look forward to sitting with them in future years: Mary Matthews, who was resolutions chairpersons when the League first started presenting the annual resolutions to the federal government; Dorothy Brocklehurst, who can still out-sing anyone; Jean Mahoney, who has taught me that a retired person can share her talents and abilities with other organizations; Irene Lefort, who organized the first WUCWO General Assembly in Canada; Ardis Beaudry, who convinced me to be chairperson of a very enlightening theme day in Victoria, British Columbia, when I was a scared diocesan president; Lucille Cullen, whose archival skills are still being used on the national archives committee; Heather Kolla, who initiated many organizational manuals and workshops which are still being used; Claire Heron, who has an ability to speak so eloquently on issues which face Christians today; Joan Chesser, who made us think and envision the future of the League; and, Vivian Bosch, who wrote all those interesting booklets of prayers and workshops which are still being used.

Three honorary life members no longer with us, but whom I knew and also were mentors to me, were Betty Aitken, Ruth Cooney and Sheilah Pellerin.

All of you are my sisters in the League. I challenge each one of you to be mentors to new members, to support members who are already on parish, diocesan, provincial or national executives, and to encourage Catholic women in your own parish to join this wonderful organization we call the League.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you on the national executive.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Agnes Bedard

As international relations chairperson, the president is responsible for activity that is international in scope. That means she is responsible for CCODP, MaterCare, the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the National Council of Catholic Women (our American counterpart), and WUCWO. Although some of these organizations fall under other standing committees (e.g., CCODP), the president oversees them all.

To assist the national president, it was decided that an international relations committee should be established and on that committee would be those people whose portfolios are international in scope. The committee consists of the national chairperson of community life, the national chairperson of resolutions, the national chairperson of legislation or her designate, the Canadian board member of WUCWO and the appointed participants of the annual Foreign Affairs Canada Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Human Rights Consultations, as well as the executive director as an ex officio member. Life members Anida Simurda and Diane Curley have looked after our presence at the annual consultations, and they prepared the United Nations resolutions display table.

I felt that this committee would enable the national executive to better discuss and look after international issues. For a long time, human rights have been handled all over the world through a commission. A commission doesn't hold as much weight as a council. This year, the United Nations established the Human Rights Council – it has been changed to have more clout. The League participates at the Human Rights Consultations with NGO status and we will continue doing that.

For many years, Honorary Life Member Claire Heron has been the League's voice at WUCWO. When I was at the General Assembly in Arlington, Virginia, it was wonderful because so many Canadian women were there. How important it is for us to be there. For many years, Claire was our representative to WUCWO and we supported her as much as we could. We appreciate the work she has done in her position as North American vice-president and Canadian board member. Claire has been a mentor to me and to everyone else who dares to ask her questions. Thank you from all the women of Canada for being our proud presence at WUCWO.

ALBERTA MACKENZIE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

Ella Ell

Once again, it is my privilege to bring a report of the activities of your League sisters in Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council. Our mid-winter meeting was held in February. David Bouchard, a fieldworker for the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC), gave an excellent presentation on the trafficking of women and children. The CRC is hoping to present "Lost in Traffic," a play about trafficking, in communities across Canada.

Several of our executive members attended conferences, some reporting directly to the national executive. These conferences included the Catholic Conference 2006, Catholic