

SOUTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS®

## STATE CONVENTION MINUTES

52ND BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION  
HOLIDAY INN CITY CENTRE  
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
April 13, 14, 15, 16, 2023



*Open Your Heart to God's Love &  
Listen to Him.*

**South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas®**  
**Fifty-Second Biennial State Convention**  
**Holiday Inn City Centre**  
**Sioux Falls, SD**  
**April 13 - 16, 2023**

**Theme: Open Your Heart to God's Love and Listen to Him**

**State Officers:**

State Regent: Judy Konechne  
First Vice State Regent: Michele Sage  
Second Vice State Regent: JoAnn Hoffman  
State Secretary: Lynda Steichen  
State Treasurer: Carolyn Downs

**Host Courts:** Ct St Patricia #271 & Ct St. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, Ct Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids, Ct St. Teresa of Avila #2325, Beresford, Ct Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau, Ct St. Christina #2336, Lennox/Tea, Ct St. Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison, Ct St Elizabeth #1362, Colman, Ct St. George #2688, Hartford and Ct St. Thomas #1533, Humbolt.

**PAST REGENTS DINNER**

Past Regents met Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 5:00pm at the convention with dinner. Seventy-two members were present at the dinner. Officers include: President Brenda Anderson, Ct St. Katherine Drexel #2516, Roscoe, Vice President, Barb Wiechmann, Ct St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner and Secretary/Treasurer, Cindy Larson, Ct Holy Heart #163, Woonsocket. A dinner was served and guest speaker, Kathy Meland of Ct Pius X #1852, Waubay-Webster spoke about SD Life Runners. A business meeting was called to order by Brenda Anderson. Cindy Larson gave the Secretary and Treasurer's Report. They voted to make a charitable donation to Life Runners. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, September 14, 2024, with the location to be determined. SD State Chaplain, Rev. Jim Friedrich shared closing remarks and led us in prayer.

**SPIRITUALITY**

Thursday evening, State Chaplain, Fr. Jim Friedrich, presented a spiritual talk Songs of Songs from Hosea Chapter 1. Members joined in the praying of a Patriotic Rosary led by Michele Sage and State Officers.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committee meetings were held prior to the convention opening.

## WORKSHOPS

Thursday, prior to the convention, several workshops and roundtable discussions were offered. A tour of the convention charity, The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House was given, and boxes of items donated by courts from across the state were given to the homeless shelter. Workshops on the Circle of Love, Forms and Membership took place.

## OFFICIAL GREETINGS

The 52<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention of the South Dakota State Catholic Daughters of the Americas® was called to order by State Regent Judy Konechne on Friday, April 14, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Holiday Inn City Centre in Sioux Falls, SD.

Rev. Fr. Jim Friedrich, State Chaplain, led an Opening Prayer. Local host courts, Ct Mother Teresa #2510 and Ct St. Patricia #271 presented the colors. All joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance led by Michele Sage, 1st Vice State Regent and singing the first stanza of the National Anthem led by Nicole . Second Vice State Regent, JoAnn Hoffman and State Secretary, Lynda Steichen led the singing of the Opening Ode.

Fr. Jim Friedrich, State Chaplain, blessed the convention Marian floor shrine.

In the interest of presenting as much information as possible for the convention, the following were put in the State Convention Program Book and given out to convention attendees: *the welcome information, the financial information, committee reports and court reports*. This booklet will contain the actual minutes, any reports, and additional information that were received during the convention.

State Regent Judy Konechne introduced special guests.

Honorable Mayor Paul TenHaken of Sioux Falls gave an official civic welcome with First Vice State Regent Michele Sage responding from the Catholic Daughters.

Camille Dunnick, Ct St. Patricia #271, Sioux Falls and Convention Co-Chair welcomed the delegation on behalf of the host courts: Ct St Patricia #271 & Ct St. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, Ct Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids, Ct St. Teresa of Avila #2325, Beresford, Ct Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau, Ct St. Christina #2336, Lennox/Tea, Ct St. Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison, Ct St Elizabeth #1362, Colman, Ct St. George #2688, Hartford and Ct St. Thomas #1533, Humbolt.

State Regent Judy Konechne thanked the host courts.

National Director Barb Ward-Jensen from Colorado brought greetings from the National Board.

State Regent Judy Konechne offered her gratitude to National Director Barb Ward-Jensen for attending our State Convention.

State Regent Judy Konechne recognized all the State Committee Chairs and thanked them for their service.

State Regent Judy Konechne introduced the District Deputies and thanked them for their service.

Past State Regents in attendance were introduced and State Regent Judy Konechne extended her appreciation to the Past State Regents.

## SEATING OF DELEGATES

National Director Barb Ward-Jensen briefed the delegates on voting and participation procedures during the meeting using Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules of Order.

State Regent Judy Konechne called for a Roll Call of delegates by State Secretary Lynda Steichen.

Roll call was taken and showed there were **32 courts represented and 7 courts** not represented at the convention. State Regent Judy Konechne asked State Secretary Lynda Steichen and the Credentials Committee to retire to check credentials so voting strength could be determined.

## MINUTES COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The 2023 Convention Minutes Committee was appointed by State Regent Judy Konechne. The members who will read and approve this year's convention minutes are: Jessica Lewis, Ct. Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau, Elsie Baye, Ct. St Thomas #1533, Humboldt and Mary Mayclin, Ct. Madonna #1952, Plankinton.

## CREDENTIALS

The State Secretary Lynda Steichen returned with the Credentials Committee.

The committee consists of:

- Chair, Tina Roth - Ct Sacred Heart #280, Parkston
- Mary Ellen Aamot - Ct St Agnes #618, Brookings
- Cheryl Schaefer - Ct Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient/Polo
- Kaye Bjorkman - Court St. Agnes # 687, Vermillion

State Regent Judy Konechne called for the Credentials Report.

### *CREDENTIALS REPORT*

*Credentials Report: 11:20am, April 14, 2023*

Tina Roth, Ct Sacred Heart #280, Parkston, Chair of the Credentials Committee, gave the Credentials Report. Tina Roth moved that the report be adopted.

	Potential Strength	Actual Delegates Seated
National Rep/Officer	1	1
State Officers	5	4
Immediate Past State Regent	1	1
Past State Regents	7	4
<i>Delegates</i>	<i>111</i>	<i>90</i>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Majority needed to pass: 67</b>		

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED AND A QUORUM WAS DECLARED BY STATE REGENT JUDY KONECHNE.

## **CONVENTION STANDING RULES REPORT**

Carol Nygaard, Ct St. Teresa of Avila #2325 - Chair

Carol Nygaard, chair of the Standing Rules Committee, gave her report. The proposed standing rules are printed on page 17 of the Convention Program Book and were read in entirety by the Chair. Carol Nygaard moved for the adoption of the Standing Rules as printed. The motion carried and they were adopted as presented.

## **ADOPTION OF THE PRINTED PROGRAM**

First State Vice Regent Michele Sage reported on the printed Convention program. She asked delegates to make the following changes to the living document.

- That Ivone da Silveira as Nat'l Treas./Rep name be replaced by Barb Ward-Jensen, National Director pgs 19, 20 & 22 also in the Liturgy book on page L5, L6, & L7.
- On page 21, the Education Awards will be moved from the Saturday luncheon to the Friday luncheon due to a conflict for the State Chair.
- On page 16, Credential committee update Kathy Gilpin is being replaced by Mary Ellen Aamot.

First State Vice Regent Michele Sage moved to adopt the program as amended. The Program was adopted as corrected, subject to necessary changes.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Regent, Judy Konechne announced the Committee Appointments for this convention, which are found on page 16 of the printed Program.

Parliamentarian is Joan Schueller, Ct. St. Anne #1121, Pierre.

Timekeepers for the convention are Diane Schurr, Ct. St. Katharine Drexel #2516, Roscoe and Marlene Eimers, Ct. St. Mary #1423, Redfield.

Secretary Pro-Tem for the convention is Nicole Fuhrer, Ct. Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell.

Pages for this convention are our District Deputies.

## **2021 CONVENTION MINUTES COMMITTEE**

Deb DeFries, Ct. St. Rita #534, Watertown - Chair

The Minutes Committee reviewed and approved the 2021 South Dakota 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial State Convention minutes. The minutes were submitted, published, and distributed to all local courts and all South Dakota Board members. Chairman of the Committee, Deb DeFries, asked the floor for any corrections to the 2021 convention minutes. Hearing there were no corrections, Deb DeFries moved to accept the minutes as published for the 2021 South Dakota 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention. The motion was adopted.

State Regent, Judy Konechne thanked Deb and all members of the committee: Cindy Lutter, Ct. St Patrick #1699, Kimball, and Leslie Petersek, Ct. St Maria Goretti #1584, Colome for their service.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Deb DeFries, Ct St. Rita #534, Watertown - Chair

Deb DeFries, the Nominating Committee Chair, gave the report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday, February 7, with the paperwork received by deadline. The Slate of Officers was presented to State Regent, Judy Konechne, and was published in the February issue of the State Regent's Remarks/Reminders as follows:

State Regent: Judy Konechne, Ct. St. Patrick #1699, Kimball

1<sup>st</sup> Vice State Regent: Michele Sage, Ct. St. Agnes #618, Brookings

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice State Regent: JoAnn Hoffman, Ct. Sacred Heart #280, Parkston

State Secretary: open - no paperwork submitted

State Treasurer: Carolyn Downs, Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls

The committee consisted of:

Deb DeFries, Ct St. Rita #534, Watertown - Nominating Committee Chairmen

Barb Wiechmann, Ct. St. Rose of Lima #700, Wagner

Amanda Konechne, Ct. St. Patrick #1699, Kimball

Michele Hulm, Ct St. Kateri Tekakwitha #2635, Faith

Janice Stainbrook, Ct. Sacred Heart #280, Parkston

A recess was called by State Regent Judy Konechne at 11:05am.

Convention was called to reconvene by Regent Judy Konechne at 11:20am.

The State Regent repeated the nominations for the slate of State Officers.

State Regent stated that Judy Konechne was nominated for the office of State Regent.

State Regent called for any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations.

The Chair declared nominations closed.

State Regent called for a vote and Judy Konechne was elected by a majority vote.

State Regent stated that Michele Sage was nominated for the office of First Vice State Regent.

State Regent called for any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations.

The Chair declared nominations closed.

State Regent called for a vote and Michele Sage was elected by a majority vote.

State Regent stated that JoAnn Hoffman was nominated for the office of Second Vice State Regent.

State Regent called for any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations.

The Chair declared nominations closed.

State Regent called for a vote and JoAnn Hoffman was elected by a majority vote.

State Regent stated that there were no nominations for the office of State Secretary.

State Regent called for nominations from the floor.

Pauline Moreau , Ct St Agnes #687 nominated Mary Kay Zimmerman, Ct St Agnes #687 for the office of State Secretary.

State Regent stated that Endorsement, consent to serve, and other necessary papers have been received by the Chair.

State Regent called for any other nominations from the floor.

Karol Kocer, Ct St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner nominated Hailey Kirwan, Ct St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner.

State Regent stated that the necessary paperwork had not been received by the Chair prior to the convention and therefore the nomination is not valid.

State Regent called for any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations.

The Chair declared nominations closed.

State Regent called for a vote and Mary Kay Zimmerman was elected by a majority vote.

State Regent stated that Carolyn Downs was nominated for the office of State Treasurer.

State Regent called for any other nominations from the floor. There were no other nominations.

The Chair declared nominations closed.

State Regent called for a vote and Carolyn Downs was elected by a majority vote.

Those running for office were asked by the State Regent to stand and be recognized.

State Regent Judy Konechne thanked the election committee.

State Regent Judy Konechne congratulated the newly elected State Officers:

Judy Konechne, State Regent

Michele Sage, 1st Vice State Regent

JoAnn Hoffman, 2nd Vice State Regent

Mary Kay Zimmerman, State Secretary

Carolyn Downs, State Treasurer

State Regent Judy Konechne opened the floor for nominations to the 2025 Nominating Committee, reminding delegates that a minimum of eight nominations are needed.

The following nominations were made from the floor:

Mary Althoff, Ct St Patricia #271, Sioux Falls was self nominated

Hailey Kirwan nominated Karol Kocer, Ct St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner

Cheryl Schaefer nominated Bonnie Hosek, Ct St James #2757, Chamberlain

Mary Mayclin nominated Elizabeth Sampson, Ct Madonna #1952, Plankinton

Vicki Pick nominated Dorothy Lynde, Ct St Christina #2336, Lennox

Carol Grode-Hanks nominated Cindy Riddle, Ct Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell

MaryJo Gibson nominated Patricia Raasch. Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls

Suzi Odden nominated Diana Runge, Ct St Joseph #2754, Miller

Barb Weichmann nominated Gloria Bauske, Ct S. Agnes #618, Brookings

The Chair asked for any further nominations from the floor. There being none, the chair declared nominations closed for the 2025 Nominating Committee. The Chair asked the nominees to come forward and be recognized. Delegates will get acquainted with the nominees during lunch when they will each be given two minutes to speak or take questions. Voting will take place Saturday morning.

State Regent, Judy Konechne called for recess for lunch at 11:55am.

## FRIDAY LUNCHEON

The Luncheon was emceed by State Regent, Judy Konechne. She welcomed everyone and introduced the head table.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Cleo Cast, Ct St Teresa of Avila #2325 & Deb Bergland, Ct St Teresa of Avila #2325 State Co-Chairs

Their report is found on page 30 of the convention program book.

State Education Co-Chair, Cleo Cast announced the 2023 CDA Education Winners for the State of SD

### Art Division 1 (Gr.4&5)

- |    |                  |  |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1. | Anna Akhvlediani | Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls     |
| 2. | Lydia Hoing      | Ct. St. Patrick #1699, Kimball           |
| 3. | Lyrach Zahn      | Ct. Immaculate Conception #582, Aberdeen |

### Art Division 2(Gr. 6,7,8)

- |    |                   |                                      |
|----|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Megan Jones       | Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City        |
| 2. | Isabella Madrigal | Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls |
| 3. | Avery Malimanek   | Ct. St. Rita #534, Watertown         |

### Art Division 3 (Gr. 9,10,11,12)

- |    |                |                                      |
|----|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Lydia Vogl     | Ct. St. Pius X #1827, Waubay/Webster |
| 2. | Aralyn Jurrens | Ct. St. Rita #534, Watertown         |
| 3. | Elena Brennan  | Ct. St. Patrick #1699, Kimball       |

### Art Division 4 Adult CDA members

- |    |                  |                                |
|----|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Amanda Konechne  | Ct. St. Patrick #1699, Kimball |
| 2. | Jeanne Kirsch    | Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City  |
| 3. | Laura L. Mayclin | Ct. Madonna #1952, Plankinton  |

### Computer Art Division 1 (Gr.4&5)

- |    |                  |                               |
|----|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Nevaeh Gutenkauf | Ct. St. Ann #1121, Pierre     |
| 2. | Brady Perkins    | Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City |

### Computer Art Division 2 (Gr. 6,7,8)

- |    |               |                                      |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | Madison Brown | Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls |
| 2. | Gabi Johnson  | Ct. St. Rita # 916, Rapid City       |
| 3. | Carter Tesch  | Ct. St. Rita #534, Watertown         |

### Music Division 2 (Gr. 6,7,8)

- |    |                    |                               |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Catherine Mutchler | Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------------|

### Photography Division 2 (Gr.6,7,8)

- |    |                |   |
|----|----------------|---|
| 1. | Gianna Jurrens | Ct. St. Rita #534, Watertown            |
| 2. | Macey Eide     | Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City           |
| 3. | Abigail Even   | Ct. St. Thomas #1533, Humboldt/Montrose |



Photography Division3 (Gr. 9,10,11,12)

1. William Palmer Ct. Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids
2. Chloe Zens Ct. St. Mary #1423, Redfield

Photography Division4 Adult CDA members

1. Rene Brand Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City
2. Casey Schmidt Ct. Madonna #1952, Plankinton
3. Alice Majeres Ct. Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids

Poetry Division 1 (Gr. 4&5)

1. Tenley LeBrun Ct. Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau
2. Bradley Mayer Ct. Immaculate Conception #582, Aberdeen
3. Jackson Mashek Ct. Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell

Poetry Division 2 (Gr.6,7,8)

1. Kearys Asio Ct. Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau
2. Callie Shoemaker Ct. St. Pius X #1827, Waubay/Webster
3. Sydney Eide Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls

Poetry Division 3 (Gr. 9,10,11,12)

1. Mary Wilson Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City
2. Stephanie Rutten Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls
3. Emily Poindexter Ct. St. Joseph #2754, Miller

Poetry Division 4 Adult CDA members

1. Debra Baker Ct. Madonna #1952, Plankinton
2. Susan Benda Ct. St. Patrick #1699, Kimball
3. Dianne Thyen Ct. St. Rita #503, Watertown

Essay Division 1 (Gr.4&5)

1. Tenley Sage Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City
2. Gideon Fees Ct. Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs
3. Jake Harmdierks Ct. St. Thomas #1949, Madison

Essay Division 2 (Gr. 6,7,8)

1. Grace Skoog Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City
2. Christopher Roose Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls
3. Jaxon Scheff Ct. St. Thomas #1533, Humboldt/Montrose

Essay Division 3 (Gr. 9,10,11,12)

1. Paige Lewis Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls
2. Mary Wilson Ct. St. Rita #916, Rapid City
3. Stephanie Geraets Ct. Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids

## STATE WEBSITE

Amanda Konechne, Ct St Patrick #1699, Kimball - State Website Designer/Editor

Our state goal to provide website content for our members is always important. The website has active traffic and activity increases when we are in convention year. Once again, the State CDA website placed first in the 2022 National Website Contest! Thank you to everyone that helps keep information up to date.

While the importance of staying connected in person is at the forefront of keeping our Unity and Charity mission alive, online resources have become one source of life for CDA.

Don't be overwhelmed at the thought of having your own court website. Your court is capable of maintaining a website and learning the basics of website building, or simply providing an informational page on your parish website may be all you need.

Some of the following are things to consider when getting started:

- The list of requirements you have to have to qualify for the CDA website contest. These can be found at [www.cdaskouthdakota.com](http://www.cdaskouthdakota.com) under our Resources tab > Forms.
- What content is most important for local members to have? Make navigation easy to find this content.
- What platform is the most user-friendly for you? Not all website template platforms are created with the everyday person in mind. Research your options before choosing what is best for your court.
- Keep interesting features throughout your website, such as, pictures or future events.
- Keep the content you want to provide manageable, so it can be updated easily or on short notice.

I'm available for any questions regarding website building. We are so blessed to be able to provide our members with the resources necessary to motivate all courts in the state with new ideas and resources needed to keep us active.

State Regent, Judy Konechne ended recess and reconvened the business meeting at 1:30pm.

Michel Pauley, Executive Director of the SD Catholic Conference was invited to speak about the "Decline to Sign" initiative. Flyers were handed out to distribute among our home parishes.

## **RESOLUTIONS & BYLAWS**

Emily Voelker, Ct St Elizabeth #1362, Colman, Chair

Emily Voelker, stated the committee had not received any proposed resolutions or bylaws changes for discussion or review. Therefore, had nothing to present to the SD Delegation.

## **REPORTS OF STATE BOARD OFFICERS**

### **Report of the State Regent, Judy Konechne**

Judy's full report can be found on page 23 in the convention program book.

She added - Many blessings to all that worked hard to put this convention together. I am not going to read my full report, it is in the program book, and you are welcome to ask me any questions thru out this weekend that you may have. Please, mingle around and sit with different CDA sisters at meals to learn what others do for projects to give you something new to try. That is how we learn and expand to new

projects and put the name of CDA out in the public. Remember who you visited with if you should do one of the projects and if you have questions, I am sure you can contact them with questions.

I want to talk a little bit about membership. We have a smaller convention this year - partly because our membership is slowly declining in some areas and others are growing their membership. We had a great membership workshop yesterday and hope that you take some of the information back and use it to gain new members or hold on to the ones you have. Over the past two years we gained 191 new members with 81 deceased. Then with forfeitures and resignations, we netted a decrease of 7 members. The membership report is in the program book, and it is great to see that 32 of the 39 courts took in new members whether it was 1 or 14. There were 7 courts with 10 or more new members. Congratulations to all courts that gained and if we continue to ask - we will continue to grow.

## **Report of the 1st Vice State Regent, Michele Sage**

Michele's full report can be found on page 23 in the convention program book.

**State Chairman Supervisor Report** - can be found on page 30 of the convention program book.

**Circulation Report** - can be found on page 37 of the convention program book.

## **Report of the 2nd Vice State Regent, JoAnn Hoffman**

JoAnn's full report can be found on page 24 of the convention book.

**District Deputy Report**- can be found on page 26 of the convention program book.

## **Report of the State Treasurer, Carolyn Downs**

Carolyn's full report can be found on page 25 of the convention book.

Balance sheets and financials can be found in the printed convention program book on pages 78 and 79.

Carolyn was unable to attend the convention due to health complications, so no verbal report was given.

## **Report of the State Secretary, Lynda Steichen**

Lynda's full report can be found on page 24 of the convention book.

State Secretary, Lynda Steichen read additional communications received for the convention.

- An email greeting for a successful convention from National Board Member Ivone da Silveira

State Secretary Lynda Steichen reported the charitable contributions financial report.

The full report can be found on pages 69-75 of the convention program.

Total Charitable Contributions (reported by courts)	Local	\$79,054.58
	State	\$28,324.34
	National	\$13,380.00
	TOTAL	\$120,758.92

## **LEGISLATION**

Mary Althoff, Ct St Patricia #271, Sioux Falls, State Chair

Mary's full report can be found on page 32 of the convention program book.

Awards given:

- 3rd place: Court St. Rita #534, Watertown
- 2nd place: Court Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau
- 1st place: Court St. Rita #916, Rapid City – Defeat marijuana

## **CIRCLE OF LOVE - FAMILY**

Gloria Bauske, Ct St Agnes #618, Brookings, State Chair

Report is in the Convention Program Book on page 33.

Gloria reported receiving 27 reports from local courts.

Awards Given:

- 1st place: St Agnes #618, Brookings – Sleep in Heavenly Peace quilts
- 2nd place: St Thomas #1533, Humboldt – Prayer Shawls
- 3rd place: Little Flower #1054, Highmore – Reaching Out

State Regent Judy Konechne led a discussion about a possible dues increase.

She suggested that one alternative is to decrease costs of the state budget by not mailing the state newsletter, but only emailing it out.

Discussion took place with several members speaking in favor of and against a dues increase.

Much discussion revolved around the costs associated with the newsletter.

Gloria Bauske Ct St Agnes #618, Brookings made a motion, and submitted it in writing, to increase state dues in the amount of \$3 per person. Joy Kaliszuk, Ct St Patricia #271, Sioux Falls seconded the motion.

Discussion took place from the floor.

The Chair, recognizing a motion and second from the floor, asked the question.

A vote was taken and the motion failed.

The floor was reopened for discussion by the Chair.

Further discussion took place.

Deborah Burdick, Ct St Mary #1423, Redfield made a motion to raise state dues by \$1 per member and send newsletters to Court Regents to distribute to members.

Audrey Konechne, Ct St Patrick #1699, Kimball seconded the motion.

A request was made from the floor to separate the motion into two separate issues.

Deborah Burdick refused permission to amend her original motion.

The chair closed the discussion from the floor and posed the question.

A vote took place and the motion carried by an affirmative  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to raise state dues by \$1 per member and only send the newsletter to Court Regents to distribute to court members.

State Regent Judy Konechne gave final instructions for the Memorial Mass and “Hats Through the Ages” banquet. She also instructed voting delegates to report in the morning at 8:15 am for seating of the delegates.

The business meeting was called to recess at 3:15pm to break for the Memorial Mass.

## **MEMORIAL MASS**

Memorial Mass for deceased CDA members was held on Friday, April 14, 2023 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Sioux Falls, SD at 5:00pm with Most Reverend Bishop Donald DeGrood as celebrant. Priests assisting included Fr. Jim Friedrich, State Chaplain. National and State Officers and all local court Regents were robed for the Memorial Mass.

## **FRIDAY NIGHT BANQUET** ***“Hats Through the Ages”***

Convention attendees arrived donning hats from all ages and of every form and fashion, as they gathered Friday evening in the convention center. Second Vice State Regent JoAnn Hoffman was emcee for the evening. Entertainment was provided by the very talented “Sister Act”. Bishop Donald DeGrood of the Sioux Falls Diocese, was the keynote speaker for the evening.

A check was presented to Bishop Donald DeGrood for \$13,686.96 for charities to be distributed within the Sioux Falls Diocese. A collection was taken up at the banquet for the Memorial Mass at the Cathedral and was presented to Bishop DeGrood. A check will be presented to Bishop Peter Muhich of the Rapid City Diocese for \$1,769.00 for charities.

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2023**

Prior to the business meeting, Fr. Jim Friedrich, State Chaplain, led Morning Meditation and Prayers. Father invited all to visit the adoration chapel, anytime throughout convention.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:19am by State Regent Judy Konechne. Delegates were seated for voting and the doors were secured for voting.

State Secretary Lynda Steichen called Roll.

Following Roll Call, State Secretary Lynda Steichen and the Credentials Committee were excused to confirm the report.

The Opening Ode was sung.

State Regent Judy Konechne called for the Credentials Report.

#### CREDENTIALS REPORT

Credentials Report: 8:30am April 15, 2023

Tina Roth, Ct Sacred Heart #280, Parkston, chair of the Election committee, gave the Credentials Report.

	Potential Strength	Actual Delegates Seated
National Rep/Officer	1	1
State Officers	5	4
Immediate Past State Regent	1	1
Past State Regents	7	6
Delegates	111	81
TOTALS:	124	93

Majority needed to pass: 62.

Tina Roth, Ct Sacred Heart #280, Parkston, moved that the report be adopted.

THE REPORT WAS ADOPTED AND A QUORUM WAS DECLARED BY STATE REGENT JUDY KONECHNE.

Joyce Heath, Ct Mary Imelda #1014, Winner, Chair of the Elections Committee, gave instructions for the election procedures.

Signatures were verified and voting by paper ballot took place for the nominating committee. Ballots were collected and counted by the Election Committee.

State Regent thanked everyone for complying so well with the election instructions and procedures and opened the convention doors for other attendees to re-enter.

State Regent, Judy Konechne instructed the Election committee to exit and tally the voting results.

The State Regent called for a short recess.

State Regent Judy Konechne called the convention to resume at 9:15am and instructed all to enter with proper credentials.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Camille Dunnick, Ct St Patricia #271 Sioux Falls, Chair

The State Financial Review was held on Thursday, April 12, 2023, in Sioux Falls. Book Officer Lynda Steichen was present. Carolyn Downs, State Treasurer, was unable to attend. Also available were State Regent, Judy Konechne, 1st Vice State Regent Michele Sage and 2nd Vice State Regent JoAnn Hoffman, Camille Dunnick, LaVonne Rose and Kathy Feuerhelm. The Review Committee found the books of both

the State Secretary and State Treasurer in good order. Respectfully submitted, Camille Dunnick, Chair of Financial Review Committee.

Motion was made by Janet Kirsch, Ct St Rita #916, Rapid City to accept the Financial Review. Motion adopted.

## STATE FUNDRAISING

Brenda Anderson and Mary Kay Zimmerman, State Co-Chairs

The full report can be found on page 36 of the State Convention Program Book.

Brenda reported that the grocery raffle was selected once again as the main fundraiser for the state due to past success. 1st State Vice Regent, Michele Sage provided a handmade diamond dot painting of "Mother Mary" for raffle. Lucky Bucks, 50/50 raffle was held throughout the convention as well as the popular Silent Auction baskets donated by each court. The CDA Store was open during the convention with a few new items to purchase including car coasters.

Brenda led a discussion amongst delegates who shared ideas from their local courts.

## ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Joyce Heath, Ct Mary Imelda #1014, Winner, chair of the Election Committee, gave the election report.

There were 91 ballots.

Those elected to the Nominating Committee are:

<u>Votes</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Court Name &amp;#</u>	<u>Town</u>
58	Althoff, Mary	St Patricia #271	Sioux Falls
33	Bauske, Gloria	St Agnes #618	Brookings
61	Hosek, Bonnie	St James #2757	Chamberlain
47	Kocer, Karol	St Rose of Lima #700	Wagner
36	Lynde Dorothy	St Christina #2336	Lennox
41	Raasch, Patricia	Mother Teresa #2510	Sioux Falls
52	Riddle, Cindy	Margaret Mary #2453	Mitchell
45	Runge, Diane	St Joseph #2754	Miller
55	Sampson, Elizabeth	Madonna #1952	Plankinton

The results indicate that Bonnie Hosek, having received the most votes, becomes the chairperson of the nominating committee. Alternates will be Patricia Raasch, Dorothy Lynde and Gloria Bauske.

State Regent Judy Konechne read the names of those elected to the Nominating Committee.

National Director Barb Ward-Jensen gave the charge to the 2025 State Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee signed their commission.

## LEADERSHIP

Aisha Talley, Ct St Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison, State Chair

Full Report is on page 31 of the Convention Program Book.

## **CDA STATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Susan Gunn, Ct Immaculate Heart of Mary # 2654, Lemmon, State Chair

The report is printed on page 30 in the convention program book.

The Chair reported that the Mt. Marty Scholarship was awarded to Emma Blomme from Rapid City.

Susan Gunn awarded a certificate to Ct Immaculate Conception #582, Watertown for their participation in both scholarship funds.

Susan Gunn, Chair, reported that a letter was received from Presentation College when the announcement was made that they would be closing their doors. State Regent Judy Konechne has reached out several times to their office and does not have a definitive answer at this time what the options are for our scholarship fund money. The State Regent will continue to work with Presentation College staff until further action can be taken.

The State Scholarship Chair, Susan Gunn would like to recommend combining the Presentation College Scholarship funds with the Mt. Marty Scholarship Funds.

Discussion was held.

Barb Wiechmann, Ct St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner made a motion, and submitted it in writing, to transfer all Presentation Scholarship funds to the Mt. Marty Scholarship Fund.

Further discussion took place from the floor.

The State Regent posed the question and a vote was taken.

Motion adopted.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Cheryl Schaefer, Ct Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient/Polo

Deb DeFries, Ct St Rita #534, Watertown; Co-Chairs

There is always good news and bad news in the membership report. We did not lose any courts, but we didn't add any new courts either. We will have to work on that one. But we did have fourteen courts that had a gain in membership. That is over a third of our courts adding new members. That is something to celebrate during this convention. Do you think we can make a 50% gain next time? Or maybe even 100%. We have 39 courts in South Dakota. As of March first, we have a total of 1,883 members in South Dakota. We added 201 new members but in that same period we lost 228 members. So, we are continuing to lose more members than we gain. Let's recognize the 14 courts that had positive growth. They are:



1. Ct. Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell
2. Ct. St Thomas #1533, Humboldt
3. Ct. Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls
4. Ct. St. Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison
5. Ct. Our Lady of the Rosary #2560, Dakota Dunes
6. Ct. Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids
7. Ct. St. Frances #547, Gregory
8. Ct. Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs
9. Ct. St. George #2688, Hartford
10. Ct. Immaculate of Mary #2654, Lemmon
11. Ct. Madonna #1952, Faulkton
12. Ct. St Teresa of Avila #2325, Beresford
13. Ct. St. Agnes #618, Vermillion
14. Ct. St. James #2757, Chamberlain

Congratulations to these courts for a job well done.

We lost 90 members to death and will honor them today during our memorial service. 18 courts gained new members but lost as many as they gained or even more members. A lot of our larger courts fall into this group. We lost 95 members to resignation and 47 members to forfeit. Are we asking those members why they are leaving? What can we do to keep those members?

Membership has been on a downward spiral.

In 1980 we had 35 courts with 4009 members

In 2005 we had 38 courts with 2848 members

In 2015 we had 39 courts with 2325 members

Today, we have 39 courts with 1883 members. We lost over 2,100 members in 43 years!

We can do better! Membership growth is not just for officers and chairmen. Every member can recruit! Be present in your parish, use your bulletin to keep people aware that you ARE active and striving to put your faith in action. Use your church bulletin to keep people informed of what you do. Use a bulletin board at church with information about your meeting and events with your Pastor's approval of course. With the East River reorganization of parishes, sharing parish bulletins can expose more parish families to CDA. In my "pod," five of the six parishes already have a CDA Court. This could be a new avenue for more members or Courts. Remember to ask women to join, then ask again. As women, our lives are constantly changing!

Be that Light that attracts others to join you! At the 2013 State Convention, Pamela Rorvik-Albers gave her Membership talk and was so enthusiastic! I said to myself, I want what she has! I want that fire for my faith, and for this organization! Brenda Anderson talked about the importance of being prepared to grow your court by having an informational pamphlet and a membership form in your purse and several sets in your car. You never know where or when you may meet someone who wants to know more. Have your

two favorite reasons for being a CDA member ready to share with family and friends! Mine are 1) The many masses for living and deceased members, 2) Charitable giving thru your Court instead of giving thru solicitations received in the mail.

We need to step outside the “Norm” and ask people who may not speak our language or who are of a different color, to join our Courts, or even encourage them to start their own Courts. There are several Spanish speaking churches in our dioceses, and my experience with Mexican ladies is they are women of great faith. National has printed their literature in Spanish, we need to use it! Also, Native tradition fits very well with our motto of being the “hands and feet of Christ, working on Earth today.” Traditional Native Americans believe giving brings honor to those who give. There are many parishes to be explored for possible new members and courts.

So, wear your shirts, jackets, pullovers, use your convention bags when you go somewhere. The more visible we are, the more people see what we do, the better chance of ladies wanting to join. That is the easiest way to advertise and ladies that is what it will take. Introduce yourself to the new families in your parish. Just give them the leaflet and some short information about CDA. Wait a couple of weeks and approach her again and see if she has any questions or thoughts about joining CDA.

Check out our membership storyboard, there are a few ideas on the board. Some notepaper for you to give us some new ideas. Put them into the bowl so we can get started on an article for the newsletter. We hope to put a note in each newsletter with some ideas for fundraisers and how to approach new members. In our research, we may all learn new things. So be that light that shines brightly for all to see and blow your horn for all to hear about CDA!

## **STATE NEWSLETTER**

Carol Grode-Hanks, Ct Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell, State Chair

Carol reminded and encouraged the delegation that anyone can send in news for the newsletter. Email information to: [sdcca1918news@gmail.com](mailto:sdcca1918news@gmail.com). It was suggested that in the subject line to add “CDA Circulation”.

State Regent Judy Konechne introduced National Representative Barb Ward-Jensen.

## **NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE MESSAGE**

Barb Ward, National Director

Good afternoon! It is such a privilege and honor for me to be here to share your 52nd Biennial, South Dakota State Convention and I bring greetings to you from our National Regent and the entire National Board. We pray for this to be an inspiring and successful convention.

It is exciting to be at your first post Covid state convention. Your state's last convention was a virtual convention which got the job done but lacked the opportunity for personal contact with our CDA sisters. This year will be a special celebration as we can be back together in person.

Your convention theme “Open Your Heart to God’s Love and Listen to Him” is so fitting for these times. Each member should live that theme for the next two years. The activities that each of you participate in through the Catholic Daughters makes a difference in everyone’s life. We have provided services and aid to the poorest of the poor in many ways.

Over the last 120 years, Catholic Daughters have made an enormous impact due to your generous donations to our National Charities and Projects. When you return home to your courts, review with your members these projects and charities. Each year we ask each court to donate at least \$20 for each project. Individually \$20 doesn’t seem like much, but when combined with the donations from the over 1000 courts we have, we are able to make significant donations to the tune of \$20,000 a year per project on your behalf to those organizations. CDA can make a difference!

You should take great pride as members of the Catholic Daughters, knowing the difference you have made throughout the USA and the world. As a member of Catholic Daughters, you are part of a unique organization of women. You are all here today because you love CDA, have the desire to grow spiritually, and want to help make the world a little better. Catholic Daughters, many chances to do so.

Our Circle of Love program gives you the chance to see what best fits your court and each individual member. You do not have to participate in all seven spokes, but instead focus on a couple of them and put all your energy into them. Every meeting should begin with prayer such as the rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, or a prayer service. Plan days of recollection or retreats to fuel and re-energize your members.

Our Catholic Daughter motto, “Unity and Charity” are words that all of us need to repeat to ourselves as we begin each day. What better way to start a new day than with prayers, and, if available, daily mass. Ask God to guide you through your day to make each day meaningful and positive. Through prayer, God will guide you in the right direction. The Blessed Mother will walk alongside us if we ask her. What better companion could you ask for on the journey! Mother and daughter hand in hand. Pray daily for the Holy Spirit to sit on your shoulder to guide you. Each new day is a fresh new beginning to your journey in the chance to grow closer to God. Throughout our life, we make an impression on every person we meet. Having a smile because you enter the room, not because you were leaving. Let them see the love of God shine in you.

At the forefront of our organization is our membership. 120 years ago, a group of strong and determined women, with tremendous foresight, in a day when women had little rights, planted the seeds that grew into the Catholic Daughters of today. We have a beautiful history of accomplishments. We owe these women our dedication and commitment, to keep going what they worked so hard to organize, and to build it stronger and stronger. Let’s make those women proud by continuing their work. Celebrate your membership and share it with all the Catholic women in your life. Every one of you is an important member of the membership and development committee. It is a job that all of you must be active in if you want to continue and to grow. Your courts are only as strong as your efforts to receive new members into your courts. You need to focus on maintaining your current members. Don’t forget those unable to attend meetings. Keep them informed, send messages, make phone calls or visit them. They can be a part of your court as a powerful prayer warrior.

Every member should feel welcome and know that her voice and ideas can be heard. Host membership drives, invite women of the parish to your events, provide brochures about Catholic Daughters. Have a membership contest. Offer free dues for a year to the member who brings in the most new members.

Encourage members to learn all they can about CDA. Go to the Catholic Daughters website, read the Share magazine and the quarterly newsletter. Both are available online. Encourage members who have Facebook to like the National Facebook page and join in on the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet.

State courts need to look throughout your state to find areas or Parishes for possible new courts and contact the pastors at those churches. National has available free Priest packets for pastors to promote CDA. Personal contact with the pastor is the most effective method to educate Priests about CDA and what a benefit, it would be to have a Court in his parish.

There are two upcoming exciting events to share with you, and the members. The National board is planning a retreat so we can gather in a peaceful and holy environment with our CDA sisters. The retreat will be November 10-12, 2023 at the Spiritual Life Center in Bel Aire, Kansas. More details can be found in Share magazine and the Quarterly. Next, your National Regent and National Chaplain invite you to join them on a spiritual pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal, October 23 through November 3, 2023. This information can also be found in the Share magazine and online.

God answers prayers. On June 24, 2022, our Supreme Court reversed. The horrible law passed 50 years ago that made abortion by demand the law of our land and resulted in the death of more than 64 million of the most innocent and vulnerable in our society. Catholic Daughters have prayed, marched, and worked tirelessly for life and soul. We celebrate that victory. We need to realize, however, that the fight is far from over. We have a lot of work ahead of us and a lot more prayers are needed. The challenge is now on the doorsteps of each of our states. Some states have a much bigger fight than others. You need to promote pro-life in your state and be involved wherever and however you can to fight for the legal protection of the unborn. Remember our National Regent's theme "Faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains". Together Catholic Daughters can do it.

Thank you for all that you do for the Catholic Daughters. CDA is strong and powerful, and you do make a difference. You are priceless and valuable. Believe in what you are doing. Keep up the wonderful and loving work as you "Open your heart to God's love and listen to him".

Once again, it is a pleasure to be here, and I thank you for allowing me to join you. Know that you are in the daily prayers and masses of your national board and chaplain. You have our support to be the best that you can be. God's peace and love. Thank you.

Brenda Anderson, National Director shared a few comments with the delegation.

A Hail Mary was prayed for Courts not here at Convention and first-time attendees were recognized.

Brenda informed us there is a special committee working on Ceremonials and that Barb Wiechmann is serving on this committee. The company that supplies Court robes has gone out of business. Brenda reminded us of the National calendar fund-raiser, and that winners are posted on the National website.

State Regent Judy Konechne called the convention to recess for lunch at 10:50am.

## **SATURDAY LUNCHEON**

Judy Konechne, State Regent, was the Emcee for the luncheon.

State Chaplain led an opening prayer.

## YOUTH & JCDA

Theresa Kocer, Ct Mother Teresa #2510 Sioux Falls, State Chair

Report is found on page 31 of the Convention program book.

Recognition was given to three courts:

3rd Place: Ct St Rita #916, Rapid City – Corpus Christi procession from Cathedral to 5th Street Park

2nd Place: Ct Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids – rosary history, how-to-pray, mysteries.

1st Place Ct St Patricia #271, Sioux Falls – helping with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

## CAMPUS COURTS

Michele Sage, 1st Vice State Regent, State Chair

Full report is found on page 31 of the Convention program book.

Michele reported that she had a couple good organizational meetings on the campus of SDSU, but that it takes 15 young women to start a campus court and could not get the number needed to establish a court.

Judy Konechne, State Regent reconvened the business meeting following the lunch recess at 1:32 pm.

## MILITARY

Colleen Leer, Ct Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient-Polo, State Chair

Colleen reported that funds from Charitable Contribution forms were distributed as follows:

2021-VA Sioux Falls - Wishes for Heroes for Veterans in hospice.

2022-VA Hot Springs -Women's care packages and counseling

2023-VA Ft Meade - Peace/Healing Garden for hospice patients \$1,485.42

Her favorite projects reported by courts were sending deployed women care boxes, putting out flags or wreaths for veterans at the cemetery. She reminded us to wear RED on Fridays.

## NEWSLETTER/SCRAPBOOK

Rene Brand, Ct St Rita #916, Rapid City, State Chair

Both the Newsletter and Scrapbook judging require 3 non-CDA members to score the entries and I thank all six of these judges for their time and effort!

**Newsletter Contest:** Seven entries were included in the newsletter contest this year. Thanks to all who entered as we had some excellent creative newsletters with a lot of work put into them. They had to meet the criteria set forth to qualify. (Please access the requirements and score sheet for the newsletter on the State CDA website for future reference). All seven entries were in Category I (100 court members or less).

### Winners:

Division I (1-4 newsletters issued/year): 1<sup>st</sup> Place Ct St Rita #534, Watertown, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner

Division II (5 or more newsletters issued/year): 1<sup>st</sup> Place Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Ct St Patrick #1699, Kimball, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls

**Scrapbook Contest:** Twelve entries were in the judging (2021-2023.) The 1<sup>st</sup> place scrapbook was a unique entry as it was the first digitized scrapbook entry. Again many hours of work were evident in the scrapbook entries and I hope each of these courts are able to display their scrapbook for others in their parishes to view.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Ct St Rita #534, Watertown

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Ct St Rosa Lima #700, Wagner

## **CIRCLE OF LOVE - QUALITY OF LIFE**

Bernice Cizadlo, Ct Joan of Arc #846, Milbank, State Chair

The report can be found in the State Convention Program Book on pages 33-34.

Bernice received reports from 32 local courts. These courts were recognized for their activity:

Ct Our Lady of Fatima #2056, Orient-Polo – Summer Community supper

Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls – Dignity Bags for women’s shelter

Ct St Maria Goretti #1584, Colome – Mitten Drive (hats, coats, socks)

Ct St Patricia #271, Sioux Falls -- Volunteer at the Banquet

## **SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT**

Patty Fuegen, Ct St Mary #1423, Redfield, State Chair

Deborah Burdick gave a report in the absence of the chair. Patty’s full report can be found on pages 34-35 of the Convention Program book. Patty sent personal notes to each court who submitted a report.

## **STATE ABUSE PROJECT**

Carol Kling, Ct Immaculate Heart of Mary # 2654, Lemmon, State Chair

This report can be found on pages 35-36 of the State Convention Program book.

Carol encouraged each court to make a minimum donation of \$50 each year.

She gave certificates to two courts:

- Ct Holy Heart #163, Woonsocket, for going above and beyond with Sunday morning breakfast fundraiser
- Ct St Rita #534, Watertown, for going above and beyond to donate to Beacon Center in Watertown.

At 2:35pm, after the singing of the Closing Ode, State Regent Judy Konechne called for a recess to prepare for Installation Mass. We will reconvene at 9:00am tomorrow morning.

## **SATURDAY EVENING INSTALLATION MASS**

The installation Mass was held at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre at 5:00 pm with State Chaplain, Fr. Jim Friedrich presiding. All National, State and Local court officers were robed for the Installation Mass.

State officers installed were: State Regent Judy Konechne; First Vice State Regent Michele Sage; Second Vice State Regent JoAnn Hoffman; State Secretary Mary Kay Zimmerman. State Treasurer Carolyn Downs was absent. Following Mass, the delegation moved to the reception hall at the convention center to prepare for the Social Hour and Banquet.

Mass offertory collection \$510 will be donated to the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House.

## **STATE BANQUET - "Angels Among Us"**

At 6:30 pm, the State Banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Convention Centre. First Vice State Regent, Michele Sage was the Emcee. Prior to dinner, the CDA Member Achievement was awarded to Jan Kristensen of Ct Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell and the CDA Court of the Year was awarded to Ct St Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison. Music was provided during dinner by Rebecca & Rachel Heinemann, sophomores at St Mary's Catholic School in Dell Rapids, SD. The keynote speaker for the evening was Gaye Lindfors, Christian speaker and author from Minnesota. Following dinner, State Abuse Chair, Carol Kling presented a check for \$7,215.00 to Jim Kinyon, representing the West River Catholic Family Services. The check was half of the monies raised over a two-year period by the South Dakota courts participating in the Lifesaver Abuse project. The same amount was also sent to the East River Diocese The Lourdes Center, formerly known as Catholic Family Services.

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2023**

At 9:15am Regent Judy Konechne reconvened the business session of the 52nd Biennial State Convention.

The delegation sang the Opening Ode.

The Chair of the Credentials committee, Tina Roth came forward to give the final report of the credentials committee. She reported there was a discrepancy on what was previously reported. After a re-tally the corrected count was 91 total delegates seated.

Cheryl Schaefer requested permission from the floor to speak about replacing Presentation College with FOCUS as a State Charity. Cheryl provided a written motion.

Discussion from the floor took place.

The chair closed discussions and asked the question.

The Motion was adopted.

## **CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

Theresa Kocer, Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, Chair

Theresa Kocer, Convention Registration Chair gave her report. There were 97 registered delegates, 25 alternates, 26 non-voting members. There were 127 registered for Friday lunch, 147 for Friday evening banquet, 130 for Saturday lunch, 176 for the Saturday evening banquet and 123 for the Sunday lunch.

State Regent Judy Konechne asked for bids from the body for the 2027, 54th Biennial State Convention.

On behalf of Ct Margaret Mary #2453, Mitchell, Carol Grode-Hanks (with a special appearance by the Corn Palace mascot, Cornelius) put in a bid for the 2027, 54th bi-annual State Convention.

State Regent asked that any other bids to host be sent to the State Board.

## **CONVENTION 2025**

Delegation from Ct Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs, Ct St Rita #916, Rapid City, Ct Immaculate Heart of Mary #2654, Lemmon and Ct Mary Imelda #1014, Winner extended an invitation to the 2025 - 53<sup>rd</sup> Biennial State Convention April 10-13, 2025 at the Spearfish Convention Center in Spearfish, SD.

State Regent Judy Konechne ordered that the ballots from this convention be destroyed.

## **DISTRICT DEPUTY SUPERVISOR**

JoAnn Hoffman, 2nd Vice State Regent, Chair

Pins were presented to outgoing District Deputies: Paulette Fischer, Kathy Feuerhelm, Bonnie Spratte, Karen Schaefers, Janet Lynch. Barb Wiechmann is also outgoing but already had a pin.

The passing of the robes for the new District Deputies took place.

The new deputies are: Jan Evans, Joan Grim and Colleen Leer.

## **STATE CHAIRMAN SUPERVISOR**

Michele Sage, 1st State Vice Regent

First State Vice Regent and State Chairman Supervisor, Michele Sage recognized the State Chairs. She presented them with gifts of appreciation and all outgoing chairs with a pin.

Outgoing Chairs:

Mary Althoff, Ct St Patricia 3271, Sioux Falls, COL Legislation

Patty Fuegen, Ct St Mary #1423, Redfield, COL Spirituality Enhancement

Cleo Kast Ct. St Teresa of Avila #2325, Beresford, COL Education

Deb Berglan, St Teresa of Avila #2325, Beresford, COL Education

Remaining Chairwomen:

Aisha Tally, Ct St Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison, COL Leadership



Gloria Bausk, Ct St Agnes # 618, Brookings, COL Family  
Bernice Cizadlo, Ct Joan of Arc # 846, Milbank, COL Quality of Life  
Theresa Kocer, Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, COL Youth/JCDA  
Deb DeFries, Ct St Rita #524, Watertown, Membership  
Cheryl Schaefer, Ct Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient/Polo, Membership  
Susan Gunn, Ct Immaculate Heart of Mary #2654, Lemmon, CDA Scholarships  
Michele Sage, Ct. St Agnes #618, Brookings, Campus Courts  
Rene Brand, Ct St Rita #916, Rapid City, Newsletters/Scrapbooks  
Kim Euker, Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, State Website Contest & Public Relations  
Carol Kling, Ct Immaculate Heart of Mary #2654, Lemmon, State Abuse Project  
Brenda Anderson, Ct St Katherine Drexel # 2516, Roscoe, Fundraising  
Mary Kay Zimmerman, Ct St Agnes #687, Vermillion, Fundraising  
Colleen Leer, Ct Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient/Polo, SD Military Project (Deceased)  
Vickie Feist, Ct St Ann #1121, Pierre, SD Historian  
Amanda Konechne, Ct St Patrick #1699, Kimball, SD Website  
Carol Grode-Hanks, Ct Margaret Mary # 2453, Mitchell, SD Newsletter  
Joan Schueller, Ct St Ann #1121, Pierre, Parliamentarian  
Michele Sage, Ct. St Agnes #618, Brookings, State Circulation

The State Regent recognized and thanked Co-Chair Camille Dunnick and all of the host courts.

National Representative, Barb Ward-Jensen thanked the State Board and entire delegation for their "Midwest Hospitality". She extended a personal invitation to the 2024 National Convention New Orleans, LA - August 14-18, 2024.

## **FUNDRAISING**

There were total sales of \$6,309.48 from the CDA Store. Many items in the CDA store were on consignment from the National CDA Store and Spread the Word (Texas).

There were total sales of \$3,966.25 from the Basket Silent Auction Raffles.

There were total sales of \$1,216.00 from the Lucky Bucks 50/50 raffle sales.

There was a total of \$3,104.00 raised from the grocery raffle, plus the below payouts.

Winners of the grocery raffle were:

- \$1200 - Alisa Birkhoet of Hot Springs
- \$100 - Mike Daugherty, of Sioux Falls
- \$100 – Laura Bjergaard of Hartford
- \$100 – Barbara Harrington of Tea

There was a total of \$645.00 raised from the Mother Mary picture made by Michele Sage to offset convention expenses. The winner was JoAnn Hoffman

State Regent Judy Konechne thanked the outgoing State Secretary, Lynda Steichen. Lynda gave her remarks after she was thanked for her service and a gift presented to her by the state board.

State Regent Judy Konechne thanked the current state officers and Chaplain Fr. Friedrich for their service and leadership and presented them with gifts of appreciation.

State Regent Judy Konechne recognized Mary Kay Zimmerman as the incoming State Treasurer and thanked her for her willingness to serve.

The colors were retired by Ct St Patricia #271, Sioux Falls.

The closing prayer was the Divine Mercy Chaplet led by 1st Vice State Regent, Michele Sage.

The Closing Ode was sung.

State Regent Judy Konechne adjourned the 2023 South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas 52nd Biennial Convention at 10:23am.