

FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE

A Gathering of Friends Old and New

First Lady By: Mary Jane Grauso



It was a welcome pleasure to see all of the ladies that attended the Leadership seminar a few weeks ago. It has been a long time since we have been able to gather together and enjoy each other's company in person. It was a renewal of old friendships and the forging of new ones.

I hope that the directory that was distributed to all attendees provides the wives of the DD's and GK's a source of info for contacts within their districts should you have any questions or would like to share ideas for fundraisers etc. or just get together to chat. Traditionally, the District Deputy usually has a meeting with all the prospective incoming GK's and their wives as a means of a "meet and greet" to welcome all the councils in their district and provide any guidance that the councils may request. The DD is a resource that should be utilized by each council. Also remember to look for the blue dot on any incoming mail, that means there is something in there for the ladies.

The directory was also a means of introducing you to my damsels, Phyllis Giacalone, Heather Gruel, Yolanda Hassan, Mary Messina, and Nu Le [who wasn't able to be there with us this time due to family obligations]. Their bios were to give you a brief background as to who they are and how to contact them should you have any questions. We also included info on each State Officer's wife and Immediate Past State Deputy wife with photos so you could match the name with a face. They are all available to each of you should you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to contact anyone of us should you have any questions. We are all here to help you be a successful supporter of your husband and council.

For the most part we followed the normal tradition of the Leadership seminar. Although at the time that plans were being made COVID restrictions were still in play and consequently some of the traditions that we normally would have participated in [i.e. Saturday mass followed by dinner] could not occur due to the limitations of participants allowed in the church and how many would be allowed to partake for dinner.

Fortunately, things literally opened up at the last minute and we were able to enjoy the Friday night BBQ at the hall and grounds surrounding the Star of the Sea Church. Many thanks to both Karen and Tom Reumont and their fabulous team for doing such a great job!! And for Tom Gruel bringing the "Beast" to cook Mr. Pig so we could enjoy some tasty pulled pork sandwiches and BBQ chicken with all the fix in's. I think everyone had a very enjoyable time the weather cooperated beautifully with light breezes and sunshine allowing many to mingle outside.

As our husbands were learning about their new roles in the Knights on Saturday, we ladies were treated to a Cross Catholic presentation by Tessie O'Dea regarding **Boxes of Joy** and the impact that they make on the children that receive them. They truly bring joy to their lives. The presentation was followed by a box lunch and an ice breaker where we got to meet many new people that we otherwise wouldn't have met. We had a fun time being entertained by Mary Ann Jung who performed "Julia Child Queen of Cuisine". Mary Ann did a fantastic job portraying Julia with humor and provided many unknown facts about her life.

Also playing Family Feud with the DD wives along with the State Officer wives was fun and made possible by my Ladies Activity Team. Congrats to the winning team each member received a handsome trophy with bragging rights a small memento to remember the weekend.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my Ladies Activity Team for all of their hard work in preparation for the Leadership seminar to whom I am very grateful and thankful for a fabulous job in making things run smoothly, making sure everyone was having fun and for a very successful time at Solomon's.

It was a pleasure to meet all of you and hopefully we can continue to meet in person as time goes on this fraternal year. We are members of a very large extended family helping each other and being a "servant leader" to all others outside this fraternal family.

As the 4th of July nears, many of you will be having BBQ's and picnics stay safe and enjoy your family and friends' company cherish this time since it's been a very long time since we were able to get together and enjoy each other's company.

God Bless, my prays and thoughts are with all of you.

Mary Jane