



MINUTES

CWL General Meeting

February 13th, 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.

Attendance: by Zoom: Sue Aubin, Mary Myers, Danna Dobson

In Attendance: Bernadette Veitch, Margaret Wilson, Fr. Americo Santos, Donna Guiney, Mary Lou Hills, Kelly Neville, Gail Raymond, Andrea Glover and Anne Nicholls

Regrets: Shirley McDonald

A Quorum WAS achieved at this meeting.

Welcome and call meeting to order (Donna Guiney)

Donna called the meeting to order at 7:18pm. (Technical difficulties presented us from starting earlier)

- 1. Opening Prayer:** Donna Guiney recited the Serenity Prayer
- 2. Spiritual Advisor:** Father pointed out that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. He has arranged to set aside the afternoon of March 3rd for Lenten Confessions. There will be no First Saturday Mass in March. No Confirmation until 2025.
- 3. Approval of Agenda (Donna Guiney))**

MOVED by Margaret Wilson that the agenda for the general meeting of February 13, 2024 be approved with the following changes: #'s 19, 20 and 21 be deleted as they will be addressed in other officers reports. The Crowning of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Mother's Day to be added. Seconded by Gail Raymond.

CARRIED

- 4. MOVED** by Kelly Neville and seconded by Danna Dobson to approve the minutes of the general meeting of January 9th, 2024 with the following concerns, in particular to wording in the Funeral Policy: An asterisk be attached to the bottom of the policy "member: the membership dues have been paid." (Danna Dobson) and Gail Raymond suggested that the words "per person" be attached to the \$5.00 cost and \$15.00.

CARRIED

- 5. Treasurer's Report: (Danna Dobson)**

Moved by Danna Dobson to approve the 2024 budget as presented. (This will be attached to the minutes)
Seconded by Andrea Glover

CARRIED

Current balance \$7,512. However, approximately \$600 in cheques are outstanding. Danna has managed to reduce the forecasted deficit from \$850 (2023) to \$730 in 2024.

- 6. Membership Report: (Shirley McDonald)**

Shirley reported that there were 59 members who had renewed their membership but that she hoped to have everyone to have renewed by the end of February. Diane Raffael was the winner of the Early Bird draw.

- 7. Past President Report: (Kelly Neville)**

Funeral Policy: After further discussion from Bernadette Veitch : "what do you mean by active member?" and Gail Raymond who recommended that we state \$5.00 per person and \$15 per person, it was decided that an asterisk be attached to the word "active" with the note ,at the end of the policy, that this means that the membership has been paid. Danna Dobson **moved** that we approve the policy with the amendments proposed. The motion was **seconded** by Kelly Neville.

CARRIED

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8. President's Report: (Donna Guiney)

- Donna attended the Winter Presidents meeting, held at Our Lady Of Lourdes Parish Hall, on Saturday, February 10th.
- She still had some Lottery tickets that had not been sold. Margaret Wilson took the book. Donna will then mail the ticket stubs to the Host Convention Committee
- 102nd Diocesan Convention is April 27-28. Father Americo invited to attend the banquet on Sunday, April 28th as guest of our council.
- National's theme for the next 2 years is "Here I Am Lord- Send Me"

8. Correspondence: (Margaret Wilson)

- **Card:** received from Gail Northcott thanking the council for the Mass for her husband, Graham Northcott on his passing.
- **Card:** Thank you received from Patty Ann Whalen thanking us for the Sympathy card on the passing of her mother: Joan Whalen. Joan was a long time CWL member
- **Card:** We received a card from Noreen D'Eon thanking us for remembering her at Christmas and on her Birthday.
- **Euthanasia Prevention Coalition:** seeking a donation.
- **Letter addressed to Cecil Downing** from St. Joseph Oratory to pray a Novena to St. Joseph from March 10th – March 19th.

Business Arising from the Last Meeting:

9. Snowflake Bazaar: (Shirley McDonald)

Donna Guiney reported, on behalf of Shirley, that the profit for the Snowflake Bazaar was \$4091.38. Shirley provided a thorough handout on the bazaar.

10. Awards Committee: (Kelly Neville)

- **Tabled to** March meeting .

11. World Day of Prayer: (Liz Ford)

- The World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 1st, 2024 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish on Days Road. Theresa Shanks and Donna Guiney will participate in the readings. The service begins at 1:30pm and the focus will be Palestine.

12. Service Committee: (Danna Dobson)

- Six participants participated in a Zoom meeting to discuss where their interests lie and how they want to focus on in 2024.
- She hopes to survey members asking them to search their memories on what social events they enjoyed, educational speakers they would like to hear.
- She also needs to know what charities we would like to allocate funds to. She will bring this up at the next general meeting for finalization at the April meeting.

13. Policy and Procedures Committee: (Donna Guiney).

- Three policies were presented: Spiritual Support, Milestone Awards and Recognition Awards
- Milestone Awards and Recognition Awards were tabled to March general meeting.
- Spiritual Support policy was accepted but members had concerns that they wanted brought back to the Policy and Procedures committee: Spiritual Bouquet – Mass – either attend Mass and intend it for the person and can they also have a Mass said for the individual – clarification on what is included on a Spiritual Bouquet. They wanted clarification on who is the contact person for the birthday, sympathy cards. This should be specified in the policy or stated. (Under the new reorganization structure this falls under the auspices of the Secretary. She has a committee – Margaret Wilson who sends the spiritual cards i.e. sympathy, get well. Birthday Cards are looked after by Barbara Larmondin. Mass requests falls under the Faith Committee/ and or Secretary.)

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14. Social Justice: (Gail Raymond)

- **Pornography**

Gail responded to recent Wednesday Letter from National Chairperson. Members advised Gail that there were Post cards at the back of the church that Margaret Wilson had obtained when she was chair for Communications.

- Re Federal law to limit the availability of **internet access** to children (it has recently passed) : Gail received a sample letter and the form for a petition endorsing the necessity for the legislation. Danna Dobson pointed out that we can sign the petition and/or write letters but we cannot sign as representing the CWL – only elected National officers can speak on behalf of the CWL

- **Birthright Baby Shower – (Liz Ford)**

Liz will gladly take on the organizing of the shower for Birthright. She would like it to be open to the Parish as a Social event. She would like it to be April 21st at 2:00 in the afternoon. There will be no general meeting on April 9th . However, members will meet an hour before the shower to hold a general meeting then.

15. Prayers for Vocations: (Bernadette Veitch)

- **Recently** Bernadette, as chair of Chirstian Family Life at the Diocesan level, had written about a village in Europe that had prayed every day for Vocations to the Priesthood. The results were phenomenal. She asked Father if it would be possible to do the same. Fr. Americo stated that this could be after the morning Mass on Fridays; when he also offers Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Donna Guiney let us in “The League Prayer”

General Meeting dates: March 12, 2024, April 21, 2024, May 14th, 2024 and June 11th, 2024

Upcoming Events: World Day of Prayer March 1, 2024; at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; Diocesan Retreat March 9th, 2024th at St. Patrick’s Parish, Napanee; Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel: April 26th; 102nd Diocesan Convention: April 27/28, 2024; Crowning of the statue of the Blessed Mother, May 12th ; 12 hours of Palliative Care: May 14, 2024.