



# MINUTES

## CWL General Meeting

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.*

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**In Attendance:** Donna Guiney, Shirley McDonald, Mary Lou Hills, Bernadette Veitch, Susan Aubin, Theresa Shanks, Gail Raymond, Margaret Wilson, Gisele Van Putten, Andrea Glover, Mary Myers, Anne Nicholls, Fr. Charles Ogbuagu.

**By Zoom:** None

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

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**MEETING WAS POSTPONED FROM FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> DUE TO BAD WEATHER.**

### 1. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

**a) Welcome (Shirley McDonald)**

Shirley opened the meeting at 6:39 pm and welcomed everyone. It was noted that installation of the executive will take place at the March meeting.

**b) Opening Prayer**

Everyone joined in the League prayer.

**c) Approval of the Agenda of the February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 General Meeting (Shirley McDonald)**

Note that our ongoing CWL events calendar will be printed on the back of the agenda for quick reference.

**MOTION** to approve the Agenda for the General Meeting of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 as distributed was made by Donna Guiney and seconded by Susan Aubin. **CARRIED**

**d) Approval of the Minutes of the December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 General Meeting (Shirley McDonald)**

**MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the December 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting as distributed was made by Margaret Wilson and seconded by Susan Aubin. **CARRIED**

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**At this point the general meeting was paused to hold the Annual General Meeting (AGM). AGM booklets were circulated and Margaret Wilson acted as secretary. Refer to minutes of the AGM for more information. The general meeting resumed after the AGM.**

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### 2. OFFICER REPORTS

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

Fr. Charles thanked everyone for prayers during his annual vacation to Nigeria in January.

Plenary indulgence has been approved by the Pope for 5 parishes in the archdiocese as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with a pilgrimage to one of the parishes in the central deanery. Fr. Charles suggested a 1–3-day parish retreat with invited priests, and end up with the pilgrimage, to be held some time during the year. This will be discussed with the parish council. We are encouraged to participate in archdiocesan anniversary events.

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## b) **President's Report (Shirley McDonald)**

The National Theme for 2026 is *"Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission"*, with the focus being *"Blessed are the Poor"*. Throughout the year we will be planning activities that are in line with this theme.

It was suggested that we have a mass said for the children who died in the Tumbler Ridge shooting in BC. In the absence of a Faith Chair, Shirley will send a Mass card to CWL national to be forwarded on to the local CWL council.

## c) **Treasurer's Report & 2026 Budget Review (Danna Dobson)**

- The December financial report was included in the AGM booklet.
- The 2026 draft budget was circulated for discussion. It was suggested that more funds be allocated to pins/awards. The budget will be brought back to the March meeting for final approval.

## d) **Past President's Report (Donna Guiney)**

Donna indicated that she is able to assist and support the President or anyone else who needs something. As the policy manual lead, she will be reviewing the policy manual to identify additions, deletions or corrections. All changes will be brought to the executive and membership before finalizing. Donna will also be supporting the Faith, Social Justice and Service standing committees however she is needed.

## e) **Membership Report (Andrea Glover)**

Andrea reported that 55 members have renewed. We have 3 new members. Those who have not renewed have been contacted.

Andrea thanked everyone who renewed their membership by January 31<sup>st</sup>. **The winner of the Earlybird draw was Martha Brough.**

## 3. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### a) **Faith Standing Committee**

In the absence of a chair for this committee, items relating to Faith will be handled by the appropriate members of the executive. There is no report for this month.

### b) **Service Standing Committee (Danna Dobson)**

There will be a Service Committee meeting in March to organize activities.

### c) **Social Justice Standing Committee (vacant)**

Gail expressed a willingness to assume the role of Chairperson for this standing committee, with assistance. It was suggested that we have a speaker to talk about MAID. Donna Guiney, Mary Lou Hills and Mary Myers offered to assist Gail with her standing committee.

## 4. **STANDING ITEMS**

### a) **Fundraising**

#### i. **Snowflake Bazaar Wrap-up Meeting (Donna Guiney)**

Donna reported that we had a very successful bazaar that raised \$2,393.29. There were many volunteers. There was a bazaar wrap-up meeting, focusing on "What, How and When". Those attending focused on vendor layout and overall event flow. Suggestions included:

- Adjust the tea room hours to 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.
- Due to low attendance at the Children's Activities table and to maintain the popular *"Where's Elfo"* game, make this the sole children's activity.
- There is a need for better advertising, including more prominent signage and cross-promotion with vendors.
- Consider a price increase for pies to reflect rising ingredient costs. The team acknowledged a decrease in volunteer support for pie preparation and discussed strategies to recruit additional parishioner assistance.

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- The bazaar should maintain its focus on Christmas-themed baked goods and continue with a “no price” bake sale.
- Streamline the vendor setup to improve traffic flow throughout the event space.

### ii. **Crafts on the Corner – April 18, 2026 (Shirley McDonald)**

Shirley reported that there are currently 11 paid vendors for the spring craft show, with another 20 vendors requesting application forms. A second vendor request was sent out on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Promotion of the event will begin this month. Promotional flyers were distributed for anyone who is interested in posting them. An events webpage has been added to the parish website and currently features the craft show, with links to the vendors’ information:

[https://www.blessedsacramentamherstview.org/bls\\_events.html](https://www.blessedsacramentamherstview.org/bls_events.html).

### b) **Correspondence (Mary Lou Hills)**

Letters of thanks were received from Noreen d’Eon, Teresa Horner, Barbara Larmondin and Sr. Sheila Boase for the Christmas Shoeboxes. A Christmas card was received from Catholic Christian Outreach.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

### a) **2026 Diocesan Convention – April 25/26 (Shirley McDonald)**

- i. The Diocesan council is holding a virtual silent auction again this year to raise funds for the convention. They are looking for donations, such as items or gift certificates valued at \$50 or more. If you can contribute anything, please contact Shirley before the Presidents’ Meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. An information flyer was circulated.
- ii. Volunteers are requested to assist with several areas – Liturgy Program, Decorations, Delegate Bags, Transportation and Registration Desk. If you can help with any of these areas, please contact Shirley. This would be in addition to our assisting with the Prayer Room.
- iii. The convention package has been received and copies will be prepared for those who wish to attend. If anyone is interested in being an Accredited Delegate this year, contact Shirley.

### b) **World Day of Prayer – March 6<sup>th</sup> (Donna Guiney)**

The WDP will be held on March 6, 2026 at 11:00 am at Christ Church, Catawaqui. Mary Lou Hills and Theresa Shanks are attending the planning meeting. The theme this year is Nigeria.

### c) **Presidents’ Meeting February 28<sup>th</sup> (Shirley McDonald)**

Volunteers are needed to set up the hall on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and to assist in the kitchen at morning break and lunch on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The event will be catered and sweets provided by the Diocesan. We will serve coffee and tea. Shirley is looking for volunteers to help set up the hall on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and to assist with serving beverages and cleanup on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. A volunteer sheet was circulated.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a) **March Meeting (Shirley McDonald)**

Our March meeting will be short as we have a number of other activities planned – installation of new executive, milestone and new member pin presentations, new member prize draw, and instructed vote. There will be no standing committee reports.

### b) **Father Stan’s Funeral (Donna Guiney)**

Father Stan Alanen, our former pastor, passed away on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a visitation at Blessed Sacrament on February 16<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 pm, followed by a prayer vigil. The funeral will be held on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. The CWL will provide a catered funeral luncheon and volunteers are requested. Setup is Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. A volunteer sheet was circulated.

Anne Nicholls will lead the Rosary at 1:15 pm on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

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Shirley indicated that there will be a CWL Honour Guard. Anyone who would like to join in is asked to wear their CWL scarf and pin(s), if they have them. Please gather at the back of the church at least 15 minutes before the start of the funeral for instructions.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting closed at 7:55 pm. Fr. Charles led us in prayer.

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**