



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2020
FROM: Cathy Bouchard, national chairperson of resolutions
TO: Parish chairpersons of resolutions
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

Is there a passion for changing something in society among members? Have members said, "Someone should do something about this?" Every resolution begins with an idea, a call to justice.

With the cancellation of the 2020 diocesan, provincial and national conventions, parish councils have more time to work on refining resolutions they have been working on or even to begin to develop a resolution. From the League's March 20, 2020 notice, "Response to COVID-19 Pandemic," members are advised that:

The board strongly recommends that all matters of a non-urgent nature be deferred until 2021. Councils are asked to consider the urgency with which an issue must be dealt, and are encouraged to postpone resolutions, wherever possible, to allow for the full participation of interested members at the 2021 conventions.

Resolutions begin at the parish level. In creating a resolution, form a committee of members who are interested in this resolution. Having a committee helps to view the resolution as a group project rather than as a personal issue. Councils that have utilized this approach have relied on members who are experts on the topic and its variations to assist them. It is also helpful to find the opposing views to base the brief. Share the work of researching for support articles as well as what has already been done on this topic and what the opposing views are. Parish councils should be consulting the next level chairperson of resolutions and other members to assist with all of this work. Please let the next level chairperson of resolutions know is being worked on so that she can share this with other diocesan and provincial councils. It can make a resolution stronger when ideas are shared and work is combined.

There have been several changes in the way resolutions are to be done, and it is important to use the revised *Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook* when preparing them. The latest copy is available on the national website, cwl.ca. All manuals are available to download and print free of charge by clicking on the highlighted area.

Two of the most significant changes to resolutions coming to the national level have to do with the format for resolutions and with using the Modern Language Association (MLA) 8 process for citations.

The revision clarifies when a council can act on the resolution. “Action on resolutions of a national nature is to be carried out *only* after adopted at the national convention *by the national council*. Action on a resolution can be carried out on matters of provincial jurisdiction after a letter of disposition has been received from the national resolutions committee, even if the resolution is not accepted for presentation by the national executive, provided that the bridging clauses are in the resolution and the resolution aligns with League positions” (*Resolutions Supplement to the Executive Handbook*, pg. 28). This means the bridging clauses are in the resolution.

Provincial chairpersons of resolutions have access to workshops to share with the parish and diocesan councils. Please use their expertise and share the skills that have been developed for the good of members.

At the next national convention, the draft form of the resolutions to come to the floor will be available following the national executive/board meeting as soon as they are available at the registration table. This should make it easier to prepare for discussion. The proposed resolutions cannot be shared before this time as resolutions must come to the board for approval before being shared, even in draft form, with members. “The national resolutions committee recommendations must be presented to the national executive for acceptance at its pre-convention meeting” (*ibid*, pg. 13). As well, at the next national convention, the plan is to present all resolutions in one session.

Thank you for your passion for justice that guides your work in resolutions.