

mass, nurtured by the Word and the Eucharist from which we get our strength. The love of God and each other warms us up and sends us out into the world.

This “reaching out” is the task of the communications standing committee. By using newsletters, church bulletins, local newspapers and vibrant posters in public places, we “reach out” and tell the good news! We touch the hearts of our communities with the excitement of our faith and our plans for the future, and invite others to join us. The media wants our connection; we are sought out and we cooperate effectively and efficiently with media personnel.

We are the League’s goodwill ambassadors. We whisper, “Come along with us,” as we reach out in service to our brothers and sisters. When other people see and hear our joy, they scratch their heads and say, “What makes them so different?” In today’s world, this is our call to evangelization... to invite back to the hive of our faith, to share our spiritual encounter stories, and to give value to the other person’s experience.

The CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope** gave us an opportunity to reach out and touch the wider community in an effort to pray for and work toward **peace** and welcome. The League is promoted in our communities when it is seen as a positive presence for change and **hope** for those who are struggling in our midst. The stories we will hear at this convention should set us on fire with creative ideas for next year’s CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope** on April 26th!

Evaluation and promotion of good content are integral to making this world a better place. Have you heard that members in Hamilton diocese have embraced this action in a powerful Pornography Hurts campaign? They place Pornography Hurts slogans in buses for the month of October. This project has been going on for 10 years. I was at the Hamilton Diocesan Council annual convention this year and I was astounded to see members so excitedly presenting cheques for this project. The cheques amounted to over \$27,000! Not only will posters be in buses but also on roadside and flashing billboards all over the diocese. That’s just one instance of the creativity of members.

We have heeded the recommendations of Manifest Communications. In this last year, advertisements were placed in 11 Catholic newspapers across the country twice, before Christmas to announce the new theme and before the CWL Day of **Peace** and **Hope**. Manifest recommended that a common project for all members be developed; the executive met together for three days of sessions to decide upon that day of action so all members could participate.

Another recommendation of Manifest was that the national executive updates its way of communicating with members and the larger community. We’re thrilled about our new e-newsletter which will come out on the 15th of each month, except in the summer. This is a member-driven communication tool where parish councils can celebrate their successes. You may subscribe to it by sending a request to development@cw.ca or visit the Web site on the 15th of the month; there are now four issues posted. As it is still a work in progress, I will be developing a

protocol to show what submissions would be suitable for the e-newsletter as compared to the magazine.

The Canadian League magazine has blossomed under the *Women of Peace and Hope* theme. As soon as it is received, members report reading it from cover to cover. There are three issues per year and the average cost is \$1.02 per issue per member. This magazine serves many purposes as we must consider the width, breadth and depth of our membership, especially those members without access to computers. The magazine brings the voice of our national president and spiritual advisor, reports of our annual convention, and education on the topics that arise out of our resolutions to all of us. It gives every single member the plan of action on how to act on resolutions. Many members would like more issues of the magazine, but it is a very time-consuming matter to produce even the three that we have. It is felt by many that to discontinue it or produce only two issues per year is not enough connection between national and our members.

I’d like to thank Guest Journalist Joan Bona for being with us through this convention. Joan is the Nova Scotia Provincial Chairperson of Communications and she, together with convention Public Relations and Publicity Chairperson Patricia Furey, have been very diligent at lending their expertise. Daily news releases have been sent that have been reported on the radio.

To conclude, The Beatles sang (*Money*) *Can’t Buy Me Love* and we have found from personal experience that love grows magically between people when **peace** and **hope** animate the touch, when service is gently offered. As women rooted in gospel values we cannot help but want to spread the good news, “to make this world a better place, if we can...” and I think we can, through the communications standing committee. †

RESOLUTIONS



Barbara Dowding
Port Moody, British Columbia

“They have no more wine!” How well we know this story. Can you picture Mary at the wedding feast and imagine the scene, Mary, not only the Mother, but also Mary the advocate? Think of her for a minute: a tender woman, full of motherly care and courage, a woman who recognizes the needs of others and, wanting to help, places those needs before the Lord.

We are blessed to be part of an organization that listens to its grassroots members, works with parish and diocesan councils to make their voices heard, and is respected across the country for its Christian values. As Catholic women, we are very well

equipped to make this difference and have everything we need to change the world. We are **peacemakers**, healers, advocates; we offer comfort, friendship, support and love.

While there will be a full report on the meetings in Ottawa in the fall issue of *The Canadian League*, I want to give you a sense of that amazing experience. National Past President Lorette Noble, National President-elect Velma Harasen, National Chairperson of Legislation Judy Lewis and I were honoured to bring the 2008 resolutions to the federal government from March 30th to April 1st. We were really pleased with the response and feedback we encountered. Everywhere we went, our delegation was warmly welcomed and very well received. For those of you who have experienced government meetings at the provincial or territorial level, you know how important these delegations are. You have experienced the satisfaction of knowing the service you provide is relevant, important and valued. We met with senators, ministers and senior policy advisors. We were comfortably nervous but well prepared. It was an outstanding experience to represent over 96,000 members in dialogue and conversation about the concerns and issues springing up from the grassroots level.

If you have doubts about the resolutions process, I can tell you it works and it works well. Our meetings with elected representatives are a powerful witness to the value and importance of our process. When we request action through a resolution, we know the information is accurate, succinct and definite. We are confident to represent you because of the process and the assurance that what we are asking for is backed by our membership.

Resolutions that ask for something specific and achievable have a better chance for success. Dialogue with elected officials has its own difficulties and challenges as we try to stay non-partisan but focus on the business at hand. Having clarity, precision and correct form ensures understanding across all party lines.

There is no greater honour than to represent you, with your approval and support, at those tables with resolutions that define us, exemplify our concerns and demand action. It is clear that the League and its members care deeply about the poor and the vulnerable at home and abroad. We've even been called the "conscience" of politicians!

Resolutions give us credibility in the secular world and enhance our image as *Women of Peace and Hope* from parish level to the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, and all levels in between.

Working on a resolution, whether in the writing or taking action, should involve *faith, fun and fulfillment*. As women of faith, our focus is clear. Working together on a resolutions project is fun. And the accomplishment and achievement that results is fulfillment.

This coming year I **hope** to focus on the "Welcome, friend" part of our theme, especially through actions and advocacy in the area of human trafficking and helping women to get out of prostitution. What better way to begin than by seeing these

strangers or victims as people who need someone to befriend them or just be present to them. In addition, my goal is to keep the lines of communication open so information can flow both ways, from provincial to parish and vice versa. We can learn from one another. In cooperation with provincial chairpersons, I **hope** to enhance and clarify procedures, especially around the technical side of preparing resolutions.

And speaking of our theme: How many of you have made a personal resolution as outlined in the *CWL Day of Peace & Hope Activities Kit*? Have you seen the resolutions cards contained in the kit? This kit was designed for April 26th, but you can use it all year long. Fr. Mark Miller's talk on palliative care would be a great place to start on a personal resolution.

"They have no more wine!" Remembering who we are in God's eyes and His plan will enable us to reach out, affect change and be that advocate for others. Feminine leadership comes in the form of confidence, not necessarily self-confidence, but rather the confidence that comes from trusting in God. We cross all barriers when we extend a hand of comfort, welcome, friendship, understanding and compassion.

Resolutions: Shining our light as *Women of Peace and Hope*; how good is that? †

LEGISLATION



Judy Lewis
Summerside,
Prince Edward Island

I am delighted to be here with each of you today. For each of you present, and for those who were unable to attend, I wish to thank you for doing a great job. I received your annual reports and have great admiration for the work each of you has accomplished. Please note, any information you sent to me not included in my annual report has been reported under other standing committees.

Today, I will have completed my first year as national chairperson of legislation. I chose to submit my name for this standing committee because I felt I needed to learn about the process of legislation and how I could actively participate in this committee. Was I scared? Most definitely! Do I wish I had not been appointed to this committee? No way! I encourage each member to experience a term as a legislation standing committee chairperson.

What have I learned? Always ask for help from members who have experience in this sub-committee; sub-committee chairpersons are a valuable resource. I deeply appreciate the work and dedication of my sub-committee chairpersons –