



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council
70th Annual Convention
June 3, 2018

ORAL REPORT
ORGANIZATION STANDING COMMITTEE
Janet Brunger, Chairperson

Today I wanted to speak briefly on the status of annual reports. Online annual reporting is here to stay. It is the move into the new millennium. As any organization knows, if you don't change with the times, you are left behind, and you eventually go down. So, it is with the Catholic Women's League – we all recognize that technology is the move to the future. The CWL is a vibrant organization, we are movers and shakers, and in speaking to government, we represent tens of thousands of women across Canada. The first year that online reporting was rolled out, it did come with a certain measure of pain. National Office worked quickly to address those bugs, and last year we were offered a much-improved product. HOWEVER, still only a little better than 50% of Councils in this Province did their annual reporting online. The rest didn't bother – WHY?? In this day and age, almost everyone has access to a computer; if not for themselves, then they know someone who does. It's important to reach out and ask for help if you need it. The concern is that this will lead to disconnect from the rest of our Sisters, not only in our Province but also across Canada. The message that came back to me is that Parish Councils feel that the online reporting framework is too rigid, and there's no opportunity to share what needs to be said; therefore, the message is not going out from Councils; in fact, I beg to differ – there's a comments section at the end in which you can say WHATEVER you need to say that hasn't already been picked up. Diocesan, Provincial and National Councils are ALL interested in what's happening in your Parish Council, and if you need a helping hand with anything, reach out to any one of us – we'd be happy to be there for you! So please, ladies, I encourage you to do your online reporting this year, and if you are one of those who don't have access to a computer and don't have a family member or friend to help with this, please reach out to any of us on Diocesan or Provincial – we'd be happy to assist!

On that note, during 2017, there were NO *Catch the Fire!* or *S'More's* Workshops given in this Province. This is such a valuable tool in the CWL – why not plan to offer one in your area for your ladies and for neighboring Councils? Remember, this is not only for Presidents or Executive – it's for ALL members. Our facilitators are getting rusty and could really use the practice! Remember, the CWL offers funding under League Development that can be applied to the costs and travel involved in hosting a workshop. These workshops offer Leadership Training, a strong Spiritual component, and opportunity for reflection and sharing – it's such an inspiring day – I strongly recommend it for everyone!

I also encourage you to share the gift of the CWL – reach out to someone who's not a member and invite them to gift themselves with a year's membership, or if you're able, buy a membership for them for a year. I know of one or two Councils in Manitoba where the first year's membership is free – that's an awesome way to welcome a new member!

Remember to recognize the dedication and commitment of your own ladies, by doing something fun and interesting for your Council. The League is not all about meetings, letter writing campaigns, fundraisers and funeral lunches – we do enjoy having fun as well! Go bowling or out to a restaurant once per year. Invite someone to come in to teach you line dancing or some other craft or activity. Have a potluck or a dessert evening. And most of all, give out a Certificate of Merit for outstanding service to the League, or Years of Service Pins or the Maple Leaf Pin – your ladies deserve to be recognized for their outstanding efforts for the League!