

May 14, 2024

Dear CDA Member,

"It was a stormy night!" Yes, and it was May 13, the evening of our CDA meeting. Long story short - we were unable to complete the business for our meeting. The storm was upon us, and we all had to go home! We were able to quickly complete our biannual election of officers. The new officers are:

Regent - Paula Foret

Vice-Regent - Elaine Barras

Recording Secretary - Denise Mestayer

Financial Secretary - Carol Whipp

Treasurer - Susan Robinson

There is some important business that wasn't completed. We needed to vote to approve the reimbursement of Jeri Mestayer for the prayer cards for Mother's Day. The amount is \$275.81 that she paid to the Rosary House. She also needs reimbursement for the Little Jesus figurines that were given out in Lent at church. The total order of 800 figures was \$275.15. Since these were not budgeted items your vote is necessary. I don't want to hold back money owed to Jeri until August. Within our budget we had budgeted \$500 for the convention (no one will be attending) and \$100 to Help the Helpers (no longer exists). These funds will not be spent, so we have that money available. Please text your vote to me with a 'thumbs up or thumbs down' after you read this letter. Those who don't text, just call me. Thanks.

Denise Mestayer collected sweets for the Steubenville Shrimp Boil fundraiser. She said all the young people were very grateful for our contributions. They made \$800 on the sweets sale. Peggy Tauzin reported that 1,020 tickets were sold, and they collected \$9,000 in donations. The kids are so excited and thankful for all donations. There is enough money for all the youth and chaperones to attend with money left for activities before and after Steubenville.

The Spring Financial Audit was completed by our District Deputy, Annette Fontenot on April 29. Thank you to our officers, and especially to Mrs. Pat, Denise Girouard, and Suzette Menard for their help.

Thank you for all members who helped distribute prayer cards on Mother's Day at all the masses. Mothers attending masses were grateful. We bought 400 cards and have 87 cards left for next year. Thank you, Jeri, for purchasing such beautiful cards at the Rosary House.

Priest's Appreciation Day is Sunday, June 2. We plan to give the retired priests and a nun living at Consolata \$25 Each, \$50 to Fr. Savoie and \$25 to Fr. Anselm. We will attend the mass at Consolata on Thursday, June 6 to visit each priest and our gift. We should meet at 10:00. Mass is at 10:30. Please try to attend.

The Prayer Breakfast is tentatively planned for Saturday, July 20. I met with Fr. Savoie. He said he feels that our parishioners need encouragement and that a speaker who could share their own struggle and how they overcame adversity would give others hope. He thought of a young woman who shared her personal story at the ACTS retreat. He contacted her and is waiting for her to pray and decide. We will also invite the Steubenville youth to share their experiences as well. I need a chairman to coordinate the event: secure the speaker/speakers, get food donations, set up the building, advertise the event at least one month in advance, and prepare flyers to be given in church. Denise Mestayer and I have some notes from last year. I'm sure Fr. Savoie will be a speaker as well once we have a theme.

Our CDA Kid, Beau Martin, is still at St. Jude's receiving chemo treatments. He has a rare cancer that is stage IV - deficient high-grade malignant neoplasm with unknown primary metastatic to bilateral cervical lymph nodes. His doctor deals with rare tumors, but Beau lacks a tumor suppressor gene that will not allow the tumor to spread. Wow, please pray for his healing. Beau has two younger brothers and one younger sister. They are living with his grandmother, Jody Girouard, in New Iberia as their home in St. Martinville has black mold. His parents are with him at St. Jude's for his treatments. Beau's father shattered his elbow in a work accident and cannot work. Beau enjoys cooking, drawing, painting and playing Nintendo Switch. Surely, there is more we can do for Beau and his family. Suggestions are welcome. We could collect some drawing and painting supplies for him at least. Perhaps if you have toys that might be enjoyed by Beau's brothers (age 5 and 7) and sister (age 1). We did give the family our \$100 donation that was in the budget for our CDA Kid. His application for Diocese CDA Kid has been sent. If you have anything to donate you can bring it to the CDA room.

We received a heart-felt thank you note from the Guilbeau family for our donation to the Ataxia Research Alliance. She said her son Sean has been on a new medicine, recently approved, since August of 2023. He is showing a slow progression, but his speech patterns, fine motor skills, and balance have improved.

I look forward to working with our new officers. A schedule of trainings will be sent to each of you. I know our past officers will help in giving you important information for your office.

My granddaughter, Emma, has invited Jim and I to join her family on a trip to Italy! Wow! We leave May 22-29. I will pray for my CDA sisters in one of the beautiful churches.

Hope to see you all at Consolata on June 6.

Blessings,

Paula

