



MINUTES

CWL General Meeting

October 13, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Blessed Sacrament Parish, Amherstview, Ontario

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

Attendance in Person: Donna Guiney, Shirley McDonald, Danna Dobson, Theresa Smith, Susan Aubin, Bernadette Veitch, Pat Hoobin, Anne Nicholls, Cathy Splinter, Mary Lou Hills, Margaret Wilson, Cathy Lattanzio, Trish Nguyen, Anne Hanley.

Attendance by Zoom: Margaret Barker, Kelly Neville, Sue MacDonald, Liz Guiney, Sarah Knill-McParland.

Guests: Mary Dupel, Ruth Cochrane

Executive Reports

1. Welcome and call meeting to order (Donna Guiney)

Donna called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to communicate as much as we would like. A newsletter has been forwarded to everyone to share information and news. Donna thanked the executive for helping to keep our council going since March.

2. President's Report (Donna Guiney)

Donna introduced Ruth Cochrane and Mary Dupel, who knit lap blankets and shawls for those in need in hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, and those in need at home. Ruth presented some of her products and spoke to the various needs in the community. Blessed Sacrament parish supports the work of these talented ladies. Our council will discuss a donation for Ruth at a later date.

3. Opening Prayer (Bernadette Veitch)

Bernadette led in the League Prayer. Bernadette had prayer requests to share. A spiritual bouquet will be prepared for Jean Mulvihill and Buzz Hanley. Bernadette has also shared a Novena and prayers for October.

4. Approval of Agenda (Donna Guiney)

MOVED by Danna Dobson to approve the agenda of the general meeting of October 13, 2020 as amended.
Seconded by Pat Hoobin. **CARRIED.**

5. Approval of Minutes (Shirley McDonald)

MOVED by Sue MacDonald to approve the minutes of the general meeting of March 10, 2020 without changes.
Seconded by Sarah Knill-McParland. **CARRIED.**

6. Spiritual Advisor Report (Fr. Tim Shea)

Father Shea expressed his gratitude for the support of the Catholic Women's League during this past year.

7. Treasurer Report (Danna Dobson)

- a) Danna presented an updated 2020 financial tracker.
- b) During the pandemic, the executive made an exceptional donation of \$ 250.00 to the church.
- c) Danna has purchased a license for Zoom, to use for meetings during the pandemic. Danna is requesting \$60.27 to assist with payment of this license. A donation in kind was made by Trish Nguyen for this amount.

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8. Membership Report (Margaret Barker)

Currently we have 64 members. Nineteen pins and three Maple Leaf Service pins were awarded (to Cathy Splinter, Margaret Wilson and Susan Aubin). A winter newsletter will be sent out in December with a membership form for renewing membership for 2021. Cheques are requested for payment.

Margaret pointed out that we have not received a national magazine this year. As a portion of our membership dues is used for the publication of this magazine, Margaret suggested this amount be credited to the council. Mary Lou Hills will contact the national office to discuss this issue.

9. Past President Report (Mary Lou Hills)

A combined 2020/ 2021 national convention is scheduled for August over three days by invitation only, held virtually. It will be a business meeting, there will be resolutions, no speakers. There is no information about the provincial convention. The Diocesan convention is planned for May 2021 as a 1-day event. It will not be held at the Ambassador.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in January 2021. At that time we will discuss policy changes, including changes to meetings in a virtual environment, proxy and virtual voting, and what constitutes a quorum.

New Business

10. Meetings (Mary Lou Hills)

See item #9 above.

11. Virtual Fundraising

a) FundScrip (Danna Dobson)

Information was shared in the fall newsletter (see attached summary). A paper campaign was suggested as a good first start. A list of available cards and vendors would be shared with the parish and be placed on the website. Danna will handle orders and use bulk purchasing with other organizations she is involved with to defray operating costs.

MOVED by Mary Lou Hills, to begin this FundScrip campaign with a paper campaign. **Seconded** by Susan Aubin. **CARRIED**.

b) Personal Hygiene Kits (Danna Dobson)

Shoppers Drug Mart has male and female personal hygiene kits available. A parishioner has purchased several of these at a sale price and would like us to have these for the Kingston Street Mission, reimbursing him for the cost.

MOVED by Mary Lou Hills, to purchase 16 hygiene kits at \$15.00 each, to be donated to the Kingston Street Mission. **Seconded** by Cathy Splinter. **CARRIED**.

It was suggested that we continue this assistance to the mission through the Christmas season.

c) Virtual Silent Auction (Shirley McDonald)

Information was shared in the fall newsletter (see attached summary).

MOVED by Margaret Wilson to proceed with a virtual silent auction before Christmas. **Seconded** by Trish Nguyen. **CARRIED**.

d) Virtual 50/50 Draw (Shirley McDonald)

Information was provided and there was general agreement that we get more information and discuss this in the new year.

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12. Other Fundraising Suggestions

a) No dinner Dinner (Theresa Smith)

Theresa suggested selling tickets towards winning a dinner certificate. This will be explored more in the new year.

b) No bake Bake Sale (Mary Lou Hills)

Mary Lou suggested a donation in lieu of a bake sale. This will be explored more in the new year.

13. Support of Catholic Women During the Pandemic (Anne Hanley)

The pandemic has hit women particularly hard, with work losses and childcare requirements. Anne suggested adapting our mission to include support for women in our parish and community – helping women in need who are having difficulty at this time. There was discussion about how to determine who might be in need and several options were explored (e.g., local sharing centre, senior's centre, children's aid, Big Brothers/Big Sisters).

14. Correspondence (Margaret Wilson)

Correspondence was received from Birthright regarding donations; from Sister Sheila Boase; from Susan Aubin in thanks for her Maple Leaf Service pin; from Ann Leclair; from Fr. Shea in thanks for CWL contributions. Verbal thanks was received from Cathy Splinter and Margaret Wilson for Maple Leaf Service pins.

Margaret Wilson has assumed the role of correspondence for sending special occasion cards to members, taking this on from Marg Beneteau.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Bernadette led in the Hail Mary.

Meetings 2021: January 12 (Annual General Meeting)

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FUNDSCRIP

This is a campaign where people order gift cards and the CWL will get a percentage of the face value of each card purchased. Members get the full value of the gift card to use. Each vendor card offers their own percentage available to the group. For example, PetroCanada Gas gift card is 3%. For a \$25 gift card purchased, the CWL will receive \$0.75. Every cent adds up to opportunities for the CWL to contribute to our community.

We propose “a paper campaign” for our first initiative. This would involve making the invitation letter and order form electronic to download and fill in, sending monies to a specific address or paying by e-transfers; possibly drive-by pickups. Similarly, card orders will be available after Mass in the parking lot, drive-by pickups or drop-offs as required. Each card order comes prepackaged so there is no risk in handling the cards. Individuals will have 3 days to check and confirm their card order. The Treasurer will prepare the orders online within a week to ensure that changes made are free.

VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION

In a virtual Silent Auction, items are donated for auction and the auction is carried out by an online company for a fee (usually a percentage of the profits). There is no fee for an auction of 20 items or less. The auction is offered online within a local area, region, or wider group. The auction may be held within a 24-hour period or over the course of several days. Instant notifications keep participants engaged in the items they are interested in. Winners can pay online or by other means. Many non-profit organizations have raised thousands of dollars in this way.

In the current climate, it would be preferable for our members to purchase or obtain a new item and donate it to the auction, rather than approach retail merchants who have been impacted by COVID. We could hold several auctions per year, if needed.