

Communications Committee Report - 2023-24

As of the last gathering, the communications committee had four members and no chair. We now have six members and in the fall of 2023, Deborah Laforet stepped forward to chair the committee.

Each member of the Communications Team has a role:

Kathy Toivanen keeps minutes and is the editor of our DUCC E-news,

Debra Kigar keeps track of our DUCC member database,

Carey Wagner facilitates our presence on Facebook,

Rachel Nadon facilitates our presence on Instagram,

Marilyn Burnard is our card secretary,

Deborah Laforet is our web minder and chair of this committee, also making her a member of the Coordinating Committee.

We all have a role to fill but we work as a team and support the various initiatives that are brought to the committee. We also thank Eric Tusz-King, DUCC staffperson, who attends our meetings and supports this work.

We had a variety of initiatives over the past couple of years. One was to open a DUCC account on Instagram and increase our presence on social media. Another was to spend some time getting to know Microsoft One Drive, Share Point, and Teams, trying to maximize the platform DUCC is using as a part of our website package. Meetings on Teams have not gone as smoothly as Zoom, but we and the Coordinating Committee are still working on it.

In anticipation of our 40th anniversary, the committee decided to create an image on coasters and had 500 of them printed. These coasters have been distributed far and wide and there are still many available.

The past year has been focused on preparing for the national gathering in Drumheller, ensuring it is being advertised through the e-news and social media and that the website contains all necessary information. This is still in progress and at our next meeting we will be discussing our role at the national gathering, in terms of reporting and sharing news following the gathering. Members on the Communications Committee have held dual roles with Rachel Nadon on local arrangements for the gathering and both she, Debra, and Deborah on the planning committee.

We also want to recognize that Kathy Toivanen is also doing work with the communications committee of DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean).