

were adopted by the delegates. Leadership courses and training programs are well underway.

I want you to know that I have the second best position in the world (Agnes Bedard has the best one, she says) as president of Ontario Provincial Council and I highly recommend the job.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Mary Hagen

The highlight for Prince Edward Island Provincial Council was having National President Agnes Bedard at our 2005 provincial convention.

Another highlight was the 2005 fall conference, which proved to be an excellent venue for giving updated information. Parish priests were invited from the community in which the conference was held to address the theme *companions on the journey*.

In keeping the lines of communication ever-open, Communications Chairperson Ginny Grant and Corresponding Secretary Louise Larkin called each of the 44 councils and requested that a contact person be named in their council who would make sure that the provincial council's biannual newsletter would be copied and received by **every** member. Reports tell us that this was especially appreciated.

In April 2006 meetings were held across the province in the four deaneries. The council presidents in the area plus another executive member were invited. Provincial council members chaired the meetings and positive comments were received.

The annual provincial convention was held in May, with 200 members in attendance. Resolutions adopted were on drug facilitated sexual assault and educating the public on the dangers of smoking while driving with children present. Both of these were submitted by St. Paul Parish Council in Summerside. The council also agreed to submit to the provincial government a petition recommending that newly-licensed drivers be accompanied in the front seat by drivers with at least four years of experience during their first year. This resolution was presented by St. Pius X Parish Council in Charlottetown. The executive met with the premier and several cabinet ministers regarding these issues on July 21st. Concern was expressed for PEI's youth in these matters. The executive is now watching for follow-up.

The provincial council was privileged to welcome three new life members at the convention, Agnes Arsenault, Velma

Blacquiere and Bertha Lawless. This brings the total of life members to 13. We look forward to the sharing of their wisdom and support.

The provincial executive's goal for 2006-2008 is to build on present initiatives – i.e. continue having fall conferences and use them **effectively**. Our plan for the coming conference is to promote the Liturgy of the Hours. A member of the chaplaincy team at our local hospital will address the members on palliative care. A WUCWO display will be a prominent part of our conferences and Provincial President-elect Marian Marshall will give an overview of our wonderful experience at the General Assembly.

One goal has already been achieved. Five life members have agreed to be a resource for the five new provincial executive members. A second goal is to deepen our spirituality by following the program *Spirituality: A Day of Discovery*.

It is my desire to meet as many as possible of the grassroots members. I will offer the support of the provincial council to those councils whose membership numbers are declining, especially as clustering of parishes takes place.

Membership recruitment can come in the most unexpected ways. We must remember that it is in the every day-ness of life that we touch people and we must accept a new member where she is at when she joins the League.

I look forward with excitement and hope as I serve as provincial president and on the national executive as well. I hold these positions in awe, but hope there will be some fun along the way.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Pearl Bridgwater

While Quebec parish councils have managed to attract a number of young people to their ranks, members still struggle with declining membership because of aging members and a certain number of non-renewals. Another major issue is the difficulty of getting members to assume leadership roles. Provincial executive members have been asking themselves, could the problem of non-renewal and fear of leadership be linked? Are members staying away because of boring or badly planned meetings? Have we equipped members and prepared them to assume leadership roles? On the next annual workshop day, which is scheduled for October 28th, an attempt will be made to address these questions with specific workshops.