

I, Ginny Coates, have been a member of UW in F, and predecessors, for 58 years. As a young mother, my husband encouraged me to go on retreats and attend special meetings.

After a few years, I was asked to serve on the District Nominations Committee, which I did for three years. Then I served on Social Action for four years on the district; Membership on the Conference for four years; District Vice President for one year; then District President for three years. I then served on Spiritual Growth for the District for four years, and Spiritual Growth for the Conference for four years. I did Program Resources for the District and Conference, every four years. I was Program Resources Chair for the Regional School for four years. 'Was Assistant Dean for mission u, two years; then Dean for two years. I was then recycled and became President of a different District for three years. On District Nominating Committee for three years and Conference Nominating Committee for three years. I have served as the Conference liaison for the Legacy Fund since it started. At the present time, I am on the Nominating Committee for the NCJ.

I worked with 4-H as a leader for five years. I judged at the State Fair for ten years; and have been a judge at three different County Fairs for twelve years.

I became Den Mother for my son's Boy Scout Troop and served for three years.

I helped my local missions committee to find a home, help with language and meals for an immigrant family moving to town. I made a baptismal dress for their baby, born enroute to this country. We welcomed them to meals in our home and in our church.

I have been a member of the local Quilt Guild in my community. During that time, I have been Vice President for two years and President for two years. I have served as the Chairperson of "Quilts for Veterans." The state Veteran's Home is in our town. Ten years ago, I started this program to provide a handmade quilt of their very own for fifteen or more veterans each year. I worked up a moving service for this presentation near Veterans Day each November. This is a very satisfying project for me and for several of our guild members. I am the Chairperson for the quilt show at the County Fair. This entails securing donations from 8-9 Quilt Shops around the area: obtaining a licensed quilt judge, getting volunteers at the fair, assisting the judge, and giving out the prizes.

I was born in Illinois and raised on a small farm with my younger sister. We did not have much, but we learned to work hard.

As a teenager, I joined the Methodist Church, attended MYF, and was Sunday School Secretary.

I attended college for just one year; then started work at different jobs, living on my own.

I met the young minister in my home church, and two years later, was married to him in that church. I worked to get him through seminary; after which we moved to South Dakota, his home. In South Dakota we raised three children; and I was as involved in UMW – UWF as I could be.

As a UMW member and officer, I took part in ten Assemblies and three NCJ meetings: plus other training sessions. I have always said, UMW – UWF has given me a degree that I did not get in college.

Ginny Coates