

Crafting Community Connections

By Rachelle Brown-Slover



My experience at the General Convention Booth was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Upon attending this convention, I thought I would sell some crafts and meet new people. I finally got into the groove of things on the 2nd day after meeting the president of ECW, who allowed me to have space at the National ECW booth. I met many people who had questions about Navajoland ECW. Questions of what we do, how we serve, what we need, and how long we have been functioning in Navajoland. I told my story of when I was a little girl following my Nallie Lady (paternal grandmother) at church events. I used to see her with her “church ladies” doing activities, mostly sewing and laughing. I remember her going to meet her friends, always having holiday events, and doing things for

the community. I remember one Christmas, I saw her getting many gifts from her church friends, not knowing it was part of the ECW that they called the sewing group. Seeing her happy, laughing, singing, and praising was always fun. So, with all that in mind and meeting new people, I thought maybe our ECW would start doing merchandise for people to buy to support our groups. Merchandise items such as shirts and bags and promotional items such as pens, notepads, calendars, magnets, stickers, and little flashlights. We are still working on a vision statement for our ECW group.

We asked for ideas on what we, as ECW of Navajoland, would like to see as a logo for our group. We will use this Logo and vision statement when participating in events such as General Conven-

tion, fundraisers, or even meeting other provinces. Self-identification is integral to our upbringing as Diné, particularly Diné Women. A logo of this sort will be a symbol for us among the outer churches and communities and will be a reflection of us. It would also benefit us when going to other conventions or our Province 8 ECW meetings. Building up our ECW group will help us since we are now a Missionary diocese. We can spread our knowledge and gifts of art, music, culture, and language. This was my thinking as I went and experienced with my daughter, as she also met and saw new people and listened to some great new ideas. As a youth member, she, too, can share ideas with our church one day.