



# MINUTES

## CWL General Meeting

May 14, 2024

**Blessed Sacrament Parish, Amherstview, Ontario**

*The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.*

---

**In Attendance:** Fr. Americo Santos, Donna Guiney, Mary Lou Hills, Shirley McDonald, Andrea Glover, Susan Aubin, Gisele VanPutten, Theresa Shanks, Margaret Wilson, Danna Dobson, Gail Raymond, Bernadette Veitch

**Attendance by Zoom:** Liz Ford and Kelly Neville

**A Quorum WAS achieved at this meeting.**

---

### **1. Welcome and call meeting to order (Donna Guiney)**

Donna called the meeting to order 6:15pm.

**Opening Prayer:** Liz Ford led us in praying a Hail Mary

### **2. Approval of Agenda (Donna Guiney)**

**MOVED** by Andrea Glover and seconded by Shirley McDonald that the agenda for the general meeting of May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, be approved with the addition of the Spiritual Advisor's Report and Correspondence.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**MOVED** by Margaret Wilson and seconded by Susan Aubin that the minutes of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 general meeting be approved with the following changes spelling of names re Mary Lou Hills and Shirley Jaynes.

**CARRIED**

### **4. Treasurer's Report: (Danna Dobson)**

- At April's end the balance, in the bank, was \$6000.47. She had not received the amount for the Mother's Day flowers. Since it was a donation Danna will record it for financial purposes but will also record it as a donation.
- There has been no final decision to what charities we would contribute to for the 2024 year – other than the Hope fund – to which we contributed at the time of the Diocesan Convention. We still have \$700 to allocate. She has received some submissions but will entertain more.
- Danna had distributed a possible group that perhaps we should consider giving to – a community group. Gail Raymond proposed that we donate to the group. However, it is not a charity so does not fit our policy of giving to a recognized charity.

### **5. Membership: Shirley McDonald**

With the death of Anne Turcotte, we now have 65 active members. At the general meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup> members voted to raise membership fees by \$5.00 Shirley has made this change on the renewal and new membership form. Membership dues are now \$30.

### **6. Correspondence: Mary Lou Hills**

We received thanks from Birthright Kingston for our recent donations of cash and gifts to support Mothers with unplanned pregnancies. We received a thank you note from Fr Shea thanking us for our card as he celebrated 50 years as a priest.

### **7. Past President's Report: Kelly Neville**

Kelly will be presenting two policies for final approval at the end of the meeting to give time for discussion (item #8B).

# CWL General Meeting

## May 14th, 2024

### 8. Standing Items:

#### A. Fundraising:

- **FUNDSCRIP:** The Fundscrip campaign has begun. End date for ordering gift cards is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Cards should be available for pick up by June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION:** Suggestion has been made to hold the auction over 2 days thus the auction will take place on the weekend of September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Shirley will promote it in the bulletin and on Facebook. She has composed a letter for businesses in the Loyalist Township area and is looking for volunteers to contact businesses in the area. She is asking members to volunteer to collect the items sold and deliver them. We will also be using the whiteboard at church to promote the auction. The Knights of Columbus will also be holding a garage sale in September and will be looking for items to sell.

#### B. Policies & Procedures:

- **Policy 3.3 Spiritual Support**  
The policy was reviewed by the membership. There was no discussion and no further edits. **MOVED** by Andrea Glover and seconded by Gail Raymond that Policy 3.3 Spiritual Support be approved. **CARRIED**
- **Policy 3.2 Recognition Awards**  
The policy was reviewed by the membership. There was no discussion and no further edits. **MOVED** by Danna Dobson and seconded by Margaret Wilson that Policy 3.2 Recognition Awards be approved. **CARRIED**
- **Convention Policies**  
Shirley distributed two convention policies for members to review for the June meeting.

### 9. Spiritual Advisor's Comments: Fr. Americo

- Father spoke of his year with Blessed Sacrament and St. Linus Parishes. He hoped that the new pastor will continue serving the 2 communities of Briargate and Helen Henderson. He talked about the sacraments that he has administered to: 34 Children on May 4<sup>th</sup> received their First Communion, 9 Baptisms, Confirmation in the fall of 2023. He will be leaving on the weekend of May 25/26<sup>th</sup> to join his new parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Father thanked us for the work and support that we give to the parish.

### 10. Faith Committee/Social Justice: Liz Ford/Gail Raymond/Mary Lou Hills

- Liz stated that we raised \$533 plus gifts for Birthright Kingston.
- Members prayed the 12 hours for Palliative Care in their homes – a reminder was sent out prior to May 4<sup>th</sup> with the times of those who agreed to pray the Rosary and other prayers.
- She thanked Bernadette Veitch for coordinating the Crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother. Bernadette pointed out that Giselle Van Putten did the actual crowning. Bernadette thanked Father for his support and felt it was very special this year. Giselle said that it was an honour to crown the statue.
- **Mother's Day Flowers:** Flowers were purchased from the Flower Mart at a cost of \$271.91. This was less than last year. Danna and Mary Lou had a discussion prior to Sunday that perhaps a better time for the distribution of the carnations would be International Women's Day. However, carnations were given to all the women present. Mary Lou felt, however, after seeing the look in the eyes and the smiles of the women that we should continue to do this on Mother's Day weekend. Sometimes this is the only flower that a mother may receive on that day.
- **Funeral luncheon for Ron Seifred** is on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Cathy Splinter is coordinating it.

# CWL General Meeting

May 14th, 2024

- Mary Lou and Liz's reports are attached to the minutes

## 11. Service: Danna Dobson

- The committee will be hosting the first Tea n' Chat on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> following Mass and the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Depending on the response, the Tea 'n Chat get together after Mass on Fridays may become a regular thing.
- The committee is looking for suggestions from members as to what charities they would wish to be supported from the \$700 that has been allocated to specific charities and approved by members.
- Special Pot- Luck Supper: May 25<sup>th</sup>. A planning meeting was held in the sacristy on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. **MOVED** by Theresa Shanks and Seconded by Margaret Wilson that we give Father Americo \$100 in US funds as a parting gift.

### CARRIED

- Survey: Mary Lou Hills: Thanks to the help of Shirley McDonald a survey was conducted to ascertain the preference for holding General meetings in the future. There were 13 responses with the majority voting for a seasonal response: meetings during the winter months would take place in the afternoons. The meetings would continue to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. The report is attached to the minutes.
- Danna reported that Roger Daigle, husband of member Carol Daigle, will be away the month of September. He asked Danna to take Carol to mass at Providence Manor on Thursdays at 10:00 am. Danna might be away and asked members to help out if she is.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer:** The meeting ended at 7:00 pm. Donna Guiney led us in praying The Angelus.

---

**Dates of Next Meetings:** May 14<sup>th</sup>, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Meetings to resume on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

# CWL General Meeting

## May 14th, 2024

### Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League of Canada

#### Survey

At the April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 general meeting – held on a Sunday afternoon, and followed by a Birthright Baby Shower, members asked the secretary to conduct a survey to address the timing of General meetings of the Council.

With the assistance of Shirley McDonald, a survey was created. Members were asked to answer 3 questions:

What are your preferred meeting times: morning (10:00am – 11:30am)

Afternoon (1:00-2:30)

Evening (7:00-8:30)

No preference

Other (please specify)

What are your preferred meeting days: Current (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month)

Monday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

No preference

Would you be interested in a seasonal variation with daylight hours? For example, April 1-September: evening and October 1-March 31<sup>st</sup>: daytime:

Yes

No

No preference

There were only **13** responses to the survey.

**Question #1 – Other** suggested or 40% of those responding specified times such as afternoon @ 1-2:30 or 6-7:30 in the evening. (there were 5 responses as Other) 2 preferred 5-6:30; the other 2 suggested 6-7:30. 20-25% of the responses had NO preference. Afternoon and early evening: (1:00-2:30 and 6-6:30) were evenly tied at 10-15%. No one wanted morning meetings.

**Question # 2:** Day of the week: the majority wanted meetings to stay on the current day- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Again 40% had no preference

**Question #3:** Seasonal variation: Over 70% of those who responded preferred the seasonal variation. 30% had no preference.

# CWL General Meeting

## May 14th, 2024

**Kingston Diocesan Council Annual Convention: April 27-28, 2024**

### **Convention Report**

Presented by: Mary Lou Hills, Diocesan Treasurer

#### **Overview:**

Our president attended both the preconvention meeting (Saturday morning) and the post-convention meeting (Sunday afternoon). Ann Leclair was our accredited delegate. The focus of the convention was on the new National theme for 2024-2026: "Here I am Lord, send me!" The keynote speaker was Fr. Ben LeCroix. Speaking to the theme Father spoke on how we could answer the call through evangelization.

On Sunday, in response to the Provincial Council's theme: "Go Make a Difference"- we heard from the Executive Director of the St. Vincent DePaul Society and a member of their Board of Directors. The Kingston Diocesan Council gave a donation of \$500 to the Society and a further donation - "pass the hat" - \$1270.55 was collected.

#### **Election results:**

The following slate of officers were elected:

**Secretary:** Michelle Morrow – from Brockville St. John Boscoe

**Chairpersons:** Annette Meadows and Celeste Guse. One chair will be appointed by the President. Celeste Guse is from Iroquois and Annette Meadows is from St. Mary's in Carlton Place

**Treasurer:** Mary Lou Hills

When the slate of officers to be elected at the convention there was no one eligible to stand would even put forward their name for President and Vice President. Two eligible members did send in a letter – after the date. Delegates to the convention acclaimed **Maureen Vincentine as President. Bernadette Veitch** was acclaimed as **Vice President.**

# **CWL General Meeting**

**May 14th, 2024**

## **Faith Committee/Social Justice**

### **Commemoration of Feast Day – Our Lady of Good Counsel –**

#### **Luncheon at Bella Bistro – June 8 th**

-5 people have signed up to attend, please contact me or Donna at the parish office if you would like to attend. **Please rsvp by June 2nd**

#### **Funeral Luncheon for Ron Seifred, May 28 th at 11:30**

-Followed by a luncheon, Cathy Splinter is overseeing

#### **Report on Birthright Baby Shower**

- 533 dollars raised for Birthright
- Approx. 15-20 people attended
- Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves

#### **May 4th**

Everyone had an hour to pray for palliative care over the course of 12 hours.

#### **Crowning of Mary**

-This went really well, thank you very much to Bernadette for overseeing and for all the women participated