

**BLESSED SACRAMENT  
CATHOLIC WOMENS' LEAGUE**

**2017 ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**



## Agenda for 2017 Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and call to order..... President
2. Opening prayer..... Bernadette Burgess
3. Approval of minutes of 2016 AGM..... Secretary
4. 2017: Annual Reports..... President
5. 2017: The Year in Review..... Historian
6. 2017: Membership Growth Chart ..... Membership Convenor
7. 2017 Financial Summary ..... Treasurer
8. Close of Annual General Meeting..... President

## Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting

1. The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Bernadette Veitch.
2. Bernadette Burgess led us in prayer.
3. Minutes of AGM February 10, 2015 – Minutes were reviewed. Donna Guiney moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Theresa Horner. APPROVED
4. 2016 Annual Reports – the 2016 annual reports were reviewed.
5. 2016 – Year in Review – Activities for 2016 were reviewed.
6. Membership – Carol Daigle reported that there were 83 members in 2016.
7. 2016 Financial Summary – the Financial Report was presented to the end of October 2016.  
Bazaar income was not available in time for this report.
8. Closing – Extra copies of the AGM will be available at the December pot-luck dinner for those who were not at this meeting. Danna Dobson moved that the AGM be accepted as presented.  
CARRIED

## 2017 Annual Reports

### **PRESIDENT** (Mary Lou Hills)

It has been an honour to serve as President of the Blessed Sacrament Parish Catholic Women's League Council. Since transferring my CWL membership to the Blessed Sacrament Council I continue to be awed, and humbled, by the dedication, community spirit and welcoming atmosphere of the Council. I am humbled by your spirituality. And this has been an amazing year as we have accomplished so much in such a short period of time.

We have had guest speakers on Homelessness and Human Trafficking. We have heard from three young women who will be travelling to Jamaica in the spring of 2018 and what inspired them to undertake such a mission. We continued to commemorate the memory of Shirley O'Connor, one of the founding members of the Council, with our second Strawberry Social. Through the Social we continue to support the Catholic Women's Leadership Foundation with their Leadership Program at the Providence School of Transformative Leadership and Spirituality, St. Paul University, Ottawa. Even with a change of date for our Annual Bazaar we continue to be able to support the Parish, the Amherstview community and various charities we support. Thanks to Jayme Joyce, Liz and Donna Guiney we had a fun filled evening in June at the baby shower for Birthright. We had our most successful ever bake sale in April.

In September we welcomed Father Tim Shea as Spiritual Advisor. We are sincerely grateful for Father's support and counsel.

But none of this would have been accomplished without the members of the Council. I salute you. In particular I need to thank my Executive. With their support, their wisdom and humour, this past year has been a joy. I look forward to working with our newly elected Chairpersons and welcome their ideas as we continue to make the Council the vibrant force it is in our Parish community. Together we continue on our faith journey, helping, inspiring and praying for each other along the way - in sorrow and joy.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to guide us *"For God and Canada"*.

### **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE** (Jane Burke)

Blessed Sacrament CWL has contributed to Christian Family Life in many ways. We continue with our *"Adopt a Family"* project. At our December Pot Luck supper we held a special food drive to assist our single person as they struggle to make ends meet.

On our October 10<sup>th</sup> meeting we listened to three Holy Cross Students speak about their upcoming mission to Jamaica in the spring of 2018.

We continue to sponsor a graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade student from Our Lady of Mount Carmel with our religious award, presented to a student who attends Mass on a regular basis, is a member of the parish, demonstrates good character, Christian values and practices them on a regular basis.

We joined with our sisters in the League of St. Gregory the Great Parish in Picton, as they held their vigil, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, by offering the evening Mass for murdered and indigenous women.

## **COMMUNICATIONS (Margaret Wilson)**

The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League informs our members of the different happenings and functions in the Parish. Meeting dates are announced in the Church bulletin and our meeting minutes are published on our web site. We have a number of members who do phoning for certain events. Also, a volunteer sends out get well cards, sympathy cards, Mass intentions and cards for members celebrating their birthdays.

The Canadian League magazine and the web site continues to bring us informative articles. Unfortunately, it was decided to discontinue the on-line newsletter 'Be League', although interesting and informative it proved to be unreliable when receiving items to be posted. The Trillium News and Views edition was also discontinued. This was done in keeping with the spirit of Pope Francis' encyclical and steps to reduce our carbon footprint.

'*On the Spot*' is a new National web site where members can send in news items from their councils featuring activities and council work. News and pictures will be posted immediately on the web site under '*On the Spot*'.

We are still being asked to send the Pornography Hurts post cards to our government officials. Our National Chairperson for Communications invited Doctor Anne Jamieson from the pastoral offices of the Diocese of Hamilton to write an article for our spring edition of the Catholic League magazine. She talked about a new documentary called 'Over 18' that shed light on how kids and youth are being affected by today's porn industry. This is a difficult topic that has connections to human trafficking, drug abuse and violence.

Members of our council participated in the 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on May 4th. A member of our council had the opportunity to attend the Provincial Convention in July, held in Thunder Bay and the National Convention in August, held in Prince Edward Island.

## **COMMUNITY LIFE (Carol Daigle)**

During this past year our council has brought to life the Objects of the League and the League's Mission Statement on the theme, "Inspired by the Spirit, Women Respond to God's Call".

We continue to foster and support a single woman in our Parish.

We had a successful Birthday party this past August for the residents of Helen Henderson Care Centre.

Care Boxes were sent to our local members of the Military serving out of Canada. Our parishioners have been generous in giving items for the boxes or money to purchase items.

Birthday cards are sent to Parish CWL members and Masses are celebrated for them on their birth month.

A guest speaker was invited to a meeting to let us know about the Kingston Street Mission for the homeless and what we can do to help. She also spoke about the scourge of Trafficking of youth for sexual purposes. The parish has been generous in the giving of winter clothing and food for the Mission. Our members have voted to make the Kingston Street Mission one of our on-going yearly charities.

## **EDUCATION AND HEALTH (Donna Guiney, Mary Lou Hills)**

Students from Holy Cross came to our CWL meeting on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> to talk about their 2018 Jamaican Mission trip. A short video and informative presentation was given by Cici Siju, Hannah Aikman and Hannah Gibbons, along with their Chaplaincy Leader, Christopher Forster. On their upcoming trip to Kingston, Jamaica the students will help to build one home and will assist students and seniors in their everyday life. CWL members gave donations to aid in this trip.

Mark Halliday again donated his time and expertise to provide a refresher course in CPR and the use of the AED on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen parishioners received the training.

## **HISTORIAN (Bernadette Veitch)**

During our May Pot Luck Supper we honoured Margaret Beneteau with a Certificate of Merit for her dedication and assistance to our ill members with cards and bringing the Eucharist to members unable to attend Mass for reasons of health. As well Roger Daigle received a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with Operation Homeland as well as assisting at the World Day of Prayer held at Blessed Sacrament in March of 2016.

## **LEGISLATION (Danna Dobson)**

Our Council again spent considerable time monitoring two pieces of legislation that needed timely advocacy from our League. Namely, they were the *Physician Assisted Dying Law* that was passed in the summer of 2016. Again, we advocated for Palliative Care and Services to Seniors in their homes. Members were provided with several sources to read and review the details of the legislation, reports prepared by the Catholic Church, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Federal Provincial and Territorial Committee Report, vulnerable communities and the Office of the Ethics Officer (federal government).

## **MEMBERSHIP (Sue MacDonald)**

Our Annual Membership drive started with the Pot Luck supper in December and continued into January. This year the Treasurer, Danna Dobson, spoke to the women of St. Linus Parish, Bath, after a 10:30 Mass about the League as did the President, Mary Lou Hills after Mass at Blessed Sacrament.

Membership fees are now sent to the National Office electronically.

Membership is down this year from 83 to 78 due to members moving to senior housing in Kingston or other accommodations because of reasons of health.

Our newest member, Martha Brough, received her membership pin at our May potluck.

We honoured our Spiritual Development Chairperson, Bernadette Burgess, with the Maple Leaf Pin for her service, not only on the parish level but to the diocesan and the provincial council as well.

## **ORGANIZATION (Donna Guiney)**

During 2017 we continued to review our Policy and Procedures and did revise the policy on Funeral Luncheons. Members agreed with the Executive Motion to charge a flat rate of 5.00 per person independent of the number of guests. We continued the practice of asking for a donation if a family could not afford to pay per plate as well as providing the luncheon gratis to the family of a deceased CWL member.

## **RESOLUTIONS (Danna Dobson)**

Resolutions are a powerful tool that The Catholic Women's League has for making a difference in the lives of others.

Members of the League and parish were invited to:

- a. Mail in postcards to show support for Palliative Care and constraints on assisted dying.
- b. Participate in a prayer vigil on the Day of Prayer for Hospice and Palliative Care, held in the church.

## **SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (Bernadette Burgess)**

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League is fortunate to have Mass or Liturgy of the Word prior to our meetings. The League prayer is always recited at the beginning of the meeting and our Council Partner Prayer is recited at the conclusion. Spiritual reflections are shared with the members monthly and during the hear books are highlighted for members to enhance their spiritual growth. Highlights of the past year include an evening service focusing on Palliative Care, the Crowning of Mary on Mother's day at Sunday Mass, participation in the Living Rosary and Memorial Service for deceased members. Members are also benefiting from the present Bible Study gathering which focuses on the Gospel of Luke. Our council also offers masses for member's birthdays and specific needs of parishioners as they arise.

## **PAST PRESIDENT (Bernadette Veitch)**

It has been my privilege to serve as Past President on the Executive of Blessed Sacrament Parish. The Executive has a wonderful group of experienced women who are eager to share knowledge of the League with their sisters of the parish. I have chaired meetings when the President or President-elect have not been able to do so. Attending monthly Executive meetings keeps me informed about activities and, when called upon, have given guidance. Currently, I am working with two other members on nominations and subsequent elections of our Standing Committee Chairs. Next year is shaping up to be an exciting time for our Parish Council.

### ***Our Lady of Good Counsel Pray for Us***

*Mother of Good Counsel, obtain for us from your divine son a great love of virtue, and, in the hour of uncertainty and trial, the strength to embrace the way that leads to our salvation.*

*If your hand sustains us, we shall walk unmolested along the path indicated to us by the life and words of Jesus, our redeemer, and having followed freely and securely, even in the midst of this world's strife, the sun of truth and justice under your maternal star, we shall come to the enjoyment of full and eternal peace with you in the haven of salvation.*

*Amen.*



## 2017: The Year in Review

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH:** Council agreed to suspend meetings in January and February because of the uncertainty of the weather during the winter months. It seemed as if the weather conspired against us every second Tuesday during the first three months of 2017 with either freezing rain or a blizzard.

**FEBRUARY:** Thirteen parishioners received refresher training on CPR and the use of the AED.

**APRIL:** We held two meetings in the month of April. The second was held on the feast of Our Lady of Good Council. Father Shea said Mass in the evening of the 26<sup>th</sup>, the new Executive was enrolled new member Jayme Joyce received her membership pin. Afterwards members were treated to coffee, tea and desserts in the Church Hall.

**MAY:** Again we continued the tradition of crowning of the Blessed Mother at the nine o'clock Mass on Mother's Day. Certificate of Merit was presented to Margaret Beneteau and a Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Roger Daigle during our May Pot Luck dinner. Bernadette Burgess received the Maple Leaf Award.

**JUNE:** Jayme Joyce, Liz and Donna Guiney hosted a baby shower for Birthright at our June meeting. We hosted our second Strawberry Social on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**AUGUST:** A successful Helen Henderson Care Centre Birthday party was held on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**SEPTEMBER:** Following the speaker from the Kingston Street Mission's presentation the Council adopted the Mission as a continuing charity. The annual fall winter coat drive took on a new perspective with donations of winter coats and the clothing such as socks, toques and mitts, as well as tarps, food and sleeping bags were presented to the Mission for distribution to the homeless of Kingston which it serves.

**OCTOBER:** Three students from Holy Cross Secondary School spoke to members and interested parishioners about their spring trip to Kingston, Jamaica.

**NOVEMBER:** Elections were held for Committee Chairs.

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### AWARDS AND PINS

Our Council presented the following awards and pins in 2017:

**Maple Leaf Service Pin:**

Bernadette Burgess

**Certificate of Merit:**

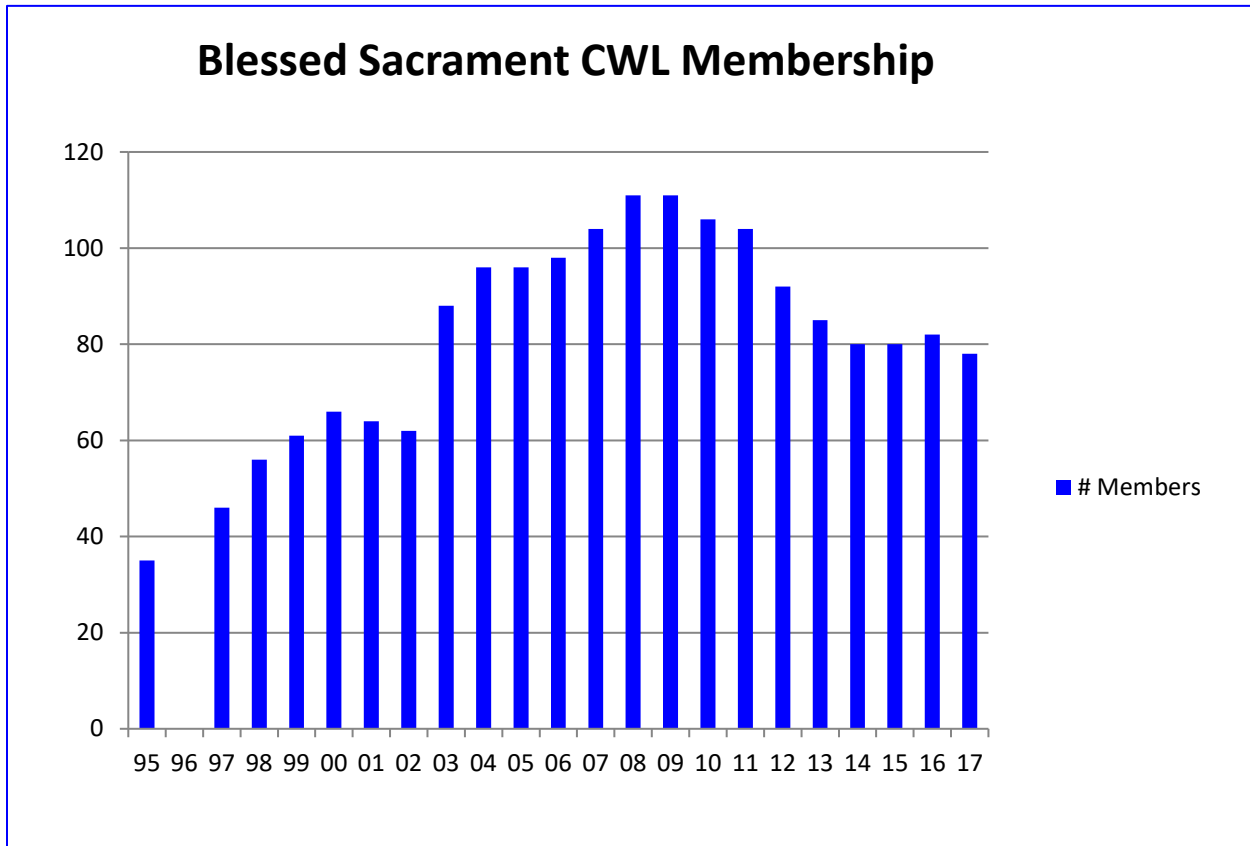
Margaret Beneteau

**Certificate of Appreciation:**

Roger Daigle



## 2017 Membership Growth Chart



## 2017 Approved Charitable Donations

### Diocesan:

Hope Fund

Birthright

### Parish Level:

Billings Life

Food Bank (Amherstview Lions Club)

Life After Loss

Pennies for Pesos

## 2017 Financial Summary

### Blessed Sacrament Budget 2017 Actuals up to 31 October 2017; estimates for year end

	2016 Actuals	2017 Budget	2017 Actuals	Details
<b>Income</b>				
Convention Membership	\$ 1,825.00	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 1,463.00	
Bazaar Income	\$ 4,267.80	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	estimate
Funeral Lunches	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 750.00	
KoC Garage Sale -Bake Table	\$ 800.45	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,052.50	
Conventions - food	\$ 1,025.25	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 555.00	donation supported food costs
Religious Articles			\$ 63.10	
Fundraising			\$ 357.50	Birthright, Strawberry Social
Strawberry Social	\$ 120.00			
Donations	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00		
Other	\$ 1,300.00			
Interest				
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,563.50</b>	<b>\$ 8,375.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,741.10</b>	

	2016 Actuals	2017 Budget	2017 Actuals	Details
<b>Expenses</b>				
Office	\$ 185.63	\$ 250.00	\$ 78.28	
Kitchen	\$ 106.17	\$ 100.00	\$ 17.30	
Bazaar	\$ 316.17	\$ 348.00	\$ 150.45	
Funerals	\$ 913.77	\$ 800.00	\$ 638.50	
Conventions		\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,160.00	donation to encourage participation (18)
Guest Speakers	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
Religious Articles	\$ -			
Grad Gifts		\$ 300.00	\$ 150.00	
Pins/Awards/Gifts	\$ 391.02		\$ 90.40	
Clergy Gifts	\$ 373.83	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00	
Christmas Gifts		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	planned
Masses	\$ 360.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 440.00	committed
Parish Assistance		\$ 400.00	\$ 100.00	
Charitable Donations	\$ 2,017.66	\$ 600.00	\$ 857.50	additional funds raised
Donation - Church (from Bazaar)	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	planned
CWL Memberships	\$ 1,640.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Bank Charges	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	
Other	\$ 1,530.00			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,800.25</b>	<b>\$ 8,153.00</b>	<b>\$6,437.43</b>	

Balance (Income - Expenses)	-\$ 36.75	\$ 222.00	\$ 1,303.67
ADD: Balance on hand January 1	\$ 3,832.12	\$ 4,700.04	
<b>Balance on hand December 31</b>	<b>\$ 3,795.37</b>		