



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF CANADA
SAULT STE. MARIE DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Organization Standing Committee**



Directive # 1

September 2019

To: Organization Chairpersons

From: Lisa Henry, Diocesan President Elect / Organization Chairperson

C.c. Diocesan Executive, Parish Presidents, Provincial Organization Chairperson

My dear sisters in the League, I am so excited to be sharing this wonderful role of Organization with you and look forward to sharing all the ways we can educate and inform our members. I invite you to please contact me at any time if I may be of any assistance or if there is information you would like to share that would benefit the membership.

Implementation of the National Strategic Plan

The Implementation Committee working group members will, from time to time, be conducting surveys for research purposes in support of the ongoing CWL Strategic Plan Implementation process. They are looking for members across the country to participate in online surveys or be a part of a focus group. Member input is vital in their research efforts and I ask that you please share this information with your members. Go to the following link to sign up by email to participate in surveys or focus groups. <https://cwl.ca/implementation-of-the-strategic-plan/>

It is important to make this survey group representative of the League's distribution. So, presidents and organization chairs, spread the word over the next few weeks and contact as many members in your area as you can.

Information regarding updates to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan, are available through The CWL website (updated monthly), on the CWL Facebook page, through communications communiques, the Canadian League magazine, conventions and parish mailings.

Social Justice Award 2020

Do you have a member who has demonstrated extraordinary service in social justice issues contributing to her community? Please consider them for a nomination for this outstanding award. Information and deadlines for the provincial social justice award can be found in the provincial policy and procedure manual beginning on page 801. The application form (A8.1 – 01) is in the appendices. Nomination criteria and application process are found at the following link. <http://cwl.on.ca/sites/default/files/manuals/1869.pdf>

Life Members

At our National convention in Calgary, eleven women, from across the country, were welcomed as new Life Members, including one from our diocese! Those, from Ontario include Shirley Christo, Toronto Diocese; Marie-Theresa Lamphier, London Diocese; Ana Sousa, Hamilton Diocese; Anna Tremblay, Sault Ste. Marie Diocese and Anne Vincelli, Alexandria/Cornwall Diocese. Life membership gives to the recipient, in addition to the honour, a permanent place on Did you know that every life member remains active in her own parish council and is available to serve, as facilitator/mentor when requested, at all League levels? Please refer to the Executive Handbook (page 31) for diocesan responsibilities regarding Life Members.

Climate Action

Since our theme is “*Care for Our Common Home*”, at the national convention, workshops provided great ideas for practical action. Perhaps your council could put together a little workshop and invite a guest speaker to educate members on this important topic. Some suggestions for councils and individuals to consider on that day and throughout the year include:

- Do a fall clean-up of a park, roadside or neighbourhood
- Plant a tree
- Grow your own vegetables
- Use reusable, rather than single-use items
- Bring your own shopping bag, refillable water container, mesh bags for produce
- Be an ethical consumer (How was it made? What materials were used?)
- In a consumer society, live simply, do I “need” or “want”?
- Evaluate your home’s garbage and food waste (How can we do better?)
- Use the car less, walk, bike, carpool, use public transit
- Talk to a politician about climate change concerns
- Catholic social justice is grounded in spirituality, involving prayer and fasting
- One day a week, go without meat and eat a plant-based diet
- Pray for our planet’s climate and the people impacted by climate change

Membership

Did you know that Ontario has a larger membership than all the other provinces combined? **Imagine if each member in Ontario brought in just one new member.** What a difference that would make! I encourage you to get some of your enthusiastic members together, who are passionate about the League, and have a brainstorming session on how to invite more women into our wonderful organization. Please share with me the many ideas you might have! Cast your nets! You never know how you may impact just one person’s life with an invitation to the CWL.

For the 100th Anniversary of the organization of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada, wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could bring the membership back to 100 thousand, again? Invite a friend, neighbour, daughter, granddaughter or godchild. Give them the opportunity to find out what a great organization the League is!

Recruit Members and Maintain Membership (Executive Handbook)

- ***Promote the League in order to recruit new members***
- ***Conduct membership campaigns***
- ***Be aware that per capita fees are due and payable on Jan 1 of each year***
- ***In consultation with the treasurer, ensure that per capita fees are remitted promptly to national office***
- ***Identify the needs of current members and those of the women of the parish and plan programs to meet those needs***
- ***Hold a “Reception of New Members Ceremony” as outlined in the “Handbook for Spiritual Advisors” and the “Ceremonies Booklet”.***

Peace and Blessings,

Lisa

Lisa Henry
President-Elect/Organization Chair