

Minutes  
June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 Meeting  
Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Location: St. James the Greater, Vernal Utah

President Annette Pressley called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

In attendance for the meeting were: Ann Forster, Annette Pressley, Barbara Jewkes, Becky Columbo, Carol Harley, Cathie Finger, Cleo Mota, Erin O'Shea, Gaylynn Huffman, Gracemarie Belvedere, Jamie Beert, Jessica Jurkowski, Joan Simard, Kathryn Larson, Leylahni Munguia Ayon, Lydia Farnell, Marcie Downs, Marsha Murphy, Michael O'Shea, Pearl Cook, Rose Kuop, Sherry Gines, Susan Espinoza, Susan Nielson, Susan Porter, Tammy Gurr, Tisha Ramos-Yarber

**Opening Prayer:** Gracemarie Belvedere and Erin O'Shea, followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

**Welcome and Introductions:** President Pressley read the DCCW Mission Statement and acknowledged Pat Voorhes and Amy Kennedy as NCCW officers and stated they cannot be with us and are in Washington D.C., she thanked St. James the Greater parish for hosting. Ann Forster introduced her helpers. President Pressley recognized Leylahni Ayon who was the National Convention Golden Rose recipient last year.

**Quorum:** Establishment of having a quorum was confirmed by Secretary, Tisha Ramos-Yarber.

**Acceptance of the Agenda:** President Annette Pressley asked if there are any corrections or additions to the agenda. She added under New Business the newly open position for Service Commission and motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Jamie Beert moved that the Proposed Agenda be accepted, Lydia Farnell and Joan Simard seconded. Motion passed and the Proposed Agenda was accepted as corrected.

**Reading of April 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting:** President Annette Pressley motioned to dispense the reading of the minutes. Carol Harley motioned, Jessica Jurkowski seconded, and the motion passed. President Pressley asked if there are any changes to the dispensed minutes. Joan Simard spoke on the typos found. President Pressley stated the Convention minutes will be filed as amended.

**Spiritual Advisor's Remarks:** Fr. Ariel (excused). President Pressley introduced and welcomed Father Joven Opalda and stated he will be installed as the new Eastern Deanery's Spiritual Advisor. President Pressley and Eastern Deanery President Becky Columbo performed the installation. Father Joven thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as the Spiritual Advisor and stated Bishop Solis specified to him the deep spirituality that must be within our heights, we are all stewards and to be clear of the goal and vision of DCCW and most importantly is our spirituality, our faithfulness in the church, our humility and most of all respect for one another. He prayed for the intercession and intervention of the Holy Spirit and blessed us all.

**NCCW President Elect Remarks:** Amy Kennedy (excused). President Pressley reminded us Amy will be installed as the President of the National Council of Catholic Women at the Convention in August. She stated they are in Washington D.C. for a board meeting and for the reopening of Mary's Garden.

## **Reports of Officers:**

**President:** Annette Pressley thanked everyone and stated how proud and blessed she is to have everyone who helped her with the convention and acknowledged there will be discussion on how things can be done differently for future conventions. She asked for support and respect for our new pope even if we may not always agree, he is our Peter here on earth.

**1st Vice President:** Susan Porter mailed out thank you letters to all the businesses and organizations who placed ads in the programs. Elena from EWTN sent her a code to watch the canonization of Carlos Acutis for those who are interested. She mentioned all the good articles written with information and useful resources in the program. President Pressley reminded everyone who is not an individual member of NCCW to treat themselves to that gift.

**Second Vice President – Ways and Means:** Cynthia Acosta (excused)

**Secretary:** Tisha Ramos-Yarber reminded everyone to sign the attendance list and fill out your parish on the roster. President Pressley reiterated there will be a new format to the roster created.

**Treasurer:** Gaylynn Huffman reported on the individual amounts and totals for the raffle, silent auction, ugly purses and mass collections. She mentioned we were able to contribute to The Cathedral of the Madeleine, Mary's Garden and the Newman Center BYU/UVU.

**Immediate Past President:** Barb Kerouac (excused). Susan Porter spoke on behalf of Barb who congratulated everyone on a good convention, and that she received 133 evaluations. She will be calling on people for nominations.

**Parliamentarian:** Jeannie Audiss (excused).

**Historian:** Susan Porter mentioned anyone wanting prints of the pics from convention to let her know she doesn't have the digital copies. She stated that a new committee will need to be formed for Historian for the 99<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> year conventions.

## **Reports of Commission Chairs/Co-Chairs:**

President Pressley reminded commission chairs & standing committees as they report they can defer to convention due to some having multiple jobs and all reports should have been sent to Tisha and Angela. She mentioned giving a more detailed report on how things went for convention.

**Spirituality:** Gracemarie Belvedere reported she started working on prayer retreats to incorporate into meetings for deaneries and individual CCW's and would like to create a website to be able to download the prayer services as needed. She informed everyone that Marilyn Granato decided to step down as her co-chair and welcomed Erin O'Shea as her new Spirituality Co-Chair. She reiterated she does not want to redo everything on our current webpage and will work with Angela to coordinate and update the webpage.

**Service:** Monica Rich (excused). President Pressley deferred until convention wrap up.

**Leadership:** Maria Devereux (excused). President Pressley spoke on her behalf that a committee has been created, and a virtual meeting set for June 18<sup>th</sup> for a representative from each deanery to begin reviewing and updating convention guidelines this will be a separate committee from Jamie Beert's committee. She reported St. Peter's won the participatory drawing, St. Francis of Assisi winner of the Throwdown Challenge 2026 Package B Convention Registration and St. Helen's Roosevelt winner of the 2026 Package A Convention Registration. She thanked everyone for their support

**Legislative:** Donna Murphy (excused).

### **Reports of Deanery Presidents:**

**Eastern Deanery:** Becky Columbo reported that her deanery is still working on three affiliates to join Eastern Deanery.

**Northern Deanery:** Cleo Mota reported they are collaborating with the LDS church to send materials to make bags & hats to send to women in Africa. She invited everyone to a pilgrimage planned in September to visit five churches.

**Salt Lake Deanery:** Susan Vaughn (excused).

**Southwestern Deanery:** Mary Skomal (excused).

**Wasatch Deanery:** Gabby Gauchay (excused). Jamie Beert spoke on her behalf; The act of surrender is so relevant especially in a ministry concept. There are so many moving cards, and people to work with, it can sometimes be hard or intimidating to speak up, incite change, or even the confidence to raise our hand. But if you let go of expectations or worries and fears and just lean into God's goodness that wants us always, we will find that God has what we feel is out control and control. We can focus on the joy of a project and not worry about how to evolve it. God is there for us, and he's waiting for our surrender to let something beautiful happen. He's waiting for us to be still and quiet, so he can speak the truth of our existence into our hearts. Then, and only then, will we be propelled into our fullest potential of fullest calm and peace. What are you going to surrender this summer?

### **Reports of Standing Committee Chairs:**

**Finance:** Gaylynn Huffman (nothing to report).

**AWARE:** Susan Espinoza reported the next report due in September.

**MDR:** Bonnie Siegrist (excused) Michael O'Shea spoke on her behalf and are trying to get Good Shepard involved.

**Nominating Committee:** Barb Kerauc (excused). President Pressley spoke on her behalf about last year's table at the Utah Catholic Conference and having again this year. In September, Barb will activate the nominating committee for officers installed next April at the convention.

**Affiliate of the Year:** Pat Voorhes (excused).

**Golden Rose:** Jeanne Audiss (excused). President Pressley mentioned the article in The Intermountain Catholic.

**Unfinished Business:**

**DCCW Account Update:** President Pressley spoke on the ongoing issues and has been referred and contacted the senior account finance officer of the diocese and is waiting for a response. President Pressley set up a meeting for the officers to meet with the vicar general Father John Evans to discuss the topic of our bank account ownership being still under past presidents' names from years past. Gaylynn Huffman explained when she received the bank statement in November there was a dollar amount on the federal withholding tax of our savings account. She contacted Wells Fargo for more information and was told the account was audited and found the name connected to the FEIN identification number was the legal name Roman Catholic Bishop. Our name was under the Diocese Council of Catholic Women which is not compliant. The identification belongs to the diocese, and we have changed it to Council of Catholic Women which does not match and therefore we are charged interest each month.

**DCCW Promotional Video Update:** Gabby Gauchay (excused). President Pressley reported on her behalf on the recommendation from Bishop Solis to create a video showing some of our service projects, retreats and events to be put on the diocese website. Our talented Gabby Gauchay agreed to head the project which has had little response. President Pressley and Gabby are going to talk to Father John to see if a legal official release form is required for releasing pictures or videos. She encouraged everyone to participate in creating a video.

**DCCW Convention Reports:**

**Convention Chair:** President Pressley thanked everyone for their help and support and felt in end she was guided by the Holy Spirit. Several people approached her after the Women of The Year banquet about the excessive noise during the presentations of the women. She reassured everyone that a plan to address this at the beginning of the banquet would be made.

**Convention Hostess and Bags:** Susan Vaughn (excused). President Pressley expressed the great job the hostesses did.

**Convention Co-Chair:** Susan Porter (nothing to report).

**Women of the Year:** Jennifer Streker/Margaret Sanchez (excused). President Pressley expressed for first timers the good job they did on the booklet and video.

**Affiliate of the Year:** Pat Vooches and Barb Kerouac (excused).

**Golden Rose Award:** Jeanne Audiss (excused).

**Ways and Means:** Cynthia Acosta (excused). Tisha Ramos-Yarber read her report and thanked everyone from Cynthia for the help she received and for donating such beautiful baskets for the raffle, silent auction, and ugly purses. 37 raffle baskets, 33 silent auctions, and 20 ugly purses were donated. She was left with two complimentary tickets from Mesquite, good for a round of golf and room and is not sure how to handle those being left and suggested a discussion on how they should be handled.

**Scholarship:** Jessica Jurkowski/Katie Finger: Jessica thanked all who donated.

**Registration:** Cheryl Johnson (excused). President Pressley read her report and thanked the ladies from Cheryl for filling out the registration forms. There were not many cancellations this year which made it easier for Gaylynn. She tried to verify the actual number of attendees, but it turned out to not be an easy task due to people not being able to attend. Banquet numbers were down this year, there were 68 fewer people registered compared to last year, registered attendees included 28 Women of the Year, 14 Religious, 11 Past DCCW Presidents, and first-time attendees increased by 17 for a total of 56 which is a record. She thanked Loraine Martinez who assisted her with banquet seating.

**Convention Wrap-up Final Report:** Barb Kerouac (excused). Susan Porter spoke on Barb's behalf and reported 237 total attendees for package A, B, &D which included first-time attendees and of these 133 evaluation forms were received. There are three categories on the form that are rated: convention, speakers, and hotel and each rating was over 3.7 out of 4.

**Director of Meetings:** Jamie Beert/Marcie Downs - Jamie thanked Marcie for her support and everyone she reached out to for help and for filling out the surveys. She conveyed many people don't understand the concept that the convention is a fundraiser and when the cost is determined it is not just for the food, it's not a fund we have in our budget and are required to pay 25% for service. She wants to be completely open about the cost of everything and is willing to attend deanery or parish meetings to explain the costs. She reported work has begun on next year's convention and if the same last weekend of April is selected, we will not be able to book a room at ½ price and will be single occupancy due to the volleyball tournaments. If the weekend prior is locked in, we will have the option to book double rooms. More information will be available later in the year. President Pressley received an email that the Bishop Solis will be available for that weekend and stated to mark you calendars for those dates, board meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> and convention April 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Vendor & Exhibitors:** President Pressley addressed the confusion with the sponsors versus exhibitors and people wanting a table who hadn't paid and reiterated this will be worked out for anyone wanting a table other than the Carmelites.

**Meeting Hosts:** President Pressley reported Wasatch Deanery will host the November 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, but a parish host is still needed.

**NCCW Convention:** President Pressley reminded everyone the convention is August 13<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Orlando, Florida and the deadline for registration is June 13<sup>th</sup>, all information is available on the NCCW website. She thanked Pat Voorhes who submitted a full-page ad for the convention program recognizing Amy and thanking Pat for her services. She spoke about donating a silent auction item as was done in the past. Gaylynn Huffman reported there are funds budgeted for the ad

and donation. A motion was made from President Pressley for the floor to donate \$100 for a raffle item, the floor seconded all in favor.

**Convention Committee Survey and Update:** Jamie Beert reported on the green cards in the convention bags, and the committee created meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> to go through the responses on the cards, see what other options there are regarding other places to hold convention. She addressed that the cards they did go through most people would spend up to \$250 per, want meals included and spread across for distance willing to travel. Other comments were cost is too high, having at a convention center with food catered. Some people felt they didn't have enough time in the raffle room and would like more raffle items versus in the silent auction items. President Pressley reminded everyone on the importance of making your NCCW dues up to date and for deanery president to monitor the status of your affiliates.

### **New Business:**

**Daughters of Charity Ministry, Give Me a Chance Fundraiser:** President Pressley expressed being long time supporters of this fundraiser and recommended the gift certificates left over from the silent auction be given as our donation to the fundraiser being held on September 6<sup>th</sup>. She discussed with Jeanne Audiss our Parliamentarian to see if a motion or any approval is needed. Jeanne verified no approval or motion is needed because there is no money involved, and it is a gift. President Pressley decided to donate the certificates as our gift.

President Pressley reported that Monica Rich has respectfully stepped down as Service Commission and is seeking someone to fill this position until her term end in 2026.

**Correspondence:** Thank you notes from Carmelites and Utah County Newman House, DCCW was mentioned in Intermountain Catholic about speakers Kit and Kevin Cummins.

### **Announcements:**

- Carol Harley praised The Golden Rose winner Leylahni Ayon for traveling to St. Mary's to sing at a funeral
- Give Me a Chance Fundraiser – September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Carmelite Fair – September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Knight of Columbus Golf Tournament – July 26<sup>th</sup>
- Utah Catholic Conference – September 20<sup>th</sup>
  
- **Prayers Needed:** Repose for the soul of Donna Murphy's sister Kathy Kitchens.
- **Closing Prayer:** Gracemarie Belvedere and Erin O'Shea
- **Next Meeting:** September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025, St. James the Just, Ogden

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tisha Ramos-Yarber, Secretary