

2016 Convention Final Report
May 14, 2016

I am pleased to report that the 41st Pensacola-Tallahassee DCCW Convention: *Catholic Women Fully Alive in the Spirit* was a success despite the unfortunate absence of some key women namely Cynthia Lacour and Linda Husbands. We kept calm and carried on, and we kept these women in our prayers.

Thirty-eight surveys were completed and compiled. Results were very positive with the majority of attendees rating the convention as “outstanding.”

That’s not to say there weren’t some “not so positive” comments on the surveys. It was noted on the surveys that we totally forgot to pray *The Angelus* at noon each day. This is something that could have been corrected if it had been mentioned. Then, there was mention of the “rush” that occurred on Saturday. One comment in particular stood out and is a lesson for future conventions. And that is, “I did not like that we were so rushed on Saturday. I felt cheated out of part of the experience; like the speaker did not get to share all that God had for her to share. Why? Because some wanted to leave earlier? Everyone knew the timeline, and the schedule should have been adhered to. If there was an emergency that required the attention of some of the Board members, requiring cutting the time, there should have been an announcement. An otherwise joyful, fun, inspiring convention ended with a feeling of loss.” This comment is a hard pill to swallow, but a valuable lesson learned.

Particular areas of the convention that showed very favorable results were the bodacious keynote speaker, Jane Carter and an engaging, energizing Fun Night. A couple comments worth noting are, “the convention was well organized, the planning and work was evident, pleased to have daily Mass, Fr. Licari was the absolute best at raising everyone’s spirits!” There were many more similar comments.

A couple of new ideas were offered at the convention. Cynthia Lacour had the idea of a Q & A session with a Panel of Experts and I had the idea of a Small Group Sharing situation. These ideas were combined into a workshop. Both proved to be valuable and enjoyable by attendees, and there was an interest in doing this again.

Our West Central Deanery Convention Planning Team met on May 5 for an After Action Meeting. We shared our thoughts and comments on the convention from the perspectives of the various roles we had and we reviewed the surveys. Joan Walker

was invited to attend this meeting. She made the drive out to FWB to listen and take notes since East Central Deanery will be hosting the next long convention. Comments and suggestions from the surveys are being taken into consideration for the next long convention.

Some Lessons Learned:

First, plan for the unexpected! Then President, Cynthia had prepared a script organized in a binder for every part of the convention in which she was to preside. If this had not been the case, then Vice President Sue would not have been able to preside with the ease and grace she exhibited. The convention could have had disastrous results. Kudos to Cynthia! And Sue!

Second, do not adjust the schedule of the many to accommodate the few. Make alternate arrangements and do not short change those who came to the convention. Third, despite any problems, snags and bumps...just keep smiling!

I am pleased to report that the convention yielded a profit!

Baskets raised \$1937.00 which goes to the P-TDCCW treasury. On behalf of Joan Morgan, thank you all for your wonderful baskets! We thank Joan for her efforts. Ads for the convention program brought in \$2325.00. On behalf of Carol Giguere, thank you to all who sent in ads. We thank Carol for her efforts.

The total cost of the convention was \$11,629.41. Two \$100.00 donations in the names of both Jane Carter and Sheila Hopkins were made to the NCCW in appreciation for these women's speaking engagements. Likewise a donation of \$100.00 was made to the FCCW in the name of Diane Tugander for her speaking engagement. A gift card has been sent to Erica Johnson as a thank you for speaking at our convention (cost \$29.94). A balance of \$499.99 remains in the convention checking account as seed money for the next convention. This left \$634.65 for each P-T DCCW and WCDCCW treasuries.

A special thank you to Cynthia Lacour (who is a joy to work with) and all the women on our WCD Convention Planning Team (also great women to work with), Fr. Rick Dawson and Fr. Bob Johnson for ALL their efforts in planning this convention.

Some Final Statistics: Out of 70 some attendees, there were 21 first timers attending the convention. Out of 70 some women, 90% felt inspired and renewed in Council spirit, 85% plan to share dreams of new possibilities for their Council/women's group, and 84% were reenergized experiencing laughter and joy during these days.

Many photos (and some videos) were taken during the convention. Some of these were submitted to Linda Husbands for the website and to Erica Johnson for the possible publishing a future edition of The Catholic Compass. Over the summer, I am planning to build a slide show of the convention to send to deanery presidents so they can share it at their fall deanery meetings. The intent is to inspire those who did not go to the convention so they might consider attending future conventions.

This concludes my report.

Mary Sauvageau, Convention Co-Chair
West Central Deanery

In addition, the 2016 Past President's Charity was a food drive to stock the shelves of the food pantry at Catholic Charities of Northwest Florida. Past Presidents, Pat Treadway and Carol Giguere organized this.