



The Catholic Women's League
Manitoba Provincial Council

71st Annual Convention
June 9, 2019

ORAL REPORT
Organization

Janet Brunger, Chairperson

My report can be found on page 37 of your Convention Book.

Last year, in my oral report, I talked about annual reports, and the importance of ensuring that your council participates in online annual reporting. I'm happy to report that more of you did just that, and I'd like to thank you for your efforts – they are noted and appreciated. BUT we still have a long way to go to get to nearly 100% participation, so please keep on trying! The League is trying to make the move into the future, for the benefit of long-term sustained growth; let's all try to do our part to make that happen. If you need help, someone on either Diocesan or Provincial will be happy to assist!

Secondly, I'd like to offer my heartfelt gratitude to every Council in Manitoba for your co-operation in completing the survey we sent out last fall. We received a lot of varied responses, and they were most helpful in directing us for future programs.

Although we did not offer a *Catch the Fire!* or *S'More's* Workshop in 2018, we did travel to St. Viator's in Dauphin in March of this year to offer a *Catch the Fire!* there, which was very enthusiastically received. And now that we've dusted off our work and polished our skills again under the very capable guidance of Jolene Capina, we'd love the opportunity to offer it again! This is such a valuable tool in the CWL, offering Leadership Training, a strong Spiritual Component, recruitment tools, and opportunity for reflection and sharing, not only for Presidents or Executive, but for ALL members – why not plan to offer one in your area for your ladies and for neighboring Councils? League Development funding is available to cover costs involved in hosting this workshop.

Through the online feature of the national website where someone can request to join the League, I was forwarded an email a couple of months ago that a certain individual was looking to join the CWL. It didn't take a minute to google her address and put her in touch with the nearest Council to her home. I have since received confirmation that this Council has responded accordingly and have recruited this woman into their "home".

In the CWL, we have a very dedicated membership, always there when something needs to be done. Try making an effort to reward that dedication, by giving out a Certificate of Merit for outstanding service to the League, or Years of Service Pins or the Maple Leaf Pin, or even the Bellelle Guerin Award, and couple this with a fun activity – your ladies deserve to be recognized for their outstanding efforts for the League!

In closing, I just want to say, you women are awesome, you're special, and we should all be proud of who the CWL is and what we do!



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!