

PSAC-NCRC ORWC CHAIR'S REPORT

For: April 24th, 2019 until Dec.31st, 2019

Greetings Brothers, Sisters, and Friends

It is my pleasure to provide you my written report on my activities as Chair of the Ottawa Regional Women's Committee.

I was elected to the ORWC Chair, at the April 2019 meeting, and re-elected this past Dec., 2019. It has been a wonderful experience, and learning curve.

We were asked to answer Three questions

1. Name Two activities or projects that I have participated or implemented. Who participated, and what were the results.
 - a. Helped with the organizing the Women's Panel in the Union School Part II
All participants were invited
I believe that the sisters who attended took away a better understanding of what it takes, to run in an election campaign. I also feel it inspired a few sisters to consider moving forward, and to consider putting their own names on ballots (our own Convention, or the Municipal, Provincial or Federal elections)
 - b. Vanier Food Drive – all sisters were invited, Two Locals had a Food collection and dropped food off at the Vanier Foodbank. I dropped of a car (trunk) load of boxes of Food, Diapers.
The results were it helped the Vanier community to help their fellow residents not go hungry. The Agency received donations from the PSAC-NCR-ORWC and we have created goodwill – people outside the Union now know that our Sisters, members/community/residents are here and willing to help each other.

2. What methods have you adopted to make these activites/projects a success? Can you elaborate on how you are attracting as many participants as possible?

a. Moving forward after the Women's Panel, I met with the Education Chair, and the Francophone Womens Treasurer, and we planned the outline for a course on Women in Politics based on the CLC training. It is hoped that it will be on the Fall Schedule of the Education Plan by 2021. The goal is to start speaking about it at the committee meetings, so that we generate an interest, and anticipation to register.

3. What activities/projects are you planning for next year and what results would you like to achieve?

a. The ORWC invited a guest speaker, and as a result I want to begin the discussion on creating a Childcare Collation (wasn't my idea, but the speakers) but it is a great idea. I would like to get it started, and have all the committees involved, as Childcare is and should be everyone's concern. We need to start a planning committee, and do outreach to other community groups, and organizations within the NCR.

b. A cheat sheet with important crucial numbers for our Sisters, in case of an emergency, Such as who to contact for assistance, abuse, financial.....and etc.

Our sisters would be able to have this document in their wallet and have access to the information right away. Sometimes when you are in an emergency you can't think, and if the list of numbers are at your fingertips.....it might save someone

c. I would like to have each course and training within the NCR provide the attendees an opportunity to write their name on a committee list, and then the Secretary of the said committee could add them to the list and invite them to the meetings. Members hear about the committees but then for some reason forget to register or contact the committee to be added. This might help with our membership growth.

I collected 15 names on the ORWC email contact list at the Union School Part II, and added them to the ORWC contact list. I'm hoping that the sisters will start attending the committee meetings in the New Year. Some have already. On a positive note, I know that they are receiving the information from the ORWC in the email we send. I also, think that the Chairs of the committees should spend time contacting the Locals in the NCR, and invite the President to send a Local Rep to the committees. We need to think

outside the box, as the saying goes, and come up with a new way to entice members to attend and join the committees.

Taking into considerations the Three questions above, I feel that the ORWC committee itself is on the right track to grow bigger in its membership and attendees, and to become more active in the community, by stepping up to help our sisters. Spreading awareness of the ORWC, and the goodwill that our sisters exhibit in the neighbourhood and to one another each day.

I attended the PSAC-NCR Executive Council meetings, to further advance the Agenda of the ORWC, and to support the PSAC-NCR in our struggle to continue to fight for a fair and healthy workplace for all.

I assisted in preparing Resolutions for the PSAC NCR Women's Conference. I chaired several ORWC monthly committee meetings. Brought forward ideas from the sisters to plan and act on, such as the Vanier Foodbank, Cornerstone House, and several other Charity organizations to help others less fortunate, than us. The ORWC Committee is in the process of creating a list of important crucial telephone and email contacts to be created into a form for our sisters to carry with them, in case of an emergency and are in need of assistance and don't know who to contact. I attended meetings on behalf of the ORWC with the Collation of Ontario for better Health Services, and then a Rally at TD Place on Saturday, Dec. 7th to protest the FORD cuts to our Healthcare.

I assisted in organizing the Women's Panel that was held during Union School Part II. I took part in the Take Back the Night Walk held during September. I participated in the Vigil held Dec. 6th at Minto Park, and organized the after get together at 233 Gilmour for the attendees. I attended the Dec. 10th International Human Rights Day Celebration.

I was a member of the working sub group for the Human Rights Celebration held at 233 Gilmour on Tuesday, Dec. 10th.

I continue to ensure that the ORWC committee meetings are kept within the boundaries of the PSAC-NCR Financial regulations, and also try to keep the meal allowance under budget. The meetings are to uphold and move forward on issues facing our Sisters today, and not a get together for supper.

We are Sisters working together and helping one another, and as such we were able to keep our costs down, and as a solid group have not had to spend too much on Taxi use this year. Hopefully even less, as we understand that there are other options available, such as car sharing, or teleconference.

The ORWC sisters are continuing to develop our action plan for the next year, and we look forward to joining forces with each committee. We must as a whole move the Agenda of the PSAC forward, and to strive to ensure that all are included.

In Solidarity

Sister Carla

Chair of the ORWC