

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Past President

February 28, 2022



Communiqué #8

Catholic and Living It!

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past Presidents
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President

I greet you on the threshold of the holy season of Lent. Pandemic restrictions are being relaxed, some councils are resuming in-person meetings, and diocesan, provincial and national councils are planning towards holding in-person conventions/annual meetings of members (AMM).

The Covid-19 pandemic necessitated that in-person League conventions could not be held. Instead, the 2020 and 2021 annual meeting of members were held in keeping with the *Not-For-Profit Corporations Act* which provides for partially-virtual meetings. I direct you to Communiqué #4 from National Past President, Anne Gorman, where the procedures for collecting the instructed vote are emphasized. The vote must be collected at in-person conventions/AMMs or at partially-virtual conventions/AMMs. This is necessary so that the instructed vote results can be collected in keeping with the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* and League bylaws, and so that the outcome of the vote cannot be challenged. Totally virtual conventions/AMMs are not permitted.

The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* states: “Each parish council’s instructed vote is given to the diocesan council at the diocesan convention. The diocesan council’s instructed vote is given to the provincial council at the provincial convention. The provincial council’s instructed vote is the final vote, and it is given at the annual national convention.” As past president of your council, you share in the responsibility to guide policy and procedure regarding the collection of the instructed votes. I draw to your attention that increase in national per capita fees requires a *majority vote*. However, amendment to the League’s Constitution & Bylaws requires a *two-thirds majority vote*.

Only voting delegates present at the convention/AMM may carry forward the instructed vote of her council. The *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* states: “Validated forms are not a proxy for the presence of a voting delegate. **Failure to submit the validated form and attend the convention will result in a spoiled ballot.**” Communiqué #4 from Anne Gorman emphasizes that at diocesan conventions/AMMs, it is important that the voting delegate (the parish council president or her designate) must be present. That is determined by having a “roll call” of voting delegates at the beginning of convention business to determine which voting delegates are “present”. A voting delegate who responds “present” to a roll call, whether her attendance is at an in-person convention/AMM or through a partially-virtual convention/AMM is considered to be “present” at the meeting, and the instructed vote she carries from her council is to be counted. If the voting delegate is not “present”, the instructed vote cannot be counted even if the validated form for the

instructed vote had been submitted to the diocesan level by her parish council. The same “roll call” requirement would apply at a provincial convention/AMM whether held in-person or partially-virtual.

The biannual review of a council’s manual of policy and procedure is an important responsibility of past presidents, and each council in the League is encouraged to have its own manual. I would appreciate your assistance and being advised if your diocesan council has a policy and procedure manual. I would also appreciate that you would inquire with parish councils in your diocese as to whether they each have a manual. Please report back to me by April 1st, 2022 about the status of policy and procedure manuals in your diocese. Thank you for your collaboration.

May the special season of preparation for Easter be encounters of a synodal church where communion, participation and mission are realized through prayer, fasting and almsgiving and as we give witness to being *Catholic and Living It!*

Blessings,

Rolande Chernichan
Provincial Past President

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**

Past President

October 28, 2021



Communiqué #7

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past Presidents
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President

We have been blessed with a glorious autumn of beautiful weather and delayed frosts making it possible for flowers and foliage to display their splendour well past Thanksgiving. Many members have been vaccinated so councils are gradually and cautiously resuming in-person meetings in keeping with pandemic protocols. There is joy and optimism in being able to gather again, to share in the sisterhood and spirituality of the League and to journey forward in hope.

The ability to gather in person presents parish councils with the opportunity to conduct the Instructed Vote regarding the increase in national per capita fees as well as amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws (C&B). For each change that is proposed, a detailed rationale was provided in the national amendments package. Council executives have been entrusted to communicate to members the rationale for each change and to provide for open discussion within the setting of an in-person meeting of members in order to conduct each Instructed Vote. It would be advisable to notify membership in writing that the outcomes of the votes will have lasting effect on the League and that member participation by attending the meeting and participating in voting is important and valued. Members should be given sufficient advance notice of the meeting where it is intended to hold the votes on the proposed changes. Council executives might want to consider scheduling a special meeting to deal only with the Instructed Votes; that would ensure that sufficient time has been provided for information sharing and discussion, instead of trying to squeeze the votes within a general monthly meeting where other business is also on the agenda. Councils might want to consider taking a ballot vote for each proposed change.

One of the responsibilities assigned by the League to past presidents is the responsibility to respond to questions related to the interpretation of the Constitution & Bylaws and that in her consultative and advisory role, "Others will draw on her experience when trying to make the best decisions for the council." (Executive Handbook) In contributing to discussions about the Instructed Vote affecting per capita increase and amendments to the C&B, may all past presidents share their love for the League and the positives for change that would yield the best decision for their councils. It is important to keep in mind that the outcome of each Instructed Vote by over 1100 parish councils across Canada will determine the course of action and the financial viability of The Catholic Women's League of Canada for the immediate future.

Parish councils who previously submitted their votes and who wish to rescind them may do so. In her communique of October 26, 2021, National Past President, Anne-Marie Gorman, said: "Because members

must make the critical decisions that will affect the organization for years to come, it is exceedingly important that the decision be an informed one.” Her communique outlines the steps to be followed if a parish council wishes to rescind its vote. Diocesan past presidents are tasked to provide parish councils with the information they require to rescind their vote. Diocesan past presidents are asked “to make parish councils aware that the decisions made by the membership are taken to support the ongoing work to implement the strategic plan and will affect the organization’s immediate and long-term future.” (Anne-Marie Gorman)

Past presidents and members in general are reminded to forward to national office any proposed changes to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* by the deadline date of December 1st. Form #551 can be downloaded from the national website for that purpose. I would appreciate being copied on any revisions that you submit for consideration.

May all discussions, deliberations and discernment leading to a decision regarding each Instructed Vote be done prayerfully, guided by the Holy Spirit and through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Blessings,

Rolande Chernichan
Provincial Past President

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Past President

September 10, 2021



Communiqué #6

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past Presidents
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President

The onset of cooler weather and shorter days gradually announces the arrival of autumn in its glorious splendour! For me, it is a season that prompts a fond recalling of a favourite hymn “Come With Me Into the Fields” (Dan Schutte) and words of its refrain: “The harvest is plenty, labourers are few...” As many councils of the League endeavour to resume gathering for in-person meetings, we are reminded that the harvest of good works that the League was capable of before the onset of the pandemic may take a bit more time to be brought to fruition. We give thanks for our blessings and move forward in faith and action.

Some of you are new to the position of Past President. Welcome! The past president’s role is both consultation and advisory. Past presidents can expect to be called upon to guide a decision of her council by drawing on her knowledge of policy and past experience. Our new National Past-President and Chairperson of Laws, Anne-Marie Gorman, advises: “Beginning slowly, the first place to start is the *Constitution & Bylaws*. Become familiar, if not already, with page 23 (Part XII Section 7: Past President), the information provided in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* and the *Executive Handbook*. You will also want to become familiar with the *Handbook for Past Presidents*.”

Past presidents are responsible for the ongoing monitoring and review of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. The manual states that the past president is responsible to “Engage members in the revisions process by inviting them to forward to national office proposed revisions to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* **by December 1st of each year.**” I encourage you to participate in the review process and to submit your proposed revisions using the form #551 which can be downloaded from the national website on the “Resources” page under “Forms”. I would appreciate being copied on any revisions that you submit for consideration.

A past president also has the responsibility to oversee the review of the policy manual of her own council biannually “for any additions, deletions and corrections; all changes must be brought to the membership (for parish councils) or the executive (for diocesan and provincial councils) for

approval before amending the manual.” I recommend that you give your council a few months interval from the time you begin the review process until the proposed changes are collected and brought forward for approval within a meeting of your council.

If you are in the final year of your term, hopefully the pause in regular League activities during the pandemic gave you extra time to dedicate to archiving the history of your council. The League gifts us with resources to guide our efforts. Refer often to *Archive Guidelines for League History* as well as the *Archives Brochure* which can be downloaded from the national website on the “Resources” page under “Manuals”.

I close in echoing the wise advice of Margaret Ann Jacobs, Honourary Life Member, who in giving her oral report as National Past President at the 2021 National Annual Meeting of Members, said: “I urge past presidents at all levels to actively pursue the update of your histories as soon as you are allowed access to your League files. Too quickly the stories are lost and forgotten.”

I look forward to receiving your annual reports which symbolically are the harvest of your League service to “God and Canada” each year.

Blessings,

Rolande Chernichan
Provincial Past President

The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council

Past President

December 2020



Communiqué #5

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past President
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)

FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President
ATT: PDF National Manual of Policy & Procedure 2020, PDF Parliamentary Procedure 2020

Greetings sisters of the League! Are you feeling disconnected from the League and from our sisterhood? Many councils have suspended their usual activities and meetings because of Covid-19 restrictions. This pandemic has tested the League as to how digitally connected we are to our councils and our membership. We have also been tested about how resourceful we have been to continue the mission and ministry of the League despite the in-person contact that has been discouraged. If you are one of those councils who has email contact with your membership, I bring you the good news of an opportunity to participate in a webinar titled “*A Fireside Chat with the League’s Honourary Life Members*” scheduled for Sunday, December 13th, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. CST. Check out the “quick links” on the national website to pre-register and to share in this virtual chat by our national past presidents. Please share this news with your members so that they too can experience the event and the messages from our esteemed sisters in the League. I am looking forward to it!

The League reminds us that “Preservation of archives is a priority for every past president!” Have you been able to make progress on updating your history and indexing your archives in the isolation of this pandemic? The task of archiving may be shared by appointing interested and experienced council members. As a new year is around the corner and budgets will be presented, you are reminded that expenses related to archiving should be discussed with your council executive as the League directs that “Funds should be included in the council budget to purchase archival supplies.”

Does your council have its own history book? It is never too late to start one! Were you aware that “all council’s (parish, diocesan and provincial) are encouraged to send a copy of their own history book to CWL national office at C-702 Scotland Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5, marked “Archives.”? Your book must be accompanied by a letter, signed by the current president of that council, authorizing the League to place the history along with other histories of that year in the League archives at the Archives of Manitoba. An index of the contents of each box stored at

Archives of Manitoba will be kept at national office. If your council has not chronicled its history, this might be something one or more of your members might like to take on by reviewing archived minutes, newsletters, annual reports, etc. so as to compile your council's history book.

We past presidents are responsible for reviewing biannually our council's manual of policy and procedure for any needed additions, deletions and corrections. With the pandemic, we have had our terms extended by one year. Nevertheless, you are urged to be diligent to the review process, being mindful that all changes must be brought forward for approval before amending the manual. At the parish council level, those amendments would be brought to the membership for their approval. At the diocesan and provincial level, those amendment would need to be approved by the executive of that council.

Since my previous communique, several revisions were done to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. I am pleased to provide you the manual in PDF format (attached to this communique) so that you can keep it on file for easy referencing. Please note that even though the manual's cover states 2019, the file actually is up to date, containing all the revisions to the manual that were adopted at the national executive meeting earlier this year. Please share this PDF version with the executive of your council and encourage that they familiarize themselves with the policies and procedures that guide the League.

I also draw your attention to online resource #617 titled *Parliamentary Procedure*, that was revised May 2020. I have attached a copy of it in PDF format which I encourage you to also file with your League resource documents and to share with your president and members of the executive. As past presidents, we are often called upon to advise the council on matters of *Robert's Rules of Order*, the parliamentary authority of the League. This booklet is a valuable resource that offers a diversity of subjects for workshop-type training, and covers three topics – Rules, Motions, and Committees.

In the fall parish mail-out by national office, the memo from National Past President and Chairperson of Laws, Margaret Ann Jacobs, prepares councils for the upcoming instructed vote that will be part of the *Constitution & Bylaws* amendment process. I encourage you to become informed of the role that past presidents are entrusted with for the formal presentation and adoption of amendments to the *Constitution & Bylaws*. All past presidents at each level are urged to refer to Section 11 of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* to familiarize yourself with the process.

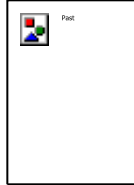
During this Advent and throughout Christmastide, may all that we say and do be a gift of love to others as we recall the joy of God's gift of love to the world through the birth of His son, Jesus. My wish for you is that your hearts and homes will be graced with God's peace and love and be filled with His presence.

Rolande Chernichan
Past President

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**

Past President

May 16, 2020



Communiqué #4

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past President
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President
ATT: Past President Oral Report 2015 Betty Anne Brown Davidson

What a historical year for the world! What a historical year for the League! We continue to practice physical distancing as our country tries to contain the spread of the pandemic coronavirus COVID-19. It has meant celebrating Holy Week and Easter in the isolation of our homes and participating in Mass by virtual live-streaming. It has meant the cancellation of all annual conventions, including the long-planned national convention and celebrations marking the League's 100 years of organization. As this Easter season prepares us for Pentecost, we live in faith and hope that we will once again be able to gather as faith communities so as to celebrate the Eucharist and the sacraments. We long for a return to life as we knew it. We hope and pray that scientists will be able to develop a cure and vaccine.

With regular CWL meetings and events cancelled and many being housebound, national past president, Margaret Ann Jacobs, gave past presidents a nudge by her March communique: "Since archives and history is a considerable responsibility for past presidents, I encourage using these quiet days to update files—particularly history files."

Betty Colaneri, chairperson of the Centenary Committee, has complemented Margaret Ann's urging by requesting submissions to the "Picture This" photo project to celebrate the League's 100 years. Past presidents have access to archives, photos and scrapbooks of CWL events. Is there a memorable event photo you can submit on behalf of your council? A clear and precise copy of a memorable picture may be sent to national office. Or you can hold on to the pictures until they can be brought for display to the national convention.

Springtime is a time of rebirth and renewal. I am an avid gardener, and especially passionate about growing flowers. I share with you the oral report of then past president and Honourary Life Member, Betty Anne Brown Davidson, given at the 2015 national convention in Vancouver. I was so inspired by Betty Anne's report that I kept on file a printed copy of it. With permission, I am

honoured to share it with you. May you delight in Betty Anne's reflection on the role of past presidents. May it also be inspiration for you.

May our God of yesterday, today and tomorrow bless us with the fire of His love as He breathes within us the gifts of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost.

Rolande Chernichan

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**

Past President

February 29, 2020



Communiqué #3

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past President
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President
ATT: Appendix 5: Archives Guidelines for League History, Inventory of Archives (St. Boniface)

This year marks the 100th anniversary of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. How exciting! A century ago, Catholic women took a leap of faith in organizing to serve God and Canada through The Catholic Women's League of Canada. One hundred years later, through its strategic planning process, the League has embarked on renewal, reorganization, and rebranding of our beloved organization. Through our core values of faith, service and social justice, we are being guided by our Mission Statement that calls us to "grow in faith, and to witness to the love God through ministry and service". As past president, you have the benefit of League experience through the leadership positions you have served. Have you responded to the call to be involved in the strategic planning process and implementation? Is there a leap of faith being asked of you to help carry the League into its next century?

Milestone anniversaries are occasions to recall and celebrate the past and to plan for the future. Past presidents are responsible for the archives and history of the council they serve. Without regular archiving, a council's history is lost.

In 2019 Manitoba Provincial Council celebrated its 70th anniversary. The occasion was the motivation to ensure that our archives were current and that our history was updated. Have you read about Manitoba Provincial Council's history on our website <https://cwlmanitoba.ca/>? The 'About Us' link on our home page will bring you to an account of our history compiled by past presidents and dedicated members in marking the 50th, 60th and 70th anniversaries of Manitoba Provincial Council.

Diocesan and parish councils also celebrate anniversaries. They are occasions to showcase archives, photo albums, and scrapbooks. In recent years Keewatin-The Pas and St. Boniface Diocesan Council celebrated milestone anniversaries. Next year Winnipeg Diocesan Council will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. How awesome! Has your council written its history and kept it

current? How well are your archives being maintained? Do you have a list of what is archived? Are your archives readily accessible and are they stored in a safe place?

Sometimes archives have been neglected to the point where the task becomes overwhelming. Is that the situation in your council? Might the solution be as simple as to make it council policy for each past president to be responsible to archive all minutes, annual reports and other important documents as well as key photos pertaining to her term as president? Previous past presidents could be called upon to organize the files pertaining to their term (as president) if those files are not yet organized for archives. I believe this approach would make the task less onerous. I believe each president should be proud to prepare a folder in archives that captures her term! The task can be easily accomplished while she serves out her term as past president.

The League provides past presidents with two comprehensive documents to guide them in their role as archivists and historians. One is titled: “Archives Guidelines for League History” that can be found on the national website <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/601-Archives-Guidelines-for-League-History-2007.pdf> A more current document by the same name is *Appendix 5* found in the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* which I have attached to this communique. Please print it off and include it as a resource in your binder for easy referencing.

Do you know where your council charter is? The League assigns the council’s secretary with knowing where the council’s charter can be found. Many councils have their charter framed and on display in their church foyer or parish centre. What if your council charter were to be lost through theft, vandalism or fire? National office does not have a copy of your original charter on file. They could issue a duplicate charter, but it would not be a copy of your historical one. As past president for your council, I encourage you to have a couple of colour copies made of your original charter done professionally at a copy centre. I recommend that you copy both sides, as typically the charter members of the council have signed the reverse of the charter. I recommend that you store a copy of the charter in a sheet protector in archives, and one in your past president’s binder. You might want to have a third copy on file with the secretary, especially if your charter is on display in a public building.

One of the most important aspects of archiving is to maintain an inventory of archived materials. The League directs that the inventory list should be updated and reviewed every two years. The League recommends that three copies of the inventory should be made; one copy should be filed with the archival files, one copy kept with the past president’s archival file, and another copy provided to the president and noted in the minutes. Before the end of your term as past president, please ensure you have reviewed and updated the inventory of archived materials and that you have submitted the inventory list at an executive meeting so that it is noted in the minutes.

Each council can develop its own table to chart the inventory of its archives. At a minimum, your inventory table should be able to verify at-a-glance that signed minutes of all executive meetings are archived, along with annual reports, the election minutes and the executive list for each president’s term. Additionally, diocesan and provincial councils should include in their chart of inventory their annual convention minutes, election minutes, annual report booklets, minutes of special meetings, etc. As an example, I have attached the inventory of archives table for St. Boniface Diocesan Council that was developed when I served as its past president. If your council does not yet have a table to chart its inventory of archives, now is a perfect time to start! If your archives have been neglected, work your way backwards to chart the most basic historical documents so as to assess how complete your archives are.

Past presidents are often called upon to serve as the chairperson of the Nominations and Elections Committee. I take this opportunity to remind both parish and diocesan past presidents that our provincial website has well documented election procedures, complete with templates of documents that you can easily edit in fulfilling your responsibilities on the committee. There is even an elections minute template ready to use! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance in understanding the nominations and elections process, and especially your role in chairing the elections.

I close in reminding you to diligently develop policies or procedures for your council as the need arises. This will ensure that the biannual review of your council's manual of policy and procedure will be less time consuming. I am available to help in developing a policy manual if your council does not have one.

Blessings for a holy and fulfilling Lenten journey and a joyous Easter!

Rolande Chernichan

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**

Past President

October 31, 2019



Communiqué #2

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past President
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President
ATT:

As winter approaches and this calendar year draws to a close, some council executives are busy wrapping up their terms and setting their sights on conducting elections for a new executive. For parish past presidents, this means that your term on your council's executive has run its course. How do you feel about your time served on the executive? Did you give it your best? Are there regrets that you did not accomplish everything you had hoped you could? Will you miss the executive meetings and being part of the leadership? For diocesan past presidents, you have a few months left till annual convention and elections. The same questions would apply to assess your term and your contributions to your council.

If you are in your last chapter as past president, you are reminded to ensure that your binder has been purged of unnecessary documents and that you provide your successor with a well-organized binder that ensures a transition with all necessary information at her fingertips.

Is there life after serving as past president? Of course there is! For all past presidents, you are eligible to serve at the next level of the League and to let your name stand for election. Depending on the election cycle, some of you have worn two hats either by serving as parish past president while also serving as a diocesan officer, or as diocesan past president and also as a provincial officer. For some past presidents, the end of a term and a break from being on the executive is a welcome reprieve. If you are nearing the end of your past president term, have you started thinking about your next steps in the League?

Do you know of any parish or diocesan past presidents who have not yet served at the next level of the League? What has prevented them from doing so despite having been eligible for three elections following their last term served? Past presidents should be aware of other past presidents who have been away from the executive table for a few years. I urge you to seek them out in order to affirm, encourage and mentor them to renewed leadership on the executive of the next League level to be served.

We are on a countdown to the deadline date of December 1st to submit proposed revisions to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. You are encouraged to use form #551 that can be downloaded off the national website under “Resources: 500 Series: Forms”.

You are gently reminded to be vigilant in identifying policies or procedures of your council’s manual that need to be deleted or revised or if there is need to develop wording of new policies or procedure that should be implemented. Involve members to contribute ideas. Good practise is to involve the past president, current president, and president elect on the committee tasked with the biannual review of the council’s manual of policy and procedure before it is brought to the membership (for parish councils) or the executive (for diocesan and provincial councils) for approval. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have questions or if you need help to develop a council manual.

It has been my experience that archiving is often neglected. Is it because many past presidents wear more than one hat, serving at the next level of the League while serving out their term as past president? Whatever the reason, try not to leave the task of archiving only when celebrating the milestone anniversaries of your council. Seek committee members who have clerical and scrapbooking skills to assist with the ongoing task of preserving the history of your council so that through photo albums, scrapbooks, and binders of minutes, annual reports and executive lists your council can proudly display past achievements when having recruitment drives or celebrating special CWL events.

I encourage you to remain current of the implementation of the League’s strategic plan and to be the part of the positive energy as the League’s strategies are being rolled out. We are part of the living stones of the foundation that was begun almost 100 years ago!

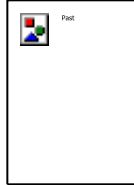
Blessings,

Rolande Chernichan
Past President

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Manitoba Provincial Council**

Past President

August 30, 2019



Communiqué #1

Care For Our Common Home

TO: Diocesan Presidents (for information and forwarding to Parish Councils)
Diocesan Past President
CC: Provincial Executive (for information)
CC: National Past President (for information)
FROM: Rolande Chernichan, Provincial Past President
ATT:

Greetings new and returning past presidents! The cooler weather and fields of golden crops are a reminder that autumn is around the corner and that once again, we resume our League activities where we left off before summer break. Some of you are new at this role. Welcome! I am new too! The quickest way to introduce myself is to direct you to a brief summary of my League service that can be found by clicking on my photo on our provincial website www.cwلمانitoba.ca. I can be reached by using the “contact us” feature of our provincial website.

Our role as past president is both consultative and advisory. We transition from a leadership role to a mentorship role, being mindful that we serve the president and the executive in a consultative capacity and to advise when called upon. Our role is to be supportive of the president and her vision for her term by being engaged and accommodating, by attending meetings as well as spiritual and social events (workshops, conventions, etc.), and by being affirming and encouraging. Past presidents may be called upon by the president to assist in preparing agendas or to chair meetings, to facilitate leadership training or workshops, to do research, to organize events, to assist with correspondence, or to promote or represent the council, etc. Our collaboration and dedication are essential and valuable.

Past presidents can expect to be called upon to guide a decision by drawing on your past experience. We can expect to provide direction to the council or its executive based on the League’s *Constitution & Bylaws (C&B)* or the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*. League resources that a past presidents should have on hand include:

- Constitution & Bylaws (2013)
- National Manual of Policy and Procedure (2019)
- Handbook for Past Presidents (2004)
- Executive Handbook (2014)
- Your council’s manual of policy and procedure

I recommend that you download these files to your computer in order to be able to do quick searches for information within the document using the “Find” feature (open the document, select ‘Control + F’, type in key word(s) and search for it by scrolling through the document by selecting ‘previous’ or ‘next’ options).

The ongoing monitoring and review of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* is the responsibility of past presidents at every level of the League. The manual directs that the past president is responsible to “Engage members in the revisions process by inviting them to forward to national office proposed revisions to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure* by December 1st of each year.” I encourage you to be part of the review process and to invite a couple of members to assist you. Please submit your proposed revisions using form #551 found under Resources: 500 Series: Forms <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/551-National-Manual-of-Policy-and-Procedure-Revisions-Form-2014.pdf> I would appreciate being copied with the proposed revisions that you submit **by the deadline date of December. 1st**

The past president is also responsible “for **reviewing biannually the council’s manual of policy and procedure** for any needed additions, deletions and corrections; all changes must be brought to the membership (for parish councils) or the executive (for diocesan and provincial councils) for approval before amending the manual.” Your council’s manual should show the date of its last review to ensure it is reviewed and updated at least every two years. A council’s policy and procedure manual must be consistent with the *Constitution & Bylaws* of the League. Councils are encouraged to consult the national website to ascertain if their policy manual encompasses the many suggestions outlined in document #812 found under Resources: 800 Series: Workshops <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/812-How-to-Prepare-a-Parish-Council-Manual-of-Policy-and-Procedure-2002.pdf> I am available to assist a council to develop its own policy and procedure manual or to answer any questions you may have.

Past presidents are also responsible to **promote the knowledge and use of the *Constitution & Bylaws***. This can be achieved through quick quizzes or other creative ways at parish council general meetings. Did you know that members may propose amendments to the C&B? As the League’s Strategic Plan is implemented, we can expect several revisions to the *Constitution & Bylaws*. Until proposed revisions to C&B have been adopted through the instructed vote process by various levels of the League, the C&B in its current wording, remains our guide for the administration of the League. Members are encouraged to submit revisions to the C&B using document #550 found under Resources: 500 Series: Forms <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/550-Constitution-Bylaws-Amendment-Form-2009.pdf> The deadline date for C&B revisions is August 31st.

Another task entrusted to the past president is to “**be responsible for the archives and history of the council**” and “**to preserve the council history through scrapbooks, photograph albums and minutes**”. Do you know where your council’s charter is and where your council’s archives are stored? Are your council archives current or have they been neglected? Has an archival index been developed for easy referencing so that you know what documents and materials are in storage? What items would be part of that archival index? Archiving is important and the assistance of one or more members is advisable. Past presidents are encouraged to consult the national website for guidelines for archiving, in particular document #601 under Resources: 600 Series: Manuals <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/601-Archives-Guidelines-for-League-History-2007.pdf> as well as document #611 The Handbook for Past Presidents <https://www.cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/611-Handbook-for-Past-Presidents-2004.pdf>

Past presidents are being called upon to assist in the implementation of the envisioned future of the League as its strategic plan is rolled out through to 2023. National past president, Margaret Ann Jacobs, stated in her oral report at this year's national convention in Calgary: "All decisions for the council should be made in consultation, with transparency and well documented." ... As the national executive/board continues to plan strategically, there will be many changes required for both the C&B and the P&P. The rules for submitting revisions are outlined in the P&P. I encourage you to make submissions you feel are conducive to greater clarity and easier conduct of business." Please use the links above to submit your proposed revisions to the *Constitution & Bylaws* as well as to the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*.

In closing, I offer you my help in any way I can. As we serve our councils, let us be guided by Margaret Ann's advice: "... members are called to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. Every action should reflect this mission statement!"

Blessings,

Rolande Chernichan, Past President