

Nova Scotia Provincial Council
Of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Past President Annual Report
2020

It has been quite a year! In these challenging times 35% of our councils were able to complete their annual report. Antigonish Diocesan Council completed 15/39 reports; Halifax /Yarmouth Diocese reported 8/28 reports. A few councils reported having no past president but many reported receiving continued support and encouragement from their past president throughout the year. Thank you to our two diocesan past presidents, Cleo, and Liz for supporting their parish council past presidents during the past year.

Parish council Archives are retained in storage for all councils in parish offices, CWL rooms and churches. Items include photo albums, scrapbooks, paper copies, information on USB sticks, CD or DVD. A few councils have completed a council history book. Most councils reported revising archives as required.

A few councils continue to refer to Resource Material as needed. All councils have a copy of the National Constitution and Bylaws and the National Manual of Policy and Procedure. There remain a few councils with no council policy and procedure. During the year, past presidents assisted the president in reviewing their policy and procedure for improvement and adaptation to new procedures.

Some councils seek advice from their Spiritual Advisor, diocesan executive and rarely from the Life Members, provincial council and national office. It is reported they never or rarely seek advice from the Bishop. Councils with Life Members occasionally ask them for advice. Less than fifty percent of councils support the implementation of the national strategic plan.

The past president also performs other duties as requested by the president. These include checking provincial and national websites, organizing events when possible, promoting the council, filling the role of a vacant position and preparing newsletters.

They assist in making the president's role more enjoyable and fulfilling by doing their best to involve all members, designating tasks to members, being available for advice, questions, decision making and staying active.

Due to Covid 19 many council events had to be cancelled. Some events were adapted this year with social distancing such as CWL Masses, organizing fun activities for members, showers for homeless and bakeless bake sales all held while social distancing. Prayer blankets were blessed

at Mass and distributed to the seriously ill in parish council communities. Some councils hold one small project or even a month to keep members involved.

There remain challenges for councils in filling standing committee positions. Membership is aging or feeling burnt out. Members expressed concern for change in some areas. It was difficult for some councils to keep in touch with their membership. They are happy to assist but not take a leadership role. Some members fill two positions.

Covid 19 has affected all of us. May our faith give us strength and comfort at this time.

Our Lady of Good Counsel protect us during this pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy MacNeil