

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE**

**2020 ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**



Agenda for 2020 Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and call to order President
2. Opening prayer Spiritual Development Convenor
3. Approval of minutes of 2019 AGM..... Secretary
4. 2020: Annual Reports President
5. 2020: The Year in Review..... Secretary
6. 2020: Financial Summary..... Treasurer
7. Adjournment.....President

Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting

1. The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm on January 14, 2020 by Donna Guiney.
2. Kelly Neville led us in the League Prayer.
3. Minutes of AGM November 13, 2018 – **MOVED** by Kelly Neville to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 13, 2018, with revisions. **SECONDED** by Susan Aubin. **CARRIED**.
4. The 2019 annual reports were reviewed. Donna Guiney thanked everyone for their hard work and support over the past year.
5. The 2019 Financial Summary was reviewed, and a motion made for approval. In light of questions concerning the financial statement, the 2019 Financial Summary was tabled for approval at the February meeting.
6. Elections: All positions were filled by acclamation. Results of elections:
 - Spiritual Development: Bernadette Veitch
 - Christian Family Life: Suzanne MacDonald
 - Education: Sarah Knill-McParland
 - Health: Bev Lyman
 - Communications: Barbara Ann Richard
 - Community Life: Barbara Larmondin
 - Resolutions and Legislation: VACANT
- MOVED** by Mary Lou Hills that the Blessed Sacrament (Amherstview) Council of The Catholic Women's League proclaim the slate of Committee Chairs as acclaimed. **SECONDED** by Kelly Neville. **CARRIED**.
7. **MOVED** by Margaret Wilson moved that the Annual General Meeting be closed, **SECONDED** by Susan Aubin. **CARRIED**.

ADDENDUM TO THE MINUTES:

At the general meeting of February 11, 2020, a motion was made to approve the revised 2019 charitable donation list and add it to the 2019 AGM booklet.

2020 Annual Reports

PRESIDENT (Donna Guiney)

2020 was a year that was like no other!

In November, Diocesan President Nancy Richer sent us a letter informing us communication was key to being President in 2020.... she was correct! Our CWL stayed on top of our goal by calling every single CWL member three times to "check in". The ladies we called were ecstatic ...some of them were living alone and had no family-they were so glad we called! During the year we had three Zoom meetings; they were organized by Danna and Shirley; organization was important to getting through this year. Thank you, ladies, for your technical abilities! Another way we communicated with our members was by many, many emails...keeping all relevant information in the hands of our Catholic Women's League members. Those that do not use the computer, received it by mail.

Nancy Richer also stressed the importance of being grateful. "Feeling and expressing gratitude turns our mental focus to the positive, which compensates for our brain's natural tendency to focus on negative aspects of life." (*Psychology Today*) Being grateful kept us focused to what is truly important, as you will see in the following pages of this report.

Our CWL members went beyond the call of duty this year, by reaching out to our members and to the community at large. Communication served as a foundation for planning, which enabled us to go forth and to "grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service".

COMMUNICATIONS (Shirley McDonald)

Communications with our members was a challenge in 2020 due to the pandemic. We held very few meetings and needed to look at innovative ways to reach the executive and members. We were able to hold executive meetings electronically, using Zoom technology. This allowed us to dialogue safely from our homes while keeping the business of the council moving forward. There was also one Zoom meeting held for our members in the fall of the year.

In September we initiated quarterly newsletters that were emailed to all members who had email addresses and mailed to the remaining members who did not have email. The newsletters were a way to keep members updated on council and Diocesan activities, to promote fundraising events and membership drives, and to just reach out with good news about our council. A winter newsletter was sent out in December.

We were also encouraged to connect with our members, neighbours and fellow parishioners with wellness phone calls periodically during the pandemic.

COMMUNITY LIFE (Barbara Larmondin)

Everything was cancelled because of COVID... but I went with Donna Guiney and Danna Dobson to make a donation to Lionhearts Inc. on behalf of our C.W.L. and we had a photo opp. I also mail out birthday cards to our members from the C.W.L. This probably brightens their day a little, especially if they are alone. I encourage you to make an effort to phone a friend who is alone and have a little chat, they would be very happy to hear from you.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AMHERSTVIEW

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League had to pivot to serve their community when all the usual activities and events were cancelled. In addition to the donation to Lionhearts Inc., members of the CWL actually volunteered with meal preparations and serving the takeout meals at the Amherstview Sharing Centre three nights a week.

Hat, mittens and lap quilts crocheted and donated by a local resident were provided to organizations that would ensure distribution to those in need.

Over 100 hygiene kits were purchased and supplemented with hats or mitts and small activity items before providing them to the Kingston Street Mission, St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Mary's Cathedral (Christmas dinner). Our community outreach programme also donated to Martha's Table, to ensure that those who received kits were able to get "take out" / "to go" meals. This work was made possible by generous donations from our members, parishioners and community members, in response to a request to support those in need in our community.

EDUCATION (Sarah Knill-McParland)

Religious awards were mailed (due to COVID-19) to one girl and one boy from the graduating class of Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. The amount of the award for each student was \$150.00. The students both attend Mass on a regular basis and are members of Blessed Sacrament parish. The students demonstrated good character, good Christian values and practiced these on a daily basis. Both students, one boy and one girl, plan to attend a Catholic secondary school.

HEALTH (Bev Lyman)

In this pandemic year, one of our goals was to ensure that in-person meetings were "safe". The hall was set up with individual tables and chairs, situated six feet apart, all facing forward, so that no one sat face-to-face with anyone. Masks were mandatory at meetings, and there was an indoor limit set for in-person attendance. Many members chose to attend meetings via Zoom, which worked very well.

LEGISLATION & RESOLUTIONS (Danna Dobson)

Our provincial theme is "Care for our Common Home". This past year, 2020, has been an unprecedented year. The pandemic limited our ability to gather and discuss "group" actions. However, I know we have not been idle. I am confident that our local action and efforts took a bite out of the loneliness and isolation that exists and grew in our community. We did care for our common home. You make me proud to be a member of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League.

The *Canadian League* magazine continues to inform the membership on Legislation passed and acted upon at the National level.

In addition to local activities, I want to acknowledge that members took time to:

- a. mail the "Stop Pornography" cards to our MPs;
- b. write to our local MPP's, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Long-Term Care, and possibly the Premier about the plight of our seniors; and

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AMHERSTVIEW

- c. write to our MPs and Prime Minister about the proposed changes to the Assisted Suicide Legislation (using the template provided from the Diocesan as a guide).

Information about all of these items that I discover or is provided from the Diocesan will continue to be circulated to the members via email. If there is a CWL resolution or issue you have a particular interest in, contact me. I am happy to do some research, connect you with others, or send the links to materials that are available within the CWL Organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for the foreseeable future, so I encourage all of us to reflect on the positive influence a letter campaign can make on the decision-makers. Most of our MPs and MPPs and local politicians have online "contact us" capabilities, so that is even easier than a letter.

MEMBERSHIP (Margaret Barker)

It would be very difficult to mention 2020 without using the words "pandemic" and "COVID-19." Definitely a year that we will always remember, but we may want to forget. Luckily our membership drive was well underway when it all began and we were going strong. We had 66 members (including Father Shea) for 2020. Sadly, we had one death of a CWL sister during the year.

2021 will be a great challenge for a lot of reasons, not least of which is the necessity to stay apart. Our Executive has discussed a membership drive attached to the newsletter that we have created in the past few months. A renewal form was attached to the newsletter, and renewing members were asked to complete the form with a cheque attached. If dropping the renewal in the collection basket or mail slot at the Church is not an option, members can mail the renewal or call and someone will pick it up at their home.

ORGANIZATION (Kelly Neville)

With COVID shutting things down for most of the year, Blessed Sacrament CWL adapted. We held executive meeting through Zoom. We reached out to our members through phone calls to check in and see if they needed anything. Eventually we were able to hold general meetings again through both Zoom and in person (each member decided for themselves what they were comfortable with). Our CWL has adapted well through the pandemic and I am proud to be a member.

PAST PRESIDENT/HISTORIAN (Mary Lou Hills)

Two issues dominated my position this past year: The first was a concern expressed by members of the Executive as to what constitutes a quorum for general and annual meetings. The second was a concern that members were not receiving "The Canadian League" magazine published three times a year- Fall, Spring and Winter.

The first issue, what constitutes quorum for a meeting, is not covered in our policy and procedures manual, nor is it included in National By-laws, nor the Diocesan Policy and Procedures manual. All Catholic Women's League meetings are conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order. I consulted Robert's Rules of Order looking for guidelines, suggestions. There is no fast or sure rule. It is up to the individual organization to decide what constitutes a quorum. I reviewed my findings with those members who attended our October

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AMHERSTVIEW

13, 2020 general meeting. After further discussion it was suggested that a quorum for our general meetings would consist of 20 members, of which three had to be on the Executive. A motion to that effect will be introduced at an in-person general meeting.

It was discovered that 2020 issues of "The Canadian League" were not received by several members of our Council. We were not the only ones affected, as I have since learned that a member from another Council received three issues in November. National office did publish a Winter, Spring and Fall issue. I did ask members to contact me, in an article I wrote concerning this in our latest newsletter, if they had not received the Winter issue. I believe that this has been a Canada Post issue – Canada Post, UPS –courier services – were overwhelmed, and continue to be, with the volume of online ordering and delivery, particularly during the first three months of the response to COVID-19. I will approach the National Board, first through the Diocesan Treasurer, and then by email to the National Treasurer-Secretary, to allow members to address their concerns: i.e., that members be allowed, when renewing their membership, to reduce their membership dues by \$3.00 – the cost of publishing the magazine, per member, as stated in the magazine – if they do not wish to receive a printed copy.

As Historian, with the assistance of Margaret Barker and Donna Guiney I was able to present to the Diocesan Executive, for their annual report, a comprehensive list of our deceased members, which included those who died in 2020. I also completed a 10-year history of our Council at the request the Diocesan Council. A copy of that report was forwarded to our President for our archives.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (Bernadette Veitch)

This year, more than ever, we have turned to prayer; for our families, for our parish, and for the world, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pope Francis has given us prayers, such as his prayer to the Blessed Mother during the Pandemic. We have at times been "locked" out of our parish and had to watch Mass on our computers or TV's. Looking on the brighter side, the Lord has given us a wonderful opportunity to go deeper in prayer during this time, to seek his guidance and grow a more meaningful relationship with Him.

At one of the last meetings I attended, the CWL decided to support a Prayer Shawl Ministry and voted to give a donation to help defray the cost of the wool, etc. used in the making of the shawls. Anyone who is ill, or who has a family member alone, not well, or receiving treatment, can request a prayer shawl. Their loved one will be wrapped in the prayers of their sisters in Christ as they continue the journey to wellness or beyond.

2020: The Year in Review

In the year 2020, a pandemic ravaged the world and impacted our ability to meet with our members. We were only able to have three meetings in the early part of the year before the churches closed. For most of the remaining part of the year, our executive held virtual meetings, to continue the work of our council. In October we held a general meeting, using a combination of Zoom and in-person meeting wearing masks and maintaining special distance between members. Most of our usual fundraising events, such as bake sales, Bazaar and dinners, were cancelled. The following are highlights of the year.

JANUARY: Review and discussion of 2019 budget and charitable donations. A financial summary of the 2019 Bazaar was distributed and discussed. It was agreed to expand the hours for future bazaars.

FEBRUARY: The 2020 budget and revised 2019 charitable donations lists were approved. The Earlybird draw for CWL membership was won by Ann Leclair. It was agreed to waive membership fees for members who reside in nursing homes.

MARCH: The proposed list of charities for funding in 2020 was approved. Several members attended the World Day of Prayer service on March 6th.

SEPTEMBER: A quarterly newsletter was developed and sent out to all members to keep them in touch with the activities of the council executive. New fundraising initiatives were highlighted.

OCTOBER: A license for Zoom meeting software was acquired. Personal hygiene kits were donated to the Kingston Street Mission, St. Vincent de Paul Society and St. Mary's Cathedral Christmas dinner program. Our new Community Outreach program donated to Martha's Table. Approval was given to proceed with a virtual silent auction and a FundScrip campaign. Approval was given to initiate a Community Outreach Program.

NOVEMBER: A successful virtual Silent Auction was held to raise much-needed funds in the absence of a Bazaar.

DECEMBER: A successful FundScrip campaign was launched.

AWARDS AND PINS

Our Council presented the following awards and pins in 2020:

25-year pin:	Margaret Beneteau	Myrna Greenwood	Rose Reid
	Mary Garrah	Jane McKenna	Mary Seifred
	Terri Godfrey	Anne Nicholls	Margaret Wilson

20-year pin: Nickie Lake

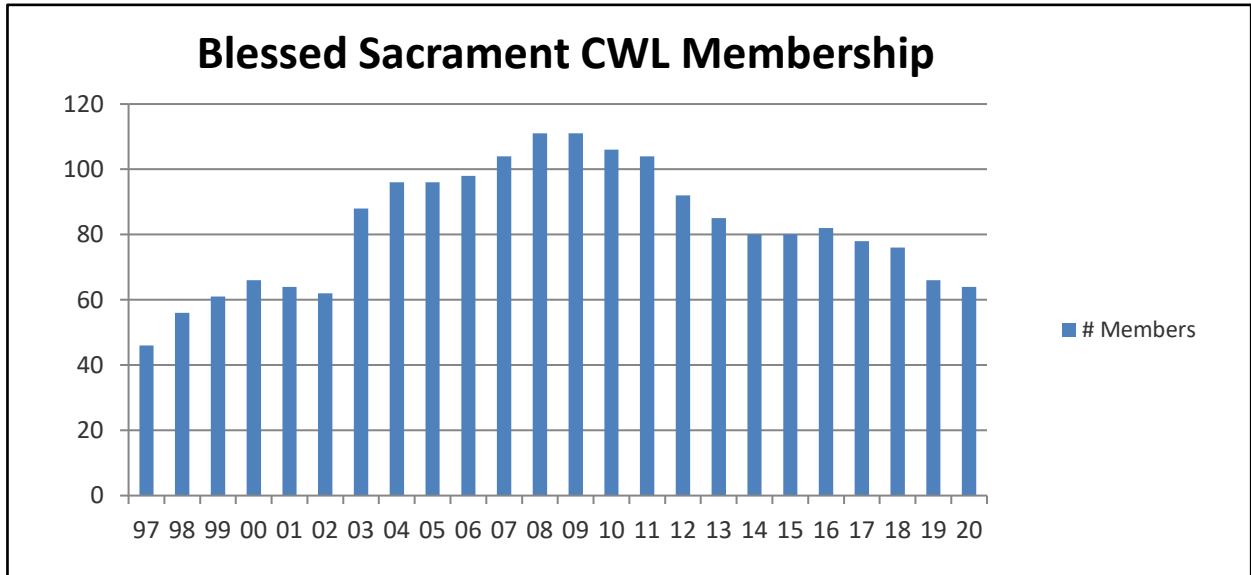
BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AMHERSTVIEW

15-year pin: Mary Grace Amann Shirley Jaynes
Anne Hanley Suzanne MacDonald
Betty Hutcheson Shirley McDonald

5-year pin: Liz Guiney

Maple Leaf Service Pin:
Cathy Splinter
Margaret Wilson
Susan Aubin

2020 Membership Growth Chart



2020 Financial Summary

Membership Fees/Dues

Our membership dues directly support the operations of the League beyond our community boundaries, despite the pandemic. This includes directors' and officers' liability insurance for national, provincial and diocesan as well as general liability insurance for all councils and production of "The Canadian League" at approximately \$3.50 per member. Perhaps it is time to look at advocating for the return of adjusting dues for those that do not want the paper copy of the magazine at all and offer a lower fee for those members happy to read it online.

We have not raised our dues yet; however, we keep less than the \$5.00 we counted on when I assumed this position.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AMHERSTVIEW

Zoom License Costs

It was approved to share a full license of Zoom with two other organizations that meet monthly and may have random need to use the software platform to hold ad hoc meetings during the pandemic. I wish to thank the license holder for the offer to share (1/3) and to a member who donated the dollars. Current coverage will last until October 2021.

Fundraising

Two formal fundraising efforts were approved and executed in 2020 – the virtual silent auction and Fundscript gift cards. These two initiatives raised approximately 50 percent of our annual Christmas bazaar funds.

In addition to the formal events, our parishioners were generous donors for our Outreach campaign and towards our overall mission that we try to achieve locally, within the public health measures published during this pandemic.

God Bless Father Shea, our parishioners, friends and family that participated. Their generosity gives me confidence that we can look forward to a positive budget for 2021.

CHARITIES

In 2020 our council supported the following charities:

Diocesan Level:

Hope Fund	\$200.00
Priests' Retirement Fund	\$100.00

Parish Level:

Food Bank	\$200.00
Life After Loss	\$100.00
Birthright	\$200.00
Amherstview Lions Club – Holiday Baskets	\$100.00
COVID donation to Blessed Sacrament Parish**	\$250.00
Martha's Table	\$200.00
Kingston Street Health Mission	\$100.00

TOTAL:	\$1,450.00
---------------	-------------------

** Approved during pandemic lockdown by Executive motion

BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, AMHERSTVIEW

We ended 2020 with a balance of \$6,076.33. The following is our Financial Statement.



BLESSED SACRAMENT AMHERSTVIEW
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
2020 ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income	2020 Approved	2020 Year End
Paid Membership	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,350.00
Bazaar/Fundraising Income	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,114.50
Bake Sale	\$ 800.00	
Funeral Lunches	\$ 1,500.00	
Conventions	\$ 650.00	\$ 200.00
Religious Articles		\$ 42.00
Donations	\$ 100.00	\$ 1,475.00
Total Income	\$ 8,650.00	\$ 5,181.50

Expenses	2020 Approved	2020 Year End
Office	\$ 500.00	\$ 199.74
Kitchen	\$ 75.00	
Bazaar	\$ 450.00	
Fundraising	\$ 100.00	\$ 96.60
Funerals	\$ 1,500.00	
Conventions	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 200.00
Guest Speakers	\$ 100.00	
Standing Committees	\$ 200.00	\$ 234.84
outreach		\$ 800.00
Religious Articles	\$ -	
Communion Gifts	\$ 75.00	\$ 72.70
Confirmation Gifts	\$ 75.00	\$ 72.70
Grad gifts	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Pins/Awards/Gifts	\$ 100.00	\$ 217.00
Clergy Gifts	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Christmas Gifts	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Masses	\$ 600.00	\$ 320.00
Charitable Donations	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,100.00
Parish Assistance	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Donation - Church	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
CWL Memberships	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,361.50
Bank Charges	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Other		\$ 115.50
Total Expenses	\$ 9,705.00	\$ 7,070.58