

Smoky Mountain Deanery CCW Organization Commission Report

I participated in both the Smoky Mountain Deanery CCW Board Meeting on September 10, 2009, and the General Meeting held on September 19, 2009, and gave the following report:

My understanding of the Organization Commission is that it covers 3 major areas:

To promote the organization of the CCW:

This includes membership drives. I asked if all the ladies at their parishes know that their group is an affiliate of the NCCW. At my parish, our group is called the Immaculate Conception Women's Group, and I had been a part of it for about 1½ years before I discovered that it was connected to something larger. I shared that on September 15 we had representatives from KDCCW (Suzanne Erpenbach and Anne Wharton) come to talk to our ladies about CCW, which was a great opportunity for me to promote individual memberships in NCCW. (I gave out 12 membership forms at that meeting and 5 more at the deanery general meeting, including information on how to give a gift membership.)

I also mentioned at the board meeting that NCCW encourages parishes to hold a Council Day one Sunday during October, giving out information about NCCW and encouraging participation in their local group. (I am not aware of any parishes that planned a Council Day.)

To support the other commissions:

This includes helping them with networking and providing leadership training. As an example, I shared that I volunteer as a chaplain at the Knoxville Family Justice Center, which serves victims of domestic violence. Since the position of Family Commission Chair has not been filled for our deanery, I offered my assistance as a member of the KFJC Speakers Bureau and made available posters featuring UT Women's Basketball coach Pat Summitt as our spokeswoman against Family Violence. (A poster is already on display at Immaculate Conception Parish, and posters were picked up by Our Lady of Fatima, St. Mary's Gatlinburg, and Holy Ghost Parishes.)

To support other commission chairs in my deanery, I have sent a note of prayer and encouragement to our Legislative Commission Chair who was unable to attend both the board and general meetings while she is caring for her terminally ill husband. I also sent a link to our International Commission Chair for an article I read about a theater in Minsk which is breaking the law there in order to get the word out about Human Trafficking.

To promote organizational skills:

This includes areas such as goal setting and time management. I explained that I like to call time management "Time Budgeting" because time is a limited resource, just like our finances, and we are called to be good stewards of these resources. We so often say things like, "There aren't enough hours in the day." Do we really think that God got it wrong?! I believe that He put all the hours in the day for me to accomplish everything that He wants me to do today—although maybe not enough time for everything that I want to do or that other people want me to do. Like money, we can spend time only once (and we can't borrow time, although many of us try by burning the candle at both ends and not getting enough sleep.) Whenever we say "Yes" to something, we are saying "No" to everything else that we could be doing with our time or money; that's why it's so important to discern what God wants us to do, to set goals and to prioritize. I shared that I have been inspired by the beginning of the fall season to meditate on Ecclesiastes 3:1: "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." God's Word says that there is a season for every purpose, and I believe that God also has a purpose for every season, so I have been asking God, "What is the purpose that you have for this season of my life?"

Another important area that requires organizational skills is keeping track of our volunteer hours. I reminded everyone that this is something all of us are responsible for. I gave the example that each of us were promoting the organization of NCCW through our attendance and participation at the meeting, so we could claim the time we were at the meeting plus our transportation time to and from the meeting under the Organization Commission. Many activities could fit under multiple commissions, but the main thing is to keep track of the hours, picking whatever commission we think fits the best. I made copies of the service hour tracking form, including instructions, available at the general meeting, and 7 of these were picked up. (After mentioning this at the deanery board meeting, I received an e-mail from our International Commission Chair saying that she had never kept track of her service hours, so I directed her to the information on the NCCW website and encouraged her to estimate any time she volunteered since April 1—and even count the time she spends estimating her hours! I also shared some suggestions for keeping the form in her datebook or car so it reminded her to keep her records up to date or to make a notation on her calendar so the information could be transferred to the reporting form later. I plan to provide more training at the deanery's spring general meeting, giving suggestions for completing their annual reports and for developing a system for keeping track of their future hours.)

I stressed that promoting individual memberships and keeping track of volunteer hours are two areas that I will be reminding them about often.

I am excited about my role as the Organization Commission Chair for the Smoky Mountain Deanery since it allows me to draw from several different areas of my life experience and to use them to serve God and my neighbors. I have a background as a clinical social worker and have certifications in women's ministry and in Biblical Counseling through the American Association of Christian Counselors. I also have

been trained in Community Organizing by the Industrial Areas Foundation, and I have run my own Tupperware business for more than 12 years, including doing professional fundraising for non-profit organizations. I already use this diverse background, along with my own journey of personal growth, to teach classes for the Knox County Christian Women's Job Corps, including one on Networking and a unit on Stress Management that includes Time Budgeting, Goal Setting and Organizational Skills. I am attaching a list of the classes and workshops that I teach in case that may be helpful. Suzanne Erpenbach has suggested that the CCW in Fairfield Glade may be interested in having me as a speaker, and I would welcome such speaking opportunities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Knoxville Diocese Council of Catholic Women