

Minutes  
September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 Meeting  
Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women  
Location: St. James the Just, Ogden Utah

President Annette Pressley called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

In attendance for the meeting were: Amy Kennedy, Angela Martinez, Annette Pressley, Barb Kerouac, Barbara Larsen, Becky Columbo, Bonnie Siegrist, Carol Harley, Carolyn Jachim, Cathie Finger, Cheryl Johnson, Cleo Mota, Cynthia Acosta, Donna Kushlan, Donna Murphy, Elisebeth Price, Erin O'Shea, Gaylynn Huffman, Gracemarie Belvedere, Jamie Beert, Jeanne Audiss, Jessica Jurkowski, Joan Simard, Jodi Smith, Jolene Guarniere, Julie Carlin, Lisa Medina, Lorraine West, Louisa Trujillo, Lydia Farnell, Olga Salas, Marcie Downs, Margaret Sanchez, Michael O'Shea, Mindi Allen, Monica Rich, Reinette Schultz, Robin Marvive, Roslyn Gunderson, Stephanie Rikard, Susan Espinoza, Susan Nielson, Susan Porter, Susan Vaughn, Teri Miller, 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 Amy Kennedy as our new NCCW President. She thanked the seven DCCW Past Presidents for being present for the meeting and St. James the Just for hosting. She introduced their President Maria Devereux who introduced the ladies who helped organize the meeting.

**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 to correct the dates of the NCCW Convention to August 26<sup>th</sup> through August 29<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned there were changes made to the agenda per Parliamentarian that do not need to be voted on. Susan Vaughn moved that the Proposed Agenda be accepted, Robin Marvive seconded. Motion passed and the Proposed Agenda was accepted as corrected.

**Reading of June 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting:** President Annette Pressley asked for a motion to dispense the reading of the minutes. Carol Harley motioned, Lydia Farnell seconded, and the motion passed. President Pressley asked if there are any changes to the minutes, Angela Martinez stated she was excused from the meeting, and it was not in the minutes. Lydia Farnell stated under Leadership St. Peter's won the poster session not the participatory session. Cheryl Johnson stated also under Leadership St. Francis Xavier's won for package B not St. Francis of Assisi. Donna Murphy mentioned she was also excused. President Pressley stated the Convention minutes will be filed as amended.

**Spiritual Advisor's Remarks:** Father Ariel - President Pressley mentioned Father Ariel is on ZOOM. Father Ariel congratulated everyone on the job well done for convention. He attended the National Convention and remarked how inspiring the speakers were. President Pressley stated Father David Trujillo was present earlier and gave us a blessing but could not stay for the meeting.

**Northern Deanery Spiritual Advisor Remarks:** Deacon Tom Devereux (excused).

**NCCW President Remarks:** Amy Kennedy - President Pressley welcomed Amy Kennedy who spoke on the beautiful opening prayer service that follows the season out of growth and change in thanksgiving. She thanked all who have been an inspiration to her, to keep your prayers coming and it's an honor serving on the national level and that she will continue to make us proud.

### **Reports of Officers:**

**President:** Annette Pressley spoke on the upcoming council season being busy and having a great time at the National Convention. There was 17 women who attended and mentioned it's never too early to start planning on both our convention and national convention for 2026. She reminded everyone to join as an individual member of NCCW and to check out all the information she brought of handouts, programs, and the book of resolutions of the blessed women who are in line to become saints.

**1st Vice President:** Susan Porter mentioned her report is online. She also attended the National Convention and reiterated what Father Ariel said about the inspirational speakers but also took note on the presentations of the various commissions with people collaborating from all over the country throughout the year and provided wonderful presentations and resources. She mentioned our own convention and seeking out advertisers and sponsors and reminded us of our guidelines on the website.

**Secretary:** Tisha Ramos-Yarber directed everyone to the copy of the newly formatted roster on the entrance table for any additional changes needed and it will be updated. President Pressley added to let Tisha know if your CCW has a new president, officers, what parish or email address updates.

**Treasurer:** Gaylynn Huffman deferred to Committee Chair Finance.

**Second Vice President – Ways and Means:** Cynthia Acosta reported she started sending out letters to the donors for silent auction. President Pressley added Cynthia is in the process of looking for a quilt.

**Immediate Past President:** Barb Kerouac deferred to Nominating Committees

**Historian:** Susan Porter mentioned her report is online and reminded everyone of our 100<sup>th</sup> convention and has posted a few ideas on how to celebrate it and brought brochures from National Convention on their 100<sup>th</sup> year celebrations to take for everyone's Council Sunday coming in October.

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

President Pressley reminded commission chairs & standing committees that in the interest of time, please raise pressing points as needed and reports should have been sent to Tisha for filing and Angela for the website.

**Spirituality:** Gracemarie Belvedere reported she started working on mini retreats for Autumn, Advent, Winter, and Summer and emailed every CCW and Deanery President information on the retreats along with the leader's edition, she stated every retreat is under an hour.

**Service:** Pat Voorhes stated she has brought 34 boxes for the Box of Joy project along with the signup sheet and instructions for the boxes and sending in checks. She directed everyone to the bins she brought for the Carmelite Nuns and how thankful they are for donations. Lastly, she spoke on the Childhood Hunger project for next year and is focused on food insecurity for children at schools and acknowledged there are places that will help as well as helping legislatively and to be advocates for programs that are on the chopping block. There are also local food banks to help and to email her with the food bank in your area that your parish could donate to. She stated the summertime is a very bad time for childhood hunger due to not having school meals.

**Legislative:** Donna Murphy reported the recent issues on the hill about funding for education which includes children going to school hungry. She invited anyone to join the women state legislators to discuss state issues on September 20<sup>th</sup> and national issues on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol. She introduced her co-chair Deanna Keller, her recording secretary Carol Harley and Susan Vaughn as members. She reminded everyone how important it is to vote on elections at all levels and to pray for Pope Leo and the saints, to stay involved and contact your legislators.

**Leadership:** Maria Devereux deferred to New Business.

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

**Eastern Deanery:** Becky Columbo asked to pray for the Eastern Deanery and stated there was five affiliated deaneries and now are down to two most recently with St. Helen's who won the Affiliate of the Year are now unaffiliated due to issues in their parish.

**Salt Lake Deanery:** Susan Vaughn mentioned the people from Salt Lake Deanery who traveled to Washington D.C. for the dedication of Mary's Garden, the representation at the National Convention and the pilgrimage to Mother Cabrini's in Colorado and how one parish created a brochure explaining CCW and their agenda for the year to entice more women to join. She introduced Jodi Smith and Lorraine West as the new president of The Catholic Women's League.

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

**Wasatch Deanery:** Gabby Gauchay (excused). Robin Marvive spoke on her behalf and announced the birth of Gabby's son Benny Joe.

**Northern Deanery:** Cleo Mota reported St. James the Just having their first Northern Deanery interfaith service project "Acts of Mercy" collaborating with their LDS sisters creating hygiene bags and invited everyone to the next gathering.

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

**Finance:** Gaylynn Huffman asked if there were any questions on the checking account figures. She deferred to Unfinished Business DCCW Account Update.

**AWARE:** Susan Espinoza – nothing to report. President Pressley reminded everyone the deadline for the Fall AWARE reports is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Website:** Angela Martinez – nothing to report.

**MDR:** Bonnie Siegrist - Michael O'Shea spoke on her behalf on having an exhibitors table at this year's Utah Catholic Conference on September 20<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Baptist in Draper. She asked for additional people to help in the booth answering questions about DCCW, she brought information on the workshops, discussions, and speakers for those interested. She invited volunteers who are fluent in Spanish and have experience with the council for the huge Hispanic population and what a great opportunity to be able to reach out to our Hispanic sisters. President Pressley agreed on what a great need this is across the diocese.

**Nominating Committee:** Barb Kerouac – Barb stated that when you are asked to join to please say yes just as Mary did. She described the job as very fulfilling and doable and stated when she was asked to become Second Vice President, First Vice President and on up she declined but God gave her a knock on her head and made it happen, and He will make it happen for you. Fill out the nominating forms on the website or submit a form for someone you think will be capable. She introduced the committee: herself as chair, Eastern Deanery – Becky Columbo, Northern Deanery Cleo Mota, Southwest Deanery – Kathy Fazio, Wasatch Deanery – Jamie Beert, and Member at Large – Lydia Farnell. She explained the list of eligibility and duties are on the website and are looking for two to three candidates for First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer to vote on. Get ready for your yes.

**Director of Meetings:** Jamie Beert deferred to Convention Committee Update.

**By-Laws:** Maria Devereux deferred to New Business.

## **Unfinished Business:**

**DCCW Promotional Video Update:** President Pressley reported on the struggle with the recommendation from Bishop Solis last September to create a video showing some of our service projects, retreats and events to be put on the diocese website. Gabby Gauchay agreed to take the lead on this with some questions and concerns being asked. Per Fr. John Evans, Vicar General if we do not use copyrighted material we are good to go. If the video is in a public place no permission is necessary. Videos taken at mass require the pastor's permission, no minors can be videoed without parental consent. President Pressley challenged everyone to start collecting videos and pictures.

**DCCW Account Update:** Gaylynn Huffman – President Pressley stated that after years the account has finally been rectified. Gaylynn reported Wells Fargo conducted an audit and found out DCCW was not in compliance with our checking or savings account, over the last year they have tried to find out how to correct this and with the help of Fr. Evans they found out the account was at a branch level and Wells Fargo's corporate office was not able to help so that account had to be closed and a new account opened at a corporate level. The diocese cannot have a corporate savings account, so Fr. Evans suggested opening a D&L account which all parishes have.

**NCCW Convention 2025:** President Pressley stated the convention was well represented with 17 members including Fr. Ariel and welcomed Amy Kennedy as our NCCW President. She passed out handouts and the program. She asked the women who attended to stand and during the lunch ask them about their experience at the convention.

**Convention Committee Survey and Update:** Jamie Beert reported she and Marcie Downs will start visiting different locations across the state gathering information on where we could hold the convention. They have attended deanery meetings to discuss convention costs and asked affiliate presidents to go to their affiliate to gather information and ideas and vote on the suggestions by September 30<sup>th</sup> and planned to bring these to the November meeting.

**Deanery Presidents maintain affiliate NCCW dues status:** President Pressley reminded deanery presidents to share the spreadsheet Gabby Gauchay created to monitor the status of your affiliates to maintain a current NCCW membership. She explained this is critical to be current and if your membership is not current you are not in good standing and will not be able to vote and to ensure when there is a new president they know about the dues and information about the website.

## **New Business:**

**Convention Guidelines Update Review:** Maria Devereux reported she has been updating the Convention Guidelines and will soon finalize them. She thanked all who have so much experience and who have spent hours walking her through. President Pressley stated it will be reviewed at our November meeting.

**Approval of Proposed Budget:** President Pressley reported this was reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Due to some confusion she referred to the Standing Rules, Section 9 DCCW Treasury funds. Section B leadership states funding is increased a minimum of \$300 each year with profit earned from convention, this fund is used for education and development of DCCW's membership and actual amount deposited will be determined at the time of the budget approval based on convention profits, past deposits, and urgency. It is unknown why this money is automatically deposited in the leadership fund, and she asked if this is a need and should it be changed from leadership fund to MDR fund. Pat Voorhes expressed to leave as leadership for leadership training. President Pressley spoke about Section F referring to DCCW Conventions Sponsorship and motioned it be changed to Scholarship, with it not being correct no money was transferred to Scholarship. Carol Harley motioned, and Bonnie Siegrist seconded. Gaylynn Hoffman reported the Finance Committee has approved of everything. President Pressley motioned to approve the proposed budget as presented. Roslyn Gunderson motioned, and Robin Marvive seconded.

**Council Sunday - October:** President Pressley reminded everyone October is historically a time to recognize our Council of Catholic Women whether you pray a rosary together, have a luncheon or retreat do something to honor your council and promote them within your parish.

**SLC DCCW Convention:** President Pressley reminded everyone the dates of April 18-19<sup>th</sup> 2026 Convention held at Little America and to discuss with you affiliates fundraisers or anything to make it more accessible to your members. The focus this year will be Service and Spirituality Commissions. Jamie Beert reported double rooms will be available and pricing will be settled at the end of October. The menus will also be determined.

**Spiritual Advisor Attendance Update:** President Pressley discussed there is a job description that was developed based on NCCW's Spiritual Advisors responsibilities and that each deanery president should know their spiritual advisor and be in contact with them and include them on all meetings and get their approvals on activities. She sent each one a letter welcoming and thanking them. They should have received a letter from Bishop Solis recognizing their acceptance of the position.

**Approval of gift purchase for NCCW President:** President Pressley motioned to have approval for Amy Kennedy's gift that was purchased in recognition of her installation. Joan Simard motioned, Robin Marvive seconded.

**CCW Adoration Across the Nation:** President Pressley was approached by the RCCW Spirituality Chair, Deborah Maguire for participation in this project on November 20<sup>th</sup> and asked for a volunteer parish, they want each time zone represented. If anyone is interested, please see President Pressley.

**Correspondence:** None

**Announcements:**

- Give Me a Chance Fundraiser – September 6<sup>th</sup>
- Utah Catholic Conference – September 20<sup>th</sup>
- Carmelite Fair – September 21<sup>st</sup>
- Catholic Women’s League Fall Luncheon – October 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Prayers Needed:** (Teri Miller) Emily Houseman, Erin O’Shea, Gracemarie Belvedere, (Robin Marvive) Steve Fells
- **Closing Prayer:** Gracemarie Belvedere and Erin O’Shea
- **Next Meeting:** November 8, 2025, Blessed Sacrament, Sandy

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tisha Ramos-Yarber, Secretary