



MINUTES

CWL General Meeting

February 15, 2023

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.

Attendance: by Zoom: Sue Aubin, Sue MacDonald, Danna Dobson, Liz Guiney

Attendance in Hall: Kelly Neville, Donna Guiney, Margaret Wilson, Mary Lou Hills, Maureen Birdsell, Shirley McDonald

A Quorum WAS achieved at this meeting. Meeting was held in the Church Hall and on Zoom.

A Quorum Was Not Achieved for the Annual General Meeting which was to occur prior to the General Meeting

Welcome and call meeting to order (Kelly Neville)

Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

1. Opening Prayer: Donna Guiney led members in saying The League

2. Spiritual Advisor's Report (Father Shea)

- Donna Guiney reported on behalf of Father Shea: Ash Wednesday is February 22, 2023 at 7:00pm
- Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:00 pm
- World Day of Prayer – March 3, 2023 at 1:30 pm. St. Peter's Anglican Church
- Holy Hours – March 26th.

3. Approval of Agenda (Kelly Neville)

There were 2 additions to the agenda: World Day of Prayer: Liz Guiney

Birthright Baby Shower: Suzanne MacDonald/ Liz Guiney

MOVED by Maureen Birdsell that the agenda for the general meeting of February 15, 2023 be approved with the two additions. **Seconded** by Margaret Wilson. **CARRIED**

4. Approval of Minutes (Kelly Neville)

MOVED by Maureen Birdsell that the minutes of the general meeting of January 10, 2023 be approved.

However Margaret Wilson pointed out that Shirley McDonald's Membership report was not attached as stated in the minutes. (**Action:** Mary Lou Hills to attach minutes prior so that they are included with the minutes on the website) **Seconded** by Donna Guiney **CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report: (Danna Dobson)

Danna Dobson reported that a balance of \$6,849.72. We received a further donation of 1,796.76 to offset the cost of raise in per capita fees – from \$13.00 to \$25.00. As per the president's request 4 members emailed their lists of charitable requests. We will provide Donna and Liz Guiney with the \$100, that we normally donate to Birthright, to off set costs of hosting a Birthright Baby shower in April.

6. Membership: (Shirley McDonald)

We currently have 52 members – 45 were renewals, 5 past members renewed and we welcomed 2 new members. The Early Bird Draw – for members renewing before January 31, 2023 – was held and Theresa Smith's membership dues will be refunded. The committee is aiming for 65 members. Shirley's report will be attached to the minutes.

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7. Past President's Report: (Donna Guiney)

At the Executive meeting of February 6th, 2023 those present agreed that the Policy concerning Religious Articles be removed from our Policy and Procedures binder. Donna is preparing the annual report for the Diocesan convention and our History book. She is looking for pictures/ scrapbook items.

8. President's Report: (Kelly Neville)

Kelly attended the All President's winter meeting held on February 11th at St. Paul the Apostle Church. Kelly came away with Lottery ticket booklets. The meeting for National's Council Instructed vote was held on February 4th after Mass. There were 21 members present, 20 eligible to vote. 20 members voted yes to allow Parish Councils to hold virtual meetings as they deem an emergency. We will be returning to having coffee/tea and baked goods during the general meetings. Thanks to Shirley McDonald for this evenings sweets.

Standing Committee Reports:

9. Spiritual Development: (Liz Guiney)

- The World Day of Prayer, for our Region, will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church on March 3, 2023, 1:30 pm. Theresa Shanks and Suzanne MacDonald will represent our council.
- Purple Crosses: **Action Item** for September 12's General Meeting Agenda: Theresa Shanks and Liz will be looking for members to make purple crosses for Lent 2024. We require at least 100 – we have 40. Theresa Shanks has agreed to look after this.

10. Business Arising from the Last Meeting:

- Charitable Donations: 4 members have submitted their requests for charitable contributions as directed by the President. Tabled for the March General meeting.
- Diocesan Convention: Hospitality: Mary Lou Hills asked for members to take on Hospitality during the Saturday meeting: consisting of tacking break and meal tickets. There was a hesitant agreement to do so. Convention registration packages have been prepared – one member took one. Mary Lou will leave a few at the back of the church and will send the package out again via email.
- Birthright Baby Shower – April 11th – Father would like this to be open to the Parish to attend – not just council members. Liz and Donna Guiney will host.
- Greeters at Mass: Shirley McDonald sent around a sign-up sheet for the month of March for members to be greeters at the church door on Saturday/ Sunday Masses
- Pancake Tuesday: help to assist Knights of Columbus with student pancake breakfast on Tuesday, February 21st. No one was able to assist the Knights.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Dates to note:

- **World Day of Prayer: March 3rd, 2023 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Amherstview, 1:30pm.**
- **Diocesan CWL Retreat: March 25th, 2023, St. Patrick's , Railton 9:00 am.**
- **Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel-April 26th, 2023**
- **Birthright Baby Shower : April 11, 2023 General Meeting**
- **Diocesan 101st Annual Meeting and Convention – April 29-30, 2023**

Meetings 2023: March 14th, April 11th, 2023, May 9th, June 13th- Potluck supper and awards night

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT February 15, 2023

As of 31st of January there were 52 members. We had a successful January membership drive, with 45 renewals from last year, 5 past members renewing and 2 new members.

The membership committee met on January 31st. There was much discussion about how to move forward and a target membership for 2023 was set as a goal. In an effort to promote our council and increase our profile in the parish, we have a number of initiatives:

- CWL members will act as greeters at masses.
- Information posters will be visible at the entrance to the church and flyers will be distributed.
- We will update our CWL brochure and have copies available at the back of the church.
- We will prepare a new member package for those who want to know more about the CWL locally and nationally.
- We will create a CWL blog...stay tuned!

Initiatives for bringing in new members include:

- The month of February will be designated for enrolling new members, with information flyers, a speech from the pulpit and an earlybird prize for new members only.
- We will support a "Bring a Friend" campaign. During 2023, any member who brings someone to a CWL event to interest them in joining, will receive a prize if the person joins.
- We will reach out to OLMC school through their newsletter and events. To this end, we will assist with the school pancake breakfast on February 21st.

Lastly, as we open up post-COVID, we are planning several events through the year that are for CWL members (and those they wish to bring as their "Bring a Friend"), that will allow us to socialize and get together again in safe settings, other than meetings. There will be no charge for these events as a small budget item has been added for this year only, to cover charges associated with them. Examples of possible events are Sunday afternoon teas, socials, pizza nights and garden parties. The purpose of these events is to have fun and to promote the CWL as a place where we can get together with our Sisters in the League for some good times. We will be looking for volunteers to help with these events, with donations of food and sweets.

Respectfully submitted.

Shirley McDonald