OF BEING INVOLVED AND ENJOYING EACH OTHER'S COMPANY.

254. For every meeting and function, we plan something spiritual, something educational, and often also something entertaining.

255. Our mini-retreats (Lent and Advent), started in response to a diocesan spiritual development suggestion, have been particularly successful. They are open to all women of the parish and larger community. In 2017, we plan to follow a similar format including music, speaker, fellowship at more of the general meetings in the hopes of attracting more members to these members also.

256. Personally approach and invite potential new members.

We do have about 15-20 ladies who regularly attend meetings. Loyalty and commitment to the league.

Our ethnic community parish based connection.

We have started a summer luncheon outing. Prior to that we had a Christmas Social.

257. Explaining what a \$20 membership does - adds your voice in support of local/national works. e.g. Social justice, women's programs in developing countries, federal government issues such

as religious freedom, renewable energy, farmers rights, child poverty. The events that attracts women are speakers at CWL meetings, bake sales, special dinners. Christmas party brings out many members. Also the CWL honour guard and prayers at the funeral home for a CWL member that has did is well attended by CWL members.