

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.

The provincial executive has designated two morning workshops as follows. Diocesan presidents will attend Executive Workshop 101 while the organization chairpersons will attend a workshop on annual reporting. As a follow-up, participants will be commissioned to offer the first workshop to their own parish councils before elections take place and the second before the annual reporting period. The WOW (Workshop on Wheels) team and life members would be available to assist those who need them. The afternoon workshops, *Spirituality: A Day of Discovery* and *The Benefits of Reflexology*, will be offered for all and will be geared to the well-being of members spiritually and physically. Workshop day will begin and end with a liturgical service led by the spiritual development chairperson, as is the custom.

Next year, 2007, will be a remarkable year for members in Quebec. Not only will we host the next national convention, but we will also celebrate our 60th year as a provincial council. As always, we will rise up to any challenges these two events may bring. Needless to say, we have been busy preparing for the 2007 annual national convention. One of the special events planned is a trip to Quebec City, the venue of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress, and we hope that you will come and see us. We will pray together, work together and play together. Believe me – you'll be glad you came!

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT



Joan Petracek

Saskatchewan Provincial Council has established a social justice award beginning this September. The award is intended for young women who engage in social justice activity, either at home or

abroad. Young women between the ages of 18 and 35 years will be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 in one year, upon application. Monies have been assigned for the next 10 years and it will be reviewed at that time.

The provincial executive has completed revision, as of June 2006, of the provincial manual of policy and procedure, which was last updated in 1993. The new manual is much more stream-lined and user-friendly. Following the model of the national manual, it contains one topic per page, making any future changes easily done.

On May 4th, three provincial executive members and Velma Harasen, National Chairperson of Education and Health, had meetings with two government ministers. The meeting with the agriculture minister centred around Resolution 2005.03 Farmers' Rights to Save Seed, as well as

finishing plants, ethanol production and social justice issues related to the general state of agriculture in Saskatchewan. In our meeting with the minister of Northern Affairs/Status of Women, we brought forward the issues of child poverty, crystal methamphetamine and support for women in prison.

A tentative meeting is scheduled with the health minister in September which will be timely given the acceptance at provincial convention of the resolution Saskatchewan Provincial Health Care Funding of Treatment for all Forms of Age-related Macular Degeneration.

An emergency resolution, Terminator/Genetic Use Restriction Technology, was adopted at convention and gifted to national.

My attendance at the WUCWO General Assembly was an awakening to the many beautiful women in many countries, particularly in Africa. Two members of the provincial executive attended with me. Two of our goals now are the twinning with members in Zambia and connecting with a farming project for women in Ghana. We look forward to interacting with those Catholic League members, as well as doing presentations within our own parishes and dioceses. We hope to spread the enthusiasm and spirituality that we gained by attending the WUCWO General Assembly.

2007 ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION MONTREAL, QUEBEC FUNDRAISER CLOTH BRIEFCASE

Blue trimmed in black with the CWL crest embroidered on the front. The bag has a front zippered pocket for carrying pens, cellphones, etc. Adjustable shoulder strap plus handles.

The price of the bag is \$25.00
plus \$5.00 for postage

Send orders with payment to:
Diane Lemay
2854 rue Dionne
Longueuil, QC J4L 3V3

Make cheques payable to: 2007 National Convention



For more information,
e-mail: diane.lemay2@sympatico.ca
telephone: (450) 651-4295