Past President's Report

Diocesan Mid-winter Meeting

January 30, 2016

Madam President:

Sisters in the League,

On the completion of the term of President there is a passing on of the responsibilities of leading the business of the council. The immediate Past President has an important role to play in the life and working of the council. She still has duties to perform and does remain on the executive until the Presidents team is completed. The new role is to be supportive as a mentor, offering gentle guidance, ideas and information on the workings and history of the council.

The Past President shall be responsible for archives and history as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws. Checklists can be very helpful in making sure that all the important information is kept in an organized and safe way. There is a checklist and additional information at the Past President display. Some information was copied from the Handbook for Past President page 6, if you have a copy. "*Archives Guidelines for League history"* is more detailed and was downloaded from the National Website. Copies are available on the table.

There are members in our Diocese who have received the Bellelle Guerin Award. I spoke about this special project at the Fall meeting. I am gathering information on the recipients of this award, names, background information and pictures if available of the recipients. If you have a member in your council who has received the Bellelle Guerin award, please get in touch with me so that her name can be recorded.

As Immediate Past President there are specific duties but once you have completed your term you will always be a Past President. As an example, it was a group of four Past Presidents who carried on the work of President in one council. You have the knowledge, experience, understanding of the good things and the pitfalls. You support and care for your council so that it can continue on into the future. You are needed to train, encourage, mentor council members so that they will be ready and willing to accept a position on the executive. Always be on the look-out for members who will make effective members of the team.

This concludes my report,

Gwen Elliott