



The Catholic Women's League of Canada Edmonton Diocesan Council



May 11, 2021

TO: All Parish Council Presidents
All Diocesan Officers
Life Members

FROM: Clover Oryschak, President Elect and Organization Chair

SUBJECT: Diocesan Organization Spring 2021 Communique

Happy Spring!

What a wonderful time of year! As we eagerly await the emergence of flower bulbs, the grass to green up, and the trees to bud new leaves, we are so full of hope for the new signs of life. And as COVID vaccinations continue to roll out, no doubt many of your councils are probably already looking ahead to the days when Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health says you can safely resume your usual council activities. As we wait in joyful anticipation, I am sending you important Organization information to help you navigate the months ahead.

2021 Memberships

A reminder that membership renewals should be submitted to National as soon as possible. As of end of April 2021, a total of 3,301 members have renewed for 2021 (about 75% of last year's memberships). Renewing memberships online is the fastest and most efficient way to renew. If you need help with getting this set up, help is available.

Please note, when you submit your membership renewals online, insurance premiums are automatically included. However, if you do not renew via the online database, you will need to make sure insurance premiums (\$0.45/member) are included, otherwise National Office will return your membership renewals to you unprocessed.

New Members

National Office has a number of resources and materials to help councils with recruiting new members to the League (eg Welcome Program) in addition to resources and ideas for new member orientations and welcome kits.

National now has a 'Join' button located on the National CWL webpage. When women click the 'Join' button, they will receive a welcome letter from Fran Lucas, National President-Elect and Organization Chair, and their information will be forwarded to the Diocesan Organization Chair. When I receive the information, I am to identify the closest parish council and forward her contact information to the parish council I have identified. For practical purposes, because Diocesan Council has the contact information for all Parish Presidents, I will forward the information to your Parish Council President to follow up with the potential new member (eg your council President or Organization Chair can then reach out to the woman about joining your parish council). Please note: While the CWL always welcomes new members, please keep in

mind that some inquiries received via the 'Join' button may be better addressed by a parish priest who can provide spiritual guidance rather than by a CWL membership.

To Inspire

Check out the 'To Inspire' tab on the National CWL website (www.cwl.ca) to find out the latest information on National's Strategic Planning initiative. The link also includes videos your council may be interested in showing a General Meetings or playing in the front foyer entrance of your parish (check with your parish priest for permission).

Associate Membership vs General Membership

Did you know non-Catholics 16 years of age and over can be Associate Members of the CWL? Associate Members have voting privileges but are not eligible for office by election or appointment. This is distinct from General Members who are Catholic women 16 years of age or over who have voting privileges and eligibility for office by election or appointment.

National Office has added a feature in the online membership database to track Associate Memberships. If your council has Associate Members, please use this function and update your memberships accordingly (if you have Associate Members) as soon as possible. This will help to ensure election eligibility lists are as accurate as possible.

New Executive Information

Don't forget, if your council holds an election, you need to notify both Diocesan council and National office. There are two forms.

Parish Council New Executive Roster (send to our Diocesan Secretary Marguerite Critchley):

<http://www.edmontoncwl.org/reports-and-forms.html>

Parish Council New Executive Form (send to National office):

<https://cwl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/524-Change-of-Parish-Council-Executive-Form-r.2-2021.pdf>

If you have any questions or need any help, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Stay Safe and God Bless

Clover Oryschak