

Nova Scotia Provincial Convention
Organization Oral Report June 2016

A warm welcome to all organizations chairpersons especially Liz Doyle, our newly elected Halifax-Yarmouth Diocesan Organization chair.

We have 72 councils with just over 4200 members here in Nova Scotia and a total of 83000 members across Canada. We have 3 Honorary Life Members and 24 Life Members. In 2015 we lost Life Members Mary MacLeod and Marguerite Peters. Florence Khatter also passed away in 2016. May they rest in peace and may their legacy of service be an inspiration to all of us. Thank you to Therese Pottie for serving as life Member liaison for the past two years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her as she deals with her illness.

Thank you to Cleo Windsor and Carolyn Lawrence for their wonderful diocesan reports. I am pleased to report that we received 70 % of our newly revised annual parish council reports for 2015 compared to 53 % in 2014.

Thank you for your time, effort and commitment to share the great works that are taking place throughout Nova Scotia. We are never idle!

New computerized annual reporting forms introduced to the National executive in the fall of 2015 at a workshop facilitated by Kim Scammell were then piloted provincially by three provinces and one parish. Feedback was discussed both positive and challenging. A program will be accessed to provide information to address some issues the councils and presidents encountered.

Provincial presidents already have the PowerPoint presentation which Kim used and the pdf annual reporting forms with which to work. It is hoped that this reporting system will be rolled out in 2016. It is intended that forms will be printed and circulated to parish councils in the fall parish council mailing with instructions for completion. A series of power point presentations is being generated to reflect the information included in the annual report forms and can also be used as a teaching tool to inform executive members of the expectations of each standing committee as well as an incentive for each executive member to set goals.

We need to recruit, retain and remember! Our focus needs to be on membership and it is a challenge for all of us. Kindly reach out to those who did not renew their membership. Find out why? We need to be inclusive, inviting and positive so that the women in our parishes see us as a vibrant organization...one that they would be attracted to.

Take time to recognize the gifts and talents of each of your members. See their strengths and build on them. Show appreciation for faithful service. Certificates and pins are available on the national website. We will all agree that there are struggles in all of our parishes and lots of questions going on in our councils.

However, prayer and your great work shows that there is strength, hope, commitment and determination!

Have you considered hosting a workshop to inform and enhance the knowledge of all of your members? I encourage you to plan an orientation for your new executive. Share the wonderful experience and love of being a member of the league, the friendship, the sisterhood and the support. God will guide you!

A reminder to make use of the excellent resources on the national website such as Catch the Fire and Smores. Use them as they best suit your council's needs. The National Development Fund is also available for funding your workshop.

Call upon our Life Members to assist. Their knowledge is invaluable in planning activities. We need to commend and affirm the work of our Life Members who want to stay actively involved in building the league.

Five members were nominated by your provincial council for Life membership for 2016.

Congratulations to all councils celebrating anniversaries this year!

In August all roads lead to Halifax as we host the 2016 National Convention on August 14-17. Information is available on our National & provincial websites. What an opportunity! Danielle will speak later on the convention.

Thank you all for your love, support and prayers. A special thank you to Fr. Jim and the executive. It is indeed an honor, a privilege and a joy to continue on working with you and for you.

May God's blessings be our support as we work together for God and Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy MacNeil
Organization Chairperson