



Denver Police Widows' Association

Angel Force

January
~ 2023 ~

*Happy
New
Year!*

&

*Happy
50th
Anniversary*

*Yes, that's right!
The Denver Police Widows' Association
celebrates their 50th Anniversary this year!*



Original Board of Directors

1973

How It All Started

In the Spring of 1972, the President of the Denver Police Pension Association, (D.P.P.A.), Gene Covello, along with the Secretary of that organization, Jerry Mangan, contacted the following Denver Police Widows and asked them to form an organization for the widows of Denver Police Officers: Nellye Carver, Lena Crews, Ann Heath, Jeanne McCoy, and Kathryn Woodard.

They met and composed a letter to be sent to every Denver Police Widow living in the metropolitan area, notifying them of the proposed organization and of the first meeting to be held at Lena Crews' home in June. There were 25 women who attended the meeting. It was explained to those present that the D.P.P.A. Board had suggested that the widows form their own group, while still being a part of the D.P.P.A.

Even though nothing much developed from that first meeting, the above ladies decided to try again and held a second meeting in August; this time with an added volunteer, Dorothy Drumeller. Jerry Mangan was also in attendance and assisted with the discussion. It was decided to conduct a survey by telephone, and all 164 widows in the metro area were called.

The survey revealed that there was enough interest in forming such an association, so the first social function was organized. In October, 25 widows enjoyed a Sunday matinee at the Colorado Music Hall. Due to the winter weather, however, the group did not meet again until March 25, 1973. This was the Association's first official meeting, with 36 widows present. An election of officers was conducted, and Jeanne McCoy was elected as President; Lena Crews, Vice President; LaVerne O'Brien, Secretary; and Ann Potts, Treasurer. Maxene LeGrand volunteered to arrange rides for those who needed them, so she was given the title of Transportation Chairman.

At subsequent meetings, other issues such as the name of the organization, eligibility for membership, dues, and By-Laws were discussed and voted upon. Pursuant to those discussions, it was decided that the organization would be known as the Denver Police Widows' Association (D.P.W.A.). Eligibility would be reserved for any woman who was a widow of a Denver Police Officer, still bearing his name and receiving a widow's pension from the City and County of Denver. Dues would be \$2.50 per year, and Lena Crews was appointed to draft a set of By-Laws from the Robert's Rules of Order. In addition, it was later determined that a Chaplain was needed and Agnes O'Donnell was elected to fill that position.

During the first year of operation, the D.P.P.A. contributed the amount of \$100.00 to assist the new organization. Jeanne McCoy and LaVerne O'Brien wrote and published the initial monthly newsletters, which were sent to all dues paying members. The newsletters were also mailed to widows who had not yet joined the Association, which generated a considerable amount of new memberships. The newsletters were friendly and humorous, and helped to solidify the close feelings that were developing within the group. By the start of the second year, there were 97 dues paying members, with an average attendance of 33 members at the monthly luncheons.

In retrospect, The Denver Police Widows' Association has provided its members with the opportunity to make many wonderful friends. We all feel close, because we have lived our lives with a common thread; experiencing the fears and worries of a policeman's life, and the dangers that beset him and his family. For all of this, Denver Police Widows share a rapport that is unique only to them.



Future of the Denver Police Widows' Association

Inasmuch as we celebrate such a special milestone in the DPWA's history, the Board of Directors with the approval of the few members who still attend the monthly luncheons, have decided to allow the Association to fold in July. This is due to the steady decline in membership and the lack of interest on the part of new widows who opt to not join the Association. Fifty years ago, this association may have been the main social life for many of the ladies back then, but now there are so many other social opportunities available for us to enjoy, and many of us are much more involved with grandchildren, sports, hobbies, and other activities. We feel that it's just a sign of the times. After July, even though we will no longer be a structured association with a Board of Directors and members required to pay dues, some of the ladies still plan to meet for lunch just to stay in touch and anyone is welcome to attend. Those of us to have been long time members, appreciate everyone who has supported the association through the years.

2023 Monthly Luncheons

Ever since COVID, it has been increasingly difficult to find restaurants that meet our criteria, i.e., centrally located, ample parking, easy access in and out of the venue with limited stairs, and private or semi-private room. Two of our favorite restaurants have closed their doors permanently and most of the other restaurants have cut back on their hours of operation, due to continued staffing issues. Therefore, they can no longer cater to large groups or offer a private dining area so that we can conduct our meetings. There is one restaurant left, however, that satisfies all of the above, so the January through May luncheons will be held at the following restaurant:



Sunrise Sunset Restaurant

1424 South Wadsworth
(Lakewood)

Wednesday, January 4th ~ 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, February 1st ~ 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 1st ~ 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 5th ~ 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 3rd ~ 11:30 a.m.

NO LUNCHEON in JUNE

July Luncheon ~ 50th Anniversary Party
(Date, Time, and Location to be Announced.)

Please RSVP to Lynne Mullen
303-239-0804

*We celebrate the birthdays
of the following*

January Birthday Girls!

Edie Lindsey ~ 4th

Sandi Hendricks ~ 8th

Jean Lombard ~ 16th

Irene Calvano ~ 19th

Lynn Bott ~ 21st

Camille Butler ~ 25th





Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the

family and friends of

Barbara Buecher

Widow of Walter

Who passed away last November



A Prayer for Peace in the New Year

At the start of each day Lord, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might see you and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us the wisdom to make the best choices, and fill us with the desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us and through us. Thank you for being greater than anything we may face in our daily lives. Thank you also for your presence that goes with us and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but is our true and lasting strength no matter what we're up against. Finally, we ask that your peace lead us, while guarding our hearts and minds in you.

Amen



Scenes from the
2022
Christmas Party



