

The Catholic Women's League of Canada



Antigonish Diocesan Council

Here I am Lord, send me!

TO: Parish Council Vice-Presidents
FROM: Diocesan Vice-President Laurena Greencorn
DATE: October 19, 2024
SUBJECT: Membership: Engaging, Recruiting, Training
MEMO: # 1 (2024-2026)
CC: Parish Council Presidents, Diocesan Officers, Life Members, Provincial Secretary (for distribution to provincial counterpart)

My dear sisters in the League,

Let the Holy Spirit guide me as I write my first memo as your vice- president.

I went to Glace Bay for Thanksgiving and visited with family and friends. I was visiting a couple and the wife looked at me and said that I looked very familiar although she couldn't put her finger on where or how. At some point, the conversation went toward the church....and she looked at me and asked if I was a CWL member. She is not as active as she had been in her council and she misses it. Then I started thinking about how we could bring CWL to her.

Then the next day, I was talking with a friend who looks after an elderly lady. She had seen a magnet on the lady's fridge and asked her about it. She said it was a "CWL" magnet; my friend knew that I was actively involved and struck a conversation with her. The elderly lady is now confined to her home with MS and has lost the use of her left arm. She started sharing stories about how she used to be involved. She said that she dearly misses it.

So, how can we include the shut-ins in our organization? I went on the national web site at <https://www.cwl.ca/manuals/> and found some interesting information. I read # 635- *Actively Engaging New Members and Homebound Members*; I focused on *Stage 2- Building Sisterhood*.

Many councils have members who cannot leave their homes due to mobility and other issues. Some of those members do not renew their membership because they feel that once they become non active, their time is over; they have nothing to offer. I encourage councils to go through their membership list and reach out to those ladies who have lost connection with their council. They miss us! Buddy up with these ladies and give them a quick call before the meeting and maybe visit after and fill them in on the events of the meeting; perhaps share the spiritual program with them. Consider drawing for prayer

partners; include the names of homebound members; let them know who they are praying for and who is praying for them! This can be for a year or however long you wish. Let me know how this goes!!

The Unity Outreach program was a huge success last year. Over the next two years our diocesan council hopes to plan council training/workshops days. We encourage councils in close proximity to join together to share time, resources and experiences. Council training/workshop days can be done by Zoom or in person depending on weather and location, possibly in November, January, February, March and maybe May. We want to hear from you. Pick a topic and let me know. Perhaps it's a topic that you're struggling with or want to learn more about, such as your position, finding resources, current resolutions, how to write resolutions, leadership, making motions, maybe communication. These are just ideas. Discuss this in your council; just let me know and we will work with you.

Since December 2023, National Vice-President Betty Colaneri has been encouraging councils, through the use of the **"1" Campaign** and her monthly catchphrases, to **"Recruit, Retain and Regain"** the League's membership. Many of our councils are facing declining membership and we need to reach out to attract new members; this is a job for all of us. **Are you up for a membership challenge?** Our diocesan council is initiating a membership challenge to councils. Every council in the Diocese of Antigonish is encouraged to sign up new members or returning members (who have not paid in the past four years or longer). Councils increasing their membership in 2025 will be entered into a draw and the winning council will receive free registration for those new members who attend the Fall Conference in 2025. Additionally, all new members will have their names entered into a draw for a prize; the draw will take place at the Fall Conference in October 2025. Let's work to increase membership; someone is waiting to be asked!

Until next time,
Yours in Peace,

Laurena Greencorn,
Antigonish Diocesan Vice- President