

CONVENTION CHAIR REPORT
APRIL 2022 CONVENTION –“A VISION FOR THE FUTURE”
BECKY COLOMBO

The 2022 DCCW Convention had several changes put into place after feedback from the September 2021 DCCW Convention. Both were held at the Sheraton Hotel, Salt Lake City. After meeting with several of the committee chairs, we decided to put the following changes into place.

- The Woman of the Year Banquet was not plated and served individually, but set up buffet style, due to staffing shortages in the hotel industry. The buffet lines had complaints of not being refilled quickly. However, the 400 plus people in attendance were served faster than they had been in the past, when staff served individually. We felt the banquet went smoothly, and our fears of having buffet style were eased.
- The Woman of the Year (WOY) Program moved more quickly than the previous year, by having the women of the year from each deanery seated at the front to decrease the time it takes for them to walk to the stage. This helped to make things run smoother and helped to speed up the program.
- Many of the bios were kept to the 100-word limit. Some were still over that length and that will be worked on more diligently in the future. One hundred words is difficult to condense so much hard work done by each woman!
- The poster session had to be moved to a different area to accommodate more room for people to register prior to the Woman of the Year Banquet and to allow for room for the cash bars and the buffet stations. There were comments stating the posters were placed too far away from the meeting room and it was not convenient for people to view the posters due to this change. This will be considered in the future.
- The Woman of the Year photo was taken prior to the beginning of the banquet, in order to capture all the women in the picture and avoid some leaving early during the program. This seemed to work out better and the editor (Marie Mischel) from the Intermountain Catholic felt this was an improvement.
- We still had problems with the availability of a piano for the prayer services and the WOY banquet. This has been a problem for the last 2 years due to the hotel not having a piano on the sight. This can be addressed in the future.
- We did not have our 2 vendors available for the women to purchase religious goods or African baskets. The basket people had no one available due to illness and there was a mix-up in scheduling with the religious goods store. They thought the convention was the following weekend. We were sorry to lose both vendors for our ladies to enjoy during the convention weekend, but both circumstances were out of our control.
- We were very pleased with the number of attendees at the convention, especially since it had only been 6 months since the previous convention was held. The banquet for the Woman of the Year totaled over 440 people, which was almost as many as pre-pandemic years.

- We had to raise the registration fees due to increases in food costs, but fees had not been raised for several years.
- The September DCCW Convention only made a profit of \$1,200 and this convention had a surplus of over \$10,000. This is very encouraging and keeps our organization active in our charitable services over the coming year.

In conclusion, I feel the April convention was much more successful than the September convention and the changes were effective for the goals we wanted to achieve. The other figures, amounts and reports from convention can be found in the various reports from standing committee chairs and the President's report. Thank you all once again for adjusting to the changes and attending convention! Merci!!