**Fall Meeting at St. Stephen’s Lacombe**

**September 29, 2018**

**Past President’s Report**

Madam President:

As Past President, I continue to play an advisory and consultative role and from time to time have been called upon to share my knowledge of the League and council. For those navigating their position as Past President, please remember that there is information in the National Executive Handbook and there is a Handbook for Past Presidents.

We are responsible for the archives and history of the council and maintaining the records, pictures, scrapbooks, and mementos of anniversaries and special occasions. It is important to make sure that the council's information is stored all together in a safe place and that the location is known. Photo albums need to have names and dates with the pictures. If you have some without information, approach long time members to see if they can identify them. Please email me pictures that you have taken at Diocesan meetings or the Convention in April so I can include them in the Diocesan records.

I reviewed the 2017 Annual Reports and noted that the majority of Past Presidents and their councils have the National CWL documents of the “Constitution and Bylaws” and the “Policy and Procedure Manual” but reported that they generally do not use them to guide their decisions. Less than half the councils indicate they have contacted the Diocesan Council for advice and very rarely contact their Provincial Executive. The Past President is responsible for reviewing the council’s *Manual of Policy and Procedure*. The manual is a useful tool for all members to clarify established and agreed-upon council practices such as; which charities does the parish council support? How many members are sent to annual conventions? etc. I encourage all councils to prepare a Manual of Policy and Procedure…assistance is readily available and only a phone call or email away.

I continue working on the Bellelle Guerin project which involves gathering information about the inspiring recipients of the award in the Edmonton Diocese…if your council presented this award, please send me information about your recipient. Updated information has been slowly coming in with respect to the ***We Remember*** booklet that provides a valuable overview of the history of all councils in the Diocese. Please have this information in to me by February 1st, 2018

2019 is a Diocesan Executive Election year. In early December, all members eligible for election to the Edmonton Diocesan Council will be sent a letter inviting them to let their name stand for office. We ask that you prayerfully discern this special calling to service and reply to us by February 15th, 2019.

I attended the National Convention in Winnipeg and am very excited about the Strategic Plan that was introduced which encourages us to be vital participants in the Church; valued partners for social justice;

a respected advocate at all levels of government; and connected to the world around us.

This concludes my report. Are there any questions?

Mary J. Hunt

Past President