



Hamilton Diocesan Council
of
The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Inspired by the Spirit — Women Respond to God's Call



Directive #1

Pages: 2

Date: October, 2017

To: Council Presidents, Council Resolution Standing Committee Chairs
From: Vicki Lee, Hamilton Diocesan Resolution Standing Committee Chair
Cc: Diocesan Officers, Committee members

Dear Sisters in the League,

In this, my first directive as the Hamilton Diocesan Resolutions Standing Committee Chairperson, I wish to introduce myself to all members of the Catholic Women's League members in Hamilton Diocese. It is an honour and a pleasure to be your representative in resolutions. A brief bio can be found on the Hamilton Diocesan website. Essentially, I have been a member of the Catholic Women's League for almost 11 years, ten of them in the Council of St Mary of the Assumption and the Missions in beautiful Owen Sound. In that time, I was community life chair, president for four years, and historian for two years. I was also the Northern Regional secretary for eight years.

I joined the league to help and to meet people. I was new to Owen Sound and the Council here was very welcoming. As I learned more about the Council members and about the Council itself, I realised that I had made a very good decision when I joined. This was a place where I could help make a difference, not only in my home Parish but in my community, Province and Country. The Catholic Women's League has a voice! One that can be heard in Parliament! Few other organisations can say that but we are a league of strong, caring women who are not afraid to stand up for others and for what we believe. This is exemplified in this year's theme – Inspired by the Spirit – Women respond to God's Call. God's call: the call of the poor, the sick, the vulnerable, the hungry, the homeless, the voice against abortion, euthanasia, and pornography, to name but a few. There are many ways we can make ourselves heard – resolutions are one such way.

Resolutions can seem scary and difficult – in truth, they scared me. But when I took the time to learn more about them I realised what a useful tool these can be. You can take an idea and turn it into a way to change the world. And it is my wish to help you with this. This is my primary goal for the next two years, to help our councils in writing and preparing resolutions; to remove the negative stereotypes that surround the resolutions process. So if you or your council have an idea let me know and I will do my utmost to help you. Remember we are not alone in this. We have an incredible resource of people; fellow league members throughout Canada that can help to shape a resolution that will make a difference.

I also, want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that once a resolution has passed (at any level: National, Provincial, Diocesan or even at council level), our work does not stop. Each resolution comes with an action plan that gives individuals and councils ways on how to

implement the resolution, to move the resolution forward. If you want to help but do not have an idea for a resolution, you can read the action plans and follow up on the next steps.

There are two example of this that I would like Councils to consider:

- 1) The resolution: Industrial Wind Turbines harm human health. This resolution was passed by the members attending at the Hamilton Diocesan Convention in 2016. While the resolution was not passed at the Provincial level, the action items associated with this resolution can still be implemented by members of the Hamilton Diocese. Details of this resolution, including action items, can be found under the resolutions link on the Hamilton Diocese CWL website.
- 2) The resolution: Mandatory Age Verification Mechanisms for Adult Pornographic Websites. This is one of the four resolutions passed at the National Convention in Prince Edward Island in 2017 (brief summary of resolution and action plan in President's envelope; full resolution on National website). One of the actions suggested was a letter writing campaign – writing to your MP and other members of Parliament. St Dominic Council in Oakville has drafted such a letter and they have been given permission to distribute it to all of the Councils in the diocese. President's look for this in your inbox!! Take the time in your Council meetings for everyone to add their support to this resolution, collect them and send them to Ottawa. Our National Resolutions team meet with Parliamentarians to bring forth these resolution and these letters will strengthen our position.

By continuing to work on the action plans of passed resolutions it serves to keep the resolution fresh and in the minds of others and it shows the importance of standing up for others who may not be able to. We can affect change in the world around us.

I have asked the Regional Chairs to forward my email to all councils to determine which councils have a Resolutions Chair as part of their executive. This is not only for my information but for my Provincial counterpart information, as well. Councils are welcome to send their response to me directly; I just ask that you put CWL resolutions in the subject line so that I know you are not spam. My email address is: valee999@rogers.com.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or comments that you may have. With God's help, I will do my best to help in any way I can.

Yours in Christ,

Vicki Lee