Dear CDA sisters,

This season of Lent preceding into the joyful season of Easter is a time for us, as CDA sisters, to remember that Lent is a time for greater love. Mother Teresa was a wonderful role model for us. She told us to listen to Jesus.

How do we do that? First by repenting for our indifferences to daily happenings around us and the “hardness of our hearts.” Jesus loves us either way; our role is to love Him because He loves us unconditionally.

I recently read a wonderful article on the “Six Words of Pope John Paul II on Mary at the Cross.” The three Mary events that the author focused on were the Annunciation, the Wedding Feast at Cana, and Jesus’ Crucifixion. The author continues to tell us that Mary plays an important role in these events. First, she is the Immaculate Virgin and Mother of God, and second, these events help define her actions in the life of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

These are the words that St. John Paul II focused on: “obedient at the moment of the Annunciation and at the foot of the cross”; “her yes was our fiat”; “full of grace”; “the Immaculate Heart of Mary is spiritually united with the heart of her son”; “all disciples since the time of Christ take Mary into our hearts and our homes — she was the 1st disciple”; and finally “Woman, behold your Son”. Take time during Lent to meditate on these words, it will be good for our soul.

So, now on to business matters. The 51st Biennial TX State CDA Convention is just around the corner. The Convention Committee has spent countless hours preparing for this and we are seeing the fruits of our labors. The Convention Committee promises us a memorable event in McAllen, TX. The Texas CDA website texascda.org has the packet on the home page for convention in case you have misplaced yours. Please call me or any officer or the convention chairmen if you have any questions. Please make sure that your courts are represented because you are the “voices” of CDA. Even if only one comes, you can then rest assured that your voice was heard.

The business meetings offer great opportunity for you to see how Parliamentary Law works and the workshops will offer leadership opportunities for you to share.

Please continue to be examples of faith to your families and to your CDA sisters. Lead by example, specifically Mary’s example, the Patroness of our Order.

I wish you a very blessed and joyful Easter as you celebrate the Risen Lord.

“Be Not Afraid!”

St. John Paul the Great
I do not believe many people would seriously dispute that the world’s climate is changing. We are witnessing the melting of the ice sheets in the Arctic and Antarctic at a more rapid pace because of the rise in temperature. Hurricanes seem to be more destructive and floods and droughts in various places around the planet are taking their toll on plant and animal species not to mention the human cost. This prompted our Holy Father, Pope Francis, to issue an encyclical on this subject entitled Laudato Si.

In this encyclical, the Holy Father reminds us that God is the creator of all things including us. “God looked at everything he had made, and he found it good.” (Gen. 1:31) God then gave humankind dominion over the earth. (see Gen. 1:28)

The Pope reminds us that this “dominion” that the scriptures mention is not to be understood as an “unbridled exploitation of nature.” (LS 67) God created all things in harmony. But because of sin, “the harmony between the Creator, humanity and creation as a whole was disrupted by our presuming to take the place of God and by refusing to acknowledge our creaturely limitations.” (LS 66)

Through the Paschal Mystery, our Savior Jesus Christ has made us new creations. He has restored the relationship between the Creator, humanity and creation. As disciples, we have a responsibility to use the things of this world wisely.

God has called us to oversee and care for creation and be in solidarity with our neighbor. To be in solidarity with all people reminds us that we should strive to overcome the temptation to materialism and consumerism. The developed countries of the west use an inordinate amount of the world’s resources to the detriment of so many in third world countries.

Every person God has created should have access to clean air and water. All should have sufficient food, clothing and adequate housing. Perhaps we should all make an examination of conscience. Have we taken seriously the call to be in solidarity with one another? Have we given in to the temptation to use more of the goods of the world than we really need and not considered the needs of our neighbor?

Let us consider some things we might implement in our daily lives to help us be more aware of the needs of our neighbor.

First, we might consider recycling. Many cities already offer this service aiding us to recycle plastic, aluminum, glass and paper. If your city does not, perhaps we should consider challenging city government to get on board.

Secondly, have we evaluated our transportation patterns. Yes, I know we all really like our cars and the independence they afford us. However, might we consider driving less or car-pooling? When was the last time we used public transportation? The development of more and better public transportation is another area that we should encourage our law-makers to pursue.

These are just a few musings about our place in this beautiful creation. I am sure you can think of many more ways we can express our oneness with each other and the created environment that God calls us to oversee.

I hope this reflection will spur you to read Laudato Si and take to heart this encyclical of Pope Francis calling us to right relationship with God, our brothers and sisters and all creation.

Father Greg
State Chaplain
Unity and Charity

“I plead with you—never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”

Pope John Paul II: In My Own Words
My Dear Sisters in Christ,

As I read the newsletters and invitations that you send me, I so wish that I could be present for everything that is going on throughout our great state! I am continually amazed by all that you are undertaking, and I am so proud to be associated with Texas CDA! You are listening to God together, and you are doing what He asks you to do. You are involved in everything from building houses to providing food so that no one in any house goes hungry. You are performing the Corporal Works of Mercy every day, and I am so impressed with all you do.

If I can give you any advice at all, it is to make sure you stay “attached to the vine.” When you are working so hard, it is easy to become fatigued and disheartened—especially if you are working on your own strength. Rely on God. Allow Him to renew and refresh you. More importantly, allow Him to lead you. Sometimes we get burnt out because we are trying to do what we are not being called to do. I chose, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening,” (1 Samuel 3:9) as the theme for this term because listening is vital to fulfilling God’s plan for our courts and for ourselves as individuals. Spend time with Him; ask for His guidance. He will light your path and provide you with all you need to do His will.

I look forward to seeing you at the Texas convention in McAllen. There is much to learn and much to do. Please make every effort to see that your court is represented. I am expecting to have a wonderful time seeing old friends, making new ones, and working together for the good of Texas CDA. God’s peace and joy be with you!

Olga Samaniego, National Regent
Howdy, Catholic Daughters of Texas:

I am looking forward to attending the Texas State CDA Convention in May in McAllen. I particularly look forward to the opening mass in the beautiful Basilica of San Juan, a favorite place to visit and participate in the Holy Eucharist.

Your state officers have been spending countless hours to make this an exciting time for you, the officers and membership. So, you need to avail yourself of this great opportunity to participate in the programs which are planned. This is a time to become energized and enthusiastic about the programs and goals of Texas CDA and share with your fellow CDA members from across the state.

Convention is a time to renew old friendships and make new friends from across the state. Take advantage of this opportunity to share your projects and programs with others and learn how others participate in the national program of the Circle of Love. Make notes and take these new ideas back to your local courts to implement. Best wishes for a very spirit filled and productive convention.

Keep up the good works for Our Lord and His Mother.

Carolyn Malik
National Director
Texas
Ladies, my time as Court Development and Membership Chairman is coming to an end. Four (4) courts were instituted during this term with approximately 100 new members. However, we disbanded five (5) courts and lost that many or more in membership.

We talked about goals and the activities to reach those goals this term. As you can see, not all goals are achieved no matter what activities you complete. But one thing I want you to understand – we never give up, we never give in, we continue to strive for those goals.

Although this term did not see a bumper crop of new courts or an outstanding increase in membership numbers, what we did achieve was exposure. Twenty plus priest packets were mailed out, six or more District Deputies and Organizers were willing, and lots of ladies heard our message.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas is not a secret any more. Our name is out there. Our program is clear. We have so much to offer. We just wait for God’s time. It will come. Maybe not this term, but soon those CDA seeds that were planted will blossom and bloom.

Don’t stop now. Now is the time to make an appointment with that priest to discuss CDA with him again. Now is the time to give pulpit talks at your own parish. Now is the time to push, because catholic women need CDA now more than ever.

CDA is an organization that stands up for unborn babies, for our aging parents, for young women in need, for the immigrants and the homeless. Spread the word, ladies, Catholic Daughters of the Americas is the premier organization for catholic women.

State Membership Contest:
- Dates April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2019
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place in 4 categories with money incentives
- No form to fill out except sending in your New Member Applications on time

National Membership Contest:
- Dates August 1, 2018 to June 1, 2020
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place in 3 categories with money incentives
- No form to fill out except sending in your New Member Applications on time

Thank you all for the invitations, gifts, and words of encouragement over the past two years. It has been a pleasure meeting you and getting to know more of you. Please remember: Membership is not one person’s job – it’s all of our responsibility- ask and keep asking ladies to join us!

View Membership Video: https://youtu.be/vun_WTY534s

Psalm 118:24

“Thank you all for the invitations, gifts, and words of encouragement over the past two years. It has been a pleasure meeting you and getting to know more of you. Please remember: Membership is not one person’s job – it’s all of our responsibility- ask and keep asking ladies to join us!”

“Ask Me About CDA”

“This is the day the Lord had made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.”

Psalm 118:24
Greetings and blessings to all my CDA sisters.

I am truly humbled and honored to be part of our great organization. The previous few months have been anything but smooth. Yet, through all the turmoil our God continues to bless each of us with his mercy and love.

The contributions to the MSF State Project keep rolling in. The fund has accumulated $38,268.50 as of February 2019. The goal of $50,000.00 is in reach. All money collected by March 25th will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who:

1) Sponsored by a court with at least $50.00 in contributions;
2) Met deadline of January 31st;
3) Are related to a CDA member and/or be a JCDA member;
4) After judging of applications, have a rank which falls in the range of scholarship money to be awarded.

I received 162 scholarship applications and all have been sent to the judges. Every essay was read by me and I was overwhelmed by the responses from our teenagers. Not only are they experiencing very stressful times, but they continue to have faith and believe God will not abandon them.

One applicant said, “As I continue to face challenges and temptations in my life, I am reminded daily that my life is truly a gift from our Creator, and I will cherish it each and every day and give all the glory to Him.”

Another one has a very special prayer they call “the Joy Pledge.” The pledge says, “I need joy. And when I keep my eyes on Jesus, I have joy. When I lose it, I will choose it. I choose Joy!”

Many applicants quoted scripture from various books in the Bible. As I read over the essays, I had joy in knowing that these teenagers had God centered in their lives and were trying to choose life over death, good over evil, and keep love in their hearts. One student expressed this thought as follows:

“In 2nd Corinthians 4:17, it is stated that “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” Everyone goes through struggles. What matters is not how big or how small they are, but how we get through them. Do we rely on God? Do we trust in His plan? Do we choose grace? Our society needs to be one of love and life, not hate and darkness. The change begins with us.”

Thank you to all the courts participating in the MSF State Project. Your donations are helping support our teenagers choose life over death and joy over sorrow. I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming State Convention in McAllen. Thank you also for the invitations to your events, fundraisers, and meetings. I cherish all the moments God allows me to join you.

May you be blessed with God’s peace.

{In Christ We Live}
The State Convention in McAllen will be here before you know. As the State Treasurer I have many reports to complete prior to the convention which give you information on how the State Court uses funds that are donated by the local courts.

Court Treasurers, when writing checks, please take care to do the following:

⇒ Process National/State dues and any assessments when the invoice is received. A vote to pay is not required.

⇒ Make sure that any invoice and expense reimbursement paid are within the court budget, in the standing rules, or a motion to pay has been made and adopted.

⇒ Checks are payable to CDA Texas State Court.

⇒ Checks written for donations to State/National charities and projects should be made payable to CDA Texas State Court. One check can be written for all donations. Please attach a copy of the Texas CDA Charitable Report Form to indicate how the court funds have been allocated.

⇒ Each court check must have two signatures. When attending your court meetings, always have a copy of the court budget, standing rules and by-laws. These will help you during your court meetings if questions arise.

Special Message from Mary Jane:

My dear sisters, I will not be able to go forward to the next step for state officers, the State Secretary. I will be becoming a full-time caregiver for my mother who is 92 and in failing health. It has been a true privilege to serve as your State Treasurer. I will try to stay an active member of my local court – Court of the Holy Family #2597 in Houston, TX. I ask that you pray for my mom – she has been a true inspiration in my life and I am happy that I will be able to take care of her. She has definitely taken care of me.

“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be always in my mouth.” Psalm 34:2

Mary Jane Albert

Mary Jane Albert, State Treasurer

281-381-0309 maryjalbert@sbcglobal.net

Texas State Court Calendar
2017 - 2019

April 7, 2019 Court Annunciation #1962 53rd Anniversary, La Grange
April 12-13, 2019 State Board Meeting & State Financial Review, Seguin
April 26, 2019 McAllen Pregnancy Center Gala, 10th Anniversary, McAllen
April 26, 2019 Coalition for Life Gala, Houston
April 26-27, 2019 Knights of Columbus State Convention, Corpus Christi
May 2-5, 2019 CDA State Convention, McAllen
June 28-30, 2019 JCDA State Convention, Sugar Land
July 13, 2019 Court St. Ann #369 100th Anniversary, Victoria
August 24, 2019 Court Our Lady of the Assumption #1364, Slaton
“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.”

**CDA Texas State Court Goals 2017-2019**

- Live in Unity & Charity through daily actions.
- Promote spiritual growth within the family unit.
- Promote Respect Life CDA projects, especially in the areas of life and death.
- Develop new courts at all levels (CDA, Campus Courts, and JCDA) and continue increasing membership within the local courts.
  - Build a Habitat for Humanity home.
  - Be courageous women of faith.

**Approach to Success**

- Plan and/or participate in two (2) Respect Life activities per year.
- Plan and/or participate in Multi-District Meetings once per term.
- Research & study one saint per year and offer a day of reflection or a retreat on the life of that saint.
- Participate in adoration at local parish as a group during the year.
- Plan activities with the Knights of Columbus that promote family activities or Respect Life activities.
  - Demonstrate Patriotism.
    - Promote leadership within the court by planning activities in the Circle of Love components.
- Plan and provide at least one (1) educational program for the benefit of the CDA membership.
- Plan a Memorial Service for the deceased members of the court every year.
- Utilize media sources and website to promote local CDA in the area.
Greetings and blessings to all my CDA sisters.

Leaders don’t just happen by accident. “They are built with good communication, shared experiences, positive interactions, common challenges, and stories that make deeper connections with others” says Jon Gordon.

We should ask ourselves:

1) Am I communicating effectively?
2) Do I encourage good communication?
3) Am I consistent?

We all know what we mean when communicating. The question becomes: Is the other person understanding what we mean? Are they actively listening or starring at you with a “deer in the headlights” look? If your answer is the latter, reconsider how you are communicating.

Good communication is important to keep everyone on the same page, knowing where and what is expected, and to achieve your goals for your court. We all need to encourage good communication to avoid being disappointed, not knowing what to do, and not getting anything accomplished. If your court seems to be “chasing its tail,” take a few moments to look at how the communication is within the court.

We also need consistency. How frustrated we become when we are told one thing and then turn around and told something different. Be consistent in your goals, how you solve conflicts, and how expectations are handled.

Above all, be honest and loving when you communicate with others. Most conflicts are from misunderstandings from not communicating. We get our feelings hurt because we assume and don’t bother to get the facts. If we are honest and loving, most misunderstandings won’t happen, our activities will have more participation, and goals can be met easier.

Remember, it’s not about whose idea is better or has attended what or even who has served the longest. We are about building the kingdom of God on earth by living a life reflecting Jesus’s love. We are about serving in Unity and Charity.

Leaders don’t just happen by accident. We grow them within our courts by being servants of God and working together with good communication.

LEARN + EDUCATE + APPRECIATE + DEVELOP = LEAD

Thank you for having responded to God’s call and be blessed with God’s peace.

{In Christ We Live}
Spring is in the air and it is time for all of us to let that child inside of us motivate us to engage with our youth. What a great time to do so.

It is the time of year wherein we can support our youth in so many ways as they continue growing in their faith through the Sacrament of Penance, in making their First Communion and by being confirmed. Take action to support and congratulate the youth as they take part in these sacraments.

There are things we can do, such as something as simple as a prayer for them or a small gift or a bigger gesture such as sponsoring a reception, to show the youth the support of your court. With lent beginning, it is a great time to lead by example. Inviting the youth to pray with you, attend Stations of the Cross services and seek their participation and to interact with them to help them understand the many sacrifices Jesus made for us are only a few ways to interact with them.

Be creative in what you choose to do to move them to action to grow deeper in their faith. Also do not forget the high school seniors in your court and their upcoming graduations. As they begin to plan their next chapter in life, we must encourage them not to leave their faith at home but to take it with them. Graduate projects to encourage female graduating seniors to join the local court, to look into a campus court or to join a CDA court in the town where they may be attending college is a great way to help them have a new family, at home or away from home.

The JCDA convention will be held June 28-30, 2019 in Sugar Land, Texas. This year the theme is:

“The Lord is My Maker and My Guide.”

We invite all interested to look into attending. Also there is no better way to support our youth than to conduct a fundraiser for and/or make a donation to help with the convention so that we can keep costs lower so that more court members can attend. If you would like to information about the convention, would like to help or to make a donation contact Sheila or Peggy and they will contact you in that regard.

HAPPY SPRING!!

For more information on how to start a JCDA court, about an existing JCDA court, the forms or other youth activity contact the Youth Co-Chairmen:

Sheila Martinka
307 Spur Drive
Victoria TX 78904
smartinka@earthlink.net
713-805-7094

Peggy Supak
P. O. Box 518
La Grange, TX 78945

“Our future is NOW – Tomorrow’s harvest will reap today’s plantings.”
Quoted in Tools of the Trade
Blessings Sisters in Christ,

Our Lenten journey began March 6 with Ash Wednesday. May the Holy Spirit encourage us to increase our prayer life through Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and attending mass on Sundays and during the week. May we continue to focus on God during Lent while giving of ourselves for those in need during our Lenten journey, therefore expressing our motto of unity and charity.

This season of spring, in some parts of Texas, we see warm weather, gardens in bloom, birds singing, and the quest of bees pollinating.

Similarly in our lives with family, helping them grow spiritually, physically, and in health. Let us remember the importance of family communication, prayer, attending mass with our children, and grandchildren who observe our daily deeds. This memory they’ll remember into their adult lives, which will impact their lives as caring, unselfish, obedient children of God. If they live in a different state or hours away, send them pictures of yourself at Pro-life marches, working at food banks, visiting nursing homes, or visiting the sick in hospitals, packing backpacks for needy children, etc.

This Lenten season with our family, let us ask God to fix deep sentiments in our hearts of faith, hope, and charity. And true contrition for our sins, to help us be holy children of God.

Live in love, be yourself, be happy, and live in God forever.

I wish you and your families a blessed and loving Easter.

YSIC

On January 9, 2019 the 86th legislative session began. During the 140 day session, which ends May 27, 2019, the Texas House and Senate, will consider in excess of 6,000 bills. The filing process began back in November 2018.

Below are listed some of the bills being introduced and considered during this session.

- Prohibited acts regarding abortion for a physician or applicant for a medical license;
- Training employees of school districts & open-enrollment charter schools on the prevention of sexual abuse, sex trafficking & other maltreatment of certain children;
- Relating to the posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms;
- Registration as an organ donor at the time of motor vehicle registration;
- Ending Wrongful birth lawsuits;
- Defund Abortion providers; and
- Fund Life-Affirming choices.

TRIVIA —

On January 25, 2019, the Lone Star Flag turned 180 years old. It was officially approved on January 25, 1839. The first Texas flag was a solid medium blue with a single gold star in the center and it lasted only 3 years. With that being said, we should continue to say the Texas Pledge as well as the Pledge of Alliance at each meeting.

Winners in the COL Legislation Reports will be announced at the 2019 TX CDA State Convention in McAllen, TX.
Greetings from the southernmost tip of Texas—the Rio Grande Valley. So my two-year appointment as Spiritual Enhancement Chair is almost over. I have been richly blessed to have met so many of you. Additionally I have had the unexpected surprise of receiving invitations to present to other Marian organizations.

In presenting to them, I have found that they differ in name only. Their willingness to evangelize and serve others is obvious and they have and love the same Mother we do!

Several of these groups were “Guadalupano” groups dedicated to Our Lady - Maria Virgen de Guadalupe. In many parishes, Catholic Daughters do double duty by belonging to more than one Marian organization.

Other organizations included the Corpus Christi Diocesan Council of Catholic Women and “Maria, Rosa Mistica” (dedicated to our Blessed Mother under the title “Mystical Rose”).

I was even privileged to conduct a two-night Lenten Mission for St. James the Greater - Court #2705 in Bishop, Texas. That was by far the most inspiring experience and I was treated like visiting royalty, thanks to Veronica and Nolan Smith.

And in February 2019 I presented to a third organization called “Damas Catolicas”. “Damas Catolicas” is not the Spanish equivalent of Catholic Daughters as I mistakenly thought. Its history reflects the cultural norms of the time which served to remind me of some painful experiences growing up in South Texas in the 60’s.

“Damas Catolicas” was the alternative organization for women of Mexican descent in an era of segregation. Its beginnings stem back to the 1920’s in Mexico when the Catholic Church was persecuted by the Mexican government and many priests were executed for refusing to stop celebrating Mass.

But we have come a long way towards living our Motto of Unity and Charity. I thank God and I thank our worthy State Regent Rosie Stockwell for this great experience in serving the daughters of the King of Kings and the Queen of All Hearts!

I invite you to attend our State CDA Convention on May 2-5 of this year. Come and have a “Fun Night in Old Mexico” and let us celebrate our Unity and Charity.

By now you all will have turned in your forms for the Quality of Life spoke and are anticipating the outcome. It is so wonderful to read the reports that are sent in, which are so heartwarming and funny sometimes. The giving that you do towards your parish and community is such an inspiration to me. With that being said, I would like to refer to Luke 6:38, which speaks to our giving.

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

We can give of time, treasures and money which can help many people, but if we do this just to get back the same or more in return, it is not a good reason to be giving. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, gave the ultimate sacrifice to save us, because of Love. So, let us be loving (giving) to one another in everything we do without any motive of receiving, but because in doing so it shows our love to our heavenly Father. This is the reason for the season of Easter which is coming upon us. May you all have a blessed Easter and never forget the giving you do today might be the giving someone does for you tomorrow. God bless you all and everything you do.
POINTS ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

The 2019 Texas State Convention is fast approaching. Delegates and/or alternates – your local court has elected you to attend this convention and bring back useful information to the membership as well as voting on their behalf on any submitted resolutions. Knowing proper parliamentary procedures will assist you with making motions and voting procedures.

Delegates, in your convention bag, you will receive a motion form. Prepare this form in advance for any motions you plan to present at the proper time and hand to the Page so the business meeting will not be delayed. She in turn will give to the convention parliamentarian who will hand over to the chair. All motions may be amended in three basic processes:

1) To insert or add a word/words OR a paragraph;
2) To strike out a word/words OR a paragraph;
3) To strike out and insert which applies to words OR To substitute which means to strike out an entire paragraph and insert another in its place.

The subsidiary motion to Amend may be applied to a main motion making it the primary amendment. It may also be applied to itself resulting in a secondary amendment (or amendment to an amendment). But this is the end of the road.

The motion to Amend cannot be applied to a secondary amendment. And remember, the delegates will vote on each amendment individually and then the main motion which was amended (if amended) will be voted on.

This was a quick short course in Parliamentary Procedure 101. More to come at the convention workshop during lunch on Friday.

EWTN Highlights
5817 Old Leeds Rd.    Irondale, AL  35210

“In his Infinite Goodness, the Eternal Father has granted you the grace and opportunity to imitate his Divine Son in bringing back the stray sheep and in serving them in every spiritual need, by direction, teaching, retreats, radio, television and the printed word” – Letter from Mother Angelica to the Friars, 1991

Our primary apostolate as Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word is to communicate the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith through word and example. In the current day, that means we are deeply immersed in using the media—from TV and radio to the Internet so as to call back the lost and strengthen the weak in faith.

The Lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back.”  Ezekiel 34:16

EWTN provides generously for the spiritual and sacramental needs of the Eternal World Television Network, the Poor Clare nuns, and the Christian Faithful.

We provide generously for the spiritual and sacramental needs of the Eternal World Television Network, the Poor Clare nuns, and the Christian Faithful.
The 2019 State Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officers for the 2019-2021 term.

Melodie Brunt, State Regent
Rebecca Brown, First Vice State Regent
Theresa Beltran, Second Vice State Regent
State Secretary, Vacant
State Treasurer, Vacant

The offices of State Secretary and State Treasurer are vacant. Please pray about the possibility of running for these positions.

We know that Mary, Our Patroness and her son, Jesus will light the way for us. Will it be you?

Nominees from the floor must submit to the State Regent prior to the convening of the first meeting of the Convention, a statement of eligibility, a statement of endorsement by the Local Court of the candidate signed by a majority of the Local Officers, and a written consent to serve signed by the candidate.

Rosie Stockwell, State Regent
956-369-3048
rosiestockwell@gmail.com
Now that we are back into the swing of things, I would like to remind the District Deputies to ask the Regents of the courts in your district to appoint a Ceremonial Coordinator so we can get back to having the beautiful ceremonies of our Order.

Ceremonies emphasize the purpose of meetings, the duties of officers and the significance of recognition to individuals. Ceremonies can be used to challenge and inspire all the members to reach greater heights in personal growth in CDA.

**When Should a Ceremony Be Used?** There is no defined time or place for a ceremony. Different times and locations help to make the recognition more special to all involved.

**How Do You Plan a Ceremony?** Remember that its purpose is to get and hold attention.

**Theme:** You can begin with a concept or idea which the ceremony is built. Let the members of your court brainstorm together to come up with a theme.

**Message:** What would you like the members to learn or do as a result of participating in the ceremony? Take care not to lose the special message of the ceremony.

**Characters of the Ceremony:** Those who have speaking parts should rehearse their parts so they can deliver them in normal tones with expression. Frequent pauses and slow reading can be very effective.

**Impressive Effects:** Use of music, lighting of candles, objects on a table and many other easy gestures can be a real asset to any ceremony. Use your imagination and you will find unique ways to set the proper mood.

**Ending:** The ending is just as important as the beginning. When the ending begins, it should be obvious that the special moment is complete.

For ceremonial ideas, take advantage of the “Ceremonial” section in the Tools of the Trade.

Enjoy planning your ceremonies as they are a beautiful addition to any event and always keep it simple, impressive and interesting.

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**Mary is the Patroness of our Order**

**The Memorare**

Remember Oh most gracious Virgen Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence I fly unto you O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful, and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.
Respect Life
Mary Rose Barta   361-594-2781   mrbarta@flash.net

Two-Fold Mission: 1) Respect Life from Womb to Tomb; 2) Respect all of God’s Creations

Spring 40 Days for Life – March 6 – April 14, 2019

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God’s power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigils to end abortion. The 40 Day campaign is mostly active in the spring and fall, though some local campaigns continue it throughout the year. It began in 2004 in Bryan, Texas and has since spread to over 20 nations worldwide and includes over 350 cities. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day prayer campaign for the purpose of repentance and to seek God’s favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to legalized abortion.

Many of the prayer vigils take place outside Planned Parenthood facilities, such as one of the largest such facilities in Houston. This is only one facility where abortions take place. Do your research and search if there is an abortion facility near you. Join with your court, your church, or as individuals in groups of two, three or more, and spend time in silent prayer at the facility. There are numerous examples where an abortion facility has closed following prayerful, peaceful vigils.

One can sign up on the 40 Days for Life website to receive suggested daily intentions to focus your prayer on. These specific prayer requests will seek God’s help for:

❖ Women who are at risk of having an abortion
❖ Innocent children who are at risk of perishing
❖ Men and women who carry the pain of a past abortion experience
❖ Workers at Planned Parenthood facilities and abortion centers
❖ Local, region, and national leaders
❖ Revival and renewal in our churches
❖ Repentance and healing throughout our nation.

While many people who take part in the 40 Days for Life prayer campaign do it outside an abortion facility, there are many who cannot physically take part in these prayer vigils. In that case, we need to remember that we can and should pray everywhere and anywhere for an end to abortion and other pro-life intentions. During each campaign, as people of faith, we are called to fall on our knees before the Lord, ask Him to hear our pleas, and heal our land. Pray at Church. Pray at work. Pray in the car. Pray at home. Pray unceasingly!

Reminder: The “big blue bus” is a mobile pregnancy center located in Houston and monitored by Houston Coalition for Life. It is a State CDA project and your donations can help save lives. Has your court made a donation to the “big blue bus” project?
By now you’re thinking “Hooray! All the Circle of Love reports are completed! No more paperwork!” Well, maybe..... Did you remember to submit your report for Read Across America?

Even though this is not a contest, this event is one way that Catholic Daughters shine by promoting literacy in all age groups throughout our great state. Notice, I did not limit this to “reading to children”. I applaud those courts who do sponsor such activities, and encourage you to continue and report them. I am also reminding courts who participate in various other activities to report those as well. Here are some examples from previous years: purchasing books/Bibles for “sacrament” students; magazine subscriptions for nursing homes/military hospitals; book drives for areas affected by disasters; and of course, cash donations.

Some of you are probably thinking about the event you have planned for March 2019. Yes, you can report it in this cycle. The certificates awarded list participation, and I use the current year as the date. Many (about 50) of you are wondering about last year’s certificates—mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. I had a variety of personal issues come up. I still have the reports, and will get those certificates out before convention.

Whether your members are young or old, timid or bold, Read Across America is for you. Be a good sport, fill out that report With your traditions, or something new. Young members can read to their children, the elder can to the “grands”. Whatever you do, my hat’s off to you For sharing reading across this great land.

Have you done it yet? Has your court done it yet? Has your district done it yet? What the heck are you talking about!!!!!! What have we done yet!!!!!
"Find your own Calcutta" of course! Everyone needs to do it! You personally, your court, your district, your church, your community, everyone needs to join together & "find your own Calcutta".

When we all work together, many lives can be changed, many hearts can overflow with joy, many of the less fortunate can be a little more at peace. Get out there & get it done!!!!!!

If you are planning on attending the State Convention have nothing better to do during lunchtime Saturday, grab a bite & come join Benji & I for our "Find your own Calcutta" workshop.

Those that have attended workshops we've been involved with in the past know that they are informative but lots of fun. You never know what's "up".

We want you all to share your "Calcutta" experiences with your sisters. See you there!

Thank you from all of us, keep up the good works!

MOM Projects theme for the 2 year term is:
“Find Your Own Calcutta”

Important Items to Remember Spring 2019

- Local Court Financial Reviews are Mandatory
- Order Bylaws from the National Office Amended July 2018
- National & State Dues are due upon receipt
- Please submit deletions and/or corrections to the State Secretary and to the National Office
Local Court Scrapbook Contest
Georgia Mikosh  361-552-6844  georgia43@cableone.net

Local Court Scrapbook Report
Scrap bookers – the time is drawing near! The Convention is only a few month away. We have had several questions from our members and I would like to pass this on. First of all, the date of the scrapbook is from April 1, 2017, through April 30, 2019.

During the Convention, scrapbooks will be accepted from 12:00 noon on Thursday, May 2, 2019, until about 5:00 p.m., closing for the opening mass. After mass, we will be accepting books again until 9:30 p.m.

On Friday morning, May 3, 2019, we will be accepting books from 7:00 through 12:00 noon. From noon on Friday until 5:00 p.m. the room will be closed for judging. All scrapbooks need for be picked up on Saturday by 2:00 p.m.

Christ showed us His endless love by giving His life to wash away our sins. May you have a wonderful Easter filled with love, peace and happiness.

May God bless and keep you.

“life is like a scrapbook, creative & unique.”

Author: scrapbookinllama

State Newsletter Contest
Esther Waters  956-802-1468  estherwaters4@yahoo.com

Congratulations to all the 2018 Newsletter Contest winners!
Hello everyone. Well what a Blessed year! Thank you all for your dedication to the Newsletter Contest for this year. To the courts that were able to enter, I wish you luck and to the courts not able to enter this year, please think about next year.

You can have an EFFECTIVE newsletter if it Informs, Motivates, and Inspires:

⇒ Those members not able to attend meetings
⇒ Educates new & old CDA members
⇒ Communicates current & upcoming events
⇒ Informs members about State & National news
⇒ Those women interested in joining CDA

I encourage all courts to publish a newsletter and participate in the annual contest. All courts should support the state and national programs in addition to the contests.

Thanks for all that you do.

Share your wonderful stories …..we all have them!

Winners of the Newsletter Contest will be announced at the 2019 CDA State Convention in McAllen.

National Education Contest
Iris Hinojosa  361-256-3504  irishinojosa43@gmail.com

Greetings to all CDA sisters!

Lent is a season of being invited by God in a deeply personal way. May each of us increase our faith, hope and charity throughout this Lenten season.

A sincere thank you to all the district deputies, regents and local education chairmen who encouraged their courts to participate in this year’s competition. The youth will enhance their confidence and leadership skills needed to succeed in future endeavors.

The themes for this year were excellent and the students did an outstanding job with their entries.

1) “Here I am Lord, I Come to do Your Will” Ps 40 (religious)
2) “Doing My Best to do Good” (secular)

All 1st place entries will be submitted to the National Chairman by April 1, 2019.

All winners will be announced at the 2019 TX State CDA Convention.
The 2019 Raffle is in full swing. There are 32 prizes listed. All regents should have received the raffle tickets for their court. If you have not received your packet, let Delia Cardenas know as soon as possible.

Please sell tickets to all your court members and have them sell to their family and friends. You do not have to be present at the convention to win a prize. Tickets are $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00.

Please return the stubs with a court check payable to CDA TX State Court before April 20, 2019 to Delia Cardenas, Ways & Means Vice Chairman, 805 Pearl Drive, Donna, TX 78537 or bring them to the convention.

All tickets must be turned in no later than 10:00 a.m. Saturday, May 4, 2019 to be included in the drawing. If you need more tickets, please contact Delia at: 956.325.3260 or deliacardenas79@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Please do your part to help make this a successful fundraiser.

Lucky Lotto tickets will be sold at the convention on Saturday, May 4, 2019 after the morning raffle drawing. Tickets will be sold separately for three drawings to take place on Saturday before the workshops, at the banquet, and Sunday morning. Linsay Tomlinson is chairing the Lucky Lotto.

A Silent Auction will be held during the convention. Auction items may be submitted to Darice Miksch, 1154 Dee Allen Road, Columbus, TX 78934 or brought to the State Convention.

The deadline to submit auction items in advance is Saturday, April 20, 2019. If you will be bringing an item to the convention please notify Darice by Monday, April 29, 2019, so that proper arrangements may be made to have space and bid sheets available.

We already have several great items. Items will be on display for bidding starting Thursday and bidding will close Saturday after lunch. Highest bids will be posted. The winners must pay and collect the items after the workshops. Uncollected items will be donated to the JCDA convention raffle.

CDA Souvenir Tumblers can be preordered thru March 15, 2019. Mail order form to Linsay Tomlinson, 518 Meadowcreek Circle, Round Rock, TX 78664. Tumblers will need to be picked up at the convention. You can designate someone on the order form to pick up the tumbler if you will not be at the convention.

Thank you to all the courts, district deputies, state chairman and others who donated prizes to the raffle and silent auction.

Contact Cynthia Novak for more information about any of the fundraisers.
Hi, everyone!

By the time you read this article Regents should have scheduled their April semi-annual financial review with their District Deputy. When selecting your financial review committee you must have a minimum of three members on it, since three signatures are required on the form that is completed at the review. If your court has a large membership or has a lot activity producing much paperwork, then you probably want to add more people to your review committee. Some ladies find it easier to work in pairs when checking the books. Please allow plenty of time for the review so the ladies aren’t rushed and can complete the review according to the guidelines in the Tools of the Trade.

The State Financial Review Committee will be reviewing the books of the State Court on April 12.

I hope all of you are making plans to attend the Texas State convention, which will be held May 2 – 5, 2019 in McAllen. I’m really looking forward to it and hope to see you there!

Many thanks to all of you who prayed for and sent well wishes to my husband, Jimmy. He had an accident and broke his right hip on 1/16/19, and had hip replacement surgery on 1/18/19. He is doing good and starting outpatient physical therapy.

May God bless you as you continue to do His work!

The Past Regents Club (PRC) of Texas is committed to bringing CDA Local and State Court Past Regents together to support activities of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and was established in 1994.

Membership dues are $20.00 which covers a two year term from one biennial convention to the next. A gathering during Biennial Conventions is held and all past court or state regents are invited to join the gathering.

PRC projects include stipends to the MSF for scholarships; JCDA; Texas Education Contest; New Court Institutions; and Recognition of women in Religious Life.

Hello everyone,

Thank you very much for the great participation in developing your websites. It is a time consuming task and we appreciate your willingness to grow in leadership and in the field of websites. They are an excellent way to communicate the goings on of your courts.

Please use the Texas website and the National Website for excellent articles and a way to keep up with the CDA organization.

Here are some of things to consider:

⇒ Plan in your budget at least $100 a year for a host like ecatholic.com
⇒ Ask around for a member who can be the website administrator and others who can assist;
⇒ Download the website contest rules from the CDA national website and use them as a guideline;
⇒ Follow the national and state websites as a resource.

Let’s make it our goal to dive into 21st century technology as Catholic Daughters who work smart, not hard by utilizing the internet!

Winners of the Website Contest will be announced at the 2019 State CDA Convention in McAllen, TX.
McALLEN, the City of Palms, awaits TX State Catholic Daughters of the Americas!

Get ready to join in on the excitement, fellowship, spiritual renewal and fun at the 51st Biennial CDA Texas State Convention.

⇒ Delegate Forms, Registration, & Meal Reservations are in.
⇒ On the horizon are business sessions and workshops.
⇒ Spiritual renewal encounter and masses.
⇒ Lots of delicious foods.

So, mark your calendars and wait for news from your planning committee.

May 2nd - 5th, 2019 in McAllen.

Safe Travels!
Social Media Etiquette 101

These last few years has seen our CDA sisterhood grow by making connections online through Facebook. I’d first like to thank each and every one of you who have contributed by commenting, giving “Likes”, posting emojis, etc. All of you are the heart of our CDA story and without your contributions we’d have nothing to share. Keep doing what you’re doing.

As I prepare for the State Convention, I begin to get excited over all the memories I can capture on film and share with CDA sisters across the State of Texas. I have to stop and remember that not everyone shares my enthusiasm for the camera or being a part of social media. What’s the best way to make sure we are able to share our joy for serving the Lord while being aware of and respecting others desire not to be apart of our social media frenzy!

Here are a few reminders:

- **Tag with Care**: Tagging photos of your friends and family with their names is a great way to share your photos, but not everyone wants pictures of themselves splashed across the Internet. So adopt the policy that the first time you post a photo of someone ask if it is okay for you to post the picture and whether she is comfortable with being tagged in the future.

- **Follow the Golden Rule**: As with many things, the golden rule is applicable here—only post photos of others that you would want posted of you.

- **Ask them to Take it Down**: What if someone posts a photo of you that you don’t want online? It's okay to ask for it to be taken down. (same for me ??)

- **Commenting/Posting**: Participation is what makes Facebook so much fun, right? Be careful not to abuse the five most obnoxious kinds of updates: intentionally vague posts, chronic complaining, meaningless calls to action, overshares, and posting too frequently. Instead, do a quick gut check and ask yourself if you really need to share that thought with the world before you post it.

Taken from: The Guide to Social Media Etiquette at www.realsimple.com

CDA Convention Goes LIVE!

- **LIVE STREAMING!** We will be live streaming parts of the convention activities. What does this mean for you? If you’re unable to attend the convention you can still join us through Facebook and be a part of the festivities. You’ll be able to watch portions of the convention from the comfort of your own home. Look for more information as we get closer to convention.

Questions/Contact:
Linsay Tomlinson
State Public Relations Chairman
Linsaytomlinson@austin.rr.com
Facebook Texas CDA
Email texasstatecda@gmail.com

Convention 2019 here we come!
On Saturday, January 26, 2019, the Texas State CDA State Officers which included Rosie Stockwell, State Regent, Melodie Brunt, First Vice State Regent, Rebecca Brown, Second Vice State Regent, and Mary Jane Albert, State Treasurer joined thousands of pro-life Texans who attended the annual Texas Rally for Life at the Capitol in Austin. The Texas State Court was part of the Host Committee.

The event commemorated the 46th anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision that has claimed the lives of more than 60 million unborn children and harmed countless women since 1973. More than 5,000 people from across Texas were estimated to be in attendance.

Rosie Stockwell, State Regent and Melodie Brunt, Second Vice State Regent had the honor of sitting on the Capitol steps with dignitaries from around the state who support Pro-Life Initiatives.

Speakers included Congressman Chip Roy, Texas 21st District, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, and actor Robia Scott from the upcoming movie, Unplanned, based on the bestselling book about Abby Johnson, the former director of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility in College Station.

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush, who referred to himself and others born since Roe v. Wade as the abortion generation, stirred the crowd as he passionately shared, “I am outraged about what happened in New York. I am outraged that these officials celebrated and passed legislation that would legalize partial-birth abortion. In this state, we know that every life matters... Since Roe v. Wade, 60 million lives have been taken by abortion, and that number continues to grow. Ladies and gentlemen, this must end... We must work every day to change these laws until every child is safe. This is the culture of life that Pope John Paul II fought for. It is the culture of life that we must always fight for every day and in every way. Ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to stand side by side with you in this fight.”

Speakers also included Bishop Patrick Zurek, Catholic Diocese of Amarillo; Gus Reyes, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission; Jeri Lynn Scott, Resources for Women, Schertz; Sarah Zarr, Students for Life of America; Joe Pojman, Ph.D., Texas Alliance for Life; Pastor Robin Steele, Promise Land San Marcos Church; and Terry Williams, CareNet.

The Austin Catholic Diocese held packed services at two large churches in Austin on the morning of the Texas Rally for Life.

The Host Committee included more than 45 organizations.

The Texas State Board also manned a booth during the Ministry Fair held on the grounds of the State Capitol. The State Board had the opportunity to meet many of the pro-life organizations who support the initiatives of the Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops.
TX Alliance for Life March—January 26, 2019
Austin, Texas

Melodie Brunt & Rosie Stockwell at TX Alliance for Life March—Austin, TX

Rosie Stockwell & Melodie Brunt with George P. Bush.

Mary Jane Albert & Becky Brown at TX Alliance for Life Rally.

Rosie Stockwell & Melodie Brunt with Bishop Zurek from Amarillo—Keynote Speaker.
National Projects & Charities

Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

National Projects

Habitat for Humanity®
Helping to build hope, build lives, one family at a time

In order to maintain these 5 projects, each Court is asked to donate a minimum of $20 per project, per year.

Checks payable to: Catholic Daughters of the Americas with the Project(s) name(s) in the memo.
Send all checks to the National Office or follow your State guidelines.
You may submit one check to be divided among the National Projects and Charities.

SOAR!
Support Our Aging Religious
Serving elderly sisters, brothers and priests

National Center on Sexual Exploitation
Exposing the connections between all forms of sexual exploitation

Holy Cross Family Ministries
Promotes and supports the spiritual well-being of the family

National Charities

Each court is asked to donate to a few of the following worthy causes:

1. Apostleship of the Sea
2. Catholic Relief Services
3. Covenant House
4. Disaster Relief
5. Catholic Extension
6. Missionaries of Charity
7. National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC
8. Pontifical North American College
9. Tutwiler Clinic
10. Smile Train

Please make all checks payable to: Catholic Daughters of the Americas with the Charity(s) name(s) in the memo.
Send all checks to the National Office or follow your State guidelines.
You may submit one check to be divided among several charities/projects, be sure to attach a detailed note.
New Items for Sale at Convention 2019

The Bell Collection, a company whose mission is to create handcrafted jewelry of heirloom quality with remarkable artistry that touches people’s lives agreed to design a new charm for the Texas State Court. It will be a round charm, pictured below and sell for $29.00 at the convention.

Preorders are being taken and a small inventory will be available at the convention.

Please contact Linnea at the following numbers if interested.

Linnaea Swenson
Sales Manager
The Bell Collection
Phone: 512-219-9051
Fax: 512-258-5368
sales@collectbells.com

Please contact Linsay Tomlinson at linsaytomlinson@austin.rr.com or on Facebook at Texas CDA group or email her at texasstatecda@gmail.com

This item is on preorders but a limited amount can be purchased at the 2019 Convention in McAllen, TX.
Court Our Lady of Perpetual Help #296—Windthorst, TX held a Baby Shower in January as a memorial to the millions of babies lost to abortion since the Supreme Court decision of Roe vs Wade in 1974.

Court St. Elizabeth #1616—Sealy, TX held a Turkey Dinner fundraiser and the JCDA helped with serving the dinner.

Court Our Lady of Mt. Carmel #1993—Edinburg, TX participated in the Pro Life March in McAllen, TX on February 3rd. JCDA also marched alongside the CDA members.

Court Of Angels #2181—Portland, TX celebrated their 40th Anniversary.

Court Mother of Unity #2292—Houston, TX adopted the residents of Angela’s House, a facility for women being released from prison attempting to reintegrate into society.

Court Our Lady of Sorrows #2273 in Victoria, TX held an Annual Super Bowl dance on February 2nd. It is attended by many and a great way to spend Super Bowl Eve.

Court Most Precious Blood #2380—Corpus Christi, TX went to the local prison facility on Ash Wednesday to give ashes to the prisoners.

Court Our Lady of the Hills #2415—Round Rock, TX celebrated together in Unity & Charity by participating in a corporate mass.

Court Mother of Peace & Unity #2487—Livingston, TX held a Rosary and Mass on January 31, 2019 for Pro Life.

Court Mother of Divine Providence #2547—Devine, TX selling Mass Cards in front of the church to help raise money for State Scholarships.

Court Our Lady Star of the Sea #2569 in Port Isabel, TX participated in a mass in honor of International Woman’s Day.

Court Our Lady of Divine Providence #2547—Devine, TX selling Mass Cards in front of the church to help raise money for State Scholarships.

Court Loving Mother of Mercy #2689—Brownsville, TX got together to make rosaries for Confirmation students.

Court Queen of Peace #2710—Wichita Falls, TX led the Stations of the Cross the 1st week of Lent.

Court Mother of Divine Grace #2717—Edinburg, TX held a Lent Retreat on “How to Develop Spirituality” & Lecto Divino.

Catholic Daughter women enjoy each other’s company at meetings and work hard for their parishes and communities.

CDA National Website
It is a pleasure and an honor to be the next editor of The Lone Star Newsletter. Important information to the CDA members throughout Texas and beyond will be relayed in an informative newsletter.

Please continue to send the local court newsletters, either by email or regular mail. Court newsletters are an excellent method to share ideas with sister CDA courts. Special activities and accolades such as special projects, unique fundraisers, anniversaries, court accomplishments, and other interesting information of the courts will be highlighted in the section titled:

“CDA Sisters Working in Unity and Charity.”

THE LONE STAR MESSENGER is the official publication of the Texas State Court - Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

It is published quarterly; March, June, September, and December.
Deadline for receiving articles: February 1st, May 1st, August 1st, November 1st.

Submit all articles to: Rosie Stockwell, State Regent at rosiestockwell@gmail.com

The Lone Star Messenger contains information about the CDA, Texas Local Courts, and issues important to the membership. It is posted on the website at www.texas.org and emailed or mailed to State officers, State Chairmen, District Deputies, Bishops of Texas, and Court Regents.

This newsletter may be sent to court regents and/or court chaplains electronically. Please email the State Newsletter Editor:
Veronica L. Esquivel at:
veronical.esquivel@gmail.com

Additional U.S. mail subscriptions may be purchased for $10.00 annually. Please contact Veronica L. Esquivel, State Newsletter Editor
All free clip art graphics were selected for aesthetic purposes. No personal or professional monetary gain was made by the editor or any member of the CDA Texas State Court.