



MINUTES

CWL General Meeting

January 10, 2023

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: by Zoom: Sue Aubin, Sue MacDonald, Shirley McDonald

Attendance in Hall: (9) Father Shea, Kelly Neville, Donna Guiney, Andrea Glover, Gail Raymond, Margaret Wilson, Bernadette Veitch, Danna Dobson, Mary Lou Hills

A Quorum WAS achieved at this meeting. Meeting was held in the Church Hall and on Zoom, following Mass.

Executive Reports: N.B. Before opening the meeting President, Kelly Neville, presented Andrea Glover with a Certificate of Merit for her assistance at CWL events and her work on the parish prayer book

1. Welcome and call meeting to order (Kelly Neville)

Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm, following Mass.

2. Opening Prayer: Donna Guiney led members in saying The League Prayer.

3. Spiritual Advisor's Report (Father Shea)

Fr. Shea thanked the CWL members who were responsible for working on the Parish Prayer Book, for his Christmas gifts. He announced that The World Day of Prayer is on the First Friday of March (March 3rd) and is hosted by Bath United Church. (**Action:** Father is looking for a CWL representative to be on the Mission committee headed by Don Roscoe.)

4. Approval of Agenda (Kelly Neville)

MOVED by Gail Raymond that the agenda for the general meeting of January 10, 2023 be approved as presented.
Seconded by Margaret Wilson. **CARRIED**

5. Approval of Minutes (Kelly Neville)

MOVED by Margaret Wilson to approve the minutes of the general meeting of November 8, 2022 as distributed.
Seconded by Gail Raymond. **CARRIED**

6. Treasurer's Report: (Danna Dobson)

December Closing balance was \$5,923.84. January balance before Membership deposit: \$6,636.72. (**Action:** Standing Committee and members to bring ideas to meeting in February or March concerning Charitable donations) She would like half of the charitable donations to be committed by June.

Moved by Danna Dobson that Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League continue to participate in the sharing of the costs of Zoom online meetings. **Seconded by Mary Lou Hills** **CARRIED.**

7. Past President's Report: (Donna Guiney)

No report.

8. President's Report: (Kelly Neville)

Kelly appointed Shirley McDonald to assume the chair of the Membership committee. Re the Snowflake Bazaar Kelly stated that she will be contacting members of the Bazaar committee to obtain feedback on what worked/didn't work as we go forward to our next Bazaar – November 18, 2023. Results of our two fundraising events this year are:

1. Bazaar: Net proceeds \$2000.00, Raffle: 800.00 for a total of \$2800.00

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2. Fundscrip Gift Card Campaign: Sold \$12,590.00 in gift cards. Raised \$562.88 for CWL

9. Membership: (Shirley McDonald)

Shirley's Report is attached. (Action: Shirley will be forming a subcommittee to assist her in developing a welcome package, membership forms that fit our Council and the new organizational structure.)

Standing Committee Reports:

10. Spiritual Development (Donna Guiney for Liz Guiney):

Father Shea has asked that the Crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother, that used to occur on Mother's Day, be made at the General meeting of May 9th, 2023 before Mass. Other date to remember is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th. First Communion is May 6th, 2023; Confirmation: May 16th. (Action: A member of the Council to assist with handing out certificates and pins)

11. Education: (Deb McKee)

On behalf of Deb McKee (Chair of Education) Donna Guiney has ordered 100 First Communion pins and 100 Confirmation pins. (Action: Donna to forward company information to the chair for future reference)

12. Health: (Shirley McDonald):

No report.

13. Communications (Margaret Wilson)

Margaret received several thank you notes: in particular from the Food Bank, Martha's Table, Birthright and Mary Garrah.

14. Resolutions/Legislation (Kelly Neville)

Kelly has received form for an Instructed Vote – the previous Instructed Vote on virtual meetings, held at National Convention in August 2022, did not pass. The vote has been amended to state that Parish Council's can choose when it is essential for them to hold Virtual meetings. Previous vote was based on Government closures such as occurred at the beginning of the Pandemic). Since the vote will not take more than a few minutes to take it was suggested the meeting, for the vote, be held after 5:15 Mass in February. The vote needs to be taken 30 days prior to the Diocesan Convention (April 29/30th)

Business Arising from the Last Meeting:

15. Fundraising events: (Snowflake bazaar in particular) : Danna Dobson

- Total Revenues: 3,275.00. This included a directed donation of \$409.00 – Costs re door prizes, activities for the Children's area, license totalled \$548.53. Fundscrip previously reported in the minutes

16. Advent School Mass: (Margaret Wilson)

- The Advent School Mass reception was very nice – CWL supplied coffee, tea, juice, the remainder of the Parish Anniversary Cake. Mount Carmel School's Parent Council supplied 4/5 Cookie plates from Foodland. Left over food was served at the Christmas Card party.

17. Newsletter:

- It was the consensus of the meeting, after further discussion, that the stipulation, as stated on our website, for 4 newsletters per year, be removed.

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18. Reversed Advent Calendar: Donna Guiney/Danna Dobson

- \$150 in cash donation needs to be given to the recipient of the donated food. Danna will contact Donna Guiney to make the transfer of funds.
- If we continue to do this in December of 2023 there is a need for better coordination of this event – it was left with Donna Guiney, as parish Secretary, to find a truck to take left over items to the Food Bank
- It was noted that the Food Bank has initiated a new location, particularly in the West End of Kingston for recipients for pick up.

New Business:

19. Policy and Procedure Manual: Donna Guiney

- Procedures for editing, creating new policies and procedures were initiated: Review by the Executive – then Members for their consideration – finally approval at the next general meeting.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Donna Guiney

Led us in a prayer for the homeless: Veronica's Veil, St. Mary's Cathedral. opened on January 10th to shelter homeless.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05

Dates to note:

- **Annual Meeting/ followed by General Meeting/February 14th, 2023.**
- **All Presidents Meeting: February 11th,2023 at St. Paul's in Kingston**
- **World Day of Prayer: March 3rd,2023 Bath United Church**
- **Diocesan CWL Retreat: March 25th,2023**
- **Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel-April 26th,2023**
- **Diocesan 101st Annual Meeting and Convention – April 29-30, 2023**

Meetings 2023: February 14th, March 14th, April 11th, 2023, May 9th, June 13th- Potluck supper and awards night

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT January 10, 2023

As of 31st of December there were 54 members. The membership drive is underway, with some of our members renewing their membership at the December pot-luck dinner. Between now and the end of February, we will continue to collect membership dues at all masses, either in-person at the entrance to the church, or by leaving an envelope with your cheque and contact information in the collection basket. There will be two Early Bird draws...one at the end of January for those current members who renew, with the prize being a refund of their membership dues. The other prize is for new members who join before the end of February. That prize is a \$25 gift certificate. The membership fee remains at \$25.

What really concerns me is the drop in membership numbers. Our membership is half what it was in years previous to COVID. New members not only bring revenue to our council, they bring skills, knowledge and help with our events. I know there are a lot of new ladies in the parish, new readers for example, who might be recruited, so I think we really need to look at a full-on membership drive for this year (doesn't need to be right now). I would also like to go through the records and pull out those who were members in the past and who have fallen off the rails, to see if they might be interested in re-joining.

This is something we need to put our heads together for, and strike a subcommittee to help with this. There are many tasks to help with, for example looking at the new membership forms from National and revising them to suit our council; Reviewing the draft membership policy and providing input; Assisting with the membership drive; Providing input into a new member recruitment strategy for 2023, including incentive programs; and developing a welcome package for new members. This is something that will be rolled out over the course of the year, so there is lots of time to plan for this. Mary Lou will be circulating a list for volunteers. If you can help with ideas or initiatives to increase our membership, I would love to have you sit on the committee.

Finally, regarding the membership drive, I am looking for volunteers to collect membership dues on a few Sundays – January 22, February 12 and February 26. If you can help, please let me know, by phone or email. My phone number is 613-389-9810.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley McDonald