



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 24, 2019

FROM: Margaret Ann Jacobs, national past president and laws

TO: Parish past presidents

CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

Dear League Sisters,

Everybody loves a party! When it's a special anniversary party for a parish council, members not always able to attend monthly meetings or be available for other tasks mark their calendars and come to celebrate, reminisce and reconnect with League sisters.

Over the years I have been privileged to attend many of these special events and even planned a few. It is amazing the attention given to every detail. Eucharistic celebration, the program, the invitations and announcements, the décor, decorations and table favours, the celebratory meal, anniversary pin presentations, anniversary cake... every detail is planned with precision and loving care. Most evident is the members' pride and nostalgia at these events. More recent recruits marvel at the selfless dedication, courage and vision of the more senior members and a bond is created, like a covenant, to continue the legacy of the council's predecessors.

In my last parish mailing, I highlighted the duties of past presidents. Review if you like or go directly to the sources: *National Manual of Policy and Procedure, Constitution & Bylaws 2013* and the *Handbook for Past Presidents* available at cwl.ca.

In this communication, I would like to focus on archives and history, with specific attention to the most popular display at an anniversary celebration, the written histories and scrapbooks. If you haven't already started or have fallen behind, make a commitment to start now. Keep a camera ready and at every event snap a photograph or two (at your quilting bees, bazaars, bake sales, community outreach programs, World Day of Prayer, church unity programs and parish celebrations). Make sure to snap some behind the scenes preparation photographs for those grand presentations because, of course, there was a purpose for the outreach activities. Don't forget to label every photograph by date and event. And... it doesn't have to be an anniversary to share the

memory books. They could be available to display at other special times. Take the time to recognize all the moments that your council is living the core values of the League: faith, service and social justice. Councils are living the mission statement "...to grow in faith and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service."

Another highlight of any celebration includes the past presidents' reflections. Each president should have completed a written history. Check to ascertain which one(s) may be missing. Perhaps that president, a member of her family or another League sister could take on the responsibility of bringing this file to completion. Minute books are an extremely valuable tool for this exercise. Important events and milestones should surely be recorded there.

Clearly, recording a parish council's history is a labour of love. It will not only bring great satisfaction, but will provide delightful entertainment for the many who have the privilege to view and marvel at what has been accomplished by so few for so many.

CAUTION: Be careful not to catch the history bug! It may cause endless hours of time buried in wonder and awe at the accomplishments of the past, while providing more of a reason to capture and record for posterity the energy and dynamic of members living the League's core purpose today.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Ann Jacobs".

Margaret Ann Jacobs
National Past President and Laws