

The 2024-2025 Annual Report, which most of you attending the Board Meeting tonight will receive, covers activities from my installation in January prior to the final printing of all the convention documents. That report is more of a thank you letter to all the people who offered help, especially with the convention program booklet. I ran across Carol Harley's report from last April in which she, even after two years of completing the task, voiced some concerns about the enormity of the job and the evolving technology for designing the booklet. I was surprised to see that she gave both pros and cons of using Canva. Since I am a dinosaur and more familiar with Publisher, I used it to format the convention program and Annual Report, as was the choice for my predecessors until 2023 & 2024 when Canva was used. I also received mixed reviews about Canva from the various printers contacted for bids. Publisher will be supported through October 2026, so that will get me through next year, but it might be best to explore other options. Annette and I started the bid process by reaching out to a friend from St. Thomas More who manages a print shop. She saw the bids from previous years and told us we have been getting fair prices. The printer we contracted with in 2021 told us we could get the convention programs for half the price if they were full sized 8 ½ x 11. Even if the price of what they bid for 5.5 x 8.5 was cut in half, it was still more than what Sun Print Solutions bid, so we decided to contract with them again this year. There were some glitches last year with the AWARE not getting printed until Friday night. This year went smoothly, and the unit prices were comparable to last year. We may have even spent a little less.

We were very successful in obtaining advertisements to help defray the cost of the printing. We received 30 full page ads, 30 half page ads, and 13 quarter page ads. A few of those were "comp'd" since some ads were missing in last year's program. Some of those advertisers were reimbursed last year, and others chose to donate the money to the Scholarship Fund. Thirty-five of the seventy-three ads were from businesses and/or organizations, close to half of the total advertisements. Again, two-thirds of the businesses that advertised were from the Helper and Price area. Absolutely amazing!

In the Annual Report, I expressed disappointment that we didn't get any Sponsorships this year, but in the meantime, Elena Rodriguez from EWTN contacted us and will be here as an Emerald Sponsor. She is very excited to be attending, and we are delighted to have her as well. I hope many of you will stop by her table and thank her.

Christ the King in Cedar City won the Our Lady of Good Counsel Mileage Award 4 years in a row, so we needed to purchase a new Madonna statue for this year's winner.

In closing, I'd like to thank all our "experienced" Council sisters who helped me through this process, and I have thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with and getting to know the other "newbies" this year, especially Jennifer and Margaret, co-WOY chairs, and our Treasurer Gaylynn Huffman. Looking forward to working with them again next year and hopefully when I am president.

One more thing since I have a little space...thank you to all who submitted their ads, articles, WOY biographies, and other information on time that helped us get our materials to the printer in a timely fashion. It shows respect for your other Council sisters' time and is greatly appreciated!

Susan Porter, DCCW First VP, President-Elect