

**SC Women of the ELCA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, February 8, 2019, 12:00 PM  
Camp Kinard  
6053 Kinard Way, Leesville, SC 29072**

**Officers Present:**

Becky Koch, President  
Mary Soltis, Vice President  
Elsa Hope, Secretary  
Rachel Quesada, Treasurer

**Board Members Present:**

Rae Davis  
Dianne Lominick  
Sarah Cheesman  
Amanda Boatwright

Merri Lewis  
Amanda Sease-Baker  
Kristin Snelgrove  
Gwen Furcron

**Others Present:**

Kaye Heinz, Assistant Registrar

**Call to Order:** Becky called meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Sara Cheesman and Kristin Snelgrove (Mission Action) gave the devotions reading verses from various cards which will be sent to service members. Cards were sent around for signatures for board members to sign (with red and blue ink pens) as will be done during convention. The goal is for 2500 cards. Sarah closed devotions with prayer.

**Minutes:** Minutes from SC WELCA Board Meetings held November 10, 2018, were read and as presented. Congregational Roster with updates was given to each liaison for review and further updating as needed. Attendance roster was passed around for any corrections and initialing to indicate present.

**Correspondence:** Invitations for the Board from Foothills and Coastal for their spring conference meetings.

**REPORTS**

**President's Report:**

- Conference Meetings – Liaisons/board members identified meeting they will be able to attend.
- Summary of Actions of Resolutions from 2017 Triennial required by Churchwide – Becky reported SC WELCA support of human trafficking, and domestic violence during the last two conventions.
- Winter issue of *The Ripple* – Great job, Sherry! See report listed elsewhere in this report.
- Calendar of Events – Deadline for Nominations for Board has been changed to March 31, date as listed on the form. Deadline for YWG/FTG names to Registrar/Convention chair is April 24.
- Opening time for convention – 11:00 am – first workshop 9:30 a.m.
- SC Lutheran Men in Mission - Becky will bring greetings to SCLMM Convention, Feb. 16, Wittenberg Lutheran, Leesville
- Synod Assembly -Becky will submit a report for the 2019 Synod Assembly BOR on Feb. 27th
- Triennial Promoter – Risse Snelgrove
- Conference of Presidents – Feb. 22-24 – Mary Soltis will be attending in Becky's place. The Churchwide Executive Board created an exploratory committee whose task is considering the future of Women of the ELCA. That committee met earlier this month and have asked SWO's to engage in discussion based on three questions:
  1. If you could make changes to our constitutions to encourage more participation in the organization, what would they be?

2. The triennial convention costs approximately \$2,400 per voting member. Annual revenue from offerings has been insufficient to pay for the convention over the past two triennium. How could your SWO assist with the costs?
3. Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? Would it matter? Why?

These will be the starting point for discussion during the regional caucus time at the upcoming Conference of Presidents. Becky asked the board to submit responses to Mary.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The bank balance at the beginning of the fiscal year was \$30,766.59 and at the end of the fiscal year was \$31,045.73. This includes a checking account balance of \$4,576.64, a savings account balance of \$10,805.99 and Mission Investment Fund CD of \$15,663.10. In addition, there is the Edna Corley Estate CD balance of \$35,630.71 from which the interest income for the year of \$883.64 has been transferred to our checking account for the SC LTSS Scholarship Fund. The 2018 budget of \$2,000 for Triennial gathering stipends were not disbursed and have been reserved for the 2020 Triennial gathering.

A recap of the Camp Kinard retreat expenses; final cost to the Board was \$679.00. Discussion followed about ways to promote and increase attendance and consideration of changing the time it is held. Polling convention attendees for their input and feedback will be done.

#### **Vice President's Report:**

##### **2019 Convention Report** Convention Staff Confirmed:

**Banquet Entertainment:** Pastor Jackie Utley and the Journey Performing Arts Ministry. More details will follow.

- **Keynote Address:** Lighthouse for Life
- Banquet Entertainment: Journey Performing Arts Ministry
- Board Skit
- Boy Scouts/Set up Help: Kirsten made a motion for \$300, Amanda seconded. Motion passed.
- Caterer: Diimmler's – Mary shared the menu; special needs for meals will be handled.
- Chaplain: \$150
- Chaplain: Ginger Litman-Koon
- Churchwide Rep. Bible Study: Lois Bylund
- Churchwide Rep: Lois Bylund

#### **Costs:**

- **Building Fee: \$300**
- Coffee provided by St. Stephen's: 100 cups coffee makers \$50 each
- Entertainment: \$475 -\$500 (Depending on Pastor Jackie)
- Organist: \$200
- **Sexton: \$250**
- Craft: Sarah Hoffman
- FTG Coordinator: Dianne Pitts
- Grace and Gratitude: Dallas Shealy
- Jessica Lynn: Soaps, candles, greeting cards
- Keynote Speaker: Jen Thompson/Heather Cook -survivor(?)
- Lighthouse for Life: Jen Thompson/Jim-financial perspective(?)
- Musician: Kathleen Cartledge

#### **Needed:**

- Organist: Matt McCall

- Parliamentarian: Carolyn Torrence
- Photographer: Amanda Cruse
- Prayer Room devotions
- Registrar: Sherry Sheppard
- Assistant Registrar: Kaye Heins
- SERRV: Spring Catalog not yet available ([www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org))
- Sign Language: Debbie Ammerman
- Situational Awareness: Richland/Lexington Police Officer
- Song Leader: Sara Coffman

**Staff:**

- Technology Coordinator: Pat George
- Tom Genutis: Woodworking (pens, bowls, ornaments)
- Vendors: 10% donation

**Workshops:**

- Yoga/ChairYoga: Vickie Henderson/Ginger Litman-Koon
- YWG Coordinator: Denise Warren

**Registrar's Report:**

Layout/font for name tags – Complaints have been either too small, too crowded or not enough info. We've duplicated the folder label to match the name tag, separated the info and placed multiple labels. Mary S. to provide suggestions on the name tags/folder labels. Seeking most effective & efficient means of providing info. How to manage meals – We've used color coded dots, printed on name tags, printed on folder labels and suggested providing color coded tickets.

Sarah suggested hanging ribbons from name tags to tell who's who; she didn't know they are color coded and is listed in the BOR.

Rae suggested Registrar position has taken on too many duties during convention that should be handled by "a committee/committee members". Further discussion did not reveal who could/would be available to do so. It is my opinion board & committee members are fully engaged and that's why we recruited the volunteers. However, Registration will gladly alter responsibilities in any way the Board so directs.

Amanda will serve as the "runner" for us.

Kristin suggested Registrars & BOD should have walkie talkies to communicate.

**2019 Nominating Committee Report:** Julie Watson, Chair, sent her report to Becky. To date, she has received two nominations of five who indicated in serving as board member; two nominations have been received for secretary; and 2 nominations of seven who have expressed their willingness to serve as Triennial Voting Member for the Triennial 2020 in Phoenix, AZ.

**2019 Convention Projects:** Lighthouse for Life is designated as the recipient and support for their freedom bag ministry which was approved by board email vote on August 21, 2018. Under **Committee Reports** see the **Mission Action** report.

**The Ripple and SC WELCA Website Report.** Sherry Fowler, Editor/Circulation Manager. The latest *Ripple* Winter publication was sent to the printer on Thursday, January 25, 2019; K & K Printing mailed out two hundred fifty printed copies of *The Ripple*. Seven hundred and ten (710) copies of *The Ripple* were emailed via Constant Contact on Friday and Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sherry requested all board members to let her know when new

items need to be added or old items need to be deleted to the SC WELCA Website ([www.scwelca.com](http://www.scwelca.com)). Sherry contacted Express Press in Simpsonville to get a quote on producing the *Ripple*, using the last publication for a quote for black and white publications and color publications. Their quote was over \$2,000.00 for each publication mailing. Our current vendor (K & K Printing) charges us around \$400.00 per publication mailing. We will remain with K & K Printing.

### **Committee Reports**

**Mission Action:** Sarah Cheesman reported Action Team article written and submitted for the upcoming winter *Ripple*

- Amanda Boatwright secured Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 which was used to purchase 600 “Thank you for your Service” cards from Concordia Supply. 500 of these will go to the Marines at Parris Island. The other 100 will be used to go to the Navy personnel in the Charleston area. Thank you, Amanda!
- Utilized 2018 convention funds to purchase an additional 696 cards from Concordia Supply for \$289.42. 500 of these cards will go the Army recruits at Fort Jackson. The remaining 196 will go to the Navy.
- Amanda Boatwright has secured an additional Thrivent grant to obtain 600 additional cards, with 300 to go to Air Force at Sumter, 300 to go to Coast Guard, leaving 296 for the Navy! Total cards provided to convention will be 1896. We are hoping to get additional cards at convention from participants. Call for cards is in the Winter *Ripple*. Will again ask in the Spring article and will show photo of our cards that will be at convention. Goal is to have **2000 cards!!** Board members are requested to bring cards also!
- Rae Davis working on return address labels for the cards. Will need at least 2000.
- Thrivent will supply 2000 stickers for the back of the envelopes (Amanda Boatwright to handle)
- Light House for Life has provided photos of Karis House and these will be included in the Spring *Ripple*. **Karis – means “Grace”!** How fitting is that! They will also plan to provide materials for our table at convention, i.e. runner, photos, banner, handouts, etc. and have been asked to be at St. Stephens for set up on Thursday around 1pm. They will also plan to pick up the Freedom Bags on Saturday. Need to plan for photo!
- Action Team plans to use the 4 styles of thank you cards for devotions for our Feb. board meeting and will have all board members sign the 24 cards with red and blue pens, sealed with the Thrivent sticker.
- Action Team has requested that Convention Hosts provide red and blue pens at each table and that the table decorations be a patriotic theme.
- Action Team would also like to request that the Boy Scouts present all military flags and the US Flag at the opening of convention. Does St. Stephens have all of the military flags?
- Action Team plans to meet briefly prior to board meeting to discuss future plans and very thankful to Amanda Boatwright for her assistance.
- **Mission Community:** Amanda Boatwright reported Two of our goals of the Mission Community is to promote WELCA Day/ Bold Women’s Sunday. We encourage all congregations to participate in Bold Women’s Sunday on February 24, 2019. World Day of Prayer this year is in March 1, 2019. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each first Friday of March. This year theme is “Come-Everything is Ready.” Come to praise, thank and proclaim the kingdom of love. Bible verses for this year study is Luke 14:15-24. So ask yourself and congregation; Are you ready to praise him? Are you ready to thank him? and Are you ready to proclaim the kingdom of God’s love?

**Mission Growth:** Dianne Lominick reported the committee is committed to continue to grow in faith

and in sisterhood with activities to support the following goals:

- Encourage women to attend retreats at Camp Kinard, the Isle of Palms, and the Wild Women weekend at Lutheridge by providing information and publicizing activities.
- Promote awareness of the 2020 Triennial Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, July 14-16, 2020, and the Triennial Gathering, July 16-19, 2020.
- Provide information that encourages the building of relationships among generations through mentoring.

Support and promote ELCA church-wide efforts to address natural disasters, human trafficking, domestic violence, and hunger.

The Isle of Palms Retreat will be on April 26-28, 2019. Ada Arthur will be the guest speaker. A registration form is in *The Ripple*. Send your information to Sallie Folk.

**Old Business:**

- Bluffton meeting – Rachel stated the meeting went well.
- Songbook - Elsa presented a draft of the hymn book which was reviewed by the board.

**New Business**

- Conference of Presidents: Motion was made and seconded for \$600 as offering for the Council of Presidents. Motion passed.
- Questions to be discussed at Conference of Presidents – Becky asked for all to review and provide input for Mary to take with her.
- Triennial Stipends – Motion was made to allow application for the \$200 stipend to non-voting members only. Motion was seconded. Motion Passed.
- Additional Items – Tote bags will be ordered using Thrivent Action Team funds.
- Spring Conference meetings:

**Spring 2019 Conference Meetings**

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Host Church</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
<b>#1 Foothills</b>	Sat., March 16 10:00 am	St. Michael's Greenville	Kristin Snelgrove Merri, Rachel, Rae
<b>#5 Heartland</b>	Sun., April 28 3:00 pm	Summer Memorial Newberry	Amanda Boatwright Sarah, Dianne, Elsa, Rae
<b>#7 Coastal</b>	Sat., March 23 11:00 am	St. Luke's Summerville	Merri Lewis Kristin, Elsa, Rachel
<b>#8 Saxe-Gotha</b>	Sun., March 17 3:00 pm	Mt. Hermon W. Columbia	Gwen Furcron Merri, Mary
<b>#9 Western</b>	Sun., March 17 3:00 pm	St. Paul's Gilbert	Rae Davis, Sarah, Dianne, Amanda Boatwright

--	--	--	--

**Other Notes:**

- ☐ Devotions were given by Mission Action and lunch was provided by the Mission Community.
- Board members participated in the prayer partner gift exchange
- ☐ Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM with the Missionary Benediction.

**Upcoming Dates**

**March 31** Deadline - Nominations (Secretary/Board/Triennial Voting Members)

**April 10** Deadline - Nominations - YWG/FTG to Conference Coordinator

**April 24** Deadline – YWG/FTG Names to Registrar/Convention Chair

**April 26-28** Isle of Palms retreat at Coastal Retreat Center

**May 1** Deadline - Voting Member Registration forms to Registrar

**May 15** Deadline – No Refunds for Delegate/Visitor Registrations

**May 30** Deadline – Visitor Registrations to Registrar

**June 7-8 SC WELCA Convention at St. Stephen's, Lexington**

Respectfully Submitted,

Elsa Hope, Secretary

Additional Notes: