

Organization Standing Committee



Directive # 14

November 14, 2021

From: Linda Squarzolo,
Provincial President-Elect/Organization Chair

To: Diocesan Organization Chairs, Diocesan Presidents

Copy to: Provincial Executive, National Organization Chair

"When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful. "
Malala Yousafzai

Hello Everyone,

Several things seem to have come up at once, so I have another directive with information to bring to your attention.

Many people have been struggling through this pandemic. I congratulate those of you who have found creative ways to keep in touch with members and do whatever possible to forge ahead. Unfortunately, councils who were struggling before the pandemic, have found themselves even worse now. Over the past week I received messages from National Office notifying me of some councils who had decided to disband. I was asked by National President-Elect/Organization Chair Shari Guinta to contact diocesan presidents and diocesan presidents-elect for help in reaching out to these struggling councils before they decide to disband.

Shari asked:

- Did the parish advise the diocesan president prior to its decision and follow the direction of the *Policy & Procedure Manual, "Disbanding A Parish Council"*?
- Did the diocesan council reach out to the parish council when it was deciding to disband?
- Was a vote taken of members in the parish council prior to disbanding?
- Did the diocesan council offer assistance, alternatives?
- And were council members advised that they could join another council, rather than lose their membership altogether?

I don't need to tell you that we need the Catholic Women's League in our church and communities. We pride ourselves on numbers so that when we meet with government, it shows that we are a voice to be reckoned with.

The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* outline the process to follow if it is experiencing difficulties and further action is planned. Please refer to pages 55, 56 and 57.

Inactive Council

One option is for a council may choose is to become **inactive** rather than disbanding.

- The members vote on a motion to become inactive
- The council's activities cease
- Members continue to pay their membership fees to retain their membership and years of service
- One member agrees to be in charge of collecting membership fees, sending them to national office and being the contact person
- National office and the diocesan president are notified that the council is inactive.
- Some members may choose to transfer their membership to a different council, which remains active

Further information is available in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* on page 55.

Disbanding a Parish Council

Before a council indicates that it will be making a motion to disband, the parish president should seek assistance from the diocesan president to review all options.

The following steps should be followed:

- A written notice of motion should be sent to all CWL members and the parish spiritual advisor. Copies should be sent to the bishop, diocesan president and diocesan spiritual advisor. Notice should be published in the parish bulletin.
- A special meeting is held where the motion is read and the vote taken. A 2/3 majority of those present at the meeting is necessary to disband. The diocesan president should be invited to attend.
- Members should be given a *Transfer Form* so that they can move their membership to a neighbouring council.

Further information is available in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* on page 56 and 57.

Diocesan presidents should be in communication with parish presidents, most especially where the council is struggling. Perhaps with support, suggestions and encouragement the council may be able to overcome some of its difficulties and continue serving *God and Canada*.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this issue.

Your League sister,

Linda

Linda Squarzolo

President-Elect/Organization Chair