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MEMO

To: Parish Council Chairpersons of Legislation
From: Janet McLean, National Chairperson of Legislation
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Presidents and Life Members (on request)
Date: April 26, 2015

It is a pleasure to greet all parish council chairpersons of legislation. I hope there are many of you! I know in many parish councils this standing committee is often combined with the resolutions standing committee or, sadly, not filled at all. To those of you who have taken on this standing committee, I congratulate you. I know you will find it rewarding. For parish council presidents who haven't been able to find anyone to chair the legislation standing committee, and as a refresher for those in the position, I thought I might review the responsibilities of a legislation chairperson.

The basic requirement is that you have an enquiring mind and a bit of free time. Your responsibility is to monitor and study legislation and then bring any that conflicts with League values to members' attention. The legislation studied might be at the local (municipal), provincial/territorial or national level. Having internet access makes the job simpler if you want to obtain information from your city's website or from provincial/territorial and federal parliamentary websites. If the chairperson finds something she feels requires attention, her council can decide on the appropriate action to take. This action could include writing letters, meeting with local elected officials, writing a resolution, or contacting diocesan or provincial chairpersons of legislation for assistance and guidance. If the legislation is at the national level, I am always available to help. Since any task is lighter when it is shared, do not hesitate to ask one or two other council members to help you keep an eye on what your elected officials are doing. I must say that it is amazing what you can find out!

Being a chairperson of legislation can be exciting because you can be the one to initiate change in society. Thank you to all current chairpersons of legislation. I hope those councils without a legislation chairperson will be able to encourage a member to fill this vacancy so they can find out how interesting this standing committee can be.

Janet McLean

Janet McLean
National Chairperson of Legislation