



MINUTES

CWL General Meeting

January 9, 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, Liz Ford, Kelly Neville, Gail Raymond, Margaret Wilson, Shirley McDonald, Donna Guiney, Danna Dobson, Mary Morris, Mary Lou Hills

A Quorum WAS achieved at this meeting.

Welcome and call meeting to order (Kelly Neville)

Kelly called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

- 1. Opening Prayer:** Liz Ford led members present in the League Prayer
- 2. Spiritual Advisor's Report (Father Americo) (Donna Guiney on behalf of Father)**
 - Children will make their First Communion in May
 - February 14th, 2024 is Ash Wednesday – Lent starts
- 3. Approval of Agenda (Kelly Neville)**

MOVED by Gail Raymond that the agenda for the general meeting of January 9, 2024 be approved with the addition, by Liz Ford, of a Spiritual Bouquet. **Seconded** by Sue Aubin

CARRIED

MOVED by Margaret Wilson to approve the minutes of the general meeting of November 14, 2023 with the following corrections : Margaret Wilson did not participate in the cleaning of the hall and further explanation re election results – Donna Guiney was able to stand as president. **Seconded** Shirley McDonald

CARRIED

4. Treasurer's Report: (Danna Dobson)

Treasurer's Report is attached to the minutes

Fundraising Income totaled \$4,651.54 – this includes the Bazaar, Silent Auction, and two Fundscrip events. Donations - \$2095.57. We were able to submit the total cost of \$38.50 for membership dues with the assistance of a donation of \$1000 from the parish. Danna notes that we will not have this to count on this year. While we have sufficient funds we cannot sustain membership fees at \$25.00 and will need to address an increase in fees in the coming year.

5. Membership Report: (Shirley McDonald)

35 members have already renewed their membership for 2024. One member has transferred out to another council. There will be an early bird draw (membership returned); a small gift for a member who referred a friend.

6. Correspondence: (Margaret Wilson)

We received no correspondence.

7. Past President Report: (Donna Guiney)

As Past President Donna's main objective these past two years, was to completely overhaul/ update our current policies and create new policies to reflect the changes in the organizational structure of The League. She is most appreciative of the following members of her very strong team: Danna Dobson, Shirley McDonald, Kelly Neville and Mary Lou Hills. This was a huge task but because of teamwork they were able to accomplish so much.

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President's Report: Kelly Neville

Kelly began her report by saying that she cannot believe that her term is already over. She remembers being called, over two years ago, if I she would stand as president. Kelly was the President Elect at the time. Trusting that God would guide her, while being scared, agreed to do so. Kelly thanked the executive who worked so hard with her, but also those not on the executive who stepped up whenever they were needed. She stated that these ladies are the best and without them she would have been lost. We had 2 potlucks this year (quite an accomplishment since we had not had any since 2019) and we participated in person at a Helen Henderson Birthday Party – the first community organization to come back since COVID.

Business Arising from the Last Meeting:

8. Snowflake Bazaar: (Kelly Neville)

- **Tabled to next meeting. This should be an ongoing item on the agenda**

9. PotLuck Supper: (Kelly Neville)

- Parishioners were invited and we had one family attend.
- Certificates of Merit and a small gift were given to 3 outgoing members of the Executive: Deb McKee, Suzanne MacDonald and Margaret Wilson. (Deb and Suzanne were delivered to them in person as they were unable to attend the Potluck). Cathy Splinter received a special certificate, created by Kelly, to honour her work in the hall 's kitchen , the tea room at the bazaar.

10. Helen Henderson Birthday Party: (Kelly Neville)

- Four members of the CWL donated a total of 48 cupcakes on the 19th of October. Kelly was the only CWL member present. Staff again commented that we were the first community group to host a birthday party since Covid.

11. Christmas Pageant: (Donna Guiney)

- Again, with the help of Cathy Splinter, Stephanie Whittaker and Andrea Glover (who looked after the costumes) the children's pageant was well done. The Parish hopes that it will be held next year.

13. Confirmation: (Donna Guiney)

- On December 13th, members of the CWL: Danna Dobso, Andrea Glover and Mary Lou Hills, served refreshments for 16 confirmands and their families. Other than special cupcakes provided by their teacher, we were able to use frozen goods left from the bazaar.

14. Funeral Luncheon Policy (Donna Guiney): It was recommended that the Policy and Procedures Committee report be a standing item on the agenda

- This policy had been tabled by the Policy and Procedure committee to review and comment on in the new year. The concerns, from the November 14th meeting, concerned the working in #'s 5 and 6 – particularly the concept of accepting donations if a family could not afford the cost of the luncheon. After consultation with the members the following changes were made: a) change from luncheon to funeral receptions. If it is just baked goods, coffee, tea and juice the cost to a family would be \$5.00. The price of providing a lunch remains at \$15.00. A lunch will be provided at no cost to the family of a deceased member – the word "active" was inserted. We would accept a measure of appreciation from the family. N.B. to Vice President/ Membership chair (if there is one) of the importance of following up members – especially during membership drives.

A motion to approve the adoption of the Funeral Reception Policy, as proposed by members present, was made by Margaret Wilson. Seconded by Gail Raymond.

CARRIED

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New Business:

15. Installation of the new Executive – (Donna Guiney)

Father Americo has agreed to having the installation of the new Executive during Mass on the 13th of January. Installation will occur after the homily, and before the creed and prayers of the faithful. It is felt that doing this in a public manner will raise the profile of The League.

16. Spiritual Bouquet: (Liz Ford)

- Due to special circumstances, such as assisting a member who is undergoing treatment, death of a spouse, child;– during difficult times, it is our policy to gift the member with a Spiritual Bouquet. Liz is proposing that we do so for Bernadette Veitch on the death of her son Nathan Freeburn. The secretary will reach out to CWL members by email. Members can email her directly or to Donna Guiney.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer:

The meeting adjourned at 8:04. Liz Ford recited the prayer to St. Joseph.

Annual General Meeting; February 13, 2024; General meeting to follow on the 13th, March 12, 2024, April 9th,2024, May 14,2024, June 11th, 2024 (Pot Luck?)

Upcoming Events: All Presidents meeting: February 10th, 2024 at Our Lady of Lourdes; Beginning of Lent – Febr. 14th, 2024; World Day of Prayer March 1, 2024; at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish;Diocesan Retreat March 9th, 2024th at St. Patrick's Parish, Napanee; 102nd Diocesan Convention: April 26,27,28, 2024 , Feast of Our Lady of Good Council, April 26th ; 12 hours of Palliative Care: May 14, 2024.