

NEW YEAR! NEW LOGO!!! The newsletter has a new look!!!



New beginnings...

January always brings a “new” with it. New resolutions. New directions. New hopes. New plans. New dreams. As the quote above states, I wish each of you happiness, enjoyment, achievement, luck, health, faith and new adventures in the coming year.

As women in faith, we will begin 2017 together in prayer with Mass to refresh us and fellowship to support us. Our first meeting will be January 16 at 6:30p.m. and we will be celebrating diversity. At a time when our world is full of so many heartbreaks and divisiveness, we thought it would be a good idea to explore what makes us more alike than what divides us. Marty and Teddie have come up with a great program that will teach us and engage us. I hope you will join us. We also start 2017 in celebration. Janet Buening has assembled a wonderful committee to work on our 100th Anniversary which will include some “new” activities for our members, past members and potential members. There will be more details as they unfold, so keep an eye out.

You know Cincinnati Catholic Women’s Association began in 1917 in the basement of Good Sam Hospital because the Archbishop wanted to organize a group of patriotic women for War Time Service. From those beginnings, Catholic Women were a force to be reckoned with in our community and truly set the stage for who we are today. It has been a series of “new” experiences all along the way and you will learn more as the year goes on.

We will celebrate and plan for the future so that we can continue to be the strong, confident, Catholic women in our community who give of their time, talents and treasures so that others can have a better life.

Here’s to a great New Year.

Suzy

Our Mission

“Offering women of all ages spiritual growth, philanthropic endeavors, volunteerism, and friendship through personal involvement in projects and activities that have a focus on helping women and children in our community.”

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List of Upcoming Meetings (*Tentative*)

January 16 - Mass & 100th Anniversary

February 20 – Speaker Patty Green

March 20 – Stations of the Cross at St. Rose

April 23* - Baby Shower for Pregnancy Center East

*Sunday afternoon, not Monday night

May 22 – Final Meeting/May crowning

June 19 – End of year picnic

Upcoming CCW Events:

Next Meeting January 16th at the House:

Menu and Cost to follow

RSVP BY January 10th to Teddie- TEDDIE@FUSE.NET

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2016 MEETING

December 12, 2016

Called to order: 7:55 p.m. by Suzy Dorward

1. Financial Statement
 - a. Financial report given by Teddie Curry
 - a. See attached
 - b. CCW has 47 paid members at this time
2. House report by Marty Cunningham
 - a. Bob Burch completed a house inspection
 - b. No “pests” were found in the termite inspection
 - c. CCW members may be asked to join in a spring cleaning effort for the house.
3. 100th Anniversary
 - a. The CCW board will come up with a vision of what the anniversary celebration should look like.
 - b. 100th anniversary committee will come up with what we want to do in a way of a celebration
4. Special Intentions Please pray for :
 - a. All the service men and women away from home
 - b. Remember the poor
 - c. Policemen and Firemen
 - d. All who have children /some taking exams / and for all the issues they may have
 - e. Kate and Joe /caretakers of the CCW house and all that they have done for the house.

Julie Ross motioned to adjourn. Meg Jung seconded the motion.

Meeting Adjourned and ornament exchange began.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Kelley Carrier

CCW History moment:

CCW Centennial History, Part 4: What Did We DO?

Since I am still researching the stories of the other “Ladies on the Staircase,” this month’s History Note will take a look at the energy and endeavors of the club members at large, with information from Marie W. Burke’s book *A History of the Cincinnati Catholic Women’s Association*.

In short, the best answer to “What did CCWA do?” is the rejoinder, “What *didn’t* CCWA do?”

In the early decades of the twentieth century, when most women were not employed outside the home, they poured their talents, skills, and dedication into volunteer work. The Cincinnati Catholic Women’s Association offered not only religious and social activities, but exciting opportunities for personal growth. And, post-World War I and pre- the establishment of government funded social services, the need for charitable works was great.

You have read in the previous History Notes about the extraordinary hands-on and financial support of the war effort and care of the disabled soldiers and widows, followed by the outreach to prisoners and Traveler’s Aid, the Penny Lunch movement for school children, and support of Catholic Charities and religious orders. But once the Clubhouse on Fourth Street and the Junior Service division were established, CCWA grew and moved into many new areas of service. By October 1924, the club had 2,450 members.

Funded by a musical extravaganza, a residence for business women and girls was added to the Clubhouse; thirty-five single women were in residence by May 1926. CCWA Members continued to support the Vocational League and provide garments and surgical dressings for Good Samaritan Hospital, worked on Better Films and for cleaner food markets, supported the Adult Deaf and St. Rita’s School for the Deaf, taught sewing classes to impoverished mothers and started the Friendship Sewing Circle to make vestments for poor churches, and organized a Federation of Mother’s Clubs. The Sunshine Committee provided some form of entertainment for the members every Sunday afternoon from 2 – 4pm.

By 1925, the ladies also made surgical dressings for St. Mary’s Hospital, organized Parent-Teachers Clubs, and supported Good Shepherd Convent and the Dominican Sisters of the Sick Poor, who did in-home nursing.

Inspired by the success of their annual Rummage Sales, CCWA established a Thrift Shop in October 1926 at 411 Sycamore Street, with a paid manager to run the shop and member volunteers serving as sales clerks. Thirty-five more volunteers organized into energetic and competitive neighborhood collections teams, meeting for luncheons at members’ homes or a country club — at which the entrance fee was pounds of “loot” which was actually weighed in, and a prize awarded for the heaviest load. The Shop also became the headquarters for the Club’s business ventures, including the Executive Office and *The Catholic Women’s News*, a monthly magazine published by CCWA and mailed to all members and the clergy.

By 1927 CCWA had 3,000 members and needed an auditorium to accommodate meetings for such a large group. With vigorous fundraising and generous donations, they retired the debt on both houses that comprised the Clubhouse, and on December 1, 1927, laid the cornerstone for the new construction that would include an auditorium, gymnasium, and additional rooming quarters.

Money was still given to charitable works. Children from the basin of the city were enrolled in the Little Flower Class. Each Saturday they got a bath, freshly laundered undergarments, a hearty meal, and instruction. They were also given school shoes, taught ukulele lessons and choral singing,

provided with medical care (including seven operations), and money was given to help keep their families together. Other outreach efforts included a Christmas party for the children of Good Shepherd Convent, volunteer activities at Longview Hospital, and financial support for the Sisters of St. Francis and many other local charities. The success of the sewing circles, which were now offering dressmaking classes, led to a Style Show in the Tea Room, to show off members' handiwork — the first of the Fashion Shows!

The dedication of the new building took place on October 28, 1928 with Archbishop McNicholas presiding. The newly-built LeBlond Auditorium, named in recognition of President Loretta LeBlond, who led the expansion effort, was filled to capacity. CCWA now had an auditorium, gymnasium, and 56 rooms.

CCWA continued to be a major charitable force, with funds coming from the Thrift Shop, the Catholic Women's News Publishing Company, theatrical events, card and garden parties, and generous donors. In 1929 members began a Bible Study group, taught catechism, undertook sewing First Communion dresses and boys' shirts for the poor and for children in St. Joseph Orphanage, and helped sponsor the Shop for the Handicapped, where individuals with disabilities could sell handicrafts.

When the Depression hit, Mrs. Charles Williams was the "good fairy" who came forward to pay the interest and mortgage for the CCWA properties when money was tight. Members mounted a city-wide clothing drive and also sewed clothing for 5,000 needy children from unemployed families. CCWA supported Girl Scout Troops and sent children to Ft. Scott for summer camp. The Choral Group was organized at this time, and joined professional musicians in giving concerts in LeBlond Auditorium, with the proceeds donated to unemployed families.

The next decades brought many changes, positive and negative. In 1934 CCWA sponsored a very successful Quilt Show. In 1936 Mrs. Hinkle's painting *The First Communion* was accepted as a loan to the Club and hung in the Madonna Room. The 1937 Flood forced cancellation of many events. In January 1939 *The Catholic Women's News* was discontinued, and the Club lost an excellent source of revenue. In 1942 the Garden Circle was formed, with the grounds of the Chapel of the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Adoration on Erie Avenue receiving the group's monetary contributions and hands-on efforts, including the stunning flowering crab and plum trees that lined the driveway until the property was sold for building lots in 2015. In 1944 a gift of \$20,000 from the LeBlonds paid off the new addition, and dancing classes were offered twice a month for junior high and high school students, to promote Catholic social interaction and provide revenue for the club. In March 1945 Mrs. Hinkle made her loan of the Nourse painting into a permanent gift. Bridge clubs, the Lenten Day of Recollection, more sewing guilds and circles, and committees to plan programs, care for the Clubhouse, and support volunteer activity continued to shape the club well into the twenty-first century.

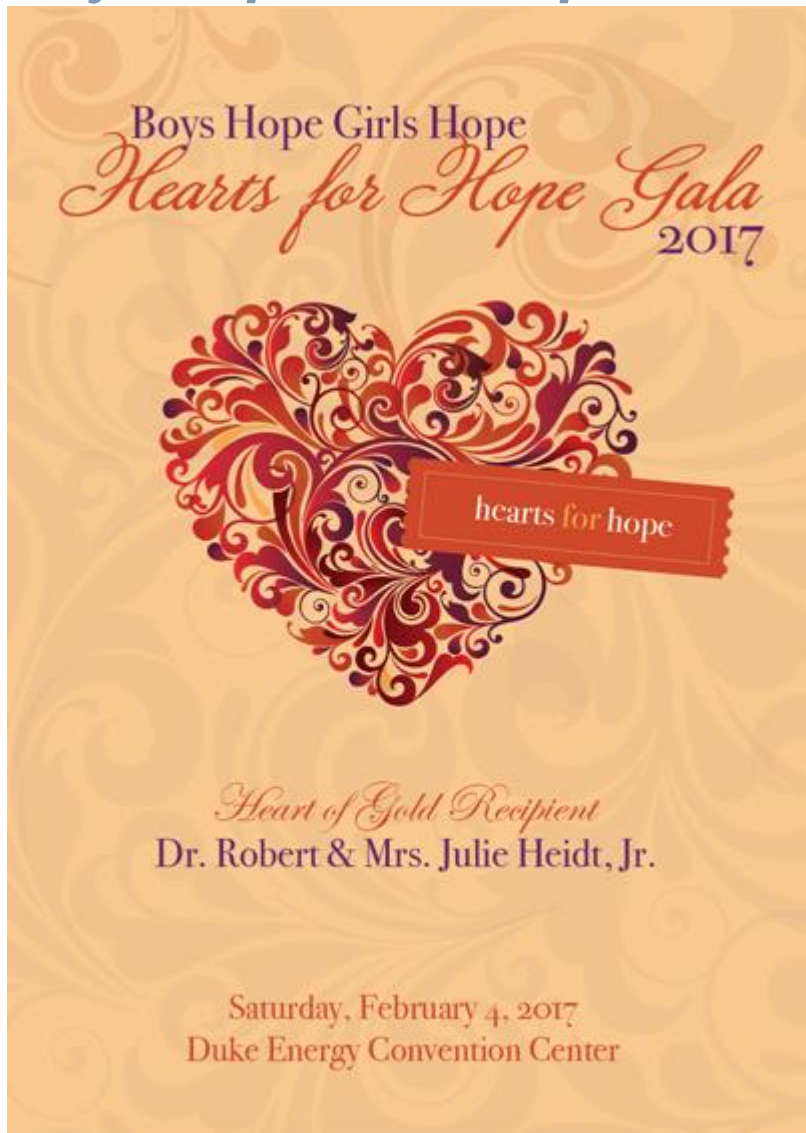
Marie W. Burke's book was published in 1958, when CCWA was thriving with a strong membership, an active Junior Service division, and beautiful properties along Lytle Park. No one then foresaw the expressway construction that would take the elegant houses, the breakaway of the Junior Service Committee to form Catholic Women of Cincinnati, or the decline in volunteerism that would affect both groups as women joined the workforce in large numbers. And none of us, the members of the now reunited organization we call Cincinnati Catholic Women, can foresee what lies ahead as we enter into our second century of service and Catholic action. But I think the closing words of Burke's book not only echo her fervent hope for a bright future but also stand as a prayer of inspiration and encourage as we prepare for our Centennial:

It will be April 14, 2017 — let us hope that our granddaughters and great granddaughters will be carrying out the Constitution of our Cincinnati Catholic Women's Association, word for word, as it

was written by our Charter members, emulating their zeal and devotion, that in so doing they may receive the blessing that goes with helping others, making our Cincinnati Catholic Women's Association an integral part of our Queen City.

— Janet Buening

Boys Hope Girls Hope Gala



Boys Hope Girls Hope Cincinnati would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the 2017 Hearts for Hope Gala!

The money raised at this event helps to provide for the daily needs of our scholars, maintain our three homes, and fund their educational expenses. Many CCW members have been working hard on the Gala-Please come and give your support and enjoy an evening of FUN!

For more information contact cincinnati@bhgh.org or 513.721.3380.

St. Ignatius Women's Retreat

We would like to extend a personal invitation to all of you to attend the St. Ignatius Women's Retreat. This year's retreat will be on January 20-22, 2017 (sign in 5pm Friday and depart noon Sunday) at the St. Anne Retreat Center, Melbourne, KY. The retreat director will be John Leyendecker, director of Cincinnati's Holy Family School of faith. John will lead us to a richer relationship with our Lord. The retreat cost is \$165 which covers meals and private single rooms. All checks need to be received by January 15.

For registration, please contact Louise Redden lred3@gmail.com or Carol Pieper cpieper61@gmail.com

Make your check payable to *St. Ignatius Women's Retreat* and mail your payment to:

Carol Pieper
5850 Sutters Mill Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45247

Your place will be held once your payment is received. More details will be emailed when we get closer to the weekend.



Here's to the blessing of the year,
Here's to the friends we hold so dear,
To Peace on earth both far and near.