

Gateway Decorative Artists Chapter Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2015

Gateway's 2015 Winter Wonderland Christmas Party took place on Sunday, December 6 at Andre's Banquet Center on Telegraph Road. Board members present included Ellen Rohne, Barb Ogden, Jean Lindsey, Marilyn Hartnett and Donna Wessel. Absent were Lorie Reece and Deb Finklang.

A banquet center hostess welcomed us at 1 p.m. followed with an opening prayer by Barb Ogden. The buffet was opened for service. Our meal included a mixed green salad with vinaigrette dressing, choice top round of beef, chicken marsala, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, coffee or tea and strawberry swirl cheesecake. There was an open bar.

Dinner was followed by the installation of 2016 officers. Because not all of our installation ceremony equipment made it to the center, some improvisation had to take place. A borrowed tea light candle substituted for our missing large ceremony candle and Treasurer, Donna Wessel, quickly prepared an impromptu speech to introduce each elected officer and their importance to the chapter who were then asked to light their individually held candles.

Gold Brush Award Chair, Janie Parisi, then took the floor to read the clues about our 2015 Gold Brush Award recipient, Marilyn Hartnett. Gold Brush Committee member, Gloria Falk, had leaked the news of Marilyn's award to her daughter and invited her to join us at the banquet center. Luckily, Marilyn's daughter, granddaughter and great granddaughter arrived in time to witness the presentation ceremony.

Because Lorie was unable to attend the Christmas Party, 2015 service awards will be handed out at the February meeting.

Then it was time for the ornament exchange. All of the exchange packages had been placed in a large decorated basket. Barb's daughter, Ginny, circulated the basket to each table. Guests who had brought an ornament to exchange were then asked to choose one from the basket. After everyone had opened their packages they were asked to hold them up to share telling who it was from. This is always a fun part of our Christmas parties.

Three of the decorated table centerpieces were to be given away. Barb had prepared several questions to be answered. The person at the table with the most correct answers would win the centerpiece.

Our Christmas Party ended at 3:15 p.m. Goodbyes were exchanged along with wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as guests prepared to leave.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Wessel, Treasurer