

## Oral Report to 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Convention National President-Elect and Chairperson of Organization Shari Guinta

Despite the COVID 19 pandemic, there was still some amazing work done in regard to membership, as well as offers of workshops and presentations. It was a pleasure to receive the provincial reports for organization and see the great work that was done, even though the pandemic wreaked havoc on the ability of councils to meet.

Many resources, especially new ones, were not always reported as being used; however, online meetings, information sessions, workshops and spiritual presentations were given. Even though challenges with computer skills were mentioned in numerous reports, 73% of parish councils reported using the online membership system.

### **Recruit Members and Maintain Membership**

Personal invitation is most effective, while telephone calls, bulletins, parish announcements and comments from the parish priest were also effective. Even though only 20-30% were considered active members, calls were made to recruit and maintain members. All chairpersons reported recruiting members in the 35–40-year-old range; not a lot, but some.

Using subcommittee chairpersons and distributing the workload is effective. Creative ideas such holding fundraisers or putting on a membership contest where every member was encouraged to recruit members were held to supplement membership fees.

Members and councils continued to decline. I want to emphasize that membership is every member's responsibility. This is a huge concern and I encourage all members to do their best to recruit members and diocesan or provincial councils to set a plan for membership and council retention in their regions.

### **Leadership Development**

The *Executive Orientation* program was offered. Resources developed for the strategic planning initiatives were approved and placed on the national website. Online leadership programs were offered.

### **League Resource Material**

The national website, other websites and *The Canadian League* magazine were reported as the most used resources. The League's website is important!

More councils began to use resources from the strategic planning working groups. The *Welcome Program* was one that was used. *Embracing Diversity: Tools for Council Use* resource was distributed and should be used. Education regarding social media and technology was mentioned often.

### **Annual Reports**

There was much discussion regarding the online annual reporting surveys, and we listened. I met with all provincial chairpersons of organization on a regular basis, as well as with my subcommittee members. Revisions were offered to the board at its pre-convention meeting. Simplifying and shortening the report and paying particular attention to word choices were all suggestions.

### **Life Membership**

An *ad hoc* committee was formed with seasoned life members and honorary life members to discuss the criteria and some changes were made. This also was presented to the board at the pre-convention meeting. The moratorium on nominations to life membership is now lifted. ☩