MINUTES
CWL General Meeting
April 14th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Amherstview, Ontario in the Church Hall

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.

In Attendance: Shirley McDonald, Anne Nicholls, Susan Aubin, Margaret Wilson, Gisele Van Putten, Theresa Shanks, Liz Ford, Donna Guiney, Mary Lou Hills, Andrea Glover, Kelly Neville, Mary Myers, Shirley Jaynes

By Zoom: No Zoom

A Quorum (at least 7 members) WAS achieved at this meeting.

A BIRTHRIGHT BABY SHOWER WAS CELEBRATED PRIOR TO THE MEETING

1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

a) Welcome (Shirley McDonald)

Shirley opened the meeting at 7:12 pm and welcomed everyone.

b) Opening Prayer (Andrea Glover)

Andrea said a prayer for the unborn prior to the shower.

c) Approval of the Agenda of the April 14th, 2026 General Meeting (Shirley McDonald)

MOTION to approve the Agenda for the General Meeting of April 14th, 2026 as distributed was made by Kelly Neville and seconded by Liz Ford. **CARRIED**

d) Approval of the Minutes of the March 10th, 2026 General Meeting (Shirley McDonald)

MOTION to approve the Minutes of the March 10, 2026 General Meeting as distributed was made by Margaret Wilson and seconded by Liz Ford. . **CARRIED**

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2. OFFICER REPORTS

a) Spiritual Advisor's Report (Fr. Charles)

Fr. Charles couldn't be here tonight. Five new people were welcomed into the church during Easter Vigil. There were 20 First Communion candidates and there are 10 students for Confirmation. This Saturday is solemn mass of Thanksgiving at the cathedral as part of the 200th anniversary celebrations. Transportation is available. A buffet luncheon at Our Lady of Fatima follows.

b) President's Report (Shirley McDonald)

There will be a Teddy Bear Dance Party Saturday evening at the convention. Looking for donations of teddy bears. If you are not going but would like to donate one, send it with someone going to the convention. Teddy bears will go to victims' services organizations across our diocese.

c) Financial Report (Danna Dobson)

The final 2026 budget was distributed. Note that fundraising amounts are now broken down by event.

d) Past President's Report (Donna Guiney)

No report.

The World Day of Prayer in March 2027 is an anniversary year. This event will be added to our standing items for the next year as we are organizing it. Donna is looking for volunteers to be on a committee and has offered to chair the committee.

e) Membership Report (Andrea Glover)

We currently have 66 paid members.

3. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no standing committee reports this month.

4. STANDING ITEMS

There were no standing items this month.

Correspondence (Mary Lou) was received from Eleanor Taggart, thanking the council on the receipt of her 60-year pin. Cathy Splinter thanked the council for hosting Father Stan's funeral luncheon. A Newsletter was received from Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. An email was received from the family of Elaine Hamilton, thanking the council for her funeral luncheon. A Hail Mary was said for Shawn McDonald, who had a health event during the funeral.

5. UPCOMING EVENTS

a) Prayer Room at Convention (Donna Guiney)

The prayer room committee will meet after this meeting.

b) Crafts on the Corner – April 18th (Shirley McDonald)

We have 20 confirmed vendors, for revenue of $770.00. Final promotion has been completed, including an insert in last weekend's bulletin. Refreshments and a light lunch (hot dogs, chips) will be sold for the CWL. Everyone is invited to come and support our local crafters.

c) Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel – April 26th

The CWL has a mass booked for this event.

d) 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care – May 4th (Mary Lou Hills)

Mary Lou has prayer packages prepared and a signup sheet was sent around for volunteers.

e) Bake Sale – May 9th (Shirley McDonald)

The bake sale will be held in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus Garage Sale on May 9th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will be a no-price bake sale. Shirley McDonald will act as convenor. Baked goods should be dropped off on Friday, May 8th between 6:00 and 9:00 pm. Volunteers are needed Friday evening and Saturday. A volunteer sheet was passed around. Donna suggested a thank-you card for those who donate to the bake table. Liz offered to provide a design for the card.

f) Mothers' Day – May 10th (Shirley McDonald)

We will be providing memorial cards again this year the weekend before Mother's Day. On the Sunday, May 10th, we will have the Crowning of the Statue of the BVM. A convenor is required for this event.

g) Corpus Christi – June 7th (Shirley McDonald)

The procession for Corpus Christi is coming together. A canopy is being crafted by Theresa Shanks and Gordon McDonald. Bernadette Veitch, as Chair of the Pastoral Council, has agreed to lead the procession. Four adults are required to hold the canopy during the procession. Two knights have volunteered, and if any CWL members would like to help, contact Shirley (613-389-9810).

h) FundScrip – May 18th – June 8th

A new FundScrip campaign will begin May 18th and end June 8th. Cards will be available by Father's Day. This is a good way to provide gifts for birthdays, graduation, Father's Day, anniversaries etc. and the CWL earns a percentage from the sales.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

We currently have a shortage of altar servers, particularly on Saturday. We are asking everyone to reach out to those in their families who might wish to serve. This is a good way for high school students to earn volunteer hours. We are also looking at adult servers to fill in as necessary. There will be a training session after mass on Saturday, April 18th for anyone who would like to help. No age limit!

7. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed at 7:47 pm. Andrea Glover led us in prayer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 pm.