

# THE LONE STAR MESSENGER



Newsletter of the Texas State Court  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
September 2009 Edition

## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE REGENT

My Dear CDA Sisters,

We have begun a new chapter in the Texas CDA history book as a new term takes off. I wonder where the next two years will take us! I know it will take us to Buffalo, New York, in 2010, for the National Convention and then home to Texas in 2011 for the State Convention in Houston. However, before we travel around, there is much work that lies ahead of us.

There are two new state chairmanships being introduced this term. Barbara Britton, from San Antonio, is the State Chairman for Campus Courts, and Barbara Molloy is the State Activities Chairman. She and Fran Ewart, her co-chairman, are both out of Austin.

National CDA has twelve campus courts. Six courts are in Texas. I would like to see the campus courts come together, have a "meet and greet" and a mini workshop/retreat all in one weekend in the future. The goal is for Barbara Britton to assist with this workshop and to help the District Deputies who have campus courts. These young ladies on campus are very active, and even though CDA is an awesome addition to their lives, it is also "one more thing." They need a gentle reminder at times to take a break and remember our Catholic faith and our wonderful sisterhood. So if you have a campus court in your district, ladies, include them and invite them to your functions and activities. Why not get to know these young ladies and maybe attend one of their functions and "go back to school" and see what they have to offer!

I am also excited about the chairmanship of State Activities. I know some of you "Couch Divas Always" are thinking, "oh no, physical activity, are you kidding me?" No, I am not. Barbara Molloy and Fran Ewart, have been appointed to help push you off of that couch and get motivated with new ideas and activities to involve everyone in your court, parish, and community! It is not only about getting physical, but also about bringing awareness of all health issues, especially women's health issues. We do so much for others that we forget to take care of ourselves. Ladies, take a step back, remember to breathe and take care of your spiritual, mental, and physical needs and to move forward so you can continue your great works for all!

Ladies, I am so excited and blest to be your State Regent! I look forward to working with you all over the next two years. In doing so, please remember to be considerate and charitable with your words to one another. Remember that when others offer to help and take on a project for the first time, let them, and do not be critical of their ideas. If you offer criticism, do so with an open heart, an open mind and offer it in a constructive manner. If you happen to be on the receiving end of the constructive criticism, listen with an open heart and mind, and be thankful that someone is paying attention to your work and cares enough to offer a hand. Remember, "That's the way we've always done it," is not constructive criticism for anyone. Do your research, offer a rationale for criticism, work together, and "Do Whatever He Tells You." John 2:5

 *Sheila Martinka*

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# Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court

## Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

## State Mission Statement

The members of the Texas State Court love Christ and His Church and are dedicated to leading others to Christ and to His service through the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

## Goals

- To continue to offer opportunities for spiritual growth for all Catholic women through The Catholic Daughters of the Americas through prayer services and retreats
- To introduce women's health issues and the importance to take care of ourselves and each other physically, mentally, and spiritually
- To assist/comfort our CDA sisters in their times of need, sickness, sorrow, and share in the laughter of their joy and happiness
- To encourage courts to seek out a variety of activities so that some will include family involvement and spark interest for ALL generations of Catholic Daughters
- To continue to increase in membership by retaining our current members and seek areas for new courts including the areas of campus courts
- To have the courage to recognize the leadership abilities in others and ourselves
- To work with our brother Knights of Columbus on a combined state project
- To initiate the process for a 3<sup>rd</sup> Habitat Build in Texas

## Activities

- Offer the services of our State Spiritual Enhancement Chairman, State Chaplain, and JCDA State Chaplain for multi-district retreats and/or spiritual talks
- Introduce a new state chairmanship—State Activities Chairman to help members coordinate events in their areas to promote health and family involvement
- Introduce a new state chairmanship—State Chairman for Campus Courts to assist those DDs with campus courts and encourage involvement and interaction with local CDA courts and the campus courts
- Continue to offer court incentives for increasing membership
- Continue to recognize those members with the St. Bernadine of Siena Award for Court Development
- Continue to provide support through our CDA Out Reach Program for courts who are struggling and to offer structure for newly instituted courts
- Provide leadership workshops to develop and encourage our future CDA leaders
- Begin a 3<sup>rd</sup> Habitat Build in Texas during this term
- Know that we are women of God and show our charity through our actions and our words as we are called to... *“Do Whatever He Tells You” John 2:5*

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Please keep us up to date regarding your address.

Courts or individuals may purchase a subscription to the newsletter for \$7 annually.

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## Message from the State Chaplain

The summer has been a busy one. A lot has happened and I am ready for things to calm down. I really missed being with many of you at the State Workshop held at Holy Name Retreat Center in Houston. My mother passed away and the funeral was the same weekend. I miss her but know that she is in good hands. God seemed to assure us of this considering the way she died. Every Wednesday a priest came to celebrate Mass at the nursing home where mother spent her last six months. My niece had breakfast with her and walked her to the chapel before leaving. Ladies from the local parish who assist with the Mass said she died during the sign of peace. They shared that she raised her hand as though offering a sign of peace to everyone, then bowed her head and died. Father stopped the Mass for a moment to give her a blessing. She would have been 92 in December and her mind was better than mine. The messages of condolence I received from Catholic Daughters in Texas and across the nation are greatly appreciated. Your love and prayers are gifts I will always cherish.

In July, newly elected CDA state officers from the U.S. and territorial courts, gathered at Our Lady of the Snows Retreat Center in Belleville, Illinois for the biennial State Officers Workshop. Here the goals and directives of the National officers and directors are shared with state officers. During this conference I am always reminded how situations vary from state to state. Texans are accustomed to “BIG;” and CDA is no exception. Our State Regent needs 55 (or so) deputies to assist her in governing the multitude of courts in Texas. Some states have so few courts that the State Regent can visit them without any district deputies. CDA in Texas is a well-oiled machine that is second in size only to the National Court. We have to be careful that we never let this “go to our heads.” Texas has the opportunity and, I think, a responsibility to be an example and guide for our sisters in smaller areas. With our state of the art computers and server and a totally electronic record keeping system, it can be frustrating to realize that some are still writing checks by hand and are strangers to Quick-books and “excel.”

Summer vacation is over and it’s time for local courts to gear up for another CDA year. I wish you much success as you work to promote the Kingdom of God here on earth. Through prayer and spiritual exercises stay in touch with the source of all success, God our father and His Son Jesus. May they guide not only your work but your personal journey as well.

You are always in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Father Don Ruppert*

Texas State Chaplain



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### Quarterly Prayer Intentions

The following are the prayer intentions for the new quarter. Please share them with your courts. The intentions can be remembered in many ways such as in the opening or closing prayer of your meetings, at corporate communions, by your prayer ministry, and hopefully by each individual member in her daily prayers. Jesus tells us in Matthew 21:22 “Whatever you ask for in prayer



with faith, you will receive.”

Let us place our trust in Him as we lift up the following intentions:

- That all women will generously open their hearts to God’s invitation to serve His people.
- That all the faithful will grow in respect for God’s gift of life.

## Message From Your National Director Duchess Collins



Summer is over and school is back in session. It is time once again to begin our meetings with a spiritual renewal, and intense enthusiasm as we look forward to new activities of each individual court. Even though most courts have taken a couple of months off during the summer, the work of the Catholic Daughters has continued.

Congratulations to the Texas State Court and to everyone who worked in the organization of the 2009 State Convention held in McAllen, Texas. It was a great convention and please accept my thanks to you for your warm hospitality.

Sheila Martinka, State Regent and the entire state board attended the State Officers' Conference in Belleville, Illinois. It was an awesome weekend of spirituality, sharing our love with one another, being creative, and having a great time together. Even though we were having fun, it was also a lot of work and a tremendous learning experience. Presentations were mixed with skits, hands on experiences and a lot of laughter. Everyone received the first draft of the revised Tools of the Trade Procedure Handbook, along with the latest updates and changes in all our programs and contests. They also had the opportunity to meet and interact with State Officers from other states. Congratulations to the many Texas winners of the 2009 National Education Contest and congratulations to the Texas State Court; the State Newsletter won first place in the 2009 National Newsletter Contest, Category II, Division I. Thanks to all of you for your participation.

It is time again to set a date with your district deputy to set up your court's Financial Review. This will cover the period of April 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009 and must be held in October, with your District Deputy present. The reports are due to the State and National offices by November 1, 2009. Please be sure to fill out the form completely and include, in the space provided, the number of members in your court.

As I read your State and local newsletters, I am amazed at the amount of time courts spend working in the various projects in order to help the needy, their church, and community. You are doing a fantastic job keep up the good work.

The Texas State Board is supported by a group of very dedicated women, women working for you, and they are women that uphold the highest standards of the Order. Support your officers or anyone that may be in a leadership position. You can help make their job an enjoyable one.

Let's not keep the Catholic Daughters "the biggest secret" in our church and community. Speak to all Catholic women, so that they may hear the word of Catholic Daughters and join our Order. This will give us the strength in numbers to accomplish all of our goals.

Til next time, keep our bishops, priests, deacons, women religious and all Catholic Daughters in your prayers.

God bless you and your families.

*"God does not ask your ability or your inability. He asks only your availability." Mary Kay Ash*

## **Court Development**

**Carolyn Malik, First Vice State Regent**  
State Court Development/Membership Chairman

I am excited about the opportunity to serve Texas Catholic Daughters of the Americas as First Vice State Regent in charge of Court Development/Membership for this term. We have many new leads for new courts and look forward to instituting many this term.

If you know of an area that has a Knights of Columbus council and no CDA court, please talk to the Knights about organizing a court in their parish. Remember, we are the Knights first Auxiliary. Ask to speak at their meeting and explain what CDA is all about. Please forward any information you may have to me at [cdacarol@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdacarol@sbcglobal.net) or AC361-594-3170 and leave a message. If you are in need of any recruitment materials for new courts and membership, please contact me as well.

The State Court of Texas will again sponsor a membership contest this term. Three prizes will be awarded in each of the four different categories, as we have done in the past. More detailed information will be forthcoming in the Regent's Resource packet which each local court regent will receive in September.

The State Officers recently attended the State Officers' Workshop in Bellville, Illinois. The National Chairperson in charge of membership used the theme of "God's Active Angels on Earth." This is truly a fitting theme as angels are what we all are as we journey on this earth. So, let us all work on gaining more "Angels" for our Lord and ask one person to join CDA. Use the theme "Wanted: CDA Angels for GOD" as you promote your membership drives during this term.

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## **Leadership**

**Peggy Rosales, Second Vice State Regent**

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer break! It's that time of year when we all come back to our CDA courts and roll up our sleeves and get back to work! While the local courts have taken time off – the State Board has been busy preparing and presenting at the State Organization Meeting in Houston in July for the District Deputies and State Chairman.

It's time for courts to review their Standing Rules. Have a court planning meeting for the upcoming year; prepare a budget or review the budget. It is also time to start getting with other members of your district and adjoining districts to plan a multi-district meeting/workshop. These should be fun and also a learning experience. The State Board has many presentations prepared. If there is something you would like presented at a multi-district meeting – let me know and we will make it happen!

As we get started on the upcoming year – before you know it – it will be time to get a nominating committee together and present a slate of leadership for local courts. Helene Shepard, National Director presented a wonderful presentation on Leadership at the State Officers Workshop in Belleville, Illinois, at Our Lady of the Snows National Shrine Retreat Center. I would like to share a few ideas with you as we get started on another year.



- Make members feel important
- Know and use members' name
- Be visible
- Have faith in your members
- Involve members in decisions and planning
- Humor

Leadership – encourage those around you to seek it! Leadership – give it away by delegating it!

*"Invention is the talent of youth as judgment is of age." Jonathan Swift*



## **With Pen in Hand...** **Eve Trevino, State Secretary**

Thank you, Catholic Daughters for your support and vote of confidence by electing me as Secretary for the State of Texas. I will do my best to serve you to the best of my ability. I look forward to working with all of you to make this a successful term.

Regents, listed below are just a few reminders that are helpful when sending in your checks to the state. Please share this information with your court officers, especially the financial secretary and treasurer. And remember to include your membership as well.

- All monies are sent to the *state secretary*.
- Checks are made payable to the *CDA State Court of Texas* and not to the State Secretary.
- Verify that there are *two (2) signatures* on your court checks before mailing. Your court check will be returned if it does not have two signatures.
- Make sure that your *Court number (#)* is on your Court checks.
- Specify in the *memo area* of the check as to what the check is for.
- ***State Dues for May are due.*** If your court has not sent them, please do so immediately. There is a late fee of \$5.00 if dues are not received 90 days from the date sent out.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 361-994-8553 or email me at [evetrevino@yahoo.com](mailto:evetrevino@yahoo.com)

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### **Dollars and Cents** **Minnie Rodgers, State Treasurer**

Thank you for the honor of serving you for the 2009-2011 term as State Treasurer. I am humbled and thank God for the opportunity given to me.

Early in this term, I have had the opportunity to travel to several anniversary celebrations. I am in awe as I travel around and see the many different church settings. I have come to appreciate the differences I have seen and the love demonstrated for CDA.

I thank all of you whom I have met for your gifts of welcome and prayers. We are definitely a group working for the Lord, and we strive to obey Mary when she says, "Do whatever He tells you." I look forward to working with all of you in CDA the next two years.

Please remember that the state treasurer does not receive any monies from your courts. All money (with the exception of the Memorial Mass Cards) goes to Eve Trevino, State Secretary, and then she sends it to me. Thanks and God Bless you all.

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## **MESSAGE FROM FIRST VICE STATE REGENT CAROLYN MALIK**

Soon the leaves will be falling from the trees and the weather will be changing. Hopefully, with this change, we will be the recipients of some much needed rainfall. Fall will again bring us to a new CDA year. I hope you have all had your planning meetings and ready to gear up for a new and exciting year. The State Officers, past state regents, state chairmen, and district deputies have begun their preparations by attending the bi-annual organizational workshop recently held in Houston, Texas. What an energizing and spiritual weekend had by all in attendance! District Deputies will be sharing with the local courts new information which they received from presentations and the State Chairmen.

*"Remember that the Christian life is one of action, not of speech and daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be done well."* St. Vincent Pallotti

## **Memorial Scholarship One Card at a Time Peggy Rosales, Chairman**



I would like to thank all who continue to support the Memorial Scholarship Fund for the State of Texas. The State Court was proud to award over \$28,000 in scholarships this past year. Student eligibility requirements and applications will be sent out

in the Regent's Packet in September 2009. To be eligible for a CDA State scholarship, a student must be a current high school senior, attend an accredited high school, be a JCDA member or related to a living CDA member in good standing and sponsored by a local court who actively participates in the Memorial Scholarship Fund. The essay question for the upcoming year is: "Do Whatever He Tells You" John 2:5 What do Mary's words mean, and how will they inspire you to live your life?

The state has quite a few new courts and some courts that do not contribute at all. I thought I would just describe for you how this works. A Memorial Scholarship Chairman in each court sells a Mass card with envelope to someone and they let this chairman know who the card is intended for or who is being enrolled for the masses. Once the chairman has

collected the money for a period of time; usually a month she takes the mass enrollment form with the names of the enrolled and the monies collected to the court Financial Secretary; she logs the monies in her cash book and writes a receipt for the chairman. The monies are then recounted and turned over to the court Treasurer; she issues a receipt to the Financial Secretary and then deposits the monies in the bank; holding on to the enrollment form. The court Treasurer writes a court check payable to "CDA State Court of Texas" for the amount collected and then sends the court check with 2 signatures and the enrollment form to me. If the cards are handed out to anyone and the intention is never made and no monies collected – the program is not working! If court checks do not have 2 signatures on them – they will be sent back; which may delay the enrollments for that month to be delayed.

Mass cards, envelopes and enrollment forms may be requested from me at the contact information available on the front of the State Newsletter. The enrollment forms are also on the state website at [www.texasda.org](http://www.texasda.org). The suggested donation is \$2.50 per enrollment; however, if you desire, the contribution may exceed this amount.

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## **COURT OUT REACH Carolyn Bachmann State Chairman**

I have accepted my newly appointed job and ready to go to work with any court experiencing problems within their courts due to internal court problems, lack of membership gain or retention, parish problems stemming from the parish priest, or programs to boost enthusiasm. The District Deputy and Court Officers need to be on the lookout for any of the above. If you are experiencing any of these, contact your District Deputy about the problem. She will try to resolve the problem and if she is unable to she will contact the State Regent. The State Regent and I will work together to come up with the best solution for the court. Ladies do not wait until the membership or court is in jeopardy of losing your members or the court to be disbanded. We want to keep your court healthy and active.

I am happy to continue to work with all of you these next two years and let us continue to serve others in Our Lord's name.

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*Calling all members---think creatively!! A change is coming  
to Texas—Texas Pins that is.  
Look for details in the next quarterly issue.*



## State Financial Review Chairman

Janis Wright

Hi, ladies. I hope you enjoyed your summer break. I recently attended the state organizational workshop for district deputies and state chairmen. During one of the sessions the **Texas State Charitable Report form** was discussed. This form was created by the state board to help track donations made for state and national charities and projects. It is for informational purposes only. This form may be sent in by the **court treasurer** with any check sent to the **state secretary** for state projects and national projects and charities. This helps the state secretary determine how to code the payment in the state books. The main time this form should be completed and turned in to the state secretary is at the semi-annual financial review. The form reflects the amounts given to state and national for their projects and charities for the six months of the review period. The completed form is mailed to the **state secretary (not to national)**.

Just a quick reminder: District Deputies and Court Regents need to set the date for their October financial review.

Have a great year and I hope to see you soon. I'll keep you in my prayers and ask you to keep me in yours.

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## State Public Relations Chairman

Terrie Vacek

936-856-9899 [terriecda@cebridge.net](mailto:terriecda@cebridge.net)



What an awesome summer I've had. The JCDA Convention and special time with family and friends made for a perfect summer of joy and adventure. I could fill an entire newsletter with the majestic view of the Grand Canyon, brilliant sunsets and how my grandchildren experienced each day. I missed spending quality time with my CDA sisters at the Organizational Workshop. I understand that many newcomers have said "Yes" to the call of service and this is very exciting.

I pray that just one woman with Godly willingness will share monthly meeting news and events on the local level by saying "yes" to serving as Public Relations chairmen for their court. Regents, keep asking until the position is filled and then provide them with all the tools the State Board makes available.

Writing an article about an upcoming meeting or event, and/or to creating a post event article, is an opportunity and a privilege. Public exposure promotes CDA and our unified National & State missions, stimulates interest and often increases membership. Your goal is to stimulate the attitude; "That's wonderful"... "I can do that" or "I want to be a part of what they're doing".

A detailed outline on how to write a press release or a feature story has been provided to all local regents and district deputies in the Fall Regent's packet. Information may also be obtained on the website.

Simply remember that a press release should be: **Concise - Well-written - Factual - Honest - Timely**. Just write your story and leave the rest to God! Where the willingness is great, difficulties cannot root! May you have a fruitful year.

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## State Scrapbook Chairman

Lisa Jewell

[tors-mom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tors-mom@sbcglobal.net)

I am Lisa Jewell, newly appointed Scrapbook Chairman. I will be making the State Regent's scrapbook over the next 2 years. In doing Sheila's book, I will be collecting pictures along with some explanations/descriptions of the events that will be happening during her term. I ask that you email or mail me any pictures that you would like to have included in her scrapbook. My contact information is: Lisa Jewell, 1018 Cragmore Dr., Seabrook, TX 77586 or email at [tors-mom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tors-mom@sbcglobal.net).



I am also asking that you make sure your local scrapbook chair has started scrap booking events from your own court beginning with the State Convention in April 2009. Look for more information about the how, when, what, etc. of local scrapbooks in your Regent's package that will be mailed in September.



## **Missions Of Mercy (MOMS)** **Cathy Bittner, Chairmen**

Do you remember when your parents would take you to the local department store so you could pick out your own school supplies? Do you recall how excited you were? How about your court helping kids experience the same thing? Each year about 225 kids need school supplies in Cameron Park, our mission near Brownsville. Many of you already support Alicia's efforts. Please continue to do so. If you haven't in the past & would like to start, now's the time! Send Alicia gift cards to area stores so that her kids can "pick out" their favorite color binder or that glittery pencil. Address your donations to:

**Cameron Colonia**  
**Attn: Alicia Ybarra**  
**2215 Rancho Viejo**  
**Brownsville, TX 78526**

She is also in need of after school snacks! Think about this, 225 kids that have been in a classroom all day. Now you have to help them get their homework done! When sending a monetary donation please put "after school tutorial" notation in the memo area of the check. Alicia will appreciate anything your court can contribute. Cameron Colonia is one of our six Missions of Mercy (MOMs) Projects. The others include:

*Casa Juan Diego—Houston*  
*Annunciation Home—Georgetown*  
*Missionaries of Charity—Dallas*  
*Clinica de Guadalupe—El Paso*  
*Texas Covenant House—Houston*

Each MOMs project will be highlighted throughout the term in the different newsletters. If you need any information on any of the MOMs projects please contact me.

On a lighter note: in past years, this article was written by Lil Hansen of El Campo. Well, Lil & I have switched positions. She is now the co-chairman of MOMS & I am the chairman. Please support TEXAS MOMS!

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### **The Navigator**

**Teresa Maltbia, State Website Chairperson**  
**webadmin@texascda.org**

Questions, Questions...Who has the answer? Maybe YOU! That's right! You may be able to answer one of the questions posted on our new Discussion Forum! This will be a fully monitored forum. Meaning, I will be watching and monitoring all posts. I have missed having a place to bounce off ideas with other CDA members from around the State. I hope this will fill a void National left when the message board was removed. Think of this as a place to chat, post ideas, welcome new members, gather ideas, share news ~ good and bad, and share in the vast knowledge each of us has about this Sisterhood we call Catholic Daughters. Post your questions, post your answers EACH of us has something to share!



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*Strong storms cannot destroy a life that is rooted in GOD.*

## National Projects Texas State Court

Ginger Shea, Chairman

Hello CDA Sisters. Summer time is passing quickly and we are now entering fall, a most delightful and beautiful time of the year. Congratulations to our new State Regent, Sheila Martinka. I was delighted when Sheila asked me to continue being the Chairman for the National Projects. This position is such an important one and one that is close to my heart.

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."--1 Peter 4:10.*

And, it is that time for each court to re-think their contributions to our listed charities; so ladies, I will be expecting all of our courts to make me as proud this term as you have the last two years. Even though the state of the economy is not in the best of times, people still need our help. Like all good stewards of Jesus, let's dig just a little deeper into our budgets and make sure some extra children do not go to bed hungry tonight, that they may have the medical care they need, and that they know someone ~ somewhere loves them.

*"Charity looks at the need not at the cause." ~ German Proverb*

We as Catholic Daughters are so blessed; we have so many talents and gifts, and we are giving and changing lives. To the courts that are not contributing to our charities, maybe now is the time to add that one charity to your list of your court's charities. To the courts that contribute to the National and State sponsored charities, *thank you*, ~ perhaps you may prayerfully add one more charity this year. Please mail a cover sheet listing your desired charities and your court's one check for National and/or State Charities to Eve Trevino, State Secretary, 1102 Delta, Corpus Christi, TX 78412. If you need a new list of the National and State Charities, notify me, and I will send you a copy immediately. Remember CDA Sisters ~

*"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." ~ Albert Schweitzer*

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### Read Across America Anne Martin, State Chairman

Thank you, Worthy Regent, for allowing me to continue to chair this worthwhile activity. Plans are already underway for the upcoming Read Across America celebration on March 2, 2010. It is time for all courts to put on their "thinking caps" and choose a way to celebrate and promote literacy. Funny thing is, most courts do sponsor activities in this area, but haven't reported their efforts!! Ladies, let us hear what your local court is doing. The reporting form will be streamlined and included with the Circle of Love reporting forms, so hopefully more courts can be recognized for the good things they are already doing. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there are any questions, or if I can help in any way.

So, in words that the Cat in the Hat himself might say: "C'mon everyone, it's time now to play!!"

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### State Chairman, Spiritual Enhancement Olga Samaniego

Welcome to a brand new CDA year! I am extremely honored to be asked to serve again as the Texas State Spiritual Enhancement Chairman. Having the opportunity to worship and pray with so many of you last term was such a blessing—a truly awesome experience, and I look forward to being with you again. If you are interested in retreats during Advent or Lent, please schedule them soon, as those dates fill up fast. I can be reached at 915-593-6653 or [olgasamaniego@hotmail.com](mailto:olgasamaniego@hotmail.com).



As we begin this new term, I am thrilled by the theme chosen by our State Regent, Sheila Martinka: "Do whatever He tells you." With these words the Blessed Mother taught the servants at the wedding feast, just as she still teaches, that we are called to obedience and to action. We have a wonderful opportunity in CDA to use all our talent and creativity to answer God's call! I look forward to this term and to seeing all the wonderful things that we will accomplish as we listen to God and work together. May God's peace and joy be with you all.

**State Legislative Report**  
**Peggy Supak, State Chairman [fayetteatty@hotmail.com](mailto:fayetteatty@hotmail.com)**

We have begun the 2009-2011 term with a bang. At the CDA State Organizational workshop in Houston, I had 43 District Deputies that agreed to serve as contacts for Legislative information and alerts. I thank all of you. These District Deputies, however, need the help of local court Regents and Legislative Chairman.

I ask all local court Regents to appoint a Legislative Chairman in your court, to help with disseminating legislative information and alerts in a timely manner. Each court should have a telephone tree in place to do just that. When legislative alerts come down, action is necessary within days. That is why we need a system to get the information out to members as quickly as possible. A system to disseminate information should be in place as follows:

*National Chairman -- State Chairman -- District Deputies (or representative) -- Regents and/or local chairman -- members*

This system will provide members with the information in the quickest manner with appropriate requests for action. Names of local court legislative chairman along with her contact information should be sent to me so that I can keep in touch with her.

We are focusing attention on the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) and Health Care Reform package. Intense negotiations have been taking place and will continue after the August recess in order to produce health care reform bills in the House and the Senate. It is important that we follow these pieces of legislation in the upcoming days. To find if your representative serves on this committee so that you might contact him or her when necessary go to: [nchla.org/datasource/ldocuments/Hous.enrg.commrc.comm.pdf](http://nchla.org/datasource/ldocuments/Hous.enrg.commrc.comm.pdf). We must continue to ask our Representatives and Senators to support amendments that exclude abortion mandates, prevent federal funding of abortion, uphold state laws that regulate abortion, and protect the conscience rights of health care providers.” REMEMBER THIS CONTACT MUST COME AS A CONSTITUENT OF THE HOUSE MEMBER AND NOT AS A CATHOLIC DAUGHTER OF THE AMERICAS MEMBER!

Websites to continue to follow information include the National Council of Catholic Bishops website and the Texas Catholic Conference website. For additional information I may be contacted in any of the following manners below.

Peggy Supak, CDA State Legislative Chairman, Texas State Court, P. O. Box 518, La Grange, Texas, 78945; (979) 968-6115 home; (979) 968-8402 office; [fayetteatty@hotmail.com](mailto:fayetteatty@hotmail.com)

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**State Activities Chairman**

**Barbara Molloy, Chairman**  
**[bmolloy1@austin.rr.com](mailto:bmolloy1@austin.rr.com)**

**Fran Ewart, Vice Chairman**  
**[franewart@earthlink.net](mailto:franewart@earthlink.net)**

I am very excited to be chairman of this new and exciting committee. The goal of the committee is to promote health and fitness for CDA members and their families through education and activities.

At the Organizational Workshop in Houston, each District Deputy received a "suggestion" list to get our Courts started on the road to better health and fitness. One court has already decided to challenge the Knights to a "Biggest Loser" contest. What can your court do?

Court 1149, Corpus Christi challenged Court 2422, Odem to a bowling match. There was a \$10.00 entry fee with all monies going to a state project – winner’s choice. The winner, by a 10th of a point, was Court 1149. Way to go ladies! Health and Fitness Awareness for:

September—Cholesterol Screening Month—Check out Your Numbers!

October—Breast Cancer Awareness Month—Go Pink!

November—The Great American Smoke Out—Breathe Easier—Go Smoke Free!

Please send in your court’s activities and share how your court is getting in shape!

## **Quality of Life**

### **Gerry Jones, Chairman**

Quality of Life is a very broad category for the Circle of Love. At the National Convention in 2008, our National Chairman for Quality of Life asked us to expand our work under Quality of Life even more to include protection of our earth, examining the effects of life style on heart disease and obesity, and guarding against personal identity theft. Our State Regent asks that we especially look at our lifestyle and heart disease; and, with the recession this past year, the personal financial aspect of our lives is under a microscope.

I have been with CDA for almost 12 years, and it will be interesting to be “on the other side of the aisle” as the State Quality of Life Chairman. I look forward to working with our State Regent and all members during the next two years.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for their prayers following the death of my sister in June. I stayed most of the summer to help my brother-in-law and nephews get things sorted, and of course for the emotional support. Your prayers helped us get through this difficult time. God bless you.

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## **Campus Court Program**

### **Barbara Britton, State Chairman**

My name is Barbara Britton. I am from San Antonio, Texas. When the new State Regent, Sheila Martinka, asked me to chair the Campus Court program, I was thrilled to no end. This program is very dear to my heart, even though it is fairly new to Catholic Daughters. After working with the young ladies at UIW and St. Mary’s University for the past few years, I feel very honored to be a part of this CDA activity.

These young women are the future of this organization. We need their new ideas and energy. It is so rewarding to work with them. I have been thinking about the new State motto Sheila has chosen. “Do Whatever He Tells You.” John 2:5. That says so much. Mary is telling the disciples to do whatever Jesus tells them to do. Isn’t that what we are doing? Mary, our patroness, is telling us to do the same thing. I have been put in this place, the same as any of you to do His work.

At this time there are twelve (12) Campus Courts throughout the States and Texas boasts six (6). They are

- Baylor University, Waco--St. Clare of Assisi #2559
- University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio--Daughters of the Incarnate Word #2583
- University of St. Thomas, Houston--St. Macrina #2587
- University of Texas, Austin--Daughters of St. Catherine of Alexandria #2590
- St. Mary’s University, San Antonio--Belles of St. Mary’s #2615
- Stephen F. Austin, Nacogdoches, Daughters of St. Agnes # 2622

It was great meeting the DD's of the Campus Courts at the Organizational meeting in Houston. I'm looking forward to this new endeavor.



## **Regent’s Resource Packet**

REMINDER: The new Regent’s Resource Packet will be arriving in late September. Make sure your current binder is up to date. The new packet will contain national, state, and local court listings of names and addresses. Newly appointed Chairpersons information will also be included.



Message

Service

Community



Youth/JCDA Reports  
Terri Beltran, State CDA Youth/JCDA Chairman

Hello! ~ Hola! To all you beautiful ladies. Here is hoping your summer has been a fruitful one. It was very good to see many of you at the State JCDA Convention in Houston. By now elections are out of the way and new officers have been installed. So here's a friendly reminder to please send me your list of new officers including the chairman information. You can send the information via e-mail or please mail in a hard copy.

With school starting soon, it means the beginning of sports and extracurricular activities. This is a golden opportunity to rope our youth in the spiritual aspect of our Circle of Love. Look around and see what your parish offers for the youth and get them involved! Many parishes offer ACTS retreats, Echoes and Stepping Stones for the middle school and the high school students; but they tend to leave out the elementary ages. This is where the JCDA can benefit your parish. There is a wonderful program for the girls ages 6-10. Think about this and give me a call, the State JCDA officers would love to come to your parish for an informational meeting. They have been on the road and will be busy for the next few weeks. So keep us in your prayers as we travel around this great state of Texas.



**Dates to remember:**

August 23, 2009 – Institution of Court #2390, Bishop Enrique San Pedro, San Benito, TX, Janie Corona DD  
August 29, 2009 – Institution of Court #2134 Immaculate Mary, Angleton, TX, Jean Marie Pempek, DD  
October 2009 – Financial Reviews  
June 2010 - Spiritual Retreat at Father John's Farm in Weimer.

- In a few months, we will be holding our fall financial review. The forms may be downloaded from the website or by calling me.
- *Congratulations: Reinstitution: Court #2497, Mary Queen of Peace from Floresville, July 12, 2009*  
Thank you, DD Lydia Martinez, for all your hard work and dedication to JCDA!!
- *JCDA cups are in, place your orders Navy Blue w/JCDA emblem \$2.00 ea*

Terri Beltran,  
State JCDA Chairman  
Phone: (979)543-7(067 Mon-Fri 8-4  
fax: (979)543-7557  
Cell (979-578-3647  
Email: tabeltran@ecisd.org







# STATE NEWS

State Officers Workshop  
2009 National Awards Winners  
Bellville, IL

In July, the state officers attended the State Officers Workshop in Belleville, IL at Our Lady of the Snows National Shrine. It was like a mini convention seeing some familiar faces and meeting new ones and exchanging ideas. The National Board and Directors did an awesome job presenting their information and ideas to share with all of you.

The National Shrine offers a beautiful and peaceful environment for learning and reflection. We were able to review the first draft of the updated version of the Tools of the Trade and offer input. Our National Regent's goal is to have it ready by the National Convention. Until then, we will continue with our current version of Tools of the Trade that you have in your possession as there will be no more sold until the revision is available.

It was a great workshop full of learning, motivation and fun. In addition to bringing home information to share with all of you, Texas also brought home some awards! Congratulations to all of the winners!

Computer Art Division III	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Sahil Parikh	Ct St. Ann #369, Victoria
Music Division III	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Alejandro Guillen	Ct Oblates of Mary Immaculate #1978, Roma
Music Division IV	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Eveline Nachtegaele	Ct Immaculate Mary #2134, Angleton

### Newsletters—Local Courts

Category II, Division I	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Court St. Helen, #2330, Pearland
Category II, Division II	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Court St. Rose, #1597, Schulenburg
Category III, Division I	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Court Holy Rosary, #1476, Rosenberg
Category III, Division II	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Court Sacred Heart, #829, West

And Congratulations to Carolyn Bachmann, Immediate Past State Regent and Teresa Maltbia, State Newsletter Editor for their hard work on the Texas State Newsletter as Texas brought home FIRST PLACE in our Category and Division!! Great job ladies!!

## **As a Catholic Daughter, does your light shine?**

***“You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before everyone that they may see your good works, and glorify your Creator which is in Heaven.”***

***Matthew 5:14, 16***



Court Daughters of the Immaculate Conception #2581, Denton  
Missy Childers, Regent  
308 Cottonwood Trail  
Shady Shores, TX 76208  
940-368-6480

Court of the Cross, #2374  
Donna Rea, Regent  
5611 Timbers Trail Dr.  
Humble, TX 77346

Court Archbishop Drossaerts, # 1813,  
San Antonio  
Marie A Quesnot, Regent  
4183 Freestone  
San Antonio, Texas 78222  
(210) 337-6738

Court Prince of the Apostles, #1787  
Larissa Britton, Regent  
15422 River Bend  
San Antonio, Texas 78247  
210-830-7141  
larissa.britton@gmail.com

## Sheila Martinka, State Regent

I am sure the last thing anyone is thinking about now is another convention. No, I'm not talking about the National Convention in Buffalo, NY, in 2010; although it is not too early to be thinking of it if you are interested in going.

I am talking about the State Convention in 2011 that is coming to Houston! So why are we talking about the state convention so soon? I thought it would be a good idea to share with everyone the making of a convention from the ground floor up. So each quarter there will be an update about the Houston convention in 2011 from me or our CDA State Convention Chairman, Carol Snowbarger.

At the convention in McAllen, the invitation was made to all to come to Houston in 2011. Bids were also made for the 2013 convention. Right now, it looks like we may be going to San Antonio in 2013. Why so early? Well, for the large numbers we have in Texas in CDA, it is important that we secure a hotel large enough to hold all of us if possible for rooms and meeting space. The earlier we start, the better chance we have of getting all of us in one place and hopefully with a large enough meeting space. If we are unable to get a hotel with large enough meeting spaces (about 1200 to be safe), then we have to look at a convention center. This can be added costs to everyone in the form of increasing the registration fees. We are fortunate that in Texas, we have members and courts willing to step forward early enough to help us plan ahead so we can begin the search early. There are times, however, that fees may have to be raised, but only to keep up with the ever changing economy.

At the present time, the hotels have been narrowed down to two and we continue to review who has what to offer at what prices. The location of the hotel will not be posted until a contract is signed. Just remember that sometimes to do what is best, we may have to give a little to get a little; but we don't want to give it all away. Your State Convention Chairman is working hard on getting her committees together, so if you get a phone call from Carol Snowbarger, please consider saying yes in helping out and if you are interested in helping out with the 2011 convention, give her a call. Check the next issue for updates on the 2011 State Convention

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## State Regent's Challenge!

Starting in September I challenge all members to do something for others and themselves--for every mile that you walk, run, bike, hike, kayak, swim--set aside an amount/mile each time you take part in any type of activity and on December 15th, count up the miles and the monies saved. Give half to a favorite charity and treat yourself with the other half to a massage, manicure, movie, dinner, whatever you like. I want to hear your stories by the end of December and maybe some will make it to print in the newsletter!

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### Happy Anniversary!

*Salve Regina #2611, Denton - 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary – September 4, 2009*

*Archbishop Drosserts 1813, San Antonio - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary- September 4, 2009*

*Our Lady of Faith #2607, Frydek - 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary – September 5, 2009*

*Court Corpus Christi #246, Corpus Christi—95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary September 20, 2009*

*Court Maria Galante #115, Austin--100th Anniversary November 7, 2009*

*Court St. Genevieve #917, Falls City, November 8, 2009*





# NATIONAL NEWS

## National Legislative Chair—Changing of the Guard

- Helen Johnson has retired after nine years of serving as the National Legislative Chairman. Thank you for all of your hard work. Texas wishes you well in your retirement.
- The new National Legislative Chairman is Margaret Sitte. She is a member of Court Immaculate Conception #322, Bismarck, ND. Welcome Margaret, to your new post and thanks for keeping us informed.

National CDA Sunday will be observed on Sunday, October 18, 2009. The theme for this year is “For in Him, we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28)

Make a Difference Day - The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Make a Difference Day is Saturday, October 24, 2009. Take the day and get involved with the youth/JCDA in your area and make a difference.

Pornography Awareness week begins Sunday, October 25, 2009 through November 1, 2009. Even though this week is set aside for awareness, we should continue this campaign all year long.

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## *Do You Just Belong?*

*Are you an active member  
The kind that you would be missed?  
Or are you just contented  
That your name is on the list?*

*Do you attend the meetings and  
Mingle with the crowd?  
Or do you just stay at home  
and crab both long and loud?*

*Do you take an active part  
To help our group be strong?  
Or are you satisfied to be the kind  
To only “just belong”?*

*Do you ever go visit a member who is sick, or do  
you leave the work to just a few  
And talk about the “CLIQUEES”?*

*There is quite a program scheduled that means  
success if done, and it can be accomplished with  
the help of everyone.*

*So attend the meeting regularly and help with  
hand and heart. Don't be just a member but take  
an active part!*

*Think this over CDA SISTER  
Is this right or is this wrong?  
Are you an active member  
Or DO YOU JUST BELONG?”*

**Reprinted from: Court St. Theresa of Lisieux #2211 Sugar Land Newsletter**

# *Texas Catholic Daughters in Action*

## **Ave Maria #2001**

Celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 17<sup>th</sup>

## **Our Lady Queen of Apostles #2391**

Member Barbara Gittinger received the Lumen Gentium Award from Bishop Gregory Aymond.

Held a Priest Appreciation Dinner

Held a Father's Day Bake Sale

## **Our Lady of St. Hyacinth #2361**

Is preparing for their Annual Craft Show on November 14th (Something you DON'T want to miss!)

## **Mary, Mother of God #2084**

Assisted with the First Communion Receptions after the Sunday Mass in June

Held a Religious Article sale

Will sponsor the Country Store Booth at the St. Katharine Drexel Bazaar in October.

## **Immaculate Mary #2134**

Welcomed their new JCDA Court

## **St. Laurence #2402**

Volunteer for the Impact a Hero 5K

## **St. Bernadette #1108**

Presented each First Communion Recipient a small book of saints and a book mark.

Donated two boxes of girls' clothes and ten boxes of other clothes and items to the Crisis Center.



## **Mother of Unity #2292**

Held a Heart Healthy Brunch in June. Presentation by Madelene

Ottosen, RN, MSN on heart disease, strokes, risk factors and the recognition of heart and stroke emergencies and symptoms women may experience. Also provided blood pressure screenings.

## **2211 St. Theresa of Lisieux # 2211**

Held their yearly Garage Sale in July/August

Continue to sponsor a nursing home bingo

## **Mother of the Americas #2506**

Is working on increasing their membership by inviting the Knights of Columbus Council 4101 to encourage their wives to join CDA.

## **Immaculate Heart of Mary # 1884**

Caught the interest of 10 ladies at a Ministry Fair.

Hold regular bingo at the Woodlands Manor Nursing Home

## **Christ the King #1750**

Helped a Seminarian by purchasing tires for his vehicle so he could get to his summer job.

## Texas State Calendar 2009



August 8, 2009	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Our Lady of the Fields #2465, Eagle Lake
August 15, 2009	JCDA State Commission Meeting, Hallettsville
August 23, 2009	JCDA Installation of Court Bishop Enrique San Pedro #2390
August 29, 2010	JCDA Installation of Court Immaculate Mary #2134
Sept. 20, 2009	95 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Corpus Christi #246, Corpus Christi
Oct. 2-4, 2009	State Board Meeting, Seguin
Oct. 18, 2009	National CDA Day
Nov. 1, 2009	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Madonna #1817, Dallas
Nov. 7, 2009	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Maria Galante #115, Austin
Nov. 8, 2009	85 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Genevieve #917, Falls City
Jan. 15-17, 2010	State Board Meeting & Interim Financial Review, Port Alto
January 23, 2010	Multi District Meeting (21, 22, 31 & 50) Mercedes or Donna, TX
January 24, 2010	40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Court Father Juan Zavala #2012
February 2010	75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Joan of Arc, Del Rio
February 27, 2010	Multi District Mtg. (16, 36, 41, 47, & 48), Corpus Christi
February 28, 2010	Multi District Mtg. (23, 43, 57), San Diego, TX
March 13, 2010	Multi District Mtg. (11, 28, & 37), La Grange

### Court Maria Galante #115 ~ Mother Court of Texas ~ 100 years

It all started in Utica, New York, in the spring of 1903. The local council of the Knights of Columbus felt the need for a women's auxiliary and inaugurated the first such organization.

At that time, one of the most popular books across the land was a biography of Christopher Columbus written in the mid 1800's by Washington Irving. Thus it was that the ladies of the Utica auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus incorporated themselves in the State of New York as "The Daughters of Isabella" a tribute to the queen and a fitting compliment to the Knights of Columbus.

The organization grew with incredible speed. The Daughters of Isabella met in Austin, Texas on October 17, 1909 for the purpose of organizing and electing officers. On December 19, 1909, **Maria Galante** was chosen as a suitable name for the Court, it being the name of one of the ships in Christopher Columbus' fleet. In 1921 the name changed to the Catholic Daughters of America because of a controversy with a group from Connecticut that insisted it was the first to adopt the name. In 1978, we became known as "Catholic Daughters of the Americas."

**Court Maria Galante #115** is the mother court of Texas and celebrates its 97 year history of service to the community. Funds have been raised throughout the years holding bake sales, rummage sales, art and crafts shows, taco dinner/breakfast. The funds were then donated to various service organizations, e.g., Faith Home (AIDS babies), Habitat for Humanity, Hospice of Austin, Marywood, Meals on Wheels, Safe Place, Salvation Army, Diocese Respect Life/Project Rachel and the Foundation for the Homeless. Our court, along with other organizations, help bake and deliver cupcakes to the Austin State Hospital. The Hospital holds a campus-wide birthday party for their residents who are celebrating a birthday for that month. In December, our court receives a wish list from the ladies' dorm of 791 River Road at the Austin State School. Members of our court purchase and donate the items and celebrate with the clients by holding a Christmas party to hand out the gifts. We also hold a poetry/art contest for scholarships and award 3-\$500.00 Catholic Education scholarships per year. Our tradition continues—we meet every fourth Monday at Bishop Hall at St. Mary's Cathedral. St Mary's Cathedral is our home, but our membership comes from every Catholic church in Austin.

*An Anniversary Celebration will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak, Austin, Texas. RSVP required with \$30.00 Fee for Luncheon by October 1, 2009. 5:30 p.m. Corporate Communion Mass (optional) at St. Mary's Cathedral following celebration.*