

## Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, 9/29/2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The Knoxville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (KDCCW) met in the Shea Room September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by President, Karen Vacaliuc. Who led the membership and guests in the Salute to the Cross, Our Lady of Good Counsel prayer, our Pledge to the Flag and the NCCW Mission Statement.

Sr. John Catherine Kennedy led the opening prayer and reflection, centering on the three saints of the day, Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Roll Call was taken, and the following were:

**Present:**

Julie Bomar  
Jan Byers  
Gisela Chaparro  
Gigi Chasey  
Lynn Christ  
Judy Collins  
Mary Cooper  
Donna Curry  
Marilyn Hafner  
Patty Johnson  
Nikki Kapolka  
Sr. John Catherine  
Karen Meiring  
Kathy Morin  
Michelle Peckham  
Aimee Place  
Michelle Ronsse  
Joan Rowe  
Pat Ryan  
Amelia Sweeney  
Susan Tribble  
Karen Vacaliuc  
Arlene Webb  
Anne Wharton

**Excused:**

Debbie Donahoo  
Cathy Hundley  
Lacey Metz  
Diann Nance  
Fr. Dan Whitman  
Mary Wilson

**Parliamentarian Report:** No report was needed, per Anne Wharton.

**The minutes** from the January 6, 2018 KDCCW Board Meeting and the minutes from the Business Meeting of the 2018 Spring Convention were approved as posted.

**Treasurer's Report** was approved as presented. After a discussion on reimbursing the registration fees for the KDCCW Board Members who attended the NCCW Convention in Pittsburgh, PA, Anne Wharton made the motion that the KDCCW pay the full registration fee of the NCCW Convention for those who attended. The motion was seconded by Kathy Morin. Motion passed.

It was reported by President, Karen Vacaliuc, that we now have a CCW affiliate in a parish in KY, additionally, there is now a Representative on the NCCW Board from the Military Council of Catholic Women.

**President's Report:** Karen Vacaliuc reported that she had sent out with an August e-mail a request for membership to fill out Pre-Assessment Report by October 10, 2018. This report is to aid the Leadership Training Development Team in

planning their presentation for the 2019 KDCCW Convention. She also discussed the goals she had set forth last year: membership has increased; there was a large number of first-time attendees at the 2018 KDCCW Convention; and we now have a new affiliate at St. Steven in Chattanooga.

**NCCW Convention Report:** In the report given by Vice President, Julie Bomar, she emphasized the outstanding talk given by Bishop Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, Conn. He spoke very directly addressing the current scandal within the Catholic Church. He did not speak in a negative way on the scandal but addressed it from the theme of the Convention—NCCW Reflecting God’s Joy—Missionary Disciples, Mission Possible! She acknowledged the Pittsburgh CCW’s for being such gracious and outstanding hosts of the Convention in the midst of this scandal within their Diocese. Julie encouraged everyone to try to make the effort to attend NCCW Conventions as they are truly worth the time and expense.

### **Presidents Reports:**

***Chattanooga:*** Julie Bomar thanked Arlene Webb for the outstanding work she did for the 2018 KDCCW Convention. She also spoke on their Deanery hosting a day retreat at Christ Prince of Peace Center in Benton, TN. It was a retreat for relaxing and enjoying fellowship with each other. They are also going to host another retreat at the Prince of Peace Center later this winter. There will also be a Day of Reflection in November at St. Therese of Lisieux in Cleveland, TN with Sr. Anna Marie McGuan as the guest speaker.

***Cumberland Mountain:*** Nikki Kapolka reported that their Deanery had a very good attendance at the KDCCW Convention, mostly ladies from their smaller affiliates, which she feels needs to be addressed at their meetings. She also spoke of their support the Free the Girls project. Many of their ladies supply and prepare food for funerals and sick parishioners. She explained that Donna Curry of St. Thomas will be the lead person for the 2019 KDCCW Convention to be held at St. Mary’s in Oak Ridge.

***Five Rivers:*** Michelle Ronsse reported on their General Meeting in February held at St. Patrick’s and their Fall Meeting will be at Notre Dame on October 27, 2018. Five Rivers Deanery will be hosting a Day of Reflection on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Notre Dame. The theme will be “But Who Do You Say I AM—Matt. 16:15”. Sr. Kennedy will be the guest speaker. She also thanked all the ladies of Five Rivers who attended the convention at St. Steven. They had many ladies attend this convention and everyone enjoyed themselves.

***Smoky Mountain:*** As Mary Wilson was not able to attend, her report was given by Marilyn Hafner. Mary’s report showed their General Meeting was held on March 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary’s in Gatlinburg; their Fall General Meeting will be at Holy Cross Parish in Pigeon Forge on November 7, with a Mass starting at 9 AM. The guest speaker will be their Pastor, Fr. Ron Stone, with the theme of “Together in Great Charity & Friendliness” (St. Vincent de Paul). Their Deanery will be participating in the “Box of Joy” project for Cross Catholic and the drop off point will be Immaculate Conception. Completion date for the project is November 3-7<sup>th</sup>.

At this point in the meeting, Kathy Morin asked permission to speak quickly on Sexual Trafficking which was again discussed at the National Convention. She offered an awareness video that she purchased at the Convention to anyone who would care to have more information on the subject. Patty Johnson explained that many people feel that sexual trafficking involves foreign girls shipped into this country illegally; however over 75% of all girls taken for sexual trafficking are from the United States—runaways, those who meet “friends” from online apps, etc.

### **Commission Reports:**

***Legislative:*** Patty Johnson has agreed to be the new Commission Chair and she spoke on the importance of voting and how and where to register to vote if one is not already a registered voter. She asked everyone to become more aware

of the national issues in accordance with the Catholic teachings. It is necessary to become familiar with all those seeking an office and their stance on various issues being voted on. Voting is not only a privilege, but it is our responsibility as citizens. We are asked to apply the teachings and the core values of the Catholic faith when voting for any candidate.

**Service:** Jan Byers reported that the project of the 2018 KDCCW Convention was Mary's Meals and monies collected was just under one thousand dollars. The project for the 2019 Convention has not been chosen but she did state they were looking at a more local project rather than one that is global. She discussed "Free the Girls" which works to stop Sexual Trafficking. She explained that locally we have collected over 800 bras which are given to local organizations to distribute and also sent 400 of them to Africa to sell in order to work towards eliminating sexual trafficking. Jan and Patty Johnson asked everyone to read the proposed NCCW resolutions for 2018 which Jan has in her written report and also can be found online at the NCCW website. These offer great ideas for deaneries and parishes to consider for their projects or programs.

**Spirituality:** Sr. John Catherine said this was her first KDCCW Convention and she was greatly impressed with the elements of spirituality that was present among everyone. She was very glad to see the Catholic women so eager to pray for our priests. All of the Holy Cards and copies of the Divine Mercy novena were all given out, along with copies of the *Magnificat*. She also reported that Fr. Jacques Phillipe will be speaking at All Saints in Knoxville on February 28-March 3 and she sincerely hopes we will be invited as he is one of her most admired priests. Most of last year's focus was based on his works. This year she is going to focus her reflections on the Lords' mercy since we are in some very trying and challenging times. She explained these are the times the Lord sends us his great saints. We are small but He is mighty and can and will continue to do great things. If we rely on ourselves, we have nothing. When we rely on Him, He gives us everlasting strength.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Corresponding Secretary:** As it is almost impossible for Lacey Metz to attend our meetings, Madam President reported that Lacey does send out cards when requested and is very attentive to those who request cards which are needed for various occasions. Regarding this, Patty Johnson received a thank you card from June Lawrence Of Cross Catholic thanking Patty for inviting her to attend our Province Dinner while at the NCCW Convention. The card was read by Gigi Chasey, Recording Secretary, in Lacey's absence.

**Directory Chairperson:** Mary Cooper reported she is continually updating information given to her and that a new Directory will be coming out shortly. She thanked everyone for helping her keep this information updated.

**E-Secretary:** Aimee Place reported that nothing has changed and she continues to send out all information sent to her, including all prayer requests.

**Historian:** Kathy Morin reported that she and Madame President met at the Chancery-and they do not want to store our boxes anymore. Presently, Madame President has the boxes at her home and explained that out of the 10 boxes, she found that 4 of them only had one item in it and those will be combined with another box. Anne Wharton mentioned that some of the material can be digitized.

**Membership:** Lynn Christ thanked Arlene Webb and stated that she felt Arlene was the catalyst which made this year's convention such a success and also in getting St. Steven to become active in CCW. She also emphasized how important it is to personally invite ladies of our parishes to become CCW members. She reported that she is still working on going out to the parishes to invite ladies to join CCW. When asked about our current enrollment, we were reminded that those figures can now only come from our Province Director and are on a need-to-know basis.

**Parliamentarian:** Anne Wharton raised the question concerning voting delegates at the conventions. These delegates used to be required to fill out a form and be certified by the president of the affiliates. Being that we have not any controversial resolutions to vote on in the past several years, she feels that we have gotten away from voters registering and being certified to vote, as they are required to do for the NCCW Conventions. Patti Johnson spoke in favor of establishing some means of certifying voters because there will come times again when we will be asked to vote on more serious resolutions. She also stated she was in favor and wants to encourage members to write more meaningful resolutions—we need goals and direction that will be meaningful to our organization and parishes. Madame President said she would speak with the Resolutions Chairperson for the 2019 KDCCW Convention concerning these concerns.

**Public Relations:** Gisela Chaparro was thanked for her outstanding work on the NCCW Convention ad and her work on the “Save the Date” publicity.

**Training:** Susan Tribble reported that the new Training Manual was now available and the cost is \$30.00. She stated that our KDCCW has several women who have contributed information for the manual which speaks highly for our KDCCW. She pointed out one of the newer features of the manual is the use of digital technology, the use of which is highly recommended. She suggests establishing a Facebook page, sending our pictures of what is happening in your affiliate, as well as keeping members abreast of what is happening within your parish affiliate.

**Web Mistress:** Judy Collins thanked everyone for sending her their reports and information in a timely manner and that she posts them as soon as they are received.

**Old Business:** Arlene Webb gave a final report on the 2018 KDCCW Convention, stating the total number of attendees was 282. She distributed to everyone a hard copy of the full report and thanked everyone who worked so hard to make this convention such a success, including the 62 people who worked “behind the scenes”. Arlene stated she felt it would be beneficial to have one lady from each parish to whom the convention information and publicity material would be sent and then that person would be the one responsible for getting the information out to their affiliate members. She felt this method would be more effective than having to rely on a busy parish office staff.

**New Business:** Donna Curry of St. Thomas the Apostle parish has stepped up to be the Chairperson for the 2019 KDCCW Convention. Donna handed out a hard copy to all present outlining in detail the schedule for the two day convention and explained each item on the agenda. Her committee had established three possible speakers for the convention and Madame President had e-mailed to all members the websites for each person in order for the membership to be familiar with each person prior to today’s voting. She also discussed the financial end of the convention which was also given to each member on the back of the hard copy she handed out. Donna pointed out that there would be child care on Friday with a cost of \$10 per child and that information would be stated on the registration form, which this year can be filled out on line, as well as the use of a hard copy mailed in. The Comfort Inn (Oak Ridge) is the Hotel and the cost would be \$80 per night plus taxes. Concerning the theme for the convention, the committee offered 2 suggestions and Patty Johnson offered another. Amelia Sweeney made the motion that we accept the theme of “Reflecting God’s Joy” for the theme of the 2019 KDCCW Convention. Motion was seconded by Marilyn Hafner and motion passed. There was 3 nominations for the speaker and after discussions, Kathy Morin made the motion to select Kelly Wahlquist from MN as the convention speaker; motion was seconded by Julie Bomar; motion passed. There were two suggestions for our Service Project: St. Mary’s Legacy Clinic and Handmaids of the Precious Blood. After discussion, Donna Curry made the motion to accept St. Mary’s Legacy Clinic as our Service Project and motion was seconded by Patty Johnson; motion passed. The costs involved for online registration is estimated to be approximately \$300.00. There was discussion as to how to meet the operating costs involved in this process and it was explained that there is money in the diocesan convention account to meet these needs. That money would be reimbursed from the online registration costs from the attendees. Nikki Kapolka made the motion we get money for online registration from

KDCCW convention account to be reimbursed after the convention. Motion was seconded by Anne Wharton; motion passed.

***Nominating Committee:*** The committee consists of: Judy Collins, Chairperson; Amelia Sweeney, Linda Lambert and Kathy Morin.

***Special Announcements:*** Madame President reported that after checking with our Treasurer, Amelia Sweeney, there is \$100 available for each Commission to be used for their convention tables.

Madame President Announced that the 2019 NCCW Convention will be held in Atlanta, GA, August 21-24, 2019 and the 2020 NCCW Convention will be in Crystal City (Arlington), VA.

***Spiritual Advisor Comments:*** None given due to absence of Fr. Dan Whitman.

**Sr. John Catherine Kennedy led the closing prayers.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.**

**Respectively submitted,**

**Gigi Chasey**

**Recording Secretary**