

November 2023 DCCW Historian Report

Susan Porter, St. John the Baptist Parishioner

First, I'd like to thank President Kerouac for asking me to serve as her Historian. I do enjoy researching and documenting articles as well as putting together photo albums and scrapbooks. My family will attest to this, as we have a basement full of memorabilia to prove it. I look forward to working with all of you, especially as we near the DCCW's 100th anniversary in 2028.

In the short term, I hope to fulfill the duties outlined in the bylaws: "taking photographs at meetings and events and collecting and preserving all data pertaining to activities of the DCCW." Although this position has been vacant for the past year, the AWARE and DCCW website have done well to document our goings-on and can be used to fill in some of the blanks. And like Angela and Bonnie, I will be asking for pictures, pictures, pictures! At the very least, I would like to compile a memory book highlighting our hosting of the NCCW convention in August.

In the long term, we are quickly approaching our 100th anniversary when Emma Bird took the helm as our first DCCW President in 1928. The Catholic Women's League has already celebrated its 100th year in Utah, and it is my understanding from reading an archived Intermountain Catholic article that Mrs. Bird also served as its first president. Each year our convention program lists all the Past Presidents, dating all the way back to 1928. Wouldn't it be fun to feature each of their stories to mark the occasion?

Since I am a Utah transplant as of 2006, my knowledge of the history of the Catholic church in Utah is hardly as extensive as that of those who are natives and may have even had mothers who served in their CCWs. Also, the two parishes I have belonged to, St. Thomas More and St. John the Baptist, are relatively "young" in the scheme of things, having been established in 1981 and 1999, respectively. It is still possible to meet and talk to some founding members of both the parish and CCW.

Our Catholic history in Utah is quite unique and interesting, being part of a religious minority and having just one diocese that covers the entire state. It is remarkable to see what a presence our women have had on the national stage with the NCCW, and this is something to be celebrated when we compile our history for our 100-year anniversary.

In looking at the DCCW roster, it appears that only the Wasatch Deanery currently has a Historian. The WDCCW has been using Facebook for this purpose for about 5 years. There are also extensive records dating back to the late 1980's when many of the Deanery's parishes were being established. There are convention programs, AWARE newsletters, and Intermountain Catholic articles from the 1990s. I am also in possession of some photo albums from the past that show many of us in our younger days and sadly, those who are no longer with us. I suggest that Deanery Presidents reach out to someone who might be willing to research their Deanery's history as well as Affiliate Parish CCW's histories. I believe most CCWs have a record of their Women of the Year recipients. That might be a good place to start. Anything would be helpful as we approach our 100th year. It will be here before we know it. Hopefully we all are too.

Please feel free to contact me at (480) 282-7224 or portersm57@gmail.com with any ideas and/or information. Thank you!