

guided me with many a decision. Diane Lemay became a life member this past April, so now there are 19 of them.

So what has been done since January? The provincial executive had an informative mid-term meeting. I introduced the round table discussion, something used by the national executive. This gave time to discuss certain topics that may not have made it onto the agenda and also allowed the time to start talking calmly and slowly about decisions that might have to be made in the future. Everyone was invited to add topics to be discussed. This has been a positive experience.

A summary of responsibilities was given to every executive, chairperson and diocesan president. This identified what was expected of them during their two year term. Knowledge makes life easy!

The provincial convention was again a platform for discussion. A policy and procedure workshop was given so that parish councils would realize the importance of having one in place. The convention enabled members to discuss five hot topics, but many other concerns were raised. It all gets back to the basics – how to care for members in good times and bad. And, of course, many of these decisions stem from that five letter word, “money”. Members are known for being the most generous individuals to outside organizations but that spirit of giving should also be extended to members. It is time to invest emotionally and financially in members. Members are the League; content members are its future!

The provincial executive created a motion book. The secretary posted the three previous years’ motions and the book is updated after every meeting. It is important to analyze motions before decisions are made and prepare them correctly the first time.

I have had the pleasure of visiting parish councils as this is where the action is. These members never stop! There are 27 councils throughout Quebec, and although parish councils are the same, they are also different. Every council sometimes feels that its problems are unique but I can tell you that there are many councils experiencing the same set-backs. They feel that they are not doing enough, if you can believe this! Members are too hard on themselves; no other organization can come close to achieving the accomplishments that the League does. I say, if anyone can secure a future, it is the League.

Quebec Provincial Council’s goals for the near future are simple. Learning to use the gifts that members have been given, accepting that change is a natural outcome of life and, most importantly, knowing that the future is in members’ own hands. It has and will always begin with us! †

SASKATCHEWAN



Yvonne Colleaux
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

As members in Saskatchewan look back on the last two years living the theme *Love One Another*, they feel the need to continue living this theme that should permeate their entire lives.

The provincial executive meeting and workshop was held in October in Prince Albert. Honorary Life Member Claire Heron gave a presentation on the World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations (WUCWO). She informed participants that WUCWO gained consultative status at the United Nations a number of years ago. The annual World Day of Prayer was an opportunity for members to relate to women from different countries as they take turns preparing the ecumenical service.

The workshop facilitator, National Chairperson of Community Life Dr. Rayleen De Luca, conducted a PowerPoint presentation on various aspects of the community life standing committee with special emphasis on environmental issues.

The provincial convention was held in North Battleford. It marked the 60th anniversary of the council. Participants were delighted to have National President Lorette Noble address the convention and share this anniversary.

At the February provincial executive meeting, several suggestions were brought forth regarding ways of celebrating this anniversary in a significant way. In the end, the provincial executive considered the fact that water is essential to life – so the decision was made to purchase a well in a developing country where there is a severe lack of fresh drinking water. It was purchased through Chalice, a Catholic sponsorship program, formerly known as Christian Child Care International. A bookmark was given to convention participants as a souvenir of this gift.

Past President Joan Petracek graciously contributed by adding the last 10 years to the provincial history book. In addition, a 50 per cent share of the mass collection (\$618.00) was sent to the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace to assist with aid in Burma as a result of the cyclone. This contribution was matched by the Canadian International Development Agency. At the convention, one of two resolutions presented was adopted.

Speaking of resolutions, St. Anne Parish Council, in Regina, saw its resolution on hospice palliative care carried at last year’s annual national convention as Resolution 2007.03.

I was privileged to attend the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City. What particularly touched me were the testimonials, the presentations by Bishop Tagle and Cardinal Tumi and the mass according to the Byzantine Rite. Every day there were blessings from heaven in the form of rain – ranging from light rain to torrential downpours!! I leave you be the judge of its effects! †

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please note: Views expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of the League.

TO MY FELLOW CWL MEMBERS,

As someone who lives near and drives everyday on The Highway of Heroes, Hwy 401 in Ontario, I'm emotionally moved every time another soldier is brought home in a hearse. It's my desire that the Canadian troops be brought home now while they're still alive and I'm asking all who support this opinion to write your member of parliament (MP) to ask the federal government to bring them home alive now.

In the past, Canadians have been peacekeepers and have gone to other countries to peacefully aid the less fortunate, something I'm very pleased with. This time is different because Canadian soldiers are in direct, aggressive combat. As a Christian, citizen and taxpayer of Canada, I'm not happy in faith and conscience allowing my vote or my money to support this combative endeavour, nor do I ask my fellow human beings to perform such an aggressive act on behalf of the country I live in.

I believe in the Canadian military for humanitarian reasons *only*; for saving and nourishing lives only and I believe they can achieve the same high standards of helping people and doing good things in the world as they have in the past, in ways other than this combat.

Please help bring Canadian troops home alive by writing to your MP today. I also encourage all of you to pray to Our Saviour that His will be done in all our lives.

Rhonda Roberts
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council
Newcastle, Ontario

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BURSARY RECIPIENTS!



In 1988, the League received two generous donations with no stipulation as to their use. In response to the call for lay formation in the Holy Father's apostolic exhortation *Christifideles Laici*, and in light of the expressed desire of the League to foster members' service "For God and Canada", the national executive agreed by motion that these donations be used to establish the National Bursary Fund. Subsequently, in 1990, the national bursary was established as an endowment fund with the principal amount invested and the interest earned annually to be distributed as bursary awards. The fund is used to provide financial assistance to League members meeting the established criteria, and who wish to pursue studies in adult faith formation and/or youth ministry.

The League is grateful for the many donations received specifically for this fund. Through careful administration, the League has been able to increase the number of awards annually. Bursary applications are available on request from national office or can be downloaded from www.cwl.ca and must be sent to national office with a postmark of no later than May 31st.

Marge Copeland, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Kendal Lane Freeman, Madoc, Ontario
Lorna Halderman, Deux-Montagnes, Quebec
Patrice Harelkin, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Lucille Harrick, Regina, Saskatchewan
Linda Harris, Deux-Montagnes, Quebec
Claire Hatcher, Neils Harbour, Nova Scotia
Diane Havens, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Deb Hoyer, Vienna, Ontario
Theresa Istace, Kennedy, Saskatchewan
Mary Ann Jardine, Regina, Saskatchewan
Bernardine Ketelaars, London, Ontario
Betty Knourek, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan
Lynda Kral, Biggar, Saskatchewan
Marie-Theresa Lamphier, Stoney Point, Ontario
Lynn Lavictoire, Cumberland, Ontario
Barbara Malcolm, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia
Anna Maria Mattia, Edmonton, Alberta
Norah McKoy Mulrooney, Chateaugay, Quebec
Deanna Pellatt, Yorkton, Saskatchewan
Ellen Peterkin, Deux-Montagnes, Quebec
Joan Petracek, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan
Joan Pratchler, Regina, Saskatchewan
Ingrid Prost, Yorkton, Saskatchewan
Miriam Semeniuk, Kamloops, British Columbia
Shera Weiler, Toronto, Ontario †