



MINUTES CWL General Meeting

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Amherstview, Ontario

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

LOCATION: Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Amherstview, Ontario

In Attendance: Bernadette Veitch, Shirley McDonald, Carol Daigle, Kelly Neville, Bernadette Burgess, Margaret Wilson, Danna Dobson, Donna Guiney, Ann Leclair, Mary Garrah, Susan Aubin, Noreen d'Eon, Betty Hutcheson, Shirley Jaynes, Sue MacDonald, Gail Raymond, Gail Northcott

#	Item	Presenter
1.	Shirley McDonald recorded the minutes in the absence of Mary Lou Hills. The meeting was opened at 7:36 pm.	
2.	Opening prayer: The League prayer and the Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel were led by Bernadette.	Bernadette Burgess
3.	Mission to Ireland: Rachel Taylor spoke about her personal spiritual journey and presented information on Catholic Christian Outreach and her upcoming travel to Ireland to work in missions and do evangelization work. She is asking for monetary support to assist with travel expenses. Motion made by Sue MacDonald to donate \$100.00 to Rachel Taylor. Seconded by Gail Raymond. Motion carried.	
4.	Minutes of March 8, 2016: The date of the minutes as stated should be changed to March 8 th . The minutes were accepted as amended by Danna Dobson, seconded by Gail Raymond. Approved.	Shirley McDonald
5.	Treasurer's Report: Balance at March 1, 2016 was \$3,053.63. Balance at March 31, 2016 was \$2,172.64.	Kelly Neville
6.	Membership Report: We currently have 82 members, including two new members.	Carol Daigle
7.	President's Report: Diocesan Presidents' meeting was cancelled, but there are requests from the Diocesan President to discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blessed Klara – councils are to pick ways in which they can emulate her ways and present this in a display at the convention; Bernadette Burgess suggested focus on “young women”, such as First Communion, Confirmation and Rachel Taylor’s project and there was agreement with this.2. Pilgrimage to the Holy Door – to be held at the Cathedral during the convention, on May 15th, prior to Mass. Must arrive at cathedral by 2:15 if you wish to participate in the pilgrimage.3. Diocesan Spiritual Development Chair, Shelly Murphy, has resigned her position.4. End of Term for Father Brian McNally, our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor – councils are asked to prepare a spiritual bouquet from their council and forward the information to Nancy Richer, who has agreed to collate the information.5. Wednesday May 4th is the day chosen for “12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care”. Parishes are asked to plan something on the theme “Palliative and Hospice Care”. Bernadette Burgess will organize this.6. Convention changes:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Helen Dowdall, Executive Director of Hospice Quinte will speak on hospice care on Saturday from 3:00 – 3:30 pm.b. The Salt & Light TV documentary, “Woman on a Mission” will be shown in the West Ballroom over lunch on Saturday.c. A host council for 2017 has not been chosen.	Bernadette Veitch



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8.	Past President's Report: Nothing to report (see item #9.4).	Shirley McDonald
9.	Old Business:	
9.1.	2016 Convention (May 14-15): There are 11 members registered for the convention.	Bernadette Veitch
9.2	Foster Family: Nothing to report.	Jane Burke
9.3	Bake Sale (April 23): A volunteer sheet was passed around. All help is appreciated!	Bernadette Veitch
9.4	20th Anniversary Pot-Luck Dinner: Shirley gave an update on the plans for the anniversary dinner. The anniversary CD is almost complete and will be presented at the dinner. Copies will be available for sale for \$5.00. Orders will be taken. Past presidents have been invited, as well as the RHSJ sisters and some special guests.	Shirley McDonald
9.5	Strawberry Social: The Social will be held on June 26 th . More information will follow.	Shirley McDonald
9.6	Parish Photo Directory: Donna presented information about the parish photo directory and sittings for photos. Sittings will be held on May 6 th , May 7 th , May 9 th , May 16 th & May 17 th . Volunteers are required to assist.	Donna Guiney
10.	Standing Committees Reports	
10.1	Organization: Nothing to report	Bernadette Veitch
10.2	Spiritual Development: 1. Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel – History, Litany handout and Mass will be held at Blessed Sacrament on April 26 th at 9:30 am. 2. Crowning of Mary – This will be held on Sunday, May 8 th at the 9:00 at Mass. Members will gather with tapers for the Entrance Procession. Members are encouraged to wear pins and Catholic Women's League scarf. 3. Pilgrimage to the Holy Door: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• St. Mary's Cathedral during the closing Mass of the Annual Convention. The prayer handout was shared with members.• Martyrs' Shrine opens on May 6th. An outline of events was given.	Bernadette Burgess
10.3	Christian Family Life: No report.	Jane Burke
10.4	Community Life: 1. Pennies for Pesos – cheque will be sent this week. 2. Operation Homeland – Carol and Donna will coordinate this 3. Coat Drive – will be held again this year 4. Food Blitz – will not be organized by Knights of Columbus this year 5. Helen Henderson Birthday Party – Carol will determine the date and obtain volunteers to make cupcakes	Carol Daigle
10.5	Education: Confirmation was held on April 3 rd at 10:30 Mass. Cake was served by	Donna Guiney



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	Donna, Bernadette Burgess and Susan Aubin. It was a full house! This weekend is First Communion.	
10.6	Health: Mary Lou could not be present, but expressed her thanks to all who agreed to assist with the Wellness Fair to be held in the fall. She is hoping that the committee can meet in May to begin preparations.	Shirley McDonald
10.7	Communications: 1. May 8 th is World Communications Day. The theme is <i>Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter</i> , highlighting good communication to open up a space for dialogue, mutual understanding and reconciliation, thereby allowing fruitful human encounters to flourish. 2. All members are encouraged to sign the Declaration of Hope against physician-assisted suicide, which may be found at declarationoflife.ca . Margaret is obtaining postcards to send to MPs. 3. Postcards for <i>Pornography Hurts</i> campaign were distributed and can still be sent to MPs at any time.	
10.8	Resolutions & Legislation: Danna provided a comprehensive report on current legislation and resolutions. Due to the importance of these issues, the full report is appended to these minutes. Specific issues that members should be familiar with are the new <i>Physician Assisted Dying Law</i> that must have supporting regulations, policies and "implementation" expectations completed by June/July 2016, and the changes to the Bill 95, <i>Improving Mental Health and Addictions Services in Ontario Act, 2015</i> . Bernadette B. suggested a letter/petition style for back of church and offered to help draft it. Bernadette also had meetings planned with strategic people about this topic, as a representative from another organization, and will report back to us on follow-up opportunities. Bernadette Burgess also suggested we send a letter to our MP to thank them for allocating funds to palliative care.	Danna Dobson
11.	New Business:	
11.1	Correspondence: No correspondence.	Margaret Wilson
11.2	Diocesan Events/News No additional information.	Bernadette Veitch
12.	Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.	Bernadette Veitch
	Closing prayer was the prayer for our diocesan partner, St. Denis in Athens.	Bernadette Burgess
	Next meeting is May 10, 2016 (pot-luck dinner)	

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COUNCIL

BLESSED SACRAMENT AMHERSTVIEW PARISH

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE of CANADA

April 12, 2016

Madame President, Father Stan and Sisters in the League:

The following is my report for both *Legislation and Resolution Standing Committees*.

Our Executive Handbook states that "Legislation is social justice in action." It is the carrying out of League Resolutions to influence government policy.

Last month I reported on the overall directions for Legislation and Resolution Committees from the Diocesan and National. A general recap of Bills currently before the Provincial Legislature from the Provincial Committee is attached to this report.

Legislation Committee

In particular, I spent considerable time highlighting two pieces of legislation that are in need of some timely advocacy support from our League. Namely, they were the Physician Assisted Dying Law that must have supporting regulations, policies and "implementation" expectations completed by June/July 2016 and the second was the changes to the Bill 95, Improving Mental Health and Addictions Services in Ontario Act, 2015

Physician- Assisted Dying:

It is clear that both the government and the provinces will have to work quickly to meet this deadline. The increased advocacy for improvements to palliative care services is timely and has taken on a new urgency in order to influence. One provincial (ON.09.06) and two national resolutions (1998.05 and 2007.03) relating to palliative care can and should form the basis for a major effort on our part to make our views known to those who will be developing the legislation which will govern assistance in dying.

I referred to a couple public subject matter reports: one from the Ontario Provincial-Territorial Expert Advisory Group on Physician-Assisted Dying

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/news/bulletin/2015/docs/eagreport_20151214_en.pdf,

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and one from the ARCH Disability Law Centre, based on ARC's Community Consultations re Carter v. Canada

<http://www.archdisabilitylaw.ca/node/1098>

A national physician report can be found at: <https://www.cma.ca/Assets/assets-library/document/en/advocacy/Canadian-Approach-Assisted-Dying-e.pdf>

Various coalition groups coming together from a common lens can be found easily on internet by searching on the Physician Assisted Dying.

Ones referred to from the Church and CWL perspective are located at:

Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario: <http://acbo.on.ca/>

Office of the Ethics Officer: <http://sen.parl.gc.ca/se0-cse/eng/Home-e.html>

CWL National website: cwl.ca

Ontario Provincial website: cwl.on.ca

They reference position papers on euthanasia, palliative care, online declarations you can submit personally, samples of letters you can send to MPs and MPPs and more.

Last month I asked what do we want to do as a local collective entity.

Discussion:

Bernadette suggested a letter/petition style for back of church and would help draft. Danna was requested to first follow up with Father Stan (not done yet, will meet with Bernadette first).

Independent letter campaign using existing templates shared during the meeting. The online declaration link was shared.

Bernadette also had meetings planned with strategic people about this topic, as a representative from another organization and will report back to us on follow-up opportunities.

Since last month, more and more information and individual opportunities are coming to light. Specifically, for us:

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- a. Bernadette B and Marg located post cards which the Executive strongly endorsed. Marg ordering them and will distribute in time for next meeting and put at the back of the church.
- b. She also provided information about 2 items on Salt and Life websight:
 - i. a series that is taking place on a Live Webcast on Salt & Light TV entitled 'Every Life Matters' facilitated by Archbishop Smith of Edmonton. The series will be accessible through our diocesan webpage. The titles of the talks are very interesting.
 - ii. Also a topic to follow entitled: "Deacon-structing End of Life Issues" a 5-part series; a blog by Decon Pedro, a regular Salt and Life TV
- c. Additional template letters from those discussed last month are also now available
- d. Ontario Minister of Health announced a large influx of funding to support improvements to Palliative Care

Action plans give life to our resolutions. Never underestimate the impact of every letter, every project, every prayer.

Action Plan Strategies - we are doing well if we follow up on a few discussion items from last month.

1. Write to the prime minister, minister of health and local members of parliament, urging them to act on the requests in the first resolved clause.
2. Postcards to MPs and MPPs
3. Write to the provincial and territorial governments urging them to act on the issues.
4. Educate members about the potential risks or concerns.
5. Meetings with clergy and local MPs MPPs and other like-minded advocacy initiatives
6. Monitor the governments' responses to the requests contained in the resolutions.

So what next?

1. when post cards arrive, post many post often they are free!
2. Need to review letter options - for church petition style and for personal use - use existing templates available or need to draft our own.
3. Need to meet with Father Stan
4. Continue to educate yourself

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I remain committed to bringing material forward on the Mental Health Act item I referenced last month if it is of interest to members

By the way-----

Legislation Committee has chosen Saint for the Year of Mercy is Saint Laura, asking that she intercede as we carry out League resolutions aimed at influencing government social justice policy; specifically, Resolutions ON.15.04; ON.13.01, ON.09.05, ON.08.02 and ON.99.06 aimed at helping the poor, feeding the hungry and fighting for the dignity for all. What might this look like- I refer you back to the handouts from Bernadette's talk last month -on Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy work at a food bank, a shelter, a nursing home.

St Laura's feast day is Oct 21. I offer to read her story at our monthly meeting. Please advise.

Also:

We are being encouraged to act on the two new resolutions adopted at the 95th national convention this past summer:

- Resolution 2015.04 Invoke Section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights in the case Carter versus Canada
- Resolution 2015.05 Reinstatement of the Mandatory Long Form Census

Resolutions Committee

In this upcoming Year of Mercy, which began on December 8th, 2015 the Provincial Resolution Standing Committee has chosen St. John XXIII as the saint for their committee. We are asked to focus on resolutions, from the past, which relate to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. These resolutions are still active as the government has not acted on them.

Copies of all Resolutions referenced in my report can be found on the national website.

Thank you Madame President, Father Stan and Sisters in the League.

I sincerely submit my report.

Danna Dobson

Chair, Legislation and Resolutions Committees

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WEBSITES FOR YOU TO EXPLORE

Ministry of the Environment: www.ontario.ca/environment

Parliament of Canada: www.parl.gc.ca

Information re Federal Legislation: www.parl.gc.ca/legisinfo

Ontario Legislature: www.ontla.on.ca

Information re Provincial Legislation/Bills: www.ontla.on.ca/lao/en/bills/

Canada and Human Rights: <http://www.unac.org/rights/actguide/canada.html>

Current MPP's: <http://www.ontla.on.ca/members>

Legislation Standing Committee

List of Bills Currently Before the Provincial Legislature (from Provincial)

Following is a list of some Bills currently before our provincial legislature and worthy of our support. Make our voices heard by writing letters to MPP's to let them know our views.

Bill 132 – Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act (Supporting Survivors and Challenging Sexual Violence and Harassment) 2015. Sent to Standing Committee on Social Policy for consideration as a Bill, January 19, 2016.

Bill 133 – Cy and Ruby's Act (Parental Recognition) 2015. An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act, the Vital Statistics Act and other Acts with respect to parental recognition. 2nd reading Dec.10, 2015. Sent to Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills.

This Bill requires parentage to be determined in accordance with rules that will address various possible arrangements under which persons choose to parent a child.

Bill 142 – Children's Law Reform Amendment Act (Relationship with Grandparents) 2015. An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act with respect to between a child and the child's grandparents. 2nd Reading Nov.19, 2015. Sent to Standing Committee on General Government.

Would prohibit the person with legal custody of a child from creating or maintaining unreasonable barriers to the formation and continuation of personal relationships between the child and child's grandparents.

Note that both Bill 137 and Bill 142 deal with the Children's Law Reform Act, but in different areas of focus.

Bill 148 – Protection of Vulnerable Seniors in the Community Act, 2015. An Act to amend the Substitute Decisions Act 1992, and the Regulated Health Professionals Act, 1991. 2nd Reading December 10, 2015.

The Substitute Decisions Act, 1992 – amend to require regulated health professionals to report any reasonable suspicion that a senior is being abused or neglected. The Regulated Health Professionals Act, 1991 – amend to make it an act of professional misconduct for a regulated health professional to fail to report any reasonable suspicion that a senior is being abused or regulated, as noted above.

Bill 149 – Rowan's Law Advisory Committee Act, 2015. An Act to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the jury recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer. 2nd reading December 10, 2015.

This Bill establishes the Rowan's Law Advisory Committee to review the jury recommendations with respect to head injury prevention or treatment.

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Bill 66 – An Act to protect and restore the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin (an ongoing environmental concern). This Bill received Royal Assent on November 3, 2015.

Bill 75 – An Act with respect to microbeads (this relates to Ontario Resolution ON.15.01).

Bill 95 – An Act to continue the Mental Health and Addiction Leadership Advisory Council to amend the Ombudsman Act in respect to providers of mental health and addictions services (continues to be an interest resulting from Resolution ON.13.01). Referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy.