



MINUTES CWL General Meeting

March 11, 2025 in the Church Hall and by Zoom
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. Charles Ogbuagu, Donna Guiney, Shirley McDonald, Mary Lou Hills, Danna Dobson, Gail Raymond, Susan Aubin, Andrea Glover, Anya Myers, Bernadette Veitch, Margaret Wilson, Giselle Van Putten, Theresa Shanks, Anne Leclair, Mary Myers

Attendance by Zoom: Kelly Neville

Guest: Freja Veck

A Quorum (at least 7 members) WAS achieved at this meeting.

6:30-7:00: SPEAKER : Secrets to Staying Safe on the Internet. Gail Raymond introduced Darren Smith – IT with major tech company

1. Welcome: Donna Guiney

2. Prayer: Donna Guiney led us in Prayer

3. Membership: (Shirley McDonald)

- We have 66 members. In February, Anya Myers and Naomi Myers became members of Blessed Sacrament Parish's Catholic Women's League: This is our 5th Mother/Daughter team! Welcome!
- Shirley then presented Father Charles with his Spiritual Advisor's pin and the Spiritual Advisor's Stole. Father blessed the pins and the stole.
- Anya Myers received her membership insignia pin.
- Four members received their Milestone pins:
 - 10-year pin: Linda Boese
 - 20-year pin: Eleanor Wagar and Mary Grace Amann
 - 25-year pin: Nickie Lake

4. Spiritual Advisor's Report: (Fr. Charles Ogbuagu)

Father reminded us that we are in the Lenten season. He has been part of the Liturgy and Finance Committee. Much has been accomplished such as the Church Hall, the storeroom for chairs and tables, clean up of the walls - all thanks to parishioners who have worked on these projects. The next project is to repair to the front steps leading to the church. Unfortunately, income to the parish has dropped and expenses increase. As to Liturgy of Easter: all is working out.

5. Approval of the Agenda: (Donna Guiney)

Donna proposed the following amendments to the agenda: Removal of the Policy and Procedures (#7 on the agenda; which also includes the Past President's report). Standing items to be tabled: June Pot Luck supper. Acceptance of the amended agenda was **Moved** by Gail Raymond and **Seconded** by Bernadette Veitch. **CARRIED**

6. Approval of the Minutes: (Mary Lou Hills)

Moved by Susan Aubin and **Seconded** by Margaret Wilson that the minutes of the February 11, 2025 meeting be approved. **CARRIED**

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OFFICER REPORTS

7. Treasurer's Report: (Danna Dobson)

- The February month end balance as \$6,803.17. Income was \$555.00 and expenses were \$1,907.37.
- Regarding questions related to the purchase of a plaque, with past president's names etched on it, the president deferred the discussion until after the Anniversary committee meets. Those present were in favour of some form of plaque. We can wait and perhaps may take two years before we can acquire the funds to have one as they are expensive.

8. Past President's Report: (Kelly Neville)

Kelly deferred her report – the approval of new policies and procedures - to our next meeting.

9. President's report: (Donna Guiney)

Donna's report consisted of 4 Trivia questions related to the celebration of St. Patrick's Day:

- What do the leaves of the clover signify? Answer: The Trinity - Mary Lou Hills answered correctly and received a \$5 gift card
- 2nd question was what were the highest number of leaves on the clover ever recorded? - no one could guess- Answer was 56 leaves!
- 3rd question was what does the circle on the Celtic Cross represent? Answer: the sun/son?. No one could answer that question
- Where was St. Patrick from: Britain – no one knew that either!

10. Correspondence: (Mary Lou Hills/Shirley McDonald)

- We received correspondence from Sister Sheila Boase thanking us for the Christmas Shoebox.
- Thank-you letter received from the Amherstview Lions Club thanking us for our \$100 donation. The money went to assist their Christmas hamper fund.
- Shirley received a letter from Mary Grace Amann concerning Mary Grace's health issues, thanking us for our prayers and hoping for good news at her next appointments. She hopes to be able to join us soon.
- Noreen D'Eon has health issues, however she is better.
- We also received a letter of thanks from the St. Vincent de Paul Society for our donation.
- Danna received a request from the Finance Department: They are looking for someone to water the flowers from Spring to Fall, in the front of the church, 2X a week (Thursday and Friday).

OLD BUSINESS

11. Anniversary CWL Buttons: (Danna Dobson/ Bernadette Veitch)

- Danna and Bernadette Veitch were seeking suggestions on how to promote the large insignia buttons (40). We asked those present at the meeting to take one more button and sell it to a member.
- Gail Raymond suggested that we sell the buttons at the Knights of Columbus breakfast on the 31st of March.
- It was also suggested that we sell, at a discount, the pies that remain in the freezer - (9 small and 9 large pies.) We would check with the Knights of Columbus to see if that was possible.
- Shirley to post a picture of the buttons on the website.

12. Bake Sale/Garage Sale: (Donna Guiney) (Shirley McDonald)

The date is May 31st and we are seeking a coordinator for the bake sale. Initially, Donna Guiney proposed that we sell only from 10 am until 12 noon. However, Shirley McDonald stated that there were too many bake goods left over and product had to be frozen last year. She suggested that we continue to sell until the garage sale is over. We should also sell after each Mass on Saturday and Sunday. Perhaps if a past coordinator were to mentor someone, who may be reluctant to take on the task of coordinator, we would have more success in recruiting a member to be a coordinator. We could mentor someone so that the task of coordinator is not so onerous. To be further discussed at the next Executive meeting.

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13. Diocesan Convention: (Mary Lou Hills) (Donna Guiney)

After further discussion Gail Raymond agreed to be the Accredited Delegate for the convention in case Donna is not able to attend. Father Charles will attend the dinner. Anne Leclair and Eleanor Taggart are registering for the convention. Speaker, on Saturday, is a nurse, Deborah Lefevre, who has worked in the field of Mental Health. Sunday the speaker is Sebastian Gome, who will speak on the findings of the Synod.

14. Birthright Baby Shower: (Liz Guiney)

- We will try something different this year; we will hold the shower at 3:00 pm.
- We will invite parishioners and will ask primarily for monetary gifts
- A short meeting will take place after the shower.

15. Crowning of the Statue of the Blessed Mother

Donna asked Bernadette Veitch to organize this for Sunday, May 11th – Mother's Day.

16. Mother's Day Flowers:

While we will distribute the flowers to all the women in the parish attending Mass – both masses – we should look to do this at another date – such as International Women's Day. This year we will distribute the carnations on Mother's Day.

17. June meeting: (Donna Guiney)

- Our last meeting of the year – until the fall – could be a day we celebrate husbands and fathers.
- The Service Committee will look at planning the event on June 15th – in the afternoon - one idea would be to have a Strawberry Social.

18. Calendar: (Mary Lou Hills)

Members present suggested several additions to the calendar to be included with their package this evening:

- First Communion: April 27th at 11:00 am (we present a small gift)
- Confirmation: May 18th at 11:00 am (again we present a small gift)
- April 26th: Feast Day of our patroness: Our Lady of Good Counsel –there will be a Mass said for our intentions on this day. Secretary will email members (short version has already been printed and sent in packages for those who do not have email) in April for Novenas that can be prayed to Our Lady of Good Counsel.
- May 4th: 12 hours of prayer for Palliative Care (May 4-10th). National CWL site will have prayers that can be said during that time. Last year members prayed at home- signed up for certain times. Gail Raymond suggested prayers for Palliative care could be said before or after each Mass on those days

19. Adjournment and Prayer: We prayed the Hail Mary

Dates of Next Meetings: April 8th, 2025 (Annual Baby Shower for Birthright Kingston) will begin at 3:00pm; May 13th General Meeting; June 10th General Meeting, last meeting for the summer. Meetings resume on September 9th, 2025.

Upcoming Events: March 29th, Diocesan Retreat; Diocesan 103rd Convention: April 26/27th at the Quality Inn on Benson Street; First Communion on April 27th at 11am; May 4- 10th 12 hours of prayer for Palliative Care (Mass on May 4th); May 11th: Crowning of the Statue of the Blessed Mother, (Mother's Day); special meeting/ Event on June 15th honouring Fathers and husbands.