

Thursday Night Slide Script

SLIDE ONE-BEGIN BY SAYING THE PRAYER FOR RESOLUTION CHAIRS

SLIDE TWO

Resolutions play an important part in the League's work. Through them, policy may be established, programs planned or concerns and views expressed to governments. Resolutions can be a powerful tool "to infuse a Christian spirit into the temporal order". The League can serve the church's mission and be a Christian witness through resolutions.

The Constitution & Bylaws lists the following as responsibilities of the standing committee;

- research and preparation of resolutions and briefs
- study and implementation of resolutions adopted by other levels
- at provincial and national levels, presentation of resolutions to government.

SLIDE THREE

A resolution, like a motion, is a proposal that introduces new business to the League. The new business is introduced in the form of a resolution because of its formality, its length or its complexity. The rules that apply to resolutions are the same as those that apply to motions—by that I mean they need to be seconded, debated, passed by a majority vote and all secondary motions can be applied to them.

In my November ONLine newsletter submission, I stated that if you wanted to see fear in a member of your CWL executive, you gave them the resolutions chair. For me, I really meant that! I can tell you that my chest got tighter and my mind immediately went to "O God-NO!" My worst fear was realized. I have the wonderful good fortune to go for a few days after the provincial convention to a cottage to unwind. One morning when I was watching the sunrise and having a wonderful cup of tea, I thought to myself Colleen obviously thinks I can do this and I don't want to let her down, so I prayed for guidance and a willing heart. Then in August I went to the national convention in Calgary and learned that they were changing resolutions! By this time I thought what else can happen to during this term? So I began to read about resolutions and it was difficult. For some reason, learning about resolutions did not come easy to me. I then started to dumb it down for myself. Here is what I mean, I started to make it personal.....

Say I wanted to make a resolution. Perhaps I had been to the doctor and he/she advised that I begin strength exercises so that as I age I do not lose my strength that quickly. So I thought, my doctor was part of my resolved clause and brief. My doctor based this advise on studies and medical evidence about aging and loss of strength/muscle—that was my brief. My action

plan, would be that based on the evidence and my doctor's recommendation, I would enroll in a strength building class at a gym or local community centre.

When I looked at resolutions like that, it finally started to click for me, I had to break it down into parts.

SLIDE FOUR

Resolutions can be directed to the League itself at any level or it may be directed to outside groups such as the federal or provincial government.

SLIDE FIVE

If it directed within the League, the purpose of the resolution is to propose a plan, perhaps establish a policy or recommend an action. When a resolution goes outside of the League it is to influence others to take action that the League itself cannot take. It states the position of the League on an issue and expresses our concern.

SLIDE SIX

Resolutions and follow-up actions have been a major part of the League since its inception. In the Winter 2020 League magazine, Cathy Bouchard, National Resolutions Chair states that members' work on resolutions helps them to live their baptismal call. She goes on to say, "members share concerns of the parish community and of the people of God. They hear the cry of the poor, the downtrodden, those with needs in a variety of area. Members realize the League has a voice. With that voice, members moved by the issue gather together. They examine in what way the people of God are being oppressed, hurt and in pain. What can be done?"

Cathy also states that "delegations bring the resolution, representing the voice of many women, of families and communities to those who need to hear it, acting and speaking as Christ would speak. Members' words, actions and advocacy help to bring about the kingdom of God. Why write a resolution? To live out the baptismal call as priest, prophet and king."

SLIDE SEVEN

Cathy always signs her emails to us with this statement:

"Resolutions of today become law tomorrow! Through the CWL, you can be part of the voice that speaks to government."

This workshop will help us to better understand resolutions and the resolutions process so we can embrace our positions with the confidence of women bringing Christ's leadership and governance to our own councils and with adopted resolutions across Ontario and Canada.

END

