

Merry Christmas!!!

Our club's Christmas party on December 3rd was simply amazing and fun! I had the pleasure of assisting our Special Events Coordinators, Terri Lyn Alexander and Peggy McGinness in the planning process and execution of the room theme decor. The table displays were very cute with the gingerbread man theme and well thought out. They were sold to attendees after the meeting. With the help of other members such as Nina Caron, Karen Juten and Donna Mayfield helping the morning of, the December fundraiser was a success! You ladies are so generous in blessing the 3 pregnancy centers and children receiving the tables full of toys! I'd like to recognize a few other members who I'm grateful for. They are always behind the scenes working to make the rest of us shine...Carol McDonald, Carol Fogel and Mary Smothers! These ladies work in many capacities without hesitation. I am extremely grateful for you and ALL you do!!! In addition, I'd like to thank Nina Caron for taking the lead and stepping in as 1st VP in 2022. I'm also very appreciative of Janice Price, our 2nd VP of membership. She's navigated through the changes with the Per Capita Reports made by CFRW and took responsibility for the accuracy of our membership. Currently, Janice is mentoring Kim Durham and Amy Scherschligt to make the position and workload easier to manage. Thankfully, Janice happily agreed to be our Opportunity Drawing Coordinator. We will be able to continue to end our monthly meetings on a fun note! I'm thrilled to share that our Treasurer, Shelly Waggoner has agreed to continue to keep our books on point! Shelly is very meticulous when it comes to accounting, and we are blessed by her talent!

I'd also like to express gratitude to some of our wonderful Affiliates (our husbands) who helped make the Christmas event more fun. Kudos to Ron Alexander who always comes and helps set things up and break things down and was our announcer...briefly! I would like to recognize Sheriff John McGinness for being our raffle MC, doing his best Pat Sajak (truthfully, he is a lot funnier than Pat!) and my wonderful husband, Michael Gomez for filling in for Vanna White and assisting John, along with building the gingerbread house, acquiring and bringing the real sleigh for members to use, to take photos in.

My Mom once told me that she walked into a room where a couple of friends were discussing her, they didn't know she was there. She shook her head, smiled, and walked away.

My Mom also told me that she had a friend who talked bad about her, she never knew that Mom found out, Mom never mentioned it. She smiled and walked away from this friendship.

She told me she had family who chose to shift her out of their life because she stood up for herself for a change. And because she stopped crossing oceans for them when they would not even help her cross a bridge. She smiled, shook her head, and walked away.

So, I asked her how she could just walk away from people that betrayed her while pretending to be her friends or family?

She answered that every time she came to a crossroad like that, she had to decide who would be going forward on her journey with her. This showed her who she cannot take along with her.

So, she explained to me that you should never get mad at a person who betrays you, even in the name of friendship or family. Just gracefully bow out and enjoy your journey with all the new people God puts in their place.

While I didn't write the above, I thought I'd share it to send a message of hope to those who are struggling with what's happening in our own Federation.

In the coming year, we as a collective body will need to decide whether we want to stay where our money is unwisely spent, voices aren't heard, and protocol isn't followed or gracefully bow out...

Here's a little Christmas trivia for you! (If you've attended a meeting this year, you know trivia is my jam!) ***This Christmas gift held a lifesaving secret!*** During World War II, The United States Playing Card Company joined forces with American and British intelligence agencies to create a very special deck of cards. They distributed them as Christmas gifts, but they also helped Allied prisoners of war escape from German POW camps. When wet, individual cards peeled apart to reveal maps of escape routes. Sometimes truth really is stranger than fiction.

If you've been thinking of someone who you haven't spoken to in a while or even years, I want to encourage you to pick up the phone and reach out to them. It may be the perfect gift they've been needing.

May peace and joy be with you and your family this holiday season and you have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2023!

With sugar & spice!
Tabitha