

January 12, 2020

Welcome back to a new year which enables us to begin again to serve God and Canada through our beloved League.

With the new year come new staff members at national office:

WINNIPEG, January 2, 2020 – National office is pleased to welcome Deborah Woodbeck clerk@cw.ca to the staff of The Catholic Women's League of Canada. Deborah joins Executive Director Kim Scammell executivedirector@cw.ca, Senior Accounting Clerk, Valroy Anderson accounting@cw.ca, Executive Secretary Amanda McCormick communications@cw.ca, Membership Coordinator Katherine Choi membership@cw.ca and Project Coordinator Kerri Sylvester projects@cw.ca. Deborah takes on the role of office clerk. You can read more about Deborah on the national website.

Membership fees, as per the *National Manual of Policy and Procedure*, are due to parish councils on **January 1st** of each year. It is important for parish councils to remit per capita fees to national office by **February 28th** as diocesan, provincial and national levels depend on these fees to operate. Any council not yet using the **online membership process** is encouraged to do so. The system is easy to use and gives councils the ability to print reports on members' status at any time.

Membership registration lists: Please double check them before sending to national to ensure they are correct – phone, address, Email addresses and most importantly the spelling of names. For anyone wanting to sign up to receive the League Magazine online this needs to be done on the online membership list.

Parish Council Liability Insurance: Payment must be remitted with the membership this year; national will return the membership remittance unprocessed if the mandatory liability insurance fees have not been included. Certificates of insurance will be distributed upon receipt of per capita fees.

Year Two Focus: National Theme:

National Chairperson of Community Life Marie Rackley reported in her communique from December 5, 2019 on the focus for the second year of the national theme, *Care for Our Common Home*. – CNEWA Project: Pieta Bhavan, support for a drinking water well Location: Pothy, Kerala, India in the Archdiocese (Archeparchy) of Ernakulam
"It was agreed the League would partner with Catholic Near East Welfare Association to support the Pieta Bhavan (House of Mercy) Project, with a need for a drinking water well.
Pieta Bhavan, located in Kerala, India, is a Christian home for more than 60 women with intellectual disabilities. Established by the congregation of the Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, the home provides food, clothing, shelter and medical treatment, and additional care

for some residents unable to care for themselves. Some women receive skills training and make items such as rosaries and soap.

The state of Kerala has experienced severe flooding during the monsoon season for the past two years. The flooding, landslides and loss of crops have caused many deaths, becoming progressively worse due to the effect of climate change. In 2018, more than one million people were displaced or left homeless and 400 people died. The flooding has caused a significant water contamination problem.

It is vital to have suitable wells in Kerala to keep the water clean and drinkable for daily use. Currently, Pieta Bhavan has an open well in need of repair. The rusted cover fell into the well and needs replacing. As residents of Pieta Bhavan depend on this well for drinking water, it needs to be fixed to prevent any contamination from flooding.

As this is the second-year focus for *Care for Our Common Home*, all councils are asked to take part in the Pieta Bhavan Project and donate to this worthy cause. Cheques should be made payable to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and sent directly to the attention of Melodie Gabriel, CNEWA Development Officer, 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9. Please ensure "CWL India" is written in the memo portion of the cheque, or the comment box if giving online at www.cnewa.ca

Chairpersons are asked to obtain information from their diocesan counterparts as to the total number of and amount of donations submitted. Encourage members to report donations to the diocesan chairperson of community life. Each provincial president will inform the national chairperson of community life on the amount donated from her province by August 1, 2020." The goal is to raise \$5,500 USD.

The proposed revisions to the ***Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*** were approved at our national executive meeting in November. Proposed changes include removal of whereas clauses from presentation at the national level, the addition of a table of content, updates to the list of resolutions, updates to Modern Language Association format, the addition of introductory phrases (previously listed as whereas clauses) within the brief and housekeeping matters. Please see the updated *Resolutions Supplement* on the national website.

It is suggested that we leave copies of the **League Magazine** in our church vestibules for non-members to pick up and read. We could also provide the magazine to our high school and university students.

Centenary Archival Project: See attached ad for the request of archived photographs. Thank you to Sylvia for the design.

Orders for the coffee table book will be taken at the 2020 national convention with books available at the 2021 national convention.

The local centenary project will be for each diocesan council to plant a tree in a place of honour. The goal is to plant 100 trees across Canada. At the convention, Anne-Marie Gorman will plant the final tree with a plaque to commemorate 100 years of the League in Canada.

I will attend the **national executive meeting** in Toronto February 21-23, 2020. Please send me any questions, ideas, suggestions, etc. that you want me to share with the provincial presidents or with the whole executive. I need those items by the end of January please.

Presidents, I am looking forward to receiving your **annual reports** by March 1st. My hope is that more and more councils were able to file their reports online.

Our **Mid-term meeting** will be held at St. Nicholas Parish in Langley March 12-15, 2020. Please forward to me your suggested agenda items.

March for Life in Victoria is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2020. Please request your members to attend this walk to stand up for all life issues. We need as many people as possible to give a good show of support and be a witness to your faith.

Provincial convention June 13-15, 2020 in Vernon – reminder of the \$500 provincial subsidy for two members from each of our six dioceses to attend. The application is due to Sharon Geiger by March 31st. I am busy working on lining up great speakers for our convention. Also, it is an election year!

The **election of a new provincial executive** will take place on June 13, 2020 during the provincial convention in Vernon. Past President Evelyn Rigby has done considerable work updating the eligibility list and will be starting the election preliminaries this month. If you are eligible, please pray as you discern your suitability and availability. Several of you will be eligible on completion of your term in 2020, while those who are not, will have the opportunity to encourage their predecessors to run.

Dates to remember:

Spring Midterm Meeting – March 12-15, 2020 at St. Nicolas Parish in Langley

Provincial Convention June 11-13, 2020 at the Prestige Hotel in Vernon.

National Convention August 9-12, 2020 in Montreal, PQ

I just received the sad news that Barbara Gobbi, a former diocesan president from Prince George, died January 11, 2020. May her soul rest in peace.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we strive to fulfill our duties and witness to the truth.

Gisela