

WASATCH DEANERY CCW NOVEMBER 2018 Report

Susan Porter, President (St. Thomas More Parishioner)

The Wasatch Deanery CCW held its most recent meeting on Saturday October 20, 2018, at St. Francis Xavier parish in Kearns. It was a beautiful autumn morning when many could have opted for a scenic drive in the mountains or spent the day with their family working in the yard. Also, considering that Council Sunday was the following day and many of us were looking forward to spending the day celebrating with our CCW sisters, I am pleased to report that we had nearly perfect attendance at our meeting. We had a very productive exchange of ideas and insights on a variety of topics. Affiliate presidents enthusiastically reported on successful starts to the new Council year, and all commission and committee chairs had something valuable to share as well. Here are a few of the highlights, including some updates I received following our meeting:

Blessed Sacrament celebrated Council Sunday with its 7th annual Tea Party. (Kim Matus, CCW President, reported that close to 60 women attended the party, the highest attendance yet, providing a great opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new friends). Four female Sandy City Council members were invited to speak at their October meeting to update the women on happenings in the community. Kim extended an invitation to other CCWs who have residents in the Sandy city area. Their 31st Annual Holiday Blessings Boutique will be held on Saturday, November 17th. Yes, *31st Annual!*

San Andres CCW has been busy helping a family in the parish that is moving to Mexico. They are hosting a couple of luncheons for the family and will also be putting together Thanksgiving meal kits in November for those in the community in need. Monica Villar, San Andres CCW President (and our WDCCW Treasurer) is looking for a venue for selling art created by people with disabilities.

St Francis of Assisi does not “take a break” over the summer. When they met in June, they installed new CCW board members, planned for upcoming Bingo and parish picnic events, and had a guest from the parish speak about life in the Philippines. President Gina Bowen hosted a prayer service and mini-retreat, “Images of Mary,” at her home in September. Forty-one women attended from both the English and Spanish speaking communities. Funds were also raised to put toward their pirate-themed dinner dance held in October. They hosted a dinner for 25 boys from the French Boys’ Choir who performed at their church on October 30th. In honor of Council Sunday, they are giving prayer shawls to two families in the parish. They are currently planning for a boutique and Christmas party in December and a Mad Hatter Tea Party in January. A female doctor is scheduled to speak this month to address health management for women.

St. Francis Xavier began the new Council year with Bingo in September and a Living Rosary in October. They also planted paperwhite flowers. Council Sunday was promoted with special picture displays highlighting CCW activities and events. The parish was bustling with activity on the day of our WDCCW meeting. We are very grateful to all the ladies who came out to help with the breakfast and luncheon, especially since our meeting ran a little longer than expected: Lynn Miller, Jackie Bergstrom, Janet Healy, and Dawn Rinaldi. (Three delicious soups that really hit the spot!)

St. John the Baptist Ladies Association got the (beach) ball rolling for the new year with a Beach-Themed Get Acquainted party in September. They hosted a Newcomers’ breakfast in honor of Council Sunday and had some Halloween Olympics fun at their October meeting. Their annual fundraising luncheon was held on Sunday, November 4th. Becky Hicks, Cheryl Johnson, MaryAnne Mulvihill and I took Nancy Reading up on her invitation to attend along with lots of other “cowgirls” for an afternoon of fun including lunch catered by Goodwoods BBQ, square dancing, gift basket and ugly purse silent auction, and “bail collection” for infamous horse thief, Msgr. Moore. Proceeds go toward the Gift of the Drummer and other parish ministries. December activities include a Christmas party and service project.

The women of **St. Joseph the Worker** (better known as the **WOWs**) began their year with a retreat, "Women of His Story," conducted by Susan Espinoza. They celebrated Council "Sunday" throughout the month of October. They prayed the contemplative rosary and invited Holly Dodge and her daughters to perform the music they did for the DCCW convention. They also held a bake sale to raise funds to assist women from the parish who have never attended DCCW convention. (Last year, they were able to help three women). Their Annual Silent Auction, a casual Black and White event, was held on November 3rd. The November WOWs meeting will be held at PHO V restaurant, which is owned by one of the parishioners. The Deanery is grateful to them for hosting the DCCW/WDCCW meeting on November 10th.

St. Peter CCW began the new year in October with a bi-lingual rosary (decades were recited in English, Spanish, and Latin) followed by a pot luck dinner. They also had a "bring and buy" Harvest bake sale. We were pleased to have Cynthia Currier attend our Deanery meeting as a guest of Lydia Farnell. She reported that the CCW has formed several new committees, including Sunshine and Funerals. They celebrated Council Sunday with an array of refreshments and some decorated table displays. With the help of a translator, the women circulated among the tables in the social hall, introducing themselves and asking the women what they would like to see happen in the womens' group. In November they will be decorating Thanksgiving boxes, filling them with food donated by the parish, and delivering them on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Their Christmas service project will be lap blankets for the homebound. They also plan to send deacons and their families a beautiful plant and card.

The Ladies of St. Thomas More spent Council Sunday with the children of the parish. Because of a scheduling conflict with an "adult" Halloween party the following weekend, we hosted the Kids' Halloween Party on Sunday, October 21. The Fun Bunch (our 55+ group) helped prepare and serve the food and members of the parish youth group were also a big help in assisting with the games. Earlier in the month, we hosted a Coffee and Cookie get together on the morning of the Columbus Day holiday, hoping to attract some women who either had the day off or can't come to our meetings in the evening. We were successful in adding some new members to our email list, so we plan to host another opportunity to "meet & mingle," this time with some wine and cheese, on the evening of November 12th. We are also very busy planning for our Annual Christmas Luncheon and Boutique which will be held on December 8th.

St. Vincent DePaul CCW had a program planning meeting in August. Like SJBLA, they also used a "ball-toss" game to get acquainted at their first meeting. They are using several media apps to get the word out about their CCW organization. Council Sunday was celebrated by installing their new officers at the 9 am Mass and hosting Coffee and Donuts that weekend. Newly elected President Sophie Derrick is a "self-described crafter," so they made Halloween centerpieces for the Knights Halloween Party at their October meeting and are planning another craft project in April. A guest speaker from The Inn Between is scheduled for November. The December meeting will be a Christmas Party and gift exchange. In January, a speaker from the Utah Attorney General's office will give a presentation on Human Trafficking. A speaker from The Road Home's Women & Children's facility is scheduled for March.

Annette Pressley, Spirituality Commission, opened our meeting with a beautiful prayer on Gratitude. In her commission report, she reminded us to take a moment to reflect on our prayer life "as we begin what is for most of us the most hectic time of year." Her report was focused on contemplative prayer and the silence it offers in this busy, media saturated world.

Ernie Folks, Leadership Commission, "took a page" from the NCCW website to remind us of the prevalence of human trafficking not only around the world, but right here in the state of Utah. She passed out pencils with the National Human Trafficking hotline number on them. The NCCW website (www.nccw.org) cites several valuable resources and links for helping to identify signs of human trafficking as well as ways to help survivors.

Donna Murphy, Legislative Commission, was able to join us for our meeting. As many of you know, she was involved in a car accident shortly after her shoulder surgery, slowing her recovery process and making it difficult do many things, including “typing a report.” She brought the Utah mid-term ballot and encouraged everyone to get familiar with the various propositions and to vote. She called upon us to be kinder to one another in this divisive political climate and reminded us to pray for our veterans.

Tracey Hacking, Parliamentarian and Service Commission prepared a couple of reports for us. Her Parliamentarian report emphasized how following Robert’s Rules of Order helps to prevent chaos by allowing the minority to be heard, even amongst an overwhelming majority. Her Service Commission report outlined a “plan of action” for the Wasatch Deanery to support the DCCW Service project aimed at providing needs for area homeless shelters. Since there were no shelters in Utah County (where three of our nine Affiliates are located) listed in the DCCW Service project outline, I asked Tracey to either find shelters in Utah County or investigate other needs that would compliment the DCCW project. She has proposed the idea of “Blessing Bags,” one-gallon Ziplock bags filled with items that can be handed out to homeless people you encounter or that can be gathered together and taken to one of the shelters listed in the DCCW report. She compiled the list of items to be included in the bags based on an article written by a former homeless woman. She also included examples of labels to place on the bags that tell the person that they matter and are not forgotten.

Catherine Ford-Barbiero, Historian, continues to post inspirational prayers on our Wasatch Deanery Facebook page. She also provides weekly updates from the NCCW and encourages us to submit pictures and announcements from parish events in the Deanery. If you are on Facebook, we invite you to check us out and join our group at “Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women, Utah.”

MaryAnne Mulvihill, Immediate Past-President (and therefore Nominating Committee Chair) acknowledged that while it is still early in the process, women are encouraged to consider an office on the Deanery board, as this is an organization that provides a great deal of support.

MaryAnne and I also shared our experience attending the NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh. We were both especially impressed with the keynote speaker, Bishop Caggiano, as well as the other liturgy celebrants. As MaryAnne reported, their homilies reminded us that “all Catholics are sinners looking to support each other in seeking a higher level of holiness, and our priests are no exception. They need and deserve our support as they themselves seek to turn away from sin and become the men God created them to be.”

Likewise, in recent weeks, I have recalled the sentiments expressed in their homilies while reading a couple of articles sent via email. One, entitled “Worried Laypeople and Spiritual Sacrifice,” said that the laity, while it has every reason to be “horrified,” should also see this time as an opportunity for personal conversion, a time for practicing penance and prayer. The other, entitled “When Men of the Cloth Do Wicked Things,” recommends that “when we hear stories about priests who give the Church a bad name, we should ourselves give greater Christian witness at a local level, in our families and our work, among our friends, and wherever else possible.”

The Wasatch Deanery will be holding a short meeting following the DCCW meeting on November 10th. We will be assessing needs for a MDR presentation to enhance our Councils with respect to attracting new leadership, younger members and those with possible language and/or cultural barriers.