

**Blue Earth Area CCW Meeting Minutes**  
*Blue Earth Area Council of Catholic Women*  
*St. Peter and Paul, Blue Earth*  
October 23, 2017

The Blue Earth Area Meeting was called to order by President Ruth Sonnek. Opening Prayer was read by all in attendance followed by introduction of the St. Peter and Paul CCW officers.

Guest Speaker, Suzanne (Suzy) Sukalski, daughter of Lawrence and Diane Sukalski, lives in rural Fairmont and was born with Down Syndrome 25 years ago. Suzy is employed as the Breakfast Hostess at the Hampton Inn in Fairmont. Suzy loves her job and is recognized for her caring nature, her great service, her smile, and her greeting cards that she shares with the Hampton Inn customers. Suzy also has her own business called Super Crunchy Corn Niblets. Suzy is involved in every step of the production of this corn snack. Her product is sold at the Hampton Inn and other Fairmont businesses. The money Suzy makes is donated to people in need. Suzy received a standing ovation at the end of her inspiring talk, and each lady in the audience received snack samples, a greeting card and a smile from Suzy.

An Installation Prayer Service of Light ceremony was held with the following Blue Earth Area Council of Catholic Women officers being installed for two year terms effective immediately: President Diana Scott (Fairmont), Vice-President Deb Reuter (Mapleton), Treasurer Diane Murphy (Blue Earth) and Secretary Ruth Sonnek (Easton).

Roll Call results are as follows: Blue Earth-12, East Chain-1, Easton-1, Fairmont-4, Good Thunder-0, Madelia-2, Madison Lake-0, Mankato (John)-0, Mankato (Joseph)-0, Mapleton-3, Minnesota Lake-3, St. Clair-0, Vernon Center-1, Wells-4, Winnebago-0.

The Secretary's report was approved as submitted with no correspondence.

The Treasurer's Report was approved. Bills were submitted and paid to Ruth Sonnek for postage and mileage.

**Commission Reports** (Pass this information on to your Parish Council members)

Leadership: No report.

Church and Spirituality: October 13, 2017 was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sixth apparition of Our Lady of Fatima on October 13, 1917. Read the full report for more details.

Legislative/Respect Life:

- Laws concerning restrictions on taxpayer funded abortions and abortion facility inspections were both passed by the House and Senate but Gov. Mark Dayton vetoed both pieces of legislation. We need pro-life legislators on every level of government.
- Children across the nation are susceptible to exposure of sexually exploitive materials due to inadequate or non-existent computer and Wi-Fi filters. Send an information packet from NCOSE (National Center on Sexual Exploitation) to educate your Parent Teacher Association.
- Visit [www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org) to stay informed of respect life issues.

International Service:

- Fall Convention was held on October 14, 2017 at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Rochester, MN. Sacred Heart and Rochester Medical Missions had trucks there to collect the mission items. A list of items needed was distributed. A man with a saw or shovel can get a job.
- NCCW will be accepting monetary donations for the Hurricane relief efforts at their national office in Arlington, Virginia. See the report for more details.

Family and Community

- Diocesan Commission Chair Nancy Black noted the Human Trafficking Help Line posters she had distributed to local gas stations were being quickly used up. She began making a packet of 10 prepared posters. When she delivers them to gas stations she informs the attendants of the

necessity of the posters and their location. She also notes that Minnesota has access to major interstate highways allowing easy transportation of humans from state to state or even Canada. Additional resource links can be found in the Commission Report.

- Catholic Charities is a good organization that assists with local and national disasters. Catholic Relief Services accepts monetary donations for these causes.

### **Unfinished Business**

A listing of current Parish President/Leader contact information was passed around for updates.

### **New Business**

#### BE Area CCW

Two Domestic Violence information and statistic handouts were shared in recognition of October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

#### WDCCW

- The WDCCW Convention was held in Rochester on October 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Assisi Parish. Many compliments were received on our Area Banner. Blue Earth Area had 24 ladies in attendance; that was second only to the Rochester Area who had 27 attendees. Various women commented on messages received from the speakers including Father Cook on "Our Lady of Fatima", Father Seitz on "Gloria of Mary", and Bishop Quinn on "Instruments of the Holy Spirit". The purse donation (raffle) raised over \$500.
- New WDCCW officers were installed including: Jeanette Fortier as President, Eleanore Jones as Vice-President, Diane Vangness as Treasurer and Kathy Wilmes as Secretary.
- An updated Dues and Donation sheet is in each of the parish packets with the new treasurers' information. We are losing members and parishes so reach out to anyone interested in CCW. Try to get a minimum \$3.00 donation to support CCW. President Scott offered some membership building ideas.
- The E-News, [wdccw@dow.org](mailto:wdccw@dow.org), should be included in your bulletins, on parish websites and Facebook pages. Sign up individually on the same site to receive Connecting Catholic Women (E-News) on a quarterly basis at home. This is the way to reach our younger parish women.

#### NCCW (nccw.org)

- National Convention reports can be found at [nccw.org](http://nccw.org) or in the E-news
- NCCW Membership is \$50.00/yr. The membership includes NCCW Connect Newsletter, Catholic Women magazine, conference calls on leadership and more, and informative emails. Consider becoming an individual member. President Scott will research what NCCW Parish dues are.
- NCCW.org contains information and tools available to members to download including Women Healing the Wounds: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Resources booklet.
- Please support the new positive, morally sound, movie "Same Kind of Different as Me".

### **Important Dates**

- October is Pastor Appreciation Month-Have you recognized your Pastor yet?
- October is CCW Month – Have CCW ladies perform as many duties as possible at Mass.
- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Respect Life Month
- November 23 – Thanksgiving
- December 25 – Happy Birthday Jesus!
- January 2018 Area Meeting – by mail
- April 23, 2018 – BEA Meeting – St. Mary's, Winnebago (Salad Supper) beginning at 6:00 PM
- 2018 – Province Meeting – Fairmont, MN

President Scott presented out-going President Ruth Sonnek with a gift to thank her for her service.

Closing Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel was led by President Scott.

Meeting was adjourned by Area President Diana Scott.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Sonnek, Blue Earth Area CCW Secretary