

SPIRITUAL ADVISOR



Most Rev. Martin Currie
Archbishop of St. John's and
Bishop of Grand Falls

Spiritual advisors from all across Canada had a good luncheon meeting. We had a lovely meal and discussed the

League, an organization of Catholic women, not run by priests but by the women themselves. The spiritual advisors were unanimous that they found the members very supportive of priests and the parish. Their involvement has been at all levels of parish life, from liturgy, to washing, to ideas, to whatever... you name it. There is no level of parish life where you cannot find the League.

As we continued our discussion, we focussed on the importance of the spiritual advisor. Sometimes, it is difficult to get priests to be spiritual advisors, for a couple of reasons. First of all, they are not quite sure what the League is. Secondly, some come from different cultures and are not quite sure what their role is; do they tell the members what to do or do they listen and support members? We are suggesting there should be some type of formation for those who are going to be spiritual advisors. Some have suggested members make presentations to deaneries on the importance of the spiritual advisor and his role, so perhaps there should be some sort of schooling or exposure.

It was also mentioned that many spiritual advisors have had limited exposure to the League and only at the parish level. Sometimes that can be very frustrating; meetings can be long and tedious, for example. But it was emphasized that spiritual advisors should be exposed to the greater reality of the League. They should be encouraged to go to diocesan, provincial, and national conventions; it should be made a priority. Only as you begin to see the bigger picture, do you really understand the full impact that the League has on society: the presentations to government, the issues that are debated, members' witness to joy and [peace](#) in the world, and their witness to joy and [peace](#) in their own families and parishes. It is so important and greatly appreciated; I can assure you of that.

Every effort should be made to recruit members. Even if they can't come to every meeting, they should join! Perhaps they will only be able to do one small thing because they are young and raising a family, but they should join to get that exposure and to increase the influence of the League. The number of members speaks loudly to people, especially in government, and that's why it is so important.

And it's so important that presidents and spiritual development chairpersons become very involved. Their roles are very, very important ones.

While the relationship between priests and the League needs

to be clarified somewhat, on the whole, I must say it is a very, very positive relationship. Sometimes there are difficulties with priests, and sometimes priests need to be educated about their role or in relating to women. This is happening not only in the League, but also in parishes. The country is changing, especially in the larger cities, and there is a new church emerging. And we all, including the League, need to adapt to that change in the reality we are facing.

What is greatly appreciated is that spirit of joy ... that commitment to God and country. You have done so much and the priests will continue to support you in any way they can. When you need a job done, who do you turn to? You turn to those who already have too much to do. You turn to the members of the League. So, thank you and may God continue to bless you all. ✚

SECRETARY TREASURER



Peggy Roche
Torbay, Newfoundland
and Labrador

At its pre-convention meeting, the national executive reviewed the 2008 audited financial statements prepared by Chambers, Fraser & Co.

Chartered Accountants. I wish to thank Executive Director Kim Scammell, her team at national office, as well as the national administrative committee for their creativity and vigilance for finding ways and means to help attain our goals.

The 2008 audited financial statements can be found in the *89th Annual National Convention Program & 2008 Annual Report*. Current assets include cash, accounts receivable (member and miscellaneous receivables and accrued interest), inventory (inventory is regularly replenished), prepaid expenses (postage advance, prepaid rent, equipment rentals, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations [WUCWO] 2009 dues and prepaid League development grants) and the current portion of investments (investments due to mature within a one-year period).

Other assets include capital assets (computers, electronics, furniture, fixtures and leasehold expenses, net of amortization) and investments (carried at market value).

Liabilities include accounts payable and accruals (payables for pins, stoles and scarf supplies), deferred revenue (2009 membership payments received in advance of the year due) and national voluntary funds.

From the reports received, an amount of \$3,974,688 was donated by members to charities at home and in the global community. This was a great accomplishment, especially with the economy in a downward spiral. It was heartwarming to see that members generously continued to financially support and sustain

other groups and organizations, some of which may not be able to exist without members' continued support. What a positive impact the League contributions have on so many lives! Included in the amount just mentioned was \$484,205 donated through the national voluntary funds. There are probably even more donations, but all reports were not received by the provincial councils.

Please send your donations directly to national office to be included in the national voluntary funds. This way we would have correct totals for standing committee chairpersons who need to be aware of these figures for reports on and to the various organizations that fall under their standing committees.

Net assets include internally restricted assets (bursary fund), investment in capital assets (assets that are not available for other use) and unrestricted net assets (accumulated surpluses from every year since the League was organized).

The League has commitments to office and equipment leases that expire in 2011 and 2015. The balance sheet reflects the strength of the League's assets. Despite the losses in investments from the financial crisis, League investments lost only six percent of their value, a remarkable feat in the current economic times, and due to having a properly diversified and well-managed portfolio. Many businesses, organizations and associations have lost as high as 40%. So we are very lucky.

For the statement of revenue and expenditures: Revenue includes per capita fees (98,117 memberships). If per capita fees were the only source of revenue, then the fees would have had to have been set at \$10.42 per member, instead of the current \$8.00, which hasn't changed since 1993 – a great achievement in itself. Other revenue sources include gross margin on sales, convention registration fees (645 members and guests registered and paid in 2008), magazine subscriptions (808 sold), life memberships (14 were awarded), bursary donations (received from individuals and parish councils) and miscellaneous (over/under payments from parish council remittances).

Expenditures include convention expenses, international relations (out of country conferences and WUCWO membership, board member expenses and regional conference), League development costs (advertising, bursaries, development fund, promotions and provincial council grants), magazine (design, mailing, postage and printing), national executive (conferences, donations, mid-year executive meetings, national committee meetings, standing committee expenses, president and spiritual advisor travel and subscriptions), office building (janitorial, leasehold amortization, rent, repairs and maintenance and utilities), office equipment (amortization, equipment leases and equipment maintenance), operating costs (archives, bank charges, computer support, courier, insurance, printing, postage, professional fees, supplies and telecommunications) and staff (employee benefits, group benefits, recruitment, retirement plan, salaries and staff development).

The investments earned interest; however, the market value of the investments dropped causing the net investment income to be eliminated. Since then, the markets are showing more positive results; there has been a recovery in 2009. The League continues

to be financially sound. We are good stewards, striving to find ways and means to increase revenues without decreasing programs or increasing fees.

The statement of revenue and expenditure reflects a higher than planned deficit for 2008. The national executive adopted a deficit budget in response to members' concern that the national treasury was continuing to accrue surpluses. While not raising per capita fees, the national treasury provided additional benefits to members by waiving life members' convention registration fees and fees for all members to attend the WUCWO regional conference in Winnipeg. The national treasury also provided significant enhancements to the advertising and promotions budgets to attract new members. One item of business which was not budgetted for was the contracting of services of Manifest Communications to develop a marketing strategy.

The Interim Statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the six months ended June 30, 2009, as prepared by Executive Director Kim Scammell, CA, can be found in the *89th Annual National Convention Program & 2008 Annual Report*. Revenue included bursary donations, gross margin on sales (pin and gifts sales have increased), nine life membership fees, magazine subscriptions (663 purchased) and per capita fees (77,332 memberships processed). Productivity has decreased because of the processing of permanent membership cards, a one time occurrence. Each card takes about 30 seconds to print.

Expenses were comprised of international relations, League development, magazine, national executive, office building, office equipment, operating costs, and staff. Two of three magazine issues have been produced by June 30th. A larger than expected volume of winter 2009 magazines was mailed which may cause a cost overrun in this category. The net revenue from operations will be as expected, once the rest of the per capita fees are processed. †

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Kim Scammell
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The national office is pleased to serve League sisters across the country and we are happy to be reacquainted with so many members we speak with regularly throughout the year. The activities of national office are directed in all policy by the national executive. A small but energetic office staff endeavours to facilitate communication within the League and assist with a wide variety of projects determined by the national executive.

At national office, employees are hired based on a position established by the national executive. These employees take