



Past President's Report
Diocesan Convention Oral Report
April 23, 2016



Madam President:

Sisters in the League,

Immediate Past Presidents have duties to perform, these involve mentoring, advising, listening, being available to do jobs assigned by the president. The past president needs to be an observer, offering ideas but also accepting new ideas and methods of the new president and executive members.

Once a past president always a past president. They have experience, knowledge of league matters, and publications such as the Constitution & Bylaws, the Policy & Procedure Manuals, Leading the League and others. There is a Past President handbook available to provide information that may be valuable to assist the past president in her duties. Councils also have policies that outline how that particular council will operate, the past president may have been or will be called upon to help review and update them from time to time.

Carefully preserving archival material is important for each council. It is the history of the Catholic Women's League in your parish. It needs to be kept in a known, safe place, which is accessible. A checklist can be used to keep a record of what needs to be preserved. Keep a record of what has been filed and update it as more information and items have been saved. Spreadsheets and data bases can be used and are convenient for adding information but periodic printouts on hard copy are important because technology changes, data can be lost - but paper lives on.

Photos are visual reminders of the activities of the council. As soon as they are printed, write on the back, the date, the occasion and names of the people in the picture (if possible). It makes it easier to put them in an album and do the captioning. The diocesan albums on display need some help from you. There are sticky notes and pencils for you to add some names of people in the pictures.

Recruiting capable members to fill positions on the council executive is a task that past presidents reported that they are quite often called upon to do. Frequently it is a committee of past presidents who work on this important task.

At the Diocesan level the election of new officers will take place at the next convention in April 2017. Council presidents who have completed their term will be eligible for election to Diocesan council. The past president's name is on the list for 3 terms. Eligibility lists will be updated and in late fall, contact will be made with all of those who are on the list. Working at the Diocesan level is interesting, valuable and another way to develop skills and share your gifts with your sisters in the League. Please consider taking a step or a leap and say YES when you receive the letter asking you to let your name stand for election.

This concludes my report,
Gwen Elliott