

## United Church Women

Maritime UCW Executive traditionally meets three times a year in March, June and October. We also have a Biennial weekend event (every second year) for all UCW members to attend. In 2018 approximately 145 ladies attended the event in Summerside PEI. At biennial we have a business meeting, where a new President and Vice President are installed as well as any new Executive members. We set the fee for dues per UCW member. We learn of UCW initiatives. We have Spiritual Gatherings and Social times. It's a time to see old friends, meet new friends, become UCW centered, and fueled to go back to our local membership with information and renewal. This year our Biennial scheduled for Riverview NB was cancelled. I would like to thank the Biennial Committee for all the meetings and hard work. We are now in limbo with our Biennial and how to meet as well as when to meet. That being said I remain as President until we can meet as a full body to vote in a new Executive.

The UCW Statistics are an annual responsibility for every unit in the Maritimes/Bermuda. Maritime UCW Statistics are very slow to come in, if at all. It is troubling to me that the local units don't see the need to send in their individual statistics. I have tried my best to get the word out to the units and will continue to do so. According to some research there are approximately 4,000 UCW ladies in the Maritimes Bermuda. They are not all accounted for in our documentation. When researching for information on UCW in Pastoral Charges (Faith Communities) through archives and annual reports, I was also trouble by the large number of Pastoral Charges that had not submitted annual reports for 2018. We all have responsibilities to help our Regions and UCW's run as smooth as possible. Perhaps we need to pay more attention to what is asked of us. We have 6 UCW Districts (formerly Presbyterial) in Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Region. We have received statistics from 5 Districts namely Chignecto, Miramichi, PEI, Northwest NB (formerly Woolastook) and St Croix .We have received statistics from only two units from Saint John District. Thank you to all those that made the effort. I am hoping the members from Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Annual meeting will read this report and take the initiative to ask their Faith community UCW unit to contact me at the email at the end of this report. We want to connect with and celebrate ALL our UCW ladies.

Clarification on the name change from Woolastook to Northwest NB. The Woolastook UCW "Committee of Presbytery" was invited to again be part of Maritime UCW when Presbytery ended. The Executive of the Woolastook group declined being part of Maritime UCW however there are some individual UCW units that want to be part of Maritime UCW, so the District was named Northwest NB so we could have a designated area.

There seems to be some confusion over what the role of being a District is. Formally a District has an executive that has a certain role. We do have Districts that no longer have an executive, therefore have a Contact person who aids with the flow of information. That being said, whether the UCW unit has a District executive or a contact person EACH UNIT is responsible for sending in yearly statistics, because they identify as UCW.

I have always said that I didn't want to make dues and money an issue. That it is not the most important thing. But, as I visited the Units and listened to the ladies, I have come to realize that money, at present, largely is what's driving UCW. Most are focussed on making money for the

church and money for missions and most, although they do go through the motions of the purpose, have worn themselves out fundraising. One of the things I realized while doing the national survey last summer was that every UCW unit that reported back (approx 56%) had raised money...from \$500 to thousands. But many will not pay money to fund UCW, the organization. I have met with push back and excuses not to pay dues while witnessing pride in raising money...this both confuses and saddens me.

In summer 2019 the National UCW sent out a survey to all UCW's across Canada to give them a sense of the dollar amounts, UCW's were giving to the church. The survey dealt with money given to the local Faith Communities of the UCW's, the money given to the local Community Outreach. It asked how many UCW members were Licensed Lay Worship Leaders and how many ladies (not counting the representative on Council/Official Board) were on committees. One thing that spurred the survey was the fact that many Regions have decided to not give UCW a voting voice at their Regional Council Executives, as well as the ongoing decision not to allow UCW to have a voting voice at General Council. Our National UCW President attends General Council as a Corresponding member. I would like to thank the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council for allowing MUCW a voting seat on the Regional Council and the words of affirmation for our all our contributions.

#### **Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters:**

60 out of 134 units replied 44.8%

I found 17 from Faith Community annual reports this gave me 57% UCW units for the figures.

\$231,154 was given to their churches, knowing this I can estimate (for 100%) that \$405,533 was given to their churches in 2018

\$ 72,510 was given to local outreach, knowing this I can estimate that \$127,210 was given to local outreach in 2018

Of the 60 surveys returned there were 12 LLWL and 378 committee positions.

**Regions combined for Mission and Service 2018** gave \$126,771 (we were still one Conference in 2018)

The **documented** amount given to the church/outreach/Mission and Service in 2018 for the combined Regions is **\$682,889**

We can **estimate** that UCW has contributed financially in 2018 to our two regions **\$1,047,912**

#### **NATIONALLY:**

Money given to Mission and Service in 2018 - 1,133,000

56% from across Canada responded - there are 109 LLWL and 3,802 on committees

**\$ 2,240,085** was given to churches therefore we can estimate that **\$4,000,151** was given in 2018.

**\$779,415** was given to local outreach therefore we can estimate that **\$1,391,812** was given in 2018.

The documented amount of givings to Mission and Service (1,133,000) plus our Prorated amounts (\$5,391,963) means UCW has contributed financially **\$6,524,963**.

These amounts do not take into account the money ladies give to Outreach Nationally or Internationally. It does not account for the in kind donations (hats, shawls, food bank items , soup kitchens, family Christmas hampers and so on.....nor does it take into account the volunteer hours, and it does not account for the Mission and Service donations ladies give personally.

Since our last Regional Council gathering in May 2019 we have found ourselves busy with our Bazaars and teas and mission work, annual meetings and worship. Many units supported the Linen Initiative for Tatamagouche Center, raising money for new bedding, mattresses etc. We suddenly lost our MUCW secretary Chris Urquhart last June, who was my right arm. We have had to learn to work without her direction and have welcomed a new secretary - Liz Birch from Cape Breton.

Many of our activities have been halted due to Covid 19. However, ladies are still meeting virtually having coffee chats on zoom and just being good to one another. We've learned to Zoom and Conference Call and connect in new ways. I truly believe if we live our UCW purpose and keep Christ in the forefront, we will be okay. We are looking forward to our 60th Anniversary National celebrations in Sydney July 11-17th 2022.

I recently received a thank you from the Mission and Service fund for the Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters UCW contribution for 2019 of \$ 49,517 and Nationally \$1,020,034. As our numbers dwindle mostly due to aging, we are learning we have to readjust how we do things, but as the numbers highlight we are still active and present in our Communities of Faith and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Kennedy President MUCW  
ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com