

## Connecticut Branch Report

### 2019 IOKDS Conference

The Connecticut Branch held its 121<sup>st</sup> Convention on October 15, 2018 at the St. John's Episcopal Church in North Guilford. The Alberta Clark Circle of Hartford was the host circle. There were 12 members in attendance.

The theme of the convention was Revelation 21:1 "I saw a new heaven and a new earth". This was inspired by the restructuring that the International Order has attempted to allow the mission of IOKDS to continue and expand.

For the past few years, we have continued to meet at St. John's church because this is where the Aida Kittredge Circle holds their meetings. The church is more handicap accessible and we piggy-back on their October meeting. We share a soup luncheon followed by the meeting. Branch President Bill Shay gave an abbreviated overview of the changes that the International Order is putting in place. The Aida Kittredge Circle performed the Memorial Service for those that passed to their everlasting life during the last year. Those remembered were Blanche MacKenzie and Lucille Clark.

Though the circle is getting smaller, the Aida Kittredge Circle continues to be very active. Throughout the year, they held fund raisers including a foodless food sale and a friendship basket. They continue to support the Guilford Food Bank, Warm the Children Fund, various IOKDS funds, and the St. John's and North Guilford Congregational Church programs. Additionally, they knitted eight blankets and 103 birthing bonnets that they donated to the Middlesex Hospital in Middletown, CT.

The Alberta Clark Circle of Hartford continues to struggle. We have been supporting various nursing homes with needed personal items during the holiday season. We have adopted a nursing home in nearby Rocky Hill. 60 West Street (name, and address) is a controversial facility in that some of the clients come from the State of Connecticut Department of Corrections. These people are too sick to be properly cared for in the normal state facilities. This past year, the *U.S. News and World Report* rated this facility as one of the top 10 facilities in the nation. Due to that article, the facility's client base has grown significantly.

The Hartford City Union continues to support various organizations that reflect the spirit of the IOKDS. In addition to supporting International Order programs, we also support local and international charities. Some include the American School for the Deaf, Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Interval House for battered women and children, Literacy Volunteers of Connecticut, Oak Hill School for the Blind, Roses for Autism, Special Olympics of Connecticut, and three summer camp programs for disadvantaged children.

Respectfully submitted  
William Shay, Branch President