



London Diocesan Council  
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Organization Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Rebecca McCarrell, President-Elect London Diocesan Chairperson, Organization

Date: September 2016

## **Directive # 2**

*“Lord, give me a heart that is welcoming to all”*

Welcome to all Organization Chairpersons, new and renewed, to the busiest time of the year! It is time to begin our annual collection of dues...remember, they are to be in National office by Dec 31<sup>st</sup> for the coming year.

At our 96<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention in Halifax this August, Fr. James Mallon spoke to us about welcoming all women, engaging our communities, and being missionaries, evangelizing the good news. He emphasized, like other organizations, the CWL to survive must change from maintenance mode (inward looking) to mission mode (outward looking). There are challenges in this; but in order to survive we must adapt and be open to flexibility. So here I am asking each of you to be an instrument of change – to influence support of a mission based heart; to engage people; to be outward focused; to celebrate the return of the lost; to constantly rethink our methodology; to step forward as **JOYFILLED MISSIONARY DISCIPLES** of Christ. The CWL will be called upon as we change to Parish Families to influence and support the changes that must happen.

### **Life Members / Honorary Life Members – roles – who they are**

At our convention in April, Mary Jean Horne was presented with Life Membership! Congratulations, Mary Jean! You deserve it for your service to the League, and your unfailing love of all.

A Life Member is expected to pay her annual membership fees, attend conventions and meetings, and become a mentor to those in her diocese. She is also required to be willing to continue to actively serve the League. In the London Diocese, she must have served a minimum of 8 years on the Diocesan council including a term of President.

An Honorary Life Member is a special award given only to those women who have served the League as a National President.

If your council would like to honour members, there are several awards available for this purpose, ie Maple Leaf Service Pin, Bellelle Guerin Award, Merit Certificates. Please consult the National CWL website for further information. ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca))

### **Annual Reports**

Sep 16 and 17, Theresa Ryan and myself will be attending a workshop in Toronto on the *new annual reports* that are starting this year. These are “on-line” reports. They were reported by the trial parishes as successful and easier to complete. We will be introducing these at the Fall Regional meetings and will fully implement in FY2017.

### **Recruiting Leadership**

Many obstacles stand in the way of recruiting our successors. Recruiting leadership is an area that CWL councils need to have flexibility and adapt to changing ways. Here is a short list of ways to encourage leadership. If you would like a workshop on recruiting leadership, please contact me.

1. **Create Bite Size Roles:** Consider breaking the bigger jobs down into something a strong leader with an already booked life could imagine herself doing.
2. **Inventory Talent & Skills:** know what strengths a woman has and how much time they are willing to give.
3. **Limit Terms:** knowing there is an exit strategy is attractive. No getting “stuck” here.
4. **Include Young Women and Give Them Power:** watch them soar and bring your council to new heights!
5. **Empower Possibility:** Be willing to accept radically new approaches and new ideas.
6. **Communicate opportunities:** Look beyond established connections, broaden your net.
7. **Allow Failure:** Criticism and gossip will turn away your best leaders FOREVER. Encourage, develop and make it okay to experiment and fail.

### **Catch the Fire / S’mores Workshops**

Our teams are fired up and ready to visit your council, group of councils, or region with workshops to assist you in many areas. More information will be available on a flyer at the Fall Regionals or you can contact me at any time.

As we bring to a close this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us have a heart that is welcoming to all!

Rebecca McCarrell