

Is it me? Or does time seem to be flying by? Did Christmas and New Years really pass? Where did 2023 go? It seems I was just preparing last year's January Meeting and "Call to Convention." Preparing both the Board meeting and Convention Packets makes for a juggling act, that I hope I can master. With God at the helm, it is possible. I have been working on putting the Call to Convention packets together with the help of so many of the board members and convention committee members doing their part. What an undertaking as many of the past presidents are aware. Timing is everything, but when time seems to slip away, it makes it challenging.

"Path of Renewed Encounter" is the 2024 Convention theme, following that of the NCCW Convention. We have a great line up of presenters, who will give inspiring talks on the Path of Renewal. As well as, having time for spiritual renewal with confession and Adoration. We will send out the "Call to Convention" electronically to save on printing costs. It is imperative that everyone opens every item, prints, and reviews the whole packet. There is a tremendous amount of information in the packet. We have made some changes this year in the Convention Registration form. There are now two. One exclusively for "Package C" attendees. Chery Johnson, Convention Registration Chair, is hoping this prevents any confusion with just Banquet attendees. We are also trying to alleviate Woman of the Year group photo debacle by taking the WOY photo at the end of the vigil Mass at the Cathedral. By doing so, we hope this will take out some of the confusion at the Hotel and the need to wait for women returning by bus. Please make sure your WOY recipients are aware of this change. Change is always difficult, but to create less confusion and a smoother transition, it will be worth the try. (we can always change it back) Our Lady of Good Council, pray it works.

We have listened to the evaluations and women who have expressed a need for change in venue. Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City will be your new destination for 2024. They took advantage of the Covid Pandemic to totally update their facility and guest rooms; it is fabulous. With this change there is a significant increase in registration fees. Due to the across-the-board cost of living increases, we also regretfully must pass on those increases. I hope and pray this does not deter you from attending the convention. Please fundraise to help defer costs for your ladies. Remember to apply through the scholarship program, available in the packet and on the website, to help those who may need financial assistance. The "Call to Convention" will also be posted on the Website, www.dccwutah.org, where all the forms are available. Please follow the steps to meet necessary deadlines for the convention committee. The scholarship application deadline is March 1 and registration deadline is March 22. We really want to see you in April.

Promote and advertise the convention, spread the word, personally invite women you think would like to come, but never have. Put the flyer in your bulletins, on your parish website, Facebook, send out invites in your emails, or however you can reach those who may not know about the Convention. We love to see fresh faces along with the steady and truly devoted attendees.

The San Francisco Province meeting is Feb 23-25 at the University Marriot Hotel. With Jeanne Audiss as our Province director we are fortunate to have it here in Salt Lake City. Please take advantage of the opportunity to go, it is a small gathering with wonderful spiritual prayer services and speakers.. The deadline to register however is Jan 26. One day before our board meeting. Please reach out to Jeanne Audiss jaudiss1234@yahoo.com or Casey Pond casey.pond@comcast.net They would be happy to get you the info needed to register by January 26.

Remember January is Respect Life Month. Pray for the protection of life from conception to natural death.

Until we meet at Convention April 27-28, please know you are in my prayers. I look forward to a Lenten season of reflection on Jesus great sacrifice with prayers, fasting, and almsgiving. Have a blessed Holy Week.