SC Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, November 9, 2019 10:00 AM
St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Newberry, SC

Officers Present:
Becky Koch, President
Amanda Boatwright, VP
Linda Roland, Secretary
Rachel Quesada, Treasurer
Absent: Denise Warren (excused)

Board Members Present:
Amanda Sease-Baker
Rae Davis
Amanda Cruse
Risse Snelgrove
Sarah Cheesman
Kristin Snelgrove
Merri Lewis

Others Present: Virginia Herlong, honorary life coordinator and acting Parliamentarian; Jan Piersol, Host Conference Coordinator

Call to Order: Becky called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Merri Lewis and Sarah Cheesman presented devotions based on the book The Hiding Place and reading from passage written by Pastor Jeff Schreve. We should choose to see the world through God's perspective.

Jan Piersol: Conference update (See attached) Boy scouts plan to help with set up and take down. If there is any reason they cannot, the Men in Mission will be a backup. She has a possible piano organ concert for before banquet. Jan owns a catering business and can provide items to help cut our costs. 16 churches are helping with the 4 underlying committees. Faith Lutheran Church sent a check of $50 to help. They have disbanded. Two companies are donating Kleenex and pencils for the goodie bags.

Minutes: Minutes from the August 25, 2019 meeting were read and approved. Motion to accept by Sarah Cheesman with a second from Amanda Cruse.

Correspondence: Linda Roland read a thank you note from Lighthouse for Life from Jennifer Thompson for another $25 we donated post-convention. There was also a thank you from one of our Young Woman Guests, Claire Fingerlin. We also received three letters from churches and circles no longer meeting: Augsburg Lutheran in Union, the Elizabeth Circle at Redeemer in Columbia, and Faith in Newberry. This led to discussion about who is a member of WELCA and how to let all ELCA women know they are. Rae will write an article about this for *The Ripple*, also for Facebook with a link to *The Ripple*.

REPORTS

President's Report: Becky Koch

- Since the last meeting Becky has attended five fall conferences as well as a luncheon at St. Timothy's in Camden.

- Becky wrote an article for *The SC Lutheran* and letters to WELCA groups that have disbanded: the Elizabeth Circle at Redeemer, Columbia; Augsburg in Union; and Faith in Newberry.
- Her efforts to find a good global project for the Colombia Synod in time to use for the convention did not pan out.
- To speed our Board meetings along, she has requested all reports be sent out electronically ahead of our meeting so everyone can have the information ahead of time and know what questions they need answered by the time we meet.

Treasurer's Report: Rachael Quesada
Our bank balance on February 1, 2019 was $32,224.73 and on October 31, 2019 is $34,619.70. This includes a checking account balance of $8,812.91, a savings account balance of $10,806.79, and Mission Investment Fund CD of $15,000.00.
In addition, there is the Edna Corley Estate CD balance of $35,630.71 from which the interest income for the first three quarters of $660.91 has been transferred to our checking account for the SC LTSS Scholarship Fund.
The Board approved to allocate our Benevolence as follows: $500 to Katie's Fund, $500 to churchwide where needed most and $2,500 to Lutheran Disaster Relief. The Action and Community Committees stated that there would be no further expenses this year and Growth Committee indicated a $100 will be used to purchase supplies for the craft at the Camp Kinard Retreat. The Specified Fund -Fund Raisers of $704 may be used for the craft supplies for convention workshops, if needed.

Registrar Report:
Sherry Shepherd called into the meeting to review her report. She reviewed what had worked well at the last convention for registration and what did not work so well. She said having a separate room to use when they have various tasks that come up unexpectedly during the convention. She will also recruit extra ladies to help at the registration desk. She will also do her own packets and mailings.

Vice President's Report: Amanda Boatwright
- Plans are moving along well for the 2020 Convention. Amanda is still looking for a piano player for singing during the convention.
- She has lined up a lady who does a Minnie Pearl impersonation for the entertainment.
- The Keynote Speaker is Mr. Thomas Knapp from South Carolina Network of Children Advocacy Centers.
- Hotels are arranged.
- We need to explain clearly that the Chrismons workshop will be 2 separate back-to-back workshops.
- Bill and Fran's will provide the lunches, while Shealy's Bar-b-que will do the banquet meal.
- Vendors have been contacted.
- Workshops are planned.

Motion: Kristin motioned that we hold a silent auction to make money during the convention. Second - Sarah. Motion passed.

Nomination Committee: Jennifer Nuovo emailed the attached report.

The committee has been trying to recruit nominees at the conference meetings and with an article in *The Ripple*. Board members Amanda Cruse, Amanda Baker, and Kristin Snelgrove whose terms end this year but are eligible to run again agreed to do so.

Committee Reports:

Mission Community: Kristin Snelgrove reported their goals for the year and statistics about all the fall conferences with attendance.

Mission Growth: Merri Lewis reported that the Camp Kinard retreat will be very interactive per Pastor Pursey. The craft project will be decorating a mug to use while there and save on disposable waste.
Motion: Rae motioned to give a $200 honorarium to Pastor Pursey for leading the retreat at Camp Kinard. Second by Merri. Motion passed.

Lunch Break

Mission Action:
Rae Davis reported that the Action Committee will be placing an article in *The Ripple* asking for items to be brought to the convention for South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers once they get an updated needs list from Mr. Knapp.
The Global project for selling the cookbook "crashed and burned". We *may* be able to buy and then sell a few at the convention though. You can check the Women for Women International web site if you are interested in purchasing one on your own. Rae stated that the Action Committee recommends supporting Lutheran Disaster Response as our global project.
Motion: Rae motioned that we use the money from the silent auction and also one fourth of the convention offering for Lutheran Disaster Response. No second as from a committee. Motion passed.

The Ripple: Report emailed from Sherry Fowler was passed out.
The fall *Ripple* was mailed to 250 people and emailed to 671. She will be working with the Community team to purge the lists to keep our costs down.

Triennial Gathering Report:
Risse Snelgrove reported she has had four people apply for stipends so far.
As In-kind gifts, churchwide has sent out information about making Hygiene Purses from the website Sew Powerful. She is hoping some of our South Carolina women will make them and she will get them to the Triennial Gathering.
Becky and Rachel talked about giving the left-over stipends to voting members of the convention if there is money left after the deadline for application. Or we can add the remaining money set aside to the $1300 we are already sending to churchwide for the convention.
Motion: Rachel moved that a $400 honorarium go to Risse Snelgrove for being the Triennial Gathering Promoter. Second by Rae. Motion passed.
Motion: Kristin moved that any of the $2,000 reserved for stipends to the Triennial Gathering remaining after January 31, 2020, be used for the $400 stipend for Risse, given to voting members to the Triennial Convention who are also registered for the Triennial Gathering, and the balance, if any, be added to the

$1,300 in our current budget to be sent to churchwide to help cover their expenses for the Triennial Convention. Motion passed.

Old Business
Conference meetings were covered above under the Community Report.

New Business

- 2019 – 2020 SC WELCA Goals were reviewed by the Committee of Linda Roland, Amanda Cruse, and Amanda Baker. Copies were distributed to everyone present and appear in *The Ripple*.
- Changes to Convention Rules of Procedures. There was confusion during the last convention when a question was asked during the budget presentation could not easily be researched and presented to the assembly.
  Motion: The Executive Committee proposed a change in the Rules and Procedures to match what is done at the Synod Assembly. No second needed. Motion passed.
- Nominations from the Floor **– Motion:** The Executive Committee proposed the any nominations from the floor be turned in by noon on Friday to help expedite the election process. No second needed. Motion passed.
- This year is the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women. Becky asked that we form a committee to help ease the extra workload this gives Amanda Boatwright. She asked that three board members join Amanda and received four volunteers – Amanda Cruse, Amanda Baker, Merri Lewis, and Sarah Cheesman. We have $1000.00 in a fund reserved for special projects. The committee will meet and report to the board what amount of money they need for the project. **Motion:** Rachel moved for the Executive Committee that money for the anniversary come from the special projects fund. No second needed. Motion passed.
- Confidential Information: Becky had been asked about the safety of the Board having all of our personal information online. She discussed this with the Synod office as they also have this information online. They have had no problems related to that. But members of our Board have had issues in the past. **Motion:** Kristin motioned that only our phone numbers and email addresses be visible in the BOR, website, and *The Ripple*. Second by Amanda Baker. Motion passed.
- Joy Offerings: Only SC WELCA receives Joy Offerings. This has caused some concern with Churchwide. Virginia presented the history of how and why SC WELCA voted in 2011 to change from Thankofferings to Joy Offerings. **Motion:** Amanda Baker motioned that we leave Joy Offerings the way they are. Second by Amanda Cruse. Motion passed.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM with the Missionary Benediction.

Addendum: Not having had an actual motion during the November 9th meeting about our global project, and since the recommendation came from the committee and does not need a second, Becky sent out an email asking for a vote on November 14th. **Motion** passed.