

mid year financial statements, not to mention monitoring investments, dealing with brokers, and overseeing the day to day operations of the national office. I personally like to give credit where credit is due and, from working closely with the executive director, I deeply appreciate the fact that we have Kim Scammell and the staff at national office. Officers are elected for a time only and, as good stewards, they have worked together as a team for the betterment of the League, while employees are steady at the helm keeping things afloat at all times, regardless.

I will now give an explanation of the 2007 financial statements. Current assets totalled \$707,775 and are comprised of cash, accounts receivable, inventory, prepaid expenses, and the current portion of investments. Capital assets totalled \$110,831 and investments totalled \$1,635,893. Investments are carried at market value for 2007 and subsequent years to comply with the Financial Standards section 3855 of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants handbook.

As at December 31, 2007, current liabilities totalled \$116,270 and are comprised of accounts payable and accruals, deferred revenue and national voluntary funds. Net assets totalled \$2,338,229 and are comprised of an internally restricted bursary fund, investments in capital assets and unrestricted net assets, representing the accumulated surpluses from every year since the League was organized.

The League has committed to office and equipment leases which expire in 2011 and 2015.

Revenue of \$863,673 is comprised of per capita fees (98,418 membership fees for 2007 and 98,934 for 2006 a drop of 516 from the previous year), gross margin on sales, convention registration fees (654 members and guests registered in Montreal), magazine subscriptions (857 subscriptions were sold for \$8.00 each to non-members), life memberships (10 members were approved in 2007), bursary donations (nine donations were received from parish councils and one individual) and miscellaneous (mostly comprised of the overpayments from councils of less than \$15.00 which are not refunded).

Expenditures of \$904,304 are comprised of annual convention costs, international relations, League development, magazine costs, national executive expenses, office building expenses, office equipment costs, operating costs and staffing. The excess of expenditures over revenue from operations was \$40,631.

The net investment income is \$26,330. The investment portfolio earned \$103,035, which was reinvested. However, the market value of investments dropped offsetting some earnings. The net income of \$26,300 was less than anticipated and remarkably less than last year because of the requirement to switch from cost accounting to market value accounting last year. There was also a slight increase in investment counsel fees as an additional asset manager was hired to manage a portion of the portfolio.

The net deficiency of revenue for 2007 was \$14,301. Even

though this is a deficit, it is less than anticipated. The national executive continues to be a good steward and strives to find ways and means to increase revenues without decreasing programs or increasing fees.

I will now review the Six Month Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at June 30, 2008. Revenue of \$689,432 is comprised of bursary donations, gross margin on sales (including a \$17,000 write off of the 2003 version of the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*), life memberships (14 recipients), magazine subscriptions (704 subscriptions for non-members) and per capita fees (81,679 memberships processed by June 30th; productivity in membership has decreased because of the number of errors in the remittances). The decline in revenue is due almost exclusively to the extra care being taken when processing the memberships.

Expenditures totalled \$507,842 and are comprised of international relations expenses, League development, magazine costs (two of the three issues have been produced; an additional \$2,110 has been spent in return postage for undeliverable magazines), national executive expenses, office building costs, office equipment expenses, operating costs, and staff.

This gives net revenue over expenditures from operations of \$181,590, down from this time last year, but this trend will be offset as the rest of the per capita fees are processed. Investment income is \$44,756. Add the two together and the bottom line becomes \$226,346.

As stated in my annual report, members continue to show great kindness by helping others through their service, generosity and financial support. This is reflected in the magnificent donations and acts of charity to the special groups and organizations that are supported by members in the global community. Members are to be commended for their generosity. For national voluntary funds, please send your donation to national office. Members' contributions to each fund will be reported by the national standing committee chairpersons in their oral report. Thank you and God bless! †

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Scammell
Winnipeg, Manitoba

It is a pleasure to report on behalf of national office to the delegates in attendance at the 88th annual national convention. My report will focus on events at national office in 2008, and on the staff, as it is a once-in-a-decade event when the entire staff of national office can be present and introduced to you.

The membership department is headed by Diane Havens, who has the part-time assistance of university-student Erica Johnson. Diane has been heavily involved in implementing a new database this past winter. Of course, changing to new software has its challenges. We found we had to slow down! This is partly because it took a while to get used to the new system, but more so, because we are trying our level best to make sure that the national membership roll matches the membership lists held at the parish level. I'm sure you would agree this is as it should be. So, if members' addresses are missing, we are requesting them. If postal codes are incorrect, we are looking them up in the postal code directory. If a cheque for 30 members comes in and we can't be certain which 30 members have paid, we will call the membership chairperson to sort it out. It takes time, and in my personal opinion, it's time well spent, so that every member is accounted for at both parish and national levels, and every member receives the benefits to which she is entitled. Diane would like to share that she may call your membership chairpersons and hopes that you're okay with that! She's simply trying to make sure she has interpreted the information she received correctly.

The accounting department is headed by Valroy Anderson, who has the part-time assistance of Larry Peters. Valroy performs full-cycle accounting for the League. In other words, he is responsible for orders and deposits all the way to financial statement preparation. Some of you may have spoken with him when placing an order, or when following up on an unpaid invoice. Valroy would like to share how important it is for those of you who receive national office supplies to pass the invoices along to your treasurer for payment. It seems that this is where the ordering process breaks down. In the event of an unpaid invoice, Valroy calls or sends out statements to the council treasurer who, often times, is unaware that supplies were ordered. Every member who receives supplies receives two copies of the invoice – one is inside the package and the other is inside the plastic sleeve attached to the package. Please do keep one copy for yourself and pass the other to your treasurer for payment. This keeps everyone in the loop.

The office assistant, Janice Jones, is here as well. Janice is that first cheery voice you hear when you call the office. She opens the central e-mail account, maintains the council records, assembles the bursary applications, sends out invitations for convention, and maintains the convention credentials register up until convention. When calling or e-mailing the office, please know that her position is no different than that of any other front line person. For example, you wouldn't ask your lawyer's receptionist for legal advice; you would ask to speak to your lawyer. In most cases, Janice will redirect your inquiry according to the policy she has set for her, and that is her job.

Diane Kelln has been filling in for Linda Peters for the past year. Diane is responsible for making sure that national executive members have what they need. She takes and transcribes minutes, coordinates meetings and agenda

packages, mails information and proofreads all material. She has done a great job in Linda's absence. I am pleased to announce that Linda will be returning after the Labour Day weekend and Diane has agreed to remain on a part-time basis to assist when we are on vacations or when there is simply too much to do.

This is the whole office – there are five full-timers and three part-timers – one of us for every 15,000 members. Given our small size, I am very proud of what Diane H., Erica, Valroy, Larry, Linda, Janice and Diane K. accomplish every year, and I hope that you are too! †

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Cecile Miller
N-E Margaree, Nova Scotia

“Love one another as I have loved you.” This is just a reminder that the theme *Love One Another* continues until the end of the year. It is a beautiful theme which needs to be

recalled throughout all work within the League and outside as well.

At the Last Supper on the night before He died, Jesus gave the gift of the Eucharist and said, “Do this in memory of me.” Today, some 2,000 years later, how are we responding to this great gift?

In March, I attended a workshop on the Eucharist presented by Fr. Robert Barron. He told the story of visiting his sister, who at that time shared with him that many of her friends had left the Catholic church. When Fr. Barron asked, “What about the Eucharist?” his sister replied, “If you asked them about the Eucharist, they would not know what you were talking about.” Can you think of members in your councils at home who would not know what you were talking about if you mentioned the Eucharist? What can be done in parish councils to evangelize members and their families? How can others be helped to appreciate the Eucharist in their lives? How can members help them see the Eucharist as God's gift for the life of the world? One way is to invite members to share their experiences of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress. There is much to share – highlights from the catecheses, powerful stories by the witnesses and information from the workshops. Attendees were reminded that, “the more we participate in the Eucharist, the more Christ-like we become.” We become what we eat. We need to spread the message!

Congress attendees can share what it was like to be among 15,000 to 20,000 Catholics from 70 countries around the world praying Morning Prayer; celebrating the Eucharist daily; praying the Our Father in Latin with responses in