

COMMUNICATIONS



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We have received many letters from recipients expressing their gratitude for the bursaries received. One recipient wrote, "Once again, I set out on my academic year in the comfort of knowing that due to your generous support, I will be able to take the courses needed to earn the credits this year that I will need to complete my Master of Theological Studies. Your backing and support have made it possible for me to accomplish this endeavour." From the Queen's House Retreat & Renewal Centre, we received the following thank you, "We just wanted to acknowledge the CWL for the bursary money given to our Saskatoon Lay Formation participants for the 2010-2011 Lay Formation Program. They are returning for their second year in the program. They have experienced new learning, a deepening of their Catholic faith, creating and renewing friendships, and a profound sense of prayer. Their faces portray their journey..."

Thank you to the councils who wrote to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to commend him and the federal government for their involvement in the G8 Muskoka Initiative, June 2010. We must be diligent in tracking the results of this initiative over the next five years.

Members were once again generous contributing donations to the national voluntary funds under this standing committee. From July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 \$30,686 was donated to the Coady International Institute and \$35,244 to MaterCare International. Members and councils are to be commended for their generosity.

The three women studying at the Coady International Institute (the Coady) who received bursaries this past year were very grateful to the League for the financial help they received. These are only three of the more than 5,000 leaders who have studied at the Coady in the past 50 years. Millions of people have benefited from the work carried out by graduates of the Coady in thousands of communities in 130 countries around the world.

Velma and I witnessed the benefits of the Coady programs in two countries, India and Nepal. We all can be very proud of our long association with the Coady.

One exciting new initiative being planned by the Coady is the establishment of an International Women's Leadership Trust. The trust for women will "challenge and foster innovation, create best practices in global development, build a network of next generation women leaders and provide a powerful force for positive impact on the world". Let us not only continue our support of the Coady but also tell others what great work is being accomplished to build a better world, one community at a time.

A resolution entitled Financial Assistance for Diabetes Supplies was received from the Ontario Provincial Council. At its request, the resolution will be forwarded to the new national chairperson of education and health for education/action.

Thank you to all members who have been dedicated to the work of this standing committee. †

Passion: It's ours to share. In my communications report I'd like us to reflect on passion. One time, my first husband was exasperated with one of our daughters who worked for him. He exclaimed, "Melissa, where is your passion? You've got to have passion to make life worthwhile!" As a small business owner, he had learned that passion for one's field of expertise made all the difference.

Think of Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner and Vivaldi; their music was their passion and they could not stop themselves from writing, performing and sharing it. Their gifts live on today and fill our rooms and ears with wonder.

Think of the great artists: Monet, Picasso, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Tom Thomson. They couldn't help but capture what their eyes saw, their hearts felt and what their hands interpreted in paint on canvas. They painted and painted whether or not anyone ever bought one of their masterpieces. And today? These pieces are beyond price!

Think of the passion that stirred in the hearts of a single person like Bellelre Guerin, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., St. Joan of Arc, St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Teresa of Avila, Jesus Christ Himself. Steadily, in their own special way in their own time in history, they forged ahead with their vision. Passion fueled their dreams into becoming a reality. These people would never regret for a moment all they had put into seeing the realization of their dream.

As communications chairpersons, our mandate is to catch the fire, the passions and dreams of our members and to carry them out into the public forum, to invite others to "Come and see", to enlist others to support our cause and to promote the benefits of League programs. We are channels of passion and we do all we can to be worthy of this privilege.

Members have embraced our e-newsletter over this past year. They freely submit their good news stories and photos and their dreams are there to be shared.

We solicited ideas from members for a name for this new "baby", our e-newsletter. It is my joy to announce that from this day forward it will be known as *Be League!*

Annual reports continue to record the vigilance of members to fight pornography and its sorry impact on our society.

A ballerina becomes great, not because of technique, but because of her passion. The Holy Spirit fills you with His gifts, His passion. Our challenge as communications chairpersons is to go out and share it! History will speak of our results! †