

**WORKSHOP: ORGANIZATION STANDING COMMITTEE (MEMBERSHIP)
Provincial Convention -- Fairview -- May 28-30, 2010**

-Sheila M. H.

HANDOUT given to all participants at the workshop:

2. Opening Prayer – League Prayer
3. List of Resources from National
4. Sample Leadership Workshop – taken from National - 3 pages
5. Typical questions and concerns
6. Guidelines for writing Annual Reports
7. Sample Welcome Package - 6 pages
8. Evaluation
9. Closing Prayer – Recitation of the Convenor’s Prayer

Executive Handbook:

- a. Copy of the “ORGANIZATION STANDING COMMITTEE” Pages 31-35
- b. All Chairpersons: “GENERAL INFORMATION” Pages 75-80

Handbook for Organization Chairpersons available for display

[2. Opening Prayer – League Prayer]

and

[9. Closing Prayer – Recitation of the Convenor's Prayer]

ORGANIZATION WORKSHOP, MAY 2010

LEAGUE PRAYER

We humbly pray you, O God our Father,
to bless the Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Bless our beloved country,
our homes and families.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills
that we may know and fulfill
your great law of charity.

Teach us to share with others
at home and abroad

the good things you have given us.

This we ask through our Lord Jesus Christ
and the intercession of our patroness

Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Amen

CONVENOR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, make me appreciative of the dignity
of my standing committee and its many responsibilities.
Never permit me to disgrace it by giving way to coldness,
unkindness or impatience.

please bear with my faults, looking only to my intention,
which is to serve you in the person of each member
of the Catholic Women's League.

Increase my faith, bless my efforts and work
for God and Canada.

Amen.

[3. List of Resources from National]

List of Programmes and Workshops from National

Leadership Workshop

Affirming Workshop: Who? What? Why? How? When? – this workshop

Takes less than an hour and allows members to consider the fruits of the Spirit given to each person.

A Short Exercise in Discernment

Blessing for the Book of Life

Ceremony for the Presentation of Service Awards

Dealing with Conflict in Order to Reach a Win-Win Solution

Discernment Process

How to prepare a parish council manual of policy and procedure

Mentoring

On Being Kinder to Each Other

Prayer of Farewell

Reception of New Members

There have been no Resolutions from the Organization Standing Committee since 1985, the last one dealing with “**CWL Month**”.

[4. Sample Leadership Workshop – taken from National - 3 pages]

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Opening Prayer or reflection: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (12:6-8)

Leader #1

Let us look at some principle areas of struggle in council leadership and turn it into *leading through faith, fun and fulfillment*.

Picture this in your mind:

Our CWL council is struggling. I've been asked to let my name stand for an executive position. I'm too busy; I'm concerned about my own personal well-being and I don't have time to be involved or envision something new. There are others that can do it. I'll pay my membership but that's it! I'm going to enjoy life today and not worry about the next generation. Are parts of this picture ringing true? This may be an exaggeration .. perhaps not!

How many times have you heard something like this: "it's your turn; it's time you did it; I've done it and I'm tired, I'm too busy"? Sounding familiar? We make it sound like a sentence, a punishment. Would comments like that encourage, let alone excite, someone to consider taking an executive position?

There are all kinds of attitudes about leaders and leadership. Some persons see it as a cross to endure, becoming the victim of martyrdom. Some wonder why there have to be leaders at all, and then there are the top-down tyrants who won't let go! We need an attitude change!

Among followers there exists a realm of high expectations of the persons holding leadership offices. They have expectations that can be unreasonable.

Some say we are born to be leaders. I believe we are each called to leadership, and it is our responsibility to find the role of leadership that fits us best. We are usually called to leadership through the encouragement and empowerment of others. Others recognize qualities in us we don't see in ourselves.

(I'd like you to turn to the person beside you and exchange one quality that you see in each other that would make them a good leader).

Our abilities and talents are God-given. Someone must take a leading role be it in family life (mothers usually), in all sports, in schools, in governments, in church, in CWL, and why shouldn't it be you? Why shouldn't it be me? That's the question we should be asking. Say yes, I will do it. I may feel insecure, afraid, unprepared, incapable or alone. Remember the words of the hymn "Be Not Afraid" "and know that I am with you through it all." Have confidence in yourself and, with God's help, you can do it! And your league sisters are there for you. It will be a journey in faith, fun and fulfillment.

(Here you can have a past president or executive member who is enthusiastic and will give a positive testimonial)

Leader #2

Existing leadership in a council can be part of the problem in developing future leaders. Many times the leaders make all the decisions and then wonder why the membership is not as excited or informed as they should be if they had a part in the process. Some leadership styles:

Boss – maker of all decisions

Doer – doer of all things

Expert – knower of all things

Hero-martyr – a doer who has

burned out

Abdicat – one who retires without leaving or keeps the title without the work

Enabler/empowerer – leader who meets goals and encourages members to grow by supporting, involving and training them to take over!

People need to be seen as valued, needed and included in such a way that they want to join in working for the good of all.

As leaders we are like gardeners – we need to help people grow, as we grow ourselves.

It is said that the best leaders are those who surround themselves with people smarter than they are! Or in the words of Dwight Eisenhower “leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because they want to do it!

Often, women will serve as a committee chairperson, which is great, however they will not consider a vice-presidency or, heaven-forbid, the position of president-elect! Accepting a presidency is a journey in faith, fun and fulfillment, and accepting a vice-presidency or president-elect is a journey of opportunity and learning.

Many won't consider taking office because they don't feel prepared, don't know enough.

The vice-president and president-elect position is truly the training ground! I don't believe there is a president that accepted the position knowing it all! However, having completed their term in office, I'm sure every one would agree that it was a journey in faith, fun and fulfillment.

(You may ask another president or executive member to give a positive testimonial)

If you have a vacancy on your executive, be it parish, diocesan or provincial, the president may fill the position by appointment. Ask new people. Explain in a positive manner what is expected and offer your help/ If you meet with hesitance, suggest she try it for one year. If you're still not successful, wait a few months and try recruiting again. Please try not to appoint someone who has been on the executive before. In other words, try not to recycle. In this case recycling is not environmentally friendly. These are no doubt very capable women but you know that they are not about to move up. It's like plugging the hole in a boat with bubble gum; it's a short-term solution. This may not be possible in all cases, and you then do what does work!

(The following are some suggested discussion questions. Depending on time and size of the group, each table could be given two discussion questions. After the allotted time, each table is asked to read aloud their questions and report on their discussion)

Discussion questions:

2. What stops you from accepting an executive position?
3. What leads you to accepting an executive position?
4. Your council has vacancies on the executive, has no president-elect. What are you willing to do to move your organization forward?
5. How might you encourage members to accept executive positions?
6. Identify some specific resistant behaviors in yourself that surface when you are faced with the decision to lead? Why are we afraid to use our talents?
7. What are you good at; what are you tired of doing?
8. Identify some practices or routines that need to be abandoned in your council in order to move more productively into the future?
9. Have you been provided with enough resources to help executives? What additional resources would you find helpful?

A closing thought on faith, fun and fulfillment

Faith: St. Paul in his epistle to the Romans reminds us that the office of leader for a Christian is a vocation, a gift from the Holy Spirit to be used for the community's benefit. He acknowledged leadership as one of the gifts which points to holiness.

Fun: trust me, you will have fun! How many presidents here will admit they enjoyed their term? Anyone like to share?

Fulfillment: we have had the opportunity to contribute our ideas, empower others to take an active role in the future and carry out new plans to benefit our council. If we have called others to leadership, we can say we have been a good leader.

We are women of peace and hope:

Peace: (from seeds of hope, a Henri Nouwen reader)

Prayer, living in the presence of God is the most radical peace action we can imagine. Prayer is the basis and source of all action.

Hope: hopeful persons have a willingness to take risks, and to try again should they make a mistake or encounter an obstacle. God can fill us with hope even in the most desperate circumstances, if we are open to accepting it.

You have been invited into the privilege of being a leader. Please accept and may you be leader after the heart of Christ, acting with the Holy Spirit and our Lady of Good Counsel. As women of peace and hope, my hope and peace-action prayer is that you share your talents, accept your call to leadership. We need you!

[5. Typical questions and concerns]

LEADERSHIP: Divide into groups and pick two questions to discuss.

Imagine you are faced with these questions:

1. Your council has vacancies - no president-elect. What are you willing to do to move your council forward?
2. How might you encourage members to accept executive positions?
3. Why are we afraid to use our talents?
4. What are you good at? What are you tired of doing?
5. Are there any routines in your council that need to be abandoned in order to move forward? How can this be accomplished?
6. Have you been provided with enough resources to help executives? What else would you find helpful?

Guidelines for Oral Annual Reports

-Ideas taken from “Guidelines for Oral Reports to the convention assembly” (Page 505 old National Policy and Procedure)

10. Address the chair only . . Madam President – formal introductions have already been done.
11. Simple uniform greeting . . “Dear Sisters in the League”
12. Keep the report brief **3-5 minutes maximum** – “reporting should be done with accuracy, brevity, and clarity.” (Suggestions from National) Taking more than the allotted time, means that someone else will have less or the meeting agenda will be challenged to remain on time. Practice ahead of time.
13. Report on what has been done since January – **an update from the time of the written report, and upcoming events. Perhaps one suggestion of what could happen in the future under this committee.**
14. This is not a time for “Thank Yous” – thanks may be given privately by speaking with them or send a personal note.
15. Bring dignity to the work of the League through the message. This is not a time for grandstanding, singing, jokes, poems, prayers. These take more time than one realizes and they do not fit into the category of **reporting.**
16. Speak in the third person . . . we, us, our committee
17. Make every effort to have report typed prior to convention. A copy must be handed in to the secretary.

WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE

Each council will write a personal letter of Welcome to the new member, giving dates and times of meetings, and indicating the focus and spiritual direction of the council.

A list of all executive members, including addresses, phone, fax and emails should be included in this kit. A membership list should also be included.

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PARISH INFORMATION

The Parish Council may add its own information to the “Welcome Kit” to help welcome the new member. The following information could be provided.

5. Welcome messages from the President and Spiritual Advisor
6. Time and place of monthly meetings
7. Calendar of League spiritual and social activities – include the names and phone numbers of contact persons
8. Names and phone numbers of the Executive
9. Name and phone number of a mentor
10. Current copy of the CWL Newsletter, if the council publishes one
11. Brief history of the League in the parish
12. A League insignia pin

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CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE RESOURCES

A variety of resource materials and supplies are available to members. If you are interested in seeing or obtaining some of these, contact your parish Organization Standing Committee Chairperson and she will help you.

Books:

Constitution and bylaws - rules, principles, structure, purpose of the League

Manual of Policy and Procedure - outlines the policies of the League

Except the Lord Build the House - fascinating history of the CWL

Humble Prayer - reflections and prayers for those ministering to the elderly and shut in

The Beatitudes - study and reflection on each of the beatitudes

Called to Cana - study program for marriage preparation

Belonging - study program for League members

Other Items of Interest

CWL Insignia Pin - the League crest, worn by members

CWL Rosary - blue crystal beads. Blue velvet pouch is also available

CWL Hasti Notes and Envelopes - crest on front, blank inside

CWL DVD - For God and Canada

Miscellaneous :

Pendant, scarf, coffee mug, pen, notepads, Madonna sun-catcher

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Article II Patroness

History of the Picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel

In the small Italian village of Gennazzano, some 30 miles from Rome, is the shrine of this Marian painting.

This old sanctuary was given by Prince Colonna to the Augustinians in the 15th century and the monks set about rebuilding their church. A wealthy woman named Petruccia came to their support in the restoration of the old church Our Lady of Good Counsel. The work ran into difficulty and the villagers mocked the efforts of the monks. Before her death, however, Petruccia saw the opening of the church on April 26, 1467, at which time the picture of Our Lady of Good Counsel was unveiled.



The people stood in wonder before its beauty! Mostly peasants, they were convinced it had come from paradise. They were reluctant to accept the story that the beautiful fresco had come from the walls of a church in Scutari, Albania. A recent discovery seems to confirm the Scutari origin. Restoration work was done on the famous painting by Professor de Compos between 1957 and 1961. At the time, letters were noticed on the edge of the child's robe that seemed to be a signature. They were deciphered as reading – "A. Viviani made this." De Compos concluded that the fresco was the work of the illustrious Antonio Viviani, a master of the Veronese school of art in the first half of the 15th century. The picture depicts the formative period of the master's work and was probably painted between 1437 and 1440.

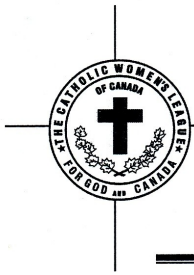
The original picture of the Mother and Child is painted on light plaster measuring 18" x 15". The style is oriental and Byzantine and shows evidence of moving away from the stylized rigidity of the east. The original was brilliant and brightly coloured, the faces simple, pure, compassionate and devotional. The infant is so close to his mother that his simple and loving gesture draws us all to Mary, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

The discovery of the signature confirms the authenticity of the artist. In the five centuries since 1467, it has seen miracles, pilgrimages of popes and saints and visits of the faithful from all over the world.

Before Vatican II, the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel was celebrated on April 26th. When this and many other special feasts were deleted from the Liturgical Calendar, Saturdays were set aside for Votive Masses in honour of the Blessed Mother.

All councils and members are encouraged to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel on or around April 26th every year.

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Fact Sheet

The Catholic Women's League of Canada is a national organization rooted in gospel values calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada, founded in 1920, is the largest national organization of women in Canada, with in excess of 97,000 members represented in every province and the military. The League has often received the commendation and keen appreciation of federal, provincial and municipal authorities for the voluntary services ably performed by its nation-wide membership. The League is organized and pledged to serve all citizens of good will.

The League has been affiliated since 1921 with the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO), a world-wide federation of Catholic women's organizations holding membership in the conference of International Catholic Organization and having consultative status with United Nations agencies. The League shares representation with other Canadian Catholic women's organizations on the WUCWO board.

The Objects of the League are to unite Catholic women of Canada to: achieve individual and collective spiritual development; promote the teachings of the Catholic church; exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life; protect the sanctity of human life; enhance the role of women in church and society; recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere; uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world; contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

The League's position at the national level is a true reflection of the opinions expressed by its members in that issues and concerns are raised, studied and researched at the grass roots level before being accepted as resolutions at provincial and national levels. These resolutions are presented annually to provincial and federal governments as statements of concern and in keeping with its motto, "For God and Canada".

In preceding years, through its resolutions process, the League has addressed many significant issues, including water use in Canada, euthanasia and assisted suicide, crystal methamphetamine, ratification of international covenant re: death penalty, farmers' right to save seed, age of protection for sexual activity, and trafficking in children.

The League's theme for 2006-2008 was *Love One Another*; 2008-2010 was *Women of Peace and Hope*; each new National President provides us with a new theme every two years.

ITEM**CATALOGUE #**

In "Presentation Folder"	75	
Welcome Brochure	24	
Coady International Institute Brochure	218 (free)	
Blue and Gold Booklet	32	
Development and Peace 1% program	205 (free)	
Personal Letter Writing Guide	208 (free)	
League Prayer Booklet	Lge: 34A	Small: 34
Bookmark with the League Prayer	99	
<i>Constitution and Bylaws</i>	46	

Resources:**Books:**

<i>Except the Lord Build the House</i>	21
<i>Humble Prayer</i>	41
<i>The Beatitudes</i>	31
<i>Called to Cana</i>	44
<i>Belonging</i>	65

Other Items of interest:

CWL Rosary	103
Blue velvet pouch for rosary	104
CWL Hasti notes and envelopes	55
CWL DVD	67

Miscellaneous:

CWL pendant, CWL scarf, coffee mug, pens, notepads, madonna sun-catcher, etc.

[8. Evaluation]

Organization Workshop Evaluation (May 2010)

The evaluation is important for the planning of future workshops.

Did the workshop meet your expectations?

What did you find helpful?

What areas of the workshop would you improve on? How?

List three things you observed about how people work in groups:

1.

2.

3.

What happened that made you feel welcome and comfortable?

What was the major strength of this workshop?

What was the major weakness of this workshop?

What was the most significant thing you learned today?

How would you rank the workshop?

Excellent _____ Very Good _____ Good _____ Fair _____ Poor _____

Thank you for your participation and for completing this evaluation.