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# Executive Committee
*Board Member

The Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (ACCW) is a volunteer organization for women. We are united for apostolic action at the request of the Archbishop of Dubuque. We are affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) and World Union of Catholic Women’s Organizations (WUCWO). We are a voice for the women of the Dubuque Archdiocese to speak and act as a unit on matters of mutual interest.

Dubuque ACCW Office
1229 Mt. Loretta
Dubuque, IA 52003
www.DBQArch.org/ACCW
New Beginnings as Your President
Florine Swanson, ACCW President

On October 13, 2018, the Dubuque ACCW held its annual convention at Reinbeck. Among the ceremonies was the installation of the new officers for 2018-2020.

A new beginning with new and continuing officers as well as new commission leaders and commission members. See the complete listing in this issue of The Link.

Then it was off to St. Louis with the pilgrimage lead by Father Dan Knipper. Read about the bus trip and sites visited in this issue of The Link.

A week later, I had the opportunity to attend the Decorah Deanery meeting at Little Turkey and the installation of their new officers along with an outstanding program on cyber-bullying and sex texting.

This was followed up with the first Executive Committee meeting using the Zoom conference call system, and a board retreat with overnight accommodations at the American Martyrs Retreat Center at Cedar Falls. Goals included getting to know each other, praying together, utilizing the materials developed by the NCCW spirituality committee and developing a plan of work for the coming two years that supports the Dubuque Archdiocesan Goals as well as the objectives of the National Council of Catholic Women. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season.

With January comes the third annual Beauty in Christ Women’s Conference at the DoubleTree in Cedar Rapids. Earlybird registrations run through January 11th. If you haven’t already registered, it’s not too late. ACCW and the Faith Formation staff of the archdiocese have worked cooperatively to create this wonderful experience. Consider bringing a daughter or granddaughter or friend. I gave my sister-in-law a registration for her retirement gift and a granddaughter a registration on her graduation from ISU.

Looking forward to seeing you there. This could be a new spiritual beginning for you.

ACCW Women Serve in NCCW Roles

Three members of the Dubuque Archdiocese ACCW have been appointed to National Council of Catholic Women’s commissions. Alma Meyer of Marion, formerly of Calmar, and Mary Rausch of Fort Atkinson were appointed to the NCCW Leadership Commission for a second year. Rozena McVey of Walker was appointed to her first year as a member of the NCCW Service Commission.

Alma Meyer also continues on the NCCW Board as the Province Director of the State of Iowa.

Photo below of the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France. Participants of the St. Louis pilgrimage enjoyed Mass said by Fr. Knipper in this historic place of worship.
Question: - Do you want to attract members? Increase membership participation? Have effective meetings? Further develop talents and gifts of Council Sisters to assume leadership roles?

Answer: - The new edition of the National Council of Catholic Women Guidance and Resource Manual, introduced at the recent Pittsburgh Convention. It is a helpful and comprehensive resource on how to establish, maintain and develop effective Councils. This new edition is now also available in Spanish to both councils and individual members from the NCCW Store for $30. The 2017-18 NCCW Leadership Training Development (LTD) Team revised the material with councils of all sizes and needs in mind. They expanded the previous edition by 44 pages, updated Council information and included a new chapter on present day technology.

The manual is for the parish level of affiliation but can be adapted to every level of our organization. Throughout, the use of the word “Council” refers to the Council of Catholic Women or CCW.

Chapter 1 offers ways to strategize for success, evaluate, set goals, create and plan, and working with pastor/spiritual advisor.

Chapter 2 gives guidelines for orderly operations, (sample affiliation Bylaws, job descriptions) reports, nominations & elections, sample installation ceremonies and protocols points. Hospitality, mentoring, and membership enhancement tools are provided in Chapter 3. Public relations, copyright guidelines, and communications from A to Z are in Chapter 4. Building Leadership is outlined in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 covers the NCCW Commission System, LTD, and Committees. Chapter 7 provides essential current technology aids and marketing.

This valuable reference manual offers proven ways for officers, commissions and the individual members to respond and operate dynamic councils at every level and possibly could enhance a woman’s daily career.

NEW! REVISED!
NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual
Alma Meyer, Province Director

NCCW President Focuses on Pope Francis’ Encyclical
“Laudato Si - Reflecting the Joy of God, Caring for His Creation.”

As NCCW President Maribeth Stewart begins her second year, the NCCW theme will focus on Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si” - Reflecting the Joy of God, Caring for His Creation.” We can provide recycling ideas and resources to our Councils in parishes and deaneries, being model examples in Iowa by “thinking green” and “leading with fearless hearts, united voice, and loving service.”

In the coming months, feel free to report successful ideas and innovative activities to me so that I can share with the publications and boards of ACCW/Province/NCCW. In 2019, I’ll be attending NCCW Board Meetings in January, June and August so contact me a month prior with your input.

Hopefully your parishes and deaneries have sent their $100 NCCW affiliation dues by the end of the year, contact www.nccw.org for more information. Individual memberships are $50 each.

Thank you to the Dubuque ACCW for your leadership, wonderful support and Council activities. Wishing many blessings for the New Year!
Alma Meyer, Province Director
"NCCW Reflecting on God's Joy" was the theme of this year's National Convention. This being my first National Convention and to find the theme to be a joyful celebration of our faith as Catholic women was special as "Joy" is my word for 2018. The first keynote speaker was Bishop Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn. Bishop Caggiano talked about the priest scandal which came to light days before the convention and was on the minds of many in attendance. We need to pray each day to get thru this terrible ordeal, especially for our priests, who each day offer their service to our church and its people. Remember them with three Hail Mary’s and St. Michael the Archangel prayer. I was overjoyed to find the priest who got me back into NCCW (DCCW in Corpus Christi), Father James Stembler at the Convention. ACCW was very important in my mother’s life, but I hadn’t been involved for many years. Thanks to Father Stembler, I am again back and enjoying every minute with my Catholic sisters in Christ.

Each convention agenda item gave those of us in attendance an opportunity to experience a deeper understanding of how we can encounter our Lord Jesus in our everyday lives. There were many special moments, but for me the most beautiful was the International Rosary with each decade recited in a different language (German, Spanish, Italian, Latin and English). What a special way to end a joyful celebration of my faith with other Catholic women.

The ACCW begins this new year with the Light ever present before us as it has done for 85 years within the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

May the Light shine before all in the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women giving us guidance, inspiration, new hope and comfort as we allow the Light to shine in our hearts, in our minds and in our lives.
History Aplenty on Spiritual Journey

Under the leadership of Rev. Daniel Knipper, Spiritual Advisor of the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, thirty-three men and women from the Dubuque Archdiocese ventured on a four-day pilgrimage to St. Louis on October 15th to the 18th. There were husbands and wives, sisters, best friends, leadership of ACCW and even a mother with her daughter, daughter-in-law and grand-daughter as well as individuals on this spiritual journey.

Among the highlights was the visit to the ARCH and the newly opened museum at its base. There was a noon Mass celebrated by Father Knipper at the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France which is the first Catholic cathedral west of the Mississippi River. From there we were off to The National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows at Belleville, Illinois to tour the grounds including the Way of the Cross, the Millennium Spire, the Amphitheatre and Christ the King Chapel and Chapel of Anto Ninode Cebu and then walking to the Annunciation Garden and Mother’s Prayer Walk to the Lourdes Grotto.

The most spectacular stop on our tour was the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. It rivals St. Peters in Rome with over 41.5 million pieces of glass tesserae making up the mosaics with over 7,000 colors and created by 20 different artists. The mosaics began in 1912 and took until 1988 to complete. Here we attended a noon Mass which Father Knipper concelebrated. The afternoon was spent at the St. Louis Zoo to enjoy God’s creatures and to travel through the Forest Park area of St. Louis which was the site of the 1904 World’s Fair and remains one of the largest urban parks in the United States.

Our final Mass was celebrated at St. Ann parish in Normandy, Missouri, where Father Knipper served 16 years ago. The church was built in the 1950’s and at one time was able to have Mass at seven different altars. We were awed by the beautiful mural at the front of the church that showed the story of creation. Our final stop was at St. Charles, Missouri at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Shrine. Here the beauty of the church was its simplicity with an altar of black Missouri marble. St. Rose Philippine Duchesne was canonized as one of the early American Saints in 1988. Her body is entombed within the shrine.

If you are traveling in the St. Louis area, take time to visit any of these sights. It was with a renewed spirit we returned to our homes in Iowa.
Meet President
Florine Swanson, Galt

Florine is a member of St. John church at Clarion, where she served as the president and treasurer of the Altar Society. She has chaired the church council, chaired the finance committee, co-chaired the church Swiss Steak Dinner fundraiser for the past eight years and taught Religious Education classes for over 25 years. She served as the RE Director at St. John and Sacred Heart for two years. She has served on five fundraising campaigns for Holy Family Cluster. She also served as the M.O.M.’s group and anchoress of the Seven Sisters Apostolate for Holy Family Cluster.

Florine and her husband Ron were members of the 1997-2000 Lay Ministry Class. They have been members of the Engagement Retreat Team for the Archdiocese and the Lay Ministry Retreat Team.

A graduate of Iowa State University, Florine’s career path and volunteer activities have revolved around women and children, including serving as the Executive Director of the Iowa 4-H Foundation for 18 years. She has served on the national board of AAUW, the international board of VGIF, current Iowa Delegate to Vision 2020 at Drexel University and was the founding president of Graduate Women-USA, an affiliate of Graduate Women International. Florine and Ron have 3 sons, 9 grandchildren and 3 step grandchildren.

Meet President- Elect
Joanne Pohland, Peosta

Joanne is a member of the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier at Dyersville. She is a member of her parish choir and cantor and a Christ Renews His Parish Retreat Leader. She and her husband are a Sponsor Couple and Pre-Baptism Leaders.

Most recently Joanne has been the co-chair of the ACCW Spirituality Commission. Previously she served on the National Council of Catholic Women’s Board as the Church Commission Chair, the Secretary and Region 1 Vice-President. She also served as the New Ulm, Minnesota DCCW President.

Meet Secretary
Christine Leichsenring, Clarion

Chris is a member of St. John Church in Clarion, and the current president of St. John Altar Society and past secretary. She has served on the Faith Formation Commission and secretary, a Confirmation teacher, Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) retreat lay director, M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mothers) participant, lector and choir member, and co-chair of the Swiss Steak Dinner fund raiser for the past seven years.

A graduate of Clarke College, Chris had a lifetime career teaching high school and community college English and Speech. Currently she is an ELA student teacher supervisor for Buena Vista University.

Chris is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma (Professional Women Educators) vice-president and state committee chair. Her volunteer activities include Heartland Museum, Meals on Wheels and the Clarion Movie Theater.

Chris and her husband, Monte, are parents of three daughters and three granddaughters, and a grandson on the way. She is a graduate of the University of Dallas with a BA in Psychology, and she received a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Studies degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She is currently employed by the Archdiocese of Dubuque as the Director of Catechetical Services.

Joanne and her husband, Glenn, are the parents of four children and one new grandson. Her youngest daughter is a senior at Loras College.

Get to Know Your Newly Elected ACCW Officers

President – Florine Swanson
President Elect– Joanne Pohland
Secretary– Christine Leichsenring
Alma Meyer, Dubuque Province Director from Marion, Mary Rausch, ACCW Past-President from Fort Atkinson, Florine Swanson, ACCW President-Elect from Galt and Rozena McVey, ACCW Parliamentarian from Walker joined with over 500 women and 42 priests for the 98th National Council of Catholic Women’s Convention in Pittsburgh, PA from August 29-September 1. The theme was NCCW Reflecting God’s Joy: Missionary Disciples – Mission Possible!


NCCW Commission presentations showcased their work on human trafficking, new mini retreats, and a program that unites U.S. Catholic school students with their counterparts in the Holy Land. The Education Committee guided attendees through Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis’ Joy of the Gospel, reflecting the theme of the Convention and the focus of the NCCW this past year. Alma Meyer and Mary Rausch, participated in the Leadership Commission presentation with an emphasis on the national human trafficking hotline 888-373-7888.

Alma Meyer and Mary Rausch served on the selection committee for The Lady of Good Counsel Award which was presented to Nympha White from Peoria, Illinois.

Daily liturgies were celebrated. Alma Meyer participated in the memorial Mass by carrying a candle for past members and spouses who had died in the past year, including her husband, Peter.

Silent Auction items were donated by Phyllis Stuka and Carmel Denger, members of St. John in Clarion and by Ann Dietrich of Earlville who created a Council of Catholic Women’s priest stole of white with blue crosses. These items raised $330 for NCCW.

The 99th Annual Convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on August 21-24, 2019. Mark your calendar now to join the Dubuque Province delegation including women and priests from the Des Moines and Sioux City Dioceses.
46th Annual March for Life

Legislation, Maxine Balk

The 46th annual March for Life, the world’s largest annual human rights demonstration, will be held on Friday, January 18, 2018, in Washington D.C. This year’s theme is “Unique from Day One: Pro-Life is Pro-Science,” and embodies the current state of the pro-life movement.

Science is behind the pro-life movement. We see that medical and technological advancements always affirm the pro-life movement. For example, DNA is present at fertilization and no fingerprint on earth, past, present, or future, is the same. We know, too, a baby’s heart beats at just six weeks and we can distinctly observe it ourselves with ultrasound technology. As science progresses, we can see clearly that every life is unique from day one in the womb.
The 58th annual Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women Convention was held at St. Gabriel Church in Reinbeck on October 13th with many members and guests in attendance. The event was hosted by the Waterloo Deanery, who warmly welcomed us. They did a terrific job and the attention to detail was apparent. Special thanks to Rev. David Kucera for his warm welcome, assistance setting up, and help throughout the event, and to all the many other amazing people for their tireless dedication to the success of the convention. The theme was “Reflecting God’s Joy: Missionary Disciples - Mission Possible”. The day included Mass, continental breakfast, delicious lunch, silent auction, informational tables, door prizes, fellowship and more.

Kim Hilby, Dr. Janine Idziak, and Daisy Bauman were guest speakers for the day. Both were very well received with the messages they shared.

Kim Hilby, Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Dubuque, gave an informative, timely and encouraging talk on Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking is one of the main projects of the National Council of Catholic Women. Her curiosity about Human Trafficking was sparked by her sister who had listened to a speaker who had been trafficked. The more she read about it, the more she knew she had to do something about such injustices. She was fortunate enough to be supported by those in her community and the administration and colleagues at the University of Dubuque and began researching and teaching others about this heinous crime.

Janine Idziak, Ph.D., past Director of the Bioethics Resource Center at Loras College, and current Health Care Ethics Consultant for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Daisy Bauman, Social Worker at Stonehill Franciscan Services in Dubuque shared valuable information and resources on End of Life Issues according to Catholic teaching, and the challenges we face.

“Whatsoever you do to the least of these little ones, I take personally,” “Love your neighbor...a neighbor is anyone who cannot provide for or protect themselves,” “We are called to care for the least of our brothers and sisters.” These were all words of wisdom spoken during Archbishop Jackels homily, which tied in beautifully with the message conveyed by speaker Kim Hilby.

Mass and installation/affirmation of officers was graciously celebrated by Archbishop Michael Jackels, and concelebrating priests, ACCW Spiritual Advisor, Rev. Daniel Knipper, Rev. David Kucera, Msgr. John Hemann, Msgr. Cletus Hawes, and Rev. Jerry Blake. The Mass is always the highlight of the day!

This year’s convention was a memorable faith-filled one, enjoyed by an appreciative group of ladies and guests.

God is Good!
Sheila Rassman
Past President
Join Us at the
Third Annual Women’s Conference!

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, the third Archdiocese of Dubuque Women’s Conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Cedar Rapids. The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women is helping to sponsor this event!

This is an opportunity to join women from across the Archdiocese of Dubuque, and beyond”, in a day that will feature two nationally known speakers, Kate Wicker and Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle. The day will include Mass with Archbishop Michael Jackels. Women will also have the opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Of course, there will be a wonderful lunch served and many vendors to visit!

Women who have attended in the past have shared with us that they find the event to be spirit-filled. They love the feeling of unity and acceptance by other women, which makes them feel the very presence of Our Lord. With women of all ages present, the day is an opportunity to share time with our sisters in Christ. Time and time again, women tell us that they are excited for the next conference!

Last year, we introduced the “Friday Night Social”. This is an opportunity for women to gather on Friday evening for a relaxed social with the speakers present. It is a great time to meet some of the other women who are attending the event!

For all the information on the conference and to register, please go to https://www.archwomensconference.org/. Early registration ends January 7.

This is a day to inspire your faith and be with other women and teens. We are looking forward to a beautiful day with you there! Plan now to attend this awesome conference, and bring a friend!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

May God Bless You,
Joanne Pohland
ARCHDIOCESAN WOMEN’S CONFERENCE  
| JANUARY 26, 2019 | DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, CEDAR RAPIDS |

Gather a group from your parish. Invite your daughters, sisters, mothers and friends!

“perfect” ISN’T perfect

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Address Line 2 ________________________________________________________________________
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E-mail ____________________________________ Phone ____________________________________
Parish/Cluster ______________________________ School (students only) _________________________________

DIETARY NEEDS:  Vegetarian ________  Vegan________  Gluten Free________

RECOMMENDED LODGING
DoubleTree by Hilton Cedar Rapids Convention Complex
Rate: $99 (+tax) for up to 4 people. Includes free WiFi.
Booking Instructions: Call Hotel (319) 731-4444 and ask for the “Archdiocese of Dubuque Women’s Conference” group rate by January 7, 2019.

Beauty In Christ T-Shirt Orders $20.00  T-shirt sizes are unisex.
S_____ M_____ L_____ XL_____ XXL_____ Shirts will be handed out at registration on Saturday at the Conference. T-shirt purchases are optional and not required for Conference attendance. Orders placed after January 7, 2019 are not guaranteed.

STUDENT $49 (quantity)__________ RELIGIOUS $49 (quantity)__________ ADULT $59 (quantity)__________
All are welcome! Financial assistance is available. Contact Jim Betzner at (563) 556-2580 x286 for more information.

CHECK ENCLOSED _____ CASH ENCLOSED _____ Credit cards accepted online at www.ArchWomensConference.org

Please mail to the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Attn: Women’s Conference
PO Box 479, Dubuque, IA 52004-0479. Call (563) 556-2580 x286 or (800) 876-3546 x286 with questions or visit www.ArchWomensConference.org

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Dubuque and The Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women
DEANERY DOINGS

Decorah Deanery
Teri Rosendahl, President

The Decorah Deanery met October 25 at Assumption Church, Little Turkey. Msgr. Cletus Hawes celebrated Mass and conducted the installation of officers. ACCW Province Director Alma Meyer and ACCW President Florine Swanson were special guests.

The guest speaker for the evening was Kristi Teslow who spoke on the dangers of unsupervised phone and internet usage. The connection to Human Trafficking is real and close to home. Kristi is one of six women who do workshops and educational seminars. Mobilemamma.org or info@mobilemomma.org 563-203-8015. We were all amazed and educated on these concerns!

Dubuque Deanery
Mary Tritz, Representative

As the representative for the Dubuque Deanery, I delivered one of the 2018 Convention Booklets to the parishes in the Dubuque Deanery to keep them informed.

Marshalltown Deanery
Monica Fulton, President

Women of the Marshalltown Deanery participated in the 2018 ACCW Convention. Deanery president Monica Fulton assisted with music at the Mass, playing the flute.

The ladies of St. Gabriel Church, Zearing, hosted the October 18 meeting of the Marshalltown Deanery. Following the 9:00 a.m. Mass, Jo Burg welcomed the ladies and spoke about the parish history, noting that descendants of the parishioners who established St. Gabriel church are members of the parish today. As part of the Story/Marshall Cluster, their parish remains vibrant.

Shirley Delfs, Elaine Upah, and Rita Sevcik presented commission reports.

Mary Phillips, leader of music ministry for St. Gabriel Parish, and lifelong Zearing resident, gave the afternoon program. She told how she began to accompany the church choir as a teenager and how that has shaped her life. She and other parishioners were members of the choir for Christ Our Life Conference at Wells Fargo. She supports Mary’s Meals, and encouraged all those present to do the same.

The women in attendance signed birthday cards to be sent to priests celebrating birthdays October through March. They also signed their name and a spiritual bouquet to a sheet to be included in the Christmas cards sent to Marshalltown Deanery priests, priests with roots in the deanery, deanery deacons and religious working in the deanery or from the deanery.
The LINK Subscription Form

The LINK is the official publication of the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women and is published four times a year. The annual subscription fee is $5.00.

To subscribe or renew, fill out the form below and send with a $5.00 check, made payable to ACCW to Mary Esther Pullin, 2185 W. Shaulis Rd., Waterloo, IA 50701.

Name_______________________________________
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Mark Your Calendar

January 7  Deadline for early registration "Beauty In Christ"
January 21  March for Life – Washington D.C.
            45th Anniversary Roe v. Wade
January 26  Beauty in Christ - Archdiocesan Women's Conference
            DoubleTree by Hilton, Cedar Rapids
January 27  Catholic Schools Week begins
February 28  Board meeting by Conference call
March 5  Deadline Spring issue of The Link
April 26  Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel ACCW Patroness
April 28  Our Lady of Good Counsel ACCW Contribution Sunday
May 4  Board meeting AMRH
May 25  Ordination at St. Raphael – Dubuque
June 5  Deadline Summer issue of The Link
August 21  NCCW Convention Atlanta, Georgia

Remembering

Mary “Elaine” Thoma: 1918-2018
ACCW President 1968-1970, Waterloo, Iowa

Elaine identified herself as a homemaker. While fulfilling that role, she was also a faithful member of St. Edward Catholic Church in Waterloo.

She shared her time and talent making an impact on her church community as a charter member of both Catholic Daughters of America at St. Athanasius and the Serra club. She was also a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Legion of Mary.

Elaine was a woman of great faith and she treasured her family of three sons, three daughters, 21 grandchildren, 49 great grandchildren, and five great great grandchildren.

Those of us who have followed, thank her for serving as president of the Dubuque Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.

May she rest in peace.
Daily Spiritual Survival Kit

A TOOTHPICK  To remind you to **pick the good qualities** in others and yourself. (Romans 12:10)

A RUBBER BAND  To remind you to **be flexible**. Things might not always go the way you thought or want, but it can be worked out. (Romans 12:12)

A BAND-AID  To remind you to **heal hurt feelings**, either yours or someone else’s. (Romans 12:17, 18)

AN ERASER  To remind you **everyone makes mistakes**. That’s okay, we learn by our errors. (Genesis 50:20)

A CANDY KISS  To remind you **everyone needs a hug or a compliment** every day. (Romans 12:19)

A PENNY  To remind you that **you are worth a mint to your spiritual family**. (John 3:16)

A STICK OF GUM  To remind you to **stick with it** and you can accomplish anything with God’s help. (Philippians 4:13)

A PENCIL  To remind you to **list your blessings** every day. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

TEA BAG  To remind you to **take time to relax** daily so you can go over the list of blessings. (Psalm 37:1-5)