



Ontario Provincial Council of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Organization Standing Committee

CATHOLIC
and LIVING IT!

Directive #1

of Pages : 1

Enclosures (0)

Date : September 5, 2022

To: Diocesan Organization Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Colleen Martin, President-Elect/Organization Standing Committee Chairperson
cc: Ontario Provincial Officers, Diocesan Presidents, Most Rev. Bishop Dowd, and National Organization Standing Committee Chairperson

Sub-Committee: n/a

Enclosure: Initial ideas for membership opportunity for personal development
Shari Guinta, National Organization Chair, Oral report to Convention
Shari Guinta, National Organization Chair, Communique 05

Separate Document: New Life Member Nomination Package

Contact information: preselectopc@tbaytel.net 807-628-3875



GO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!

Matthew 5:14-16 ESV

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

Once again, thank you ladies for attending our first zoom on August 29. The notes were distributed to all for comments. I have received a few back. If you have not yet reviewed the notes, please do so and forward any changes to me by September 12 so I can distribute a final copy with the agenda for our next meet.

One of the things we talked about was a 2-minute elevator speech. I have two volunteers willing to work on that for the group.

The discussion around consistent communication made me think a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with short easy to recall answers is something else we could work on. Anyone interested in working on this?

Finally, we can brainstorm ways to get the word out about our annual membership campaign... anyone interested in working on this?

These three approaches and the leadership development below would make 3 to 4 of us to work on each. An initial discussion can be part of our next zoom as I can place those interested in each approach in a separate room. Let me know if you have a preference or I will just pull names from a hat ... Holy Spirit will put everyone in just the right spot!!

I just want to mention the new process for member inquiries received at national office. The requests receive a letter from the national organization chair indicating a

referral was made to the related diocesan president who will then put the individual in touch with a parish based on their postal code.

Receiving a copy of this communication to the Diocesan President has been inspiring for me and I have sent communication directly to the individual inquiring encouraging them to contact me if I can ever be of support to their league journey. So far, the responses to my emails have been encouraging and uplifting.

Leadership Development

I also am working on some offerings for personal development (see attached as a first draft to initiate a conversation)... anyone interested in brainstorming ideas?

I am not calling it leadership development but will slide subtle hints in where possible to encourage members to consider leadership.

League Resource Material

National is working on some great resource materials. There are nearly 30 workshops on various topics found here <https://cwl.ca/resources/800-series-workshops/>.

I am available to act as a resource for any of these workshops and encourage you to make them available online and open to members across the country. Great opportunities for getting the national feel of the League.

Annual Reports

The national organization oral report from the August annual national convention in Kelowna is enclosed in this file after this directive.

I have heard an announcement was made at the national convention regarding changes to the annual report. More information is coming, and the digital link is to open on October 15 so please keep your eyes open for a communique from National.

Life Membership

Praise God!!! The moratorium on Life Membership has been lifted. I am enclosing in this file a Communique 05 from the national organization chair. A separate attachment of the nomination package will also be forwarded with this Directive.

Submitted By

Colleen Martin

Colleen Martin
President-Elect and
Organization Chair



LEAGUE DEVELOPMENT ZOOMS

ALL WOMEN WELCOME!

All Sessions 8 pm to 9 pm EDT

MEMBERS REGISTER FREE

NON-MEMBERS \$10

**REGISTER AT developmentzooms@tbaytel.net
with your name and dates wishing to register for**

ADDITIONAL NIGHTS WILL BE ADDED IF SUFFICIENT INTEREST

2022

TOPICS

September 14

Ever have a computer question? Bring it on!

October 19

Looking for inspiration? A crawl through the web.

November 23

I am a member, so what? Explore your passion.

December 14

Open ... to be decided based on topic requests



2023

January 18

Goal setting made easy through prayer!

February 15

Everyone is a mentor! Are you?

March 22

Spring into leadership! Recognize your style!

April 19

Why did God give us personality and free will?

May 18

Public speaking? Not me! Yes you!!!!

June 15

Open ... to be decided based on topic requests

Oral Report to 102nd Annual National Convention National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Shari Guinta

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, there was still some amazing work done in regard to membership, as well as offers of workshops and presentations. It was a pleasure to receive the provincial reports for organization and see the great work that was done, even though the pandemic wreaked havoc on the ability of councils to meet.

Many resources, especially new ones, were not always reported as being used; however, online meetings, information sessions, workshops and spiritual presentations were given. Even though challenges with computer skills were mentioned in numerous reports, 73% of parish councils reported using the online membership system.

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership

Personal invitation is most effective, while telephone calls, bulletins, parish announcements and comments from the parish priest were also effective. Even though only 20-30% were considered active members, calls were made to recruit and maintain members. All chairpersons reported recruiting members in the 35-40-year-old range; not a lot, but some.

Using subcommittee chairpersons and distributing the workload is effective. Creative ideas such holding fundraisers or putting on a membership contest where every member was encouraged to recruit members were held to supplement membership fees.

Members and councils continued to decline. I want to emphasize that membership is every member's responsibility. This is a huge concern and I encourage all members to do their best to recruit members and diocesan or provincial councils to set a plan for membership and council retention in their regions.

Leadership Development

The *Executive Orientation* program was offered. Resources developed for the strategic planning initiatives were approved and placed on the national website. Online leadership programs were offered.

League Resource Material

The national website, other websites and *The Canadian League* magazine were reported as the most used resources. The League's website is important!

More councils began to use resources from the strategic planning working groups. The *Welcome Program* was one that was used. *Embracing Diversity: Tools for Council Use* resource was distributed and should be used. Education regarding social media and technology was mentioned often.

Annual Reports

There was much discussion regarding the online annual reporting surveys, and we listened. I met with all provincial chairpersons of organization on a regular basis, as well as with my subcommittee members. Revisions were offered to the board at its pre-convention meeting. Simplifying and shortening the report and paying particular attention to word choices were all suggestions.

Life Membership

An *ad hoc* committee was formed with seasoned life members and honorary life members to discuss the criteria and some changes were made. This also was presented to the board at the pre-convention meeting. The moratorium on nominations to life membership is now lifted. †

Organization

September 2, 2022



Communiqué #05

Catholic and Living It!

TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Organization
THROUGH: Provincial Presidents and Secretaries
CC: National Executive (for information)
National Life Member Liaison (for information)
FROM: Shari Guinta, National Chairperson of Organization
ENC: Life Membership Nomination Package

"Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success" (taken from *God's Little Instruction Book*) reflection on Psalm 133:1, 3.

Having attended the annual national convention in beautiful Kelowna this year was a privilege and a wonderful experience.

It was gratifying to report on the progress of the Life Member Criteria Ad Hoc Committee that offered revisions to the criteria for nominating a member for life membership in The Catholic Women's League of Canada. I am pleased to share the changes, including an immediate lifting of the moratorium on nominations.

In reviewing the criteria, the committee stressed that life membership is an important position in the League. A member is nominated after serving at provincial level (Ontario has a special norm), years of service and a willingness to continue serving national council, and all levels, when asked. It is not an award and is not to be referred to as such. The deadline for nominations remains December 15th.

Changes to the criteria include:

- Nominations and voting at each level are to be held by secret ballot. The nominee should not be in the room when her nomination is discussed.
- In Ontario "a nominee must have let her name stand for provincial election to office."
- In provinces without diocesan councils "a nominee must have held the position of provincial past president prior to the ."
- The fee for the submission of a nomination is \$300.00, due by February 1st.
- Listing workshops and presentations that the nominee has created/presented and including copies of same are to be included with the nomination papers.
- A letter will be sent from national office to life members biennially, requesting their willingness to serve and in what areas.