



# The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Archdiocese of Edmonton

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, PRAY FOR US

## ORGANIZATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014

59 councils reported

Sisters in the League

**The Organization Standing Committee is responsible for providing leadership direction to the organization.**

Thank you for taking the time to prepare and submit your annual report forms. Some of the councils indicated that when they completed them as an executive they found it an easier task and more comprehensive.

### MEMBERSHIP

As of December 31, 2014 there were 4546 members in 67 councils comprising the Edmonton Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League. This compares to 4592 at the end of December, 2013. Sadly 93 deceased members were reported for 2014. Councils reported that there were a total of 47 new members. Membership fees in councils ranged from \$20.00-\$35.00, with the majority of councils collecting \$25.00. On-line membership continues to be on the rise with many councils indicating that they have switched.

The "Parish Buddies" initiative was introduced in 2014 with Diocesan Officers contacting their assigned councils to share information, inquire about their activities and learn about any concerns in the councils. Officers were encouraged by many positive comments about our efforts to make a more personal connection with the councils in our diocese.

Membership recruitment and renewal continue to be significant challenges for our councils.

**Mentorship, training and encouragement** are integral to meeting these challenges. Councils continue to book Catch the Fire and S'Mores Development Workshops as a way to provide members and potential members with a good working knowledge of the League. Over 500 women in the Diocese have attended these workshops to be renewed and inspired. Do not overlook these workshops in your membership efforts. By increasing our knowledge about the CWL, each of us will be more confident and effective ambassadors for the League. It is my hope that each Zone will book a Catch the Fire Workshop in 2015 even if they have previously hosted a workshop. In 2014 a pilot high school Catch the Fire Workshop was held in Edmonton which provided much promise for the future.

**Membership Drives:** Some begin in October & November. One council presented a power point of their activities after Masses one weekend which was well received and effective. Another council hosts an annual CWL Membership Tea. In one council the Pastor provides each mother of a newly baptized baby a gift from the CWL with an invitation to join the League. Some other initiatives include speakers making a presentation, priest encouraging membership, announcements in the Parish bulletin, including a CWL envelope with the donation envelopes used by parishioners. Many councils are now emailing reminders to their members. Personal invitations were cited over and over again as an effective way of reaching members and potential members.

**Meeting and Activities Suggestions to keep members coming** included decreasing the number of meetings in a year, providing a welcoming atmosphere, thoughtful spiritual presentations and starting a Prayer Circle, a dedicated column to the CWL in the Church Bulletin where upcoming events are posted, setting aside Bulletin Board space in the Church welcoming area for CWL notices, inviting interesting guest speakers and shorter convenor reports, some councils booked a S'Mores presentation, sending out timely emails to members with reminders and monthly calendars, started a Book Club that meets every two months, make time for discussion, sharing of food including coffee & tea, breakfasts, luncheons, dinners and. Councils reported making presentations at various times during the year. Presentations included service pins, certificates of appreciation and thank you gifts. Councils felt it important to recognize the dedication, service and hard work of their members.

### **BELLELE GUERIN AWARD**

Members are eligible for The Bellele Guerin Award who do not qualify for life membership but who display and demonstrate love of the League and an availability and willingness to continue to serve. There was one recipient of the award reported in 2014, Cecile Gannon of Good Shepherd Parish in Edmonton. Seven former recipients of this award are members in our Diocese.

### **MAPLE LEAF SERVICE PIN AWARD**

Maple Leaf Service Pins were presented to members who have served the League in an exceptional or meritorious manner and nominated by their Council. In 2014 nine ladies were reported receiving the Maple Leaf Service Pin Award. Congratulations to all the deserving recipients: Yvonne Chapelsky , Barb O'Connor, Linda Sorenson, Sanda Plouffe, Jean Ashdown, Carolyn Harvey, Vera Huber, Diane Duce and Louisa Simpson

**Daisy Wilson Award** – Sister Annata Brockman

**In 2014 Years of Service pins were presented.**

**Only names of recipients provided by councils in their Annual Reports are listed.  
Congratulations to all the long standing and dedicated members in our Diocese in  
their work For God and Canada!**

### **10 Year Service Pins Recognition of your first Milestone as a CWL Member**

An McFeely	Frances Pelletier	Kathleen Keohane	Nicole Howrish
Ann Laurence	Gloria Ducharme	Leola May	Pam Petruchik
Anne Givens	Ineke McDougall	Lil Hamerynyk	Pat Thomson
Bertha Marcinkoski	Ingrid Grigon	Loretta Bowen	Pearl Herbert
Catherine Brown	Jackqueline Blansjaar	Maima Tama	Rita Bussiere
Catherine Kong	Jacqueline McCallum	Margaret Peyton	Rita Grundau
Cecile Bruneau	Janice Brecht	Marian Walshe	Rose Engbloom
Charmaine Hollings	Jeanette Garneau	Marilyn Moret	Ruth Callattung
Clover Oryschak	Jeanine Bussiere	Mary Desfosses	Sally Changarahi
Sr. Cornelia Ramirez	Jenna McKenna	Mary Ledding	Sheila Goodman
Debbie Binfet	Josephine Spiawinski	Mary Michaud	Shirley Engram
Diane Bowers-O'Neill	Joy Bonser	Mary O'Breck	Shirley Larsen
Elaine Nicolichuk	Joy Loyer	Micheline Bouchard	Terri Bruce
Elsie Blasco	Julie Sommerville	Michelle Bailey	Yvonne Robinson
Elsie Kee	Katherine Storey-Smith	Natalie Rose	

### **25 Year Service Pins**

Anka Batovanja	Deb Reinhart	Elizabeth Chiodo	Judy Horban
Bernice Flynn	Debbie Renschler	Emily Ronsco	Lynda Larsen
Betty Loiselle	Debbie Yaremovich	Helen Marathalingam	Vera Zimmerman
Brenda Kneller	Deborah Kurach	Hermina Sarauer	
Cindy Laskosky	Diane Gunia	Joanna Hinkley	
Claire Kawulok	Diane Pidhirniak	Joanne Kelln	

### **30 Year Service Pins**

Deborah Oikawa	Sharon Nault	Theresa Jobse
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### **40 Year Service Pins**

Angie Laboucane	Erlinda Furigay	Laurel Lutes	Pauline Kolasa
Cathy Evers	Germaine Pinco	Margaret Dunham	Rose Auburn
Connie McBride	Jean Jacula	Marie Buck	Rosemary Almond
Doreen Joly	Jeannie Rechlo	Marie O'Neill	Ruth Fossheim
Edith Karmen	June Erickson	Mary Pardell	
Eleanor Williams	Kathleen Oswald	Mildred Lemiski	

### **50 Year Service Pins**

Anita Kroetsch	Elsie Johnson	Lorraine German	Pat Vasseur
Anne Koebel	Helen Brophy	Louise Wilk	Rolande Paquette
Betty McCoy	June Kanderka	Margie Harper	Theresa Smith
Brigid Mulgrew	Lena Bowal	Matilda Zizek	
Carol Hanlon-Karrel	Lil Hanson	Odile Pouliot	

### **60 Year Service Pins**

Ardena Zinger	Ethel Zinger	Mary May	Melba Kopjar
Elsie Larose	Gerry Woodcox	Matilda Fleck	Vera Huber

### **70 Year Service Pin**

Jean Popowich

### **Honourable Milestones;**

65 years: Mary Samson & Minnie Diebert

74 years: Rita Gould

83 years: Matilda Feddema (she will be turning 100 in September 2015)

### **GOALS and PRIORITIES**

In service For God and Canada our councils cited the following:

- To identify the gifts and talents of our members and encourage the ladies to use them
- To bring life and energy to our council
- To develop leadership and mentorship in our council
- To invite our Spiritual Advisor/Parish Priest to all our meetings & events
- To ensure that a Spiritual component is a significant part of all meetings
- To encourage more members to attend functions and meetings
- To better communicate with our members (keeping phone, email & postal addresses updated)
- To make a special effort to follow up with lapsed members
- To make sure that we keep in contact with members who do not regularly attend meetings & events
- To find ways to keep Committee Chairs interested and engaged
- To look for ways to integrate the national and diocesan themes into our work

- To set up online memberships and payments for our council
- To find ways to recruit younger members
- To start a Spiritual Book Club
- To focus on getting members to renew their memberships
- To find ways to involve more members in Church ministries
- To attract 10 new ladies to our Council...that was our goal in 2014 & we succeeded
- To encourage our ladies to extend a personal invitation to ladies to join the CWL
- To book a Catch the Fire or S'Mores workshop in 2015
- To develop a Welcome Kit for our membership drive to give to potential and new members
- To encourage members to attend a Fall or Midwinter Meeting or a Convention
- To build community in our parish
- To continue providing a scholarship & to continue delivering Meals on Wheels
- To celebrate the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel on April 26th
- To be more visible in the schools by promoting the CWL Poster/Essay Contest
- To raise funds to purchase a new rug for our Church

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Workshops can be arranged for Council and Zone meetings. Our Diocesan Officers & Life Members are eager to offer their support and are available to you. Please check out the CWL Diocesan [www.edmontoncwl.org](http://www.edmontoncwl.org), Provincial [www.cwl.ab.ca](http://www.cwl.ab.ca) and National [www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca) websites for more information. In 2014, a Constitution, Policies and Procedures workshop was presented to the Edson/Hinton/Grande Cache Councils by two Life Members and supported financially by our Alberta/MacKenzie Provincial Council.

**League Resource Material:** National Manual of Policies and Procedures was updated in 2014 (be sure to purchase a copy for your council). Other useful references are the National Constitution & Bylaws (updated in 2013), Leading the League, the Executive Handbook and the CWL National Website.

Respectfully submitted,  
For God and Canada

*Mary Hunt*



