



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: October 3, 2022
FROM: Marie Rackley, national secretary-treasurer
TO: Parish council secretaries
CC: Parish presidents, diocesan presidents, provincial presidents and life members (on request)

My dear sisters in the League,

Welcome back to another year in the League. It is hard to believe that summer has come and gone and soon we will see the beautiful fall colours decorate lawns and roadsides. To me it is the most colourful time of the year.

I would like to welcome the new parish council secretaries who have agreed to work for a two-year term with their councils. Whether you were elected or appointed to the position, thank you for accepting. There is lots of news to share with your councils.

At the 102nd annual national convention held in Kelowna in August, the proposed amendments were adopted to change the *Constitution & Bylaws* to the new structure. With this change there will be changes in parish councils. In August 2023 the national executive will decrease by four positions. The secretary-treasurer will absorb the communications standing committee duties. The vice-president will absorb the organization standing committee duties. The other standing committees' duties will be absorbed into faith, service and social justice committees. The president and past president will remain the same.

This new executive structure will be adopted at the next election for the parish, diocesan and provincial levels as well. Some parish, diocesan and provincial councils will begin this new process in 2023 and others in 2024.

Effective immediately, all correspondence intended for the parish council will be sent to the president and secretary. With the two-year process for changeover in structure, it is important to keep consistency and to make sure that all correspondence is dealt with and not lost. The secretary will be a vital part of the League's growth and the distribution of information to other executive members.

A new *Handbook for Secretaries* is receiving a final review and will be available in the coming months. It is vital that the secretary receive a copy of this handbook as soon as it is released. Both

the president and secretary are taking on a major role to keep the council executive and members informed and up to date. All communiques will be directed to these two positions.

This is an exciting time for the League. With the strategic plan winding down in 2023 and the start-up of new programming, the League is heading into the future. Leadership development is key for the continued growth of the League.

I ask that you work together as a strong unit for the League. The League needs us and we need the League. Let's remember the good we have done over 102 years of service to God and Canada and our brothers and sisters abroad. As we venture into another year together, I ask that Our Lady of Good Counsel stand and guide us in our journey as we walk together. We are *Catholic and Living It!*

Marie