

National Chairperson of Resolutions Rolande Chernichan

Greetings League sisters! I am happy for this opportunity to supplement the annual report, to bring you news of happenings since the onset of 2023, to highlight accomplishments, projects undertaken and to report on proposed challenges for the future.

Immediately following last year's convention, a resolutions brief of the resolutions to present to government was compiled and mailed to all federal cabinet ministers, the prime minister and 37 bishops where there exists a League council. Before the end of the year, letters had been mailed to all ministers' offices who were best suited to discuss the subject of the resolutions being presented.

The first six weeks of 2023 focused on coordinating with national office staff the scheduling of all meetings with federal government officials by a delegation of the national executive for the presentation of League resolutions. As time permitted, meetings were added to include the office of a senator, the office of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), the papal nuncio, and an interview with a reporter from *The Catholic Register*. While meeting schedules were being finalized, our delegation team was busy researching each resolution to be presented in order to be current about the topic being discussed and to have our questions ready to initiate dialogue.

Our three-day assignment in Ottawa, February 13-15, was consumed with attending 13 meetings, which involved a lot of walking to offices surrounding Parliament Hill because Centre Block was under renovation. Meetings took us across the Ottawa River to Gatineau, where government offices are also located, to the office of CCCC and to the embassy of the Vatican. Our delegation's visit included a meeting with a representative from an opposition party as well as a member of parliament representing the constituency of a member of our delegation team. We even managed to watch Question Period live!

We were well received, affirmed and respected for our advocacy and our meetings with policy advisors of government ministers were not rushed. We were told that the League's voice needs to be heard, not only through resolutions but in submissions through government consultations regarding initiatives posted on departmental websites throughout the year.

After returning home, we continued to get requests from ministers' offices for meetings, so our delegation added three more meetings, which took place virtually after we attended the national executive winter meeting in Toronto, March 2-5. Letters of appreciation were sent to each office that had met with us. The article in *The Canadian League* magazine titled "*Catholic and Living It! Through Advocacy*" provided members with a brief summary of those Ottawa meetings. Having benefitted from the experience, a *Guide for Meeting with Government re. League Resolutions* was prepared as a resource for the planning of future government meetings regarding resolutions. I closed out the month of March by facilitating the Unity Outreach project workshop for Quebec Provincial Council.

The spring season brought fresh energy as I blended my passion for resolutions with my favourite hobby of planting flowers and gardening. I continued the collaborative work I had undertaken with the national chairperson of legislation to bring to completion the *Resolutions Workshop PowerPoint*, the *Resolutions Workshop Presentation Guidelines and Speaker Notes*, and

Resolutions Guide in order to have them posted to the national website. Together, we continued our teamwork on the position paper project, doing the review and editing of nine position papers that had been submitted by the writing teams of national chairpersons.

The review of 24 current League resolutions for consideration to archive was initiated. I delivered on my responsibilities to issue communiqués, issue a memo for the spring parish mailing, participate on the *ad hoc* committee for deepening Indigenous relationships and submit an article for the spring issue of *The Canadian League* magazine titled “Setting Sail in Hope.” I also held a virtual meeting with provincial chairpersons to discuss transitioning to three standing committees.

More recently, preparations were made to facilitate the national resolutions committee meetings, which were held in Winnipeg, July 15-16, with disposition letters issued subsequently. I also oversaw the review by the committee of resolutions to be archived, with 11 resolutions being formally prepared to be retired within a prayer service at this year’s national annual meeting. These resolutions will be archived for a variety of reasons, some because their references have become outdated. Members may want to look at archived resolutions as the basis for developing a new resolution. Planning for a workshop within the Resolutions Dialogue of the annual meeting was ongoing.

The challenges regarding resolutions as the League transitions to three standing committees have been conveyed through my various communications. I was thrilled that the annual parish survey yielded several names of members interested in resolutions. By offering training, workshops and webinars, connecting members and creating teams, and utilizing virtual meetings and technology, the League will be well-positioned to continue its advocacy into the future. I have had the honour and privilege of being the closing chapter for the role of national chairperson of resolutions. The online resources of the *Resolutions Handbook*, the accompanying workshop PowerPoint, its speaker notes, the *Resolutions Guide* leaflet and the recently updated “Recipe for League Resolutions” are a bouquet of “forget me not” flowers to the League as we resolve to be the voice of women “For God and Canada.” †