



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



## 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Business Meeting Minutes Saturday, April 27, 2019 St. Anthony's Church, Lloydminster

President Cheryl Boom welcomed everyone to St. Anthony's Church for this Convention. Convention Planning Committee Co-Chair and President of St. Anthony's Council, Ann Rehman, welcomed everyone on behalf of her Council and provided housekeeping information.

### Memorial Service

Led by Belinda Halbach, Spiritual Development Chair, and Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Father Jan Sobkowicz, and assisted by the 9 Zone chairs, all CWL members of the Edmonton Diocese who have gone from this life to their eternal rest in Christ were remembered and honoured. The names of all those deceased in 2018 from each Zone were read by the Zone Chair, who then placed a rose in a vase and lit a candle at the feet of a Statue of Our Blessed Mother in their memory.

- 1. Call to Order & League Prayer:** President Cheryl Boom, on behalf of the Edmonton Diocesan Council of Canada, thanked our Creator God for all creation and acknowledged that we are meeting on the land of the traditional territory of the Treaty 6 First Nations. She called to order the business meeting of the 97<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Edmonton Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada at 9:29am.  
Belinda Halbach then led the League Prayer.

- 2. Notice of Annual Convention:** Secretary Pat Keith read the Notice of Annual Convention.

The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Edmonton Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2019 at St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church in Lloydminster, Alberta to promote the Objects and Policies of the League, plan future programs, for the presentation of annual reports and to conduct any other business of the Council.

- 3. Opening Remarks:** Cheryl Boom gave a brief summary of the Pre-Convention Day.
  - We were given an update on progress of Strategic Planning by Fran Lucas, National President-Elect.
  - We had a great Resolutions Dialogue session on the resolution brought for consideration from St. Thomas Council in Edmonton.

- We met a few Spiritual Advisors who joined us for lunch. The recipient of the Doreen Melton Scholarship, Chad Miciak was not able to be with us.
- We were treated to an excellent speaker, Brianna Wempe from the Lloydminster Youth Council. She spoke on the importance of Sustainable Persons.
- We heard an update on our Zone structure, and will hear more at the Post-Convention Meeting.
- We made our instructed vote for Provincial Council.
- We gathered for the Official Opening Eucharistic Celebration followed by a Wine and Cheese Reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Father Dawson Council.

**4. Introduction of Diocesan Officers:** Cheryl Boom introduced the following Diocesan Officers and noted that this will be recorded as roll call. She also introduced our Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Father Jan Sobkowicz.

**Diocesan Officers: 11**

Cheryl Boom	President
Mary Molloy	President-Elect/Organization
Belinda Halbach	Vice President/Spiritual Development
Pat Keith	Secretary
Jean Ashdown	Treasurer
Mary Hunt	Past President
Jessie Sandmaier	Christian Family Life
Patti Heck	Community Life
Mary Pat O'Neill	Education and Health
Carmen Routhier	Communications
Doreen Kelly	Resolutions and Legislation

**5. Introduction of Special Guests:** Mary Molloy introduced our special guests.

Gwen Elliott	Past Diocesan President
Mary-Lou Veecken	Life Member
Becky Kallal	Life Member
June Fuller	Provincial President/Life Member
Cathy Bouchard	National Resolutions Chairperson/Life Member/ Zone 7 Chair (voting delegate for Sacred Heart, Red Deer)
Fran Lucas	National President-Elect/Life Member
Mariette Huot	Zone 2 Chair
Gladys Brown	Zone 3 Chair
Gail Seitz-Gratton	Zone 4 Chair
Patti Heck	Zone 8 Chair (accredited as Diocesan Officer)
Helga Pasichnyk	Zone 9 Chair

**6. Introduction of Parliamentarian:** Cheryl welcomed Life member Becky Kallal and introduced her as Parliamentarian for this Convention. She is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and has served in this role at Diocesan, Provincial, and National levels.

**7. Roll Call:** Secretary Pat Keith conducted the roll call.

The roll call included **Diocesan Officers: 11** and **Life Members: 4** and **Zone Chairs: 4** as introduced in #4 and #5 above.

**Parish Voting Delegates: 28**

**Parish Accredited Delegates: 35**

<i>Voting Delegate</i>	<i>Accr.</i>	<i>Voting Delegate</i>	<i>Accr.</i>
Beaumont – St. Vital	2	Edmonton – St. Thomas More	2
Camrose – St. Francis Xavier	2	Edson – Sacred Heart	2
Devon – St. Maria Goretti	1	Fort Saskatchewan – Our Lady of the Angels	2
Edmonton – Annunciation Parish	0	Grand Cache – Holy Cross	0
Edmonton – Corpus Christi	1	Lloydminster – St. Anthony	2
Edmonton – Good Shepherd	0	Olds – St. Stephen	0
Edmonton – St. Agnes	2	Parkland County – Holy Trinity	2
Edmonton – St. Anthony	0	Provost – St. Mary	2
Edmonton – St. Charles	1	Red Deer – Sacred Heart	0
Edmonton – St. Clare	2	Red Deer – St. Mary	0
Edmonton – St. Dominic Savio	0	St Albert – Holy Family	1
Edmonton – St. John Bosco	0	Sherwood Park – Our Lady of Perpetual Help	
Edmonton – St. Joseph Basilica	2	Vermillion – Holy Name of Jesus	2
Edmonton – St. Theresa	0	Villeneuve – St. Peter	2

**8. Recognition of New Members/First Time Conventioneers:** Cheryl welcomed and invited all new members and first time conventioneers to stand and be recognized. Each was presented with a memento of this Convention by Diocesan Officers Jessie Sandmaier, Patti Heck and Carmen Routhier.

**9. Credentials Report :** as presented by Mary Anne Machin

Voting Delegates (Parish Council Presidents or their designates)	28
Accredited Delegates (Parish Council)	35
Accredited Delegates (Diocesan Officers)	11
Accredited Delegates (Honorary Life Members)	0
Accredited Delegates (Life Members)	4
Accredited Delegates (Zone Chairpersons)	4
<b>Total Voting and Accredited Delegates</b>	<b>82</b>

**Motion:** by Cathy Bouchard, Sacred Heart, Red Deer, and seconded by Mary Hunt, Diocesan Officer, that the Credentials Report be accepted as presented. **Carried**

**10. Approval of Standing Rules:** Mary Hunt, Diocesan Officer, Read the Standing Rules for the Annual Convention 2019 as found in the convention booklet.

**Motion:** by Angie Cook, St. Joseph's Basilica, seconded by Marguerite Attlebery, St. Vital, Beaumont that the Standing Rules for Annual Convention 2019 be approved as presented. **Carried.**

**11. Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion:** by Melvina Grudecki, St. Agnes, Edmonton and seconded by Donna Horpestad, Holy Name of Jesus, Vermillion that the agenda be approved as presented. **Carried**

**12. Minutes of the 96th Annual Convention 2018:** there being no changes to the Minutes, Cheryl Boom, Diocesan President, declared the minutes accepted as circulated.

**13. Spiritual Advisor's Reflections:** Yesterday being the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Father Jan reflected on Our Lady's words at the Wedding at Cana, when she said to the servants "Do whatever He tells you" and how that message is for all throughout the ages. He spoke of Thomas's doubt and how difficult it is for us to believe at times, especially those times of terrible happenings when we wonder, if God loves us, why do these things happen? We must ask Our Lord to strengthen our conviction and trust in his word.

**14. CWL National President's Greetings:** Fran Lucas, National President-Elect, brought greetings on behalf of Anne-Marie Gorman, President of the National Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada and invited everyone to the 2019 National Convention being held in Calgary in August. She also shared that Honorary Life member Ardis Beaudry from Edmonton has been invited to Ottawa to receive an award honouring the founders of the first Women's Shelters in Canada. Wonderful recognition for a wonderful lady!

**15. CWL Provincial President's Greetings:** June Fuller, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President of The Catholic Women's League of Canada, brought greetings on behalf of the Council. She encouraged all Councils to embrace the National Theme of '*Care for Our Common Home,*' and added that the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council has added the words '*Make a Difference.*' Provincial Council is asking our members across Alberta to focus on water and the importance of this natural resource in daily life. Please look for ways to be better stewards of the water that we use. June invited all to the Provincial Convention in Grande Prairie in June.

**16. Report from Pre-Convention Meeting:** Secretary Pat Keith reported that:

- President Cheryl Boom called the meeting to order at 1:45pm
- In attendance was 7 special guests, 11 Diocesan Officers and 30 Parish Councils
- There were 2 motions passed:
  1. that we replace the Wilberforce Project (Alberta ProLife), on the Parish remittance form, with ALIES (Alberta Life Issues and Educational Society)
  2. that we donate any funds collected since January 1, 2019 for the Wilberforce Project through the Parish Remittance form to ALIES
- Nominations for the Provincial Council Election was completed and the instructed vote will be given to President- Elect Mary Molloy to take to the Provincial Council in June.
- The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

**17. Mass Collection Disbursement:** Three suggestions were given. By a show of hands the disbursement will go to The Lloydminster Youth Council.

**Becky Kallal provided a review on the Provincial Election nomination process:**

The Councils voted on their choices for nominations for the various positions for Provincial Council. The votes were counted and tallied and the list was given to Mary Molloy to take to the Provincial Convention as her instructed vote from the Diocesan Council. A decision needs to be made whether to announce the nominations or keep them secret. The National Manual of Policy and Procedures is unclear. After discussion and consultation among the parliamentarian, a mentor, and life members, it was concluded that the members should make this decision. President Cheryl Boom called for a vote on the following – **The nominations committee shall share the names of those nominated.** By a show of hands this was defeated. The names of those nominated will not be shared with the membership.

**18. Reports:**

**a. President – Cheryl Boom**

- The past two years as Diocesan President have been a rewarding experience
- It has been an honour and pleasure to visit many Councils and attend Zone meetings and thereby meeting many CWL sisters in the Diocese
- A Calendar of Events for 2017-19 is documented
- In review, the 5 Edmonton Diocesan Priorities for 2017–2019:
  1. Provide support to Parish Councils
  2. Increase Membership
  3. Modernize CWL process at Diocesan level
  4. Enhance spiritual development at meetings
  5. Support women and families in need
- The top 4 National priorities for us to act on were:

1. Exclude medical assistance in dying in Palliative/hospice care facilities
  2. Require age verification mechanisms for pornographic web sites
  3. Protect the conscience rights of health care workers
  4. Remove Canada Summer Jobs program attestation
- Midwinter Executive Meeting incorporated the new theme “Care for Our Common Home”

**b. Secretary – Pat Keith**

- Continued to create agendas and transcribe minutes
- Updated the Parish Presidents Roster. Please check the roster and advise of any corrections that need to be made
- Thanked the 42 Councils who completed and submitted their annual reports
- She thanked all the council secretaries for your dedication and service

**c. Treasurer – Jean Ashdown**

- 46 councils submitted annual reports
- Councils have made generous donations to National, Provincial and Diocesan voluntary funds, to community and church related charities, and to their own parishes. Please include these in your annual report so that all your councils donations are accurately reflected
- In 2018 the Doreen Melton endowment fund received \$50 in donations and earned \$1008.59. At the end of 2018 the fund balance was \$26,118.40. The scholarship amount is \$750
- Jean referred to the income and balance statements starting on p.39 of the convention booklet. Questions from the floor were invited and answered.

**Motion:** by Jessie Sandmaier, Diocesan Officer, seconded by Pam DeLuca, St. Thomas More Council, Edmonton, that the report of the reviewer of the financial statements be accepted as presented in the 2019 annual report book. **Carried.**

**d. Past President – Mary Hunt**

- Duties included mentoring, advising, listening and undertaking any assignments from the president
- She encouraged all councils to call upon your past president as a knowledgeable resource in all League matters
- Past presidents are responsible for the history and the archives of your council. Be sure to store them in a safe place and that the location is known by your members.
- She will continue to work on gathering council histories to update the **We Remember... A Celebration of Service** publication and will continue this into the next term
- Thank you to all the women who have let their name stand for election for the 2019-2020 term

## **19. Standing Committee Reports:**

### **a. Spiritual Development – Belinda Halbach**

- In 2016 Pope Francis proposed a complement to the seven works of mercy “Care for Our Common Home”
- In light of this the new National Theme “Care for Our Common Home” was well received by the membership
- In her talk at the luncheon hosted by St Maria Goretti Parish in Devon, Sister Susan Scott called us to action in this theme with her mantra “if not you, then who”, “if not now, then when”.
- Pope Francis declared October 2019 ‘Extraordinary Mission Month.’ May we be especially vigilant this October in spreading the Good News of our Faith. At the Anthony Jordan Lecture Series at the Pastoral Centre held last March, Dr. Douglas Farrow encouraged all in attendance to speak our truth and not allow society to dictate how the conversation will go.
- Although CWL does not any longer monetarily support The Wilberforce Project because of their political affiliations, I encourage all ladies to personally support this campaign for the sanctity of life.
- Let’s show our support for pro-life by attending the Pro-Life Walk on May 9<sup>th</sup> in downtown Edmonton.
- There are many ecumenical and interfaith activities in our diocese. I encourage you to attend these events

### **b. Organization – Mary Molloy**

- Met many faith filled women who give unselfishly of their time and talents to pray, to share, to laugh and to care about others “at home and abroad”.
- Council struggled to find women willing to take on leadership roles.
- 6 councils have not yet submitted their memberships for this year. Please do so as soon as possible.
- Working with Zone Chairs – two workshops have been held to review the structure of our zones in this diocese. This will be the subject of our Post-Convention meeting. Please stay and participate in this workshop.
- The Zone chairs have suggested the Annual Convention booklet contain one composite report on Zones, summarizing the work each zone has undertaken during the year. This is the report that is presented in the 2019 Convention Booklet.
- She thanked all the councils who submitted their annual reports and the names of their service award recipients.

### **c. Christian Family Life – Jessie Sandmaier**

- 36 councils submitted their annual reports.
- Last September 43 Seminarians were studying at St. Joseph's Seminary Six have since left the seminary. Please continue to pray for and support your seminarian.
- May 12<sup>th</sup> is the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations.
- National Week for Life and Family is May 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Back Porch asks us to keep their clients in our prayers.
- Anne Wansink, a co-convenor of Christian Family Life and Community Life at Holy Family Council in St. Albert, has a display table with pre-natal and pro-life material. Please visit her table.
- Euthanasia deaths are increasing in Canada. Please keep praying for the sick and vulnerable, and contact your MLA's on this issue.
- Alberta March for Life is May 9<sup>th</sup>. Gather at the Legislature at 12 noon.
- Reminder – March for Life needs monetary help, if you can donate, please write the cheque to Alberta March for Life, or donate on-line.

### **d. Community Life – Patti Heck**

- Many councils do not have Community Life Chairs but still do the work of the committee – they are to be commended.
- The Federal Government has presented Bill C-97. This Bill removes the law that protects Refugee Claimants from being deported without having their case heard before an independent tribunal. Under the new policy the best that those affected could hope for is an interview with an immigrant official as part of a “pre-removal risk assessment”. Please write letters to your MP's and the Prime Minister letting them know that this change is not acceptable and must not happen.
- Archbishop Richard Smith announced in December that the Edmonton Diocese would forward money collected to Development and Peace with the understanding that Development and Peace would not fund the 52 partners that are under review. CWL may also send money but must make it clear that the money not be shared with any of these 52 partners.
- Over the years, many councils have facilitated the Refugee Welcome Bag Program for immigrants arriving in Edmonton. The latest council to provide this service is St Charles Parish. After 9 years they can no longer continue this ministry. Please consider taking on this great ministry for a period of time.

### **e. Communications – Carmen Routhier**

- The summary of the Communications Standing Committee chair's annual report can be found in the convention booklet.
- Continued to update the webpage and welcome information on events, retreats and meeting to post on the page



- Received many joyful pictures from Parish Councils and have also taken many photos to create a slideshow that will be shown at the banquet this evening.

**f. Resolutions & Legislation – Doreen Kelly**

- Received one resolution for consideration. It will be presented by St. Thomas More Council later in this meeting.

***Resolution 2019.01 In-school Dental Screening for Children in Grades K-12***

- Please continue to write letters to your MLA and MP about the following:
  1. Protection from Coercion of Conscience for Healthcare Professionals
  2. A National Organ and Tissue and Transplantation Registry
  3. Recognizing Obesity as a Chronic Disease
  4. Excluding Medical Assistance in Dying in Hospice/Palliative Care facilities
  5. Seniors Advocate separate from government

**Your voice must be heard.**

- Nationally, there will be a new process for handling resolutions. Submitted resolutions will be discussed and changes made under the Resolution Workshop and presented for the vote the following day. The vote will be on the resolution as presented – there will be no further changes made.

**g. Education & Health – Mary Pat O’Neill**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Poster Contest for 2019 received 576 entries. None of these winners were able to attend today. Thank you to all who participated in the contest and also to their teachers. Congratulations to the winners. Winning posters and students were displayed on the screen. Prizes in each category were \$50 for first and \$25 for second.

**Winners:**

**Category 1-Grades 1 & 2:** Theme – Where can I find God in my school (224 entries)

Kenzington 1<sup>st</sup>, Harper 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Category 2-Grades 3 & 4:** Theme – At school, I learned about Jesus (216 entries)

Josy 1<sup>st</sup>, Breanne 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Category 3-Grades 5 & 6:** Theme – School helps me walk in Jesus’ footsteps (136 entries)

Breanne 1<sup>st</sup>, Darlyn 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Catholic Schools are a blessing for not only the students who attend and their families, but for the entire Church Community. Please continue to support our Catholic Schools.
- Edmonton Catholic Schools has provided all CWL members in the Diocese with beautiful postcards and blue ribbons, introducing the “Blue Ribbon Campaign” in

support of publicly funded Catholic Schools. Please wear the ribbons in support of the campaign.

- Support Bill C-418, a bill introduced in parliament which will protect the conscience rights of all Canadian healthcare professionals. Please write letters to your MP's letting them know you support this Bill
- Covenant Health twice presented a Forum on Advanced Care Planning and Goals of Care Designation. It was very informative.
- There is one resolution under this standing committee.

Doreen Kelly, Resolutions and Legislation Standing Committee Chair read the resolution: ***Resolution 2019.01 In-School Dental Screening for Children in Alberta Grades K-12***

**Motion:** by Pam Lucas, St. Thomas More Council and seconded by Clover Oryschak, St. Thomas More Council, that the resolution be adopted as presented. Clover Oryschak spoke to the motion. Discussion followed. **Motion Carried.**

**Speaker:**

Tal Woolsey spoke to us about CAWST (The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology) CAWST teaches people how to get safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in their own homes using simple, affordable technologies. It provides technical training and consultation and acts as a centre of expertise in water and sanitation for the poor in developing countries. It is a Canadian charity and licensed engineering firm. They address the global need for safe drinking water and sanitation by building local knowledge and skills on household solutions people can implement themselves.

## **20. New Business**

### **a. Election of Diocesan Officers: (2019 – 2021 term)**

President Cheryl Boom appointed Pat Keith as Secretary of Elections.

Mary Hunt, Past Diocesan President conducted the elections for the Diocesan Officers for the next two years.

**President – Mary Molloy:** President-Elect Mary Molloy has been contacted and asked if she will take the position of President and she replied in the affirmative.

**Past President – Cheryl Boom:** President Cheryl Boom automatically assumes this position.

**President Elect – Clover Oryschak (Clover Bench) :** There being only one nomination, a motion was made by Pam DeLuca, St. Thomas More, seconded by Cathy Bouchard, Sacred Heart, Red Deer, that Clover Oryschak (Clover Bench) be declared elected as President-Elect. **Carried**

**Vice President – Sister Susan Scott:** There being only one nomination for Vice President, a motion was made by Gwen Elliott, St. Francis Xavier Camrose, and

seconded by Connie Asp, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sherwood Park that Sister Susan Scott be declared elected as Vice President. **Carried.**

**Secretary – Marguerite Critchley:** There being only one nomination for secretary, a motion was made by Donna Horpestad, Holy Name of Jesus, Vermillion, and seconded by Nicole Boulin-Graves, Good Shepherd, Edmonton, that Marguerite Critchley be declared elected as Secretary. **Carried.**

**Treasurer – Marguerite Attlebery:** There being only one nomination for treasurer, a motion was made by Belinda Halbach, St. Vital, Beaumont, seconded by Donna Hill, St. Maria Goretti, Devon, that Marguerite Attlebery be declared elected as Treasurer. **Carried.**

**Standing Committee Chairs.** Seven members were nominated. As Marguerite Critchley (secretary) and Marguerite Attlebery (Treasurer) are now removed from the nominations list for standing committee chairs, there remain only five candidates for the five positions. **Motion:** by Stephanie Lehr, St. Charles, Edmonton, seconded by Angie Cook, St. Joseph Basilica that the following be elected to the five Standing Chair Positions:

**Susan Casey, Mary Pat O’Neill, Kara Pelech, Katherine Tarras, Annette Valstar.**

**b. Invitation to Diocesan Convention 2020, Zone 9 North:**

Stephanie Lehr, on behalf of Zone 9 North and St. Charles Parish in Edmonton invited everyone to the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention to be held at St. Charles Parish in North Edmonton April 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**c. Registration Report :** Mary Anne Machin provided the following registration report as follows:

Voting Delegates	30
Parish Accredited Delegates	35
Diocesan Officers	11
Honorary Life Members	0
Life Members	2
Zone Chairpersons	4
CWL Members	40
National CWL Representative	1
Provincial CWL Representatives	1
Members of Hierarchy (Bishops)	0
Diocesan Spiritual Advisor	1
Parish Spiritual Advisors	3
Guests	3
<b>Total Registration</b>	<b>131</b>

**21. Announcements:**

- Closing Mass is at St. Anthony's at 5:00pm
- Banquet will be in the hall at 7:00pm.
- Post-Convention Meeting will be in the hall tomorrow morning at 9:30am
- Please fill out the evaluation forms
- St. John Bosco has started a Catholic Girls League. Their first bake sale is May 12, 9:00am till noon.

**22. Closing Prayer:** Belinda Halbach led us in the closing prayer. A prayer of thanksgiving for water, for guidance for the implementation committee to revitalize the CWL, and ended with the CWL Prayer for Renewal.

**23. Adjournment:** President Cheryl Boom declared the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Meeting of the Edmonton Diocesan Council adjourned at 3:23pm.

**24. Official Closing and Retiring of Flags:**

Assembly stood in silence as the Flags were retired from the hall.

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*President, Cheryl Boom*

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*Secretary, Pat Keith*