

**SC Women of the ELCA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, November 10, 2018, 12:00 PM  
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
119 N. Church St., Lexington, 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:**

Sherry Fowler, *The Ripple* Editor/Circulation Manager; Sherry Sheppard, Registrar

**Call to Order:** Becky called meeting to order and appointed Sherry Sheppard as parliamentarian.

**Devotions:** Dianne Lominick gave devotions from *Devotions from the Garden* with Miriam Drennan titled "Gifts from the Garden and the Heart" based on scripture, Ruth 2:15-16. The devotion ended with all singing "Amazing Grace."

**Minutes:** Minutes from SC WELCA Board Meetings held August 12, 2018, were approved. Roster was passed around for any corrections and initialing to indicate present.

**Correspondence:**

- Letter dated August 30, 2018 signed by Ted W. Goins, Jr., President, Lutheran Services Carolinas, thanking SC WELCA for the in-kind gift of a Mastercard gift card of \$50 received August 23, 2018 as an additional gift from the 2018 SC WELCA annual convention in support of the *Love One Another* campaign.
- Letter dated August 20, 2018 signed by Ted W. Goins, Jr., President, Lutheran Services Carolinas, thanking SC WELCA for the additional contribution of \$50 received August 14, 2018 as an additional gift from the 2018 SC WELCA annual convention in support of the *Love One Another* campaign.
- Letter dated September 4, 2018, signed by Elizabeth Bower, Executive Director, Vital Connections of the Midlands, Inc. thanking SC WELCA for the donation of \$70.10.

**REPORTS**

**President's Report:**

- Becky attended the following fall conference meetings: Foothills, Amelia, Heartland, Coastal, Saxe Gotha, and Western. She expressed appreciation for all who attended; the fall meetings are highlighted in *The Ripple* with spring meeting dates listed.
- Condensed goals were published in *The Ripple*; expanded goals, sent with the agenda, will be discussed/approved today and posted on the website.
- The fall issue of *The Ripple* was received via email November 3, with hard copy received November 8. She acknowledged the great job Sherry does.
- Calendar of Events – the deadline for nominations for the board has been changed to March 31, 2019 from March 25, 2019. The nomination form reflects the correct date.
- Songbook – There will be a songbook for the convention; suggestions for hymns are invited. The

songbook will contain words only – no music. Pat George will have the music to display on the screen. Board suggestions: *Will You Come and Follow Me, There is a Balm in Gilead, Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil; Amazing Grace, Christ, be Our Light; This Little Light of Mine, They will Know We Are Christians by Our Love, It is Well With my Soul, Borning Cry, Gather Us In, The Church's One Foundation, In the Garden; The King of Love, My Shepherd Is; Lift High the Cross.*  
Any additional requests are to be provided to Elsa.

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

As of October 31, 2018: Summary Sheet shows current cash assets are \$34,709.72 which includes checking account balance of \$8,295.59, a savings account balance of \$10,805.72 and Mission Investment Fund CD of \$15,608.41, maturing August 3, 2019. The Edna Corley Estate Mission Investment Fund CD matures July 6, 2022 and has a balance of \$35,630.71 from which the interest income year-to-date of \$660.91 has been transferred to the checking account for the SC LTSS Scholarship Fund. Actual and Budget Receipts and Disbursements show: Budgeted Receipts - \$62,783.67, Non- Budgeted receipts - \$7,969.51, Budgeted Disbursements- \$59,507.40, Non-Budgeted Disbursements - \$7,302.75 with an Ending Balance of \$34,709.72.

Rachel provided the financial update of Churchwide WELCA as of July 31, 2018. Churchwide receipts from Thank Offerings go to support operational expenses; SC WELCA forwards Joy Offerings to Churchwide of which are designated 100% to ELCA Good Gifts. SC WELCA submits 65% of our Regular Offerings quarterly to Churchwide which is equal to Churchwide's request for 50% of Regular Offerings quarterly, 50% of Convention Offerings, and 50% of Conference Offerings.

Treasurer's Report was received as information.

Benevolence balance of \$3,500 which needs to be disbursed by January 31, 2019. Kristin made a motion to donate the \$3,500 as follows: ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response for California Fires - \$875 and Florence Hurricane Relief efforts (\$875), Phoebe Hospital in Curran, Liberia - \$875; ELCA Good Gifts (International Emergency – Feed 8 refugee families for a month \$800, Refugee Welcome Supplies for a week -\$55, 2 blankets - \$20.) Mary Soltis seconded; MOTION PASSED.

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

##### **2019 Convention Report:**

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

**Keynote Address:** Lighthouse for Life

##### **Convention Staff Confirmed:**

- First-time Guest Coordinator: Diane Pitts
- Song Leader: Sara Coffman
- Photographer: Amanda Cruz
- Technology Technician: Pat George
- Parliamentarian: Carolyn Torrence
- Registrar: Sherry Sheppard
- Assistant Registrar: Kaye Heins

Mary will coordinate with St. Stephen's staff for rates for the closing worship service organist, who will be paid at the rate set by the organist (estimated between \$150-\$300), and the sexton. Expenses levied for the use of the church (\$300) do not include the sexton or organist. Coffee cost is \$50 for the convention. Mary is awaiting confirmation of the convention musician.

Sarah made a motion for an honorarium of \$150, along with meals, lodging, and mileage be paid for the convention chaplain. Seconded by Kristin. MOTION PASSED.

**Workshops** - Final details for the following workshops are pending:

Lighthouse for Life	Situational Awareness
Churchwide Representative and Bible study	Sign Language
Craft: blankets to complete Freedom Bag Ministry	Grace and Gratitude
Backpacks	Yoga/Chair Yoga

**Vendors:**

- Tom Genutis, woodworking -confirmed.
- Jessica Lynn Walker (Saxe Gotha): soaps, candles, greeting cards -plans on presenting door prizes.
- SERRV – Sherry Fowler provided information on a consignment option which allows for fighting poverty by selling handmade, fair trade products. The proceeds benefit creating employment, providing disaster relief, paying wages, supporting disadvantaged villages, promoting equality, accessing education. Order for merchandise with a total of \$300 or more qualifies for free shipping. There is no cost shipping return of any unsold product and earnings of 10% of total product sales will be donated to SC WELCA. Ordering online is an option for any items sold out during the convention; on-line and after convention sales will earn 20% for SC WELCA. Sherry Fowler has volunteered to man the tables and take care of sales with volunteer assistant from the host conference, Midlands. Rae made the motion to have, space permitting, Tom Genutis, Jessica Lynn Walker, and SERRV be included as vendors, with no replication of items which would present a conflict with the three vendors, and with a minimum donation of 10% of sales to SC WELCA. Amanda Boatwright seconded. MOTION PASSED.

**Church Layout:** There is plenty of room to accommodate workshops, election teller space, and adjustments will be made based on space as needed.

**Registrar's Report:** Sherry Sheppard, Registrar provided an overview of the 2018 SC WELCA conference of execution errors, minor issues, meals, registration numbers, same day registrations, space, volunteers, nametags, signage, disposition of SC WELCA property, and printing capability. Rachel will provide a stand-alone copier to use; it does not connect to a computer. Rae presented the possibility of on-line registrations and payments as well as confirmations. Mary suggested adding a question to the conference evaluations to assess how many would use on-line capability for registration, if available.

**2019 Nominating Committee Report:** Julie Watson, Chair, reported to Becky she has one person interested in nomination for Secretary.

**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* issue was sent for printing on October 29<sup>th</sup>; 250 printed copies were mailed and 650 were emailed by Constant Contact. Sherry also provided a report on the number of *Ripple* digital issues which were opened. Additionally, the statistics show the numbers of those who subsequently clicked on the link within the email provided to view and/or download issues. As of November 10, 2019, the percentage of links opened (219 for the 2018 fall *Ripple* was 47 percent), and 57.5 percent for the 2018 spring *Ripple*. Sherry urged board input for the SC WELCA website ([www.scwelca.com](http://www.scwelca.com)) with new items, changes, updates, or deletions. Submissions should be sent as a Word or .rtf documents, and pictures in JPEG format. Do not send PDF files as they do not print as clearly and cannot be changed, if needed. Sherry thanked everyone for their support.

**Committee Reports**

**Mission Action:** Sarah Cheesman reported that Project information has been shared at all fall conference meetings, with an article in the fall *Ripple*, and sent an article to all addressees listed on the *Ripple* mailing list. The non-profit agency, Lighthouse for Life, 7320 Broad River Rd, Suite K#247, Irmo SC 29063, was approved by the board with an email vote on August 17, 2018. The convention project is supporting Lighthouse for Life

with Freedom Backpacks which contain personal hygiene items, wrapped candies/gum, water bottles, a Bible, and clothing items.

The global project activity is signing and sending 500 "Thinking of You/Thank you for your service" cards to active duty military personnel. Sarah requested red and blue pens (125 each) and patriotic red, white, and blue table centerpieces. The return address will be SC WELCA with logo. Elsa will provide Rae the WELCA graphic. Sarah is working with a Hallmark regional sales representative for the supply of greeting cards (price is 50 cents each) and she will include an article in *The Ripple* requesting attendees bring cards. Sarah is coordinating with Ft. Jackson chaplain for the delivery of the packets of cards to battalions. Thrivent Action Team funds can be used to cover the cost. Sarah thanked her team for their support. In addition to the reports of the convention projects, Sarah also provided an update of Action support and promotion of SC WELCA Goals for 2018-2019.

**Mission Community:** Amanda Boatwright reported on the nine Fall 2018 conference meetings sharing that guest speakers not only spoke about need but opportunities to provide help in communities.

Attendance for the nine conference meetings was a total of 336 with \$3,676 collected for donation to the following ministries:

- Foothills: Dream Center
- Upstate: Hope of Lancaster, SC
- Epiphany: South Carolina Hurricane Relief
- Amelia: Hebron Grace Home
- Heartland: Newberry Free Medical Clinic
- Midlands: Lutheran Hurricane Relief
- Coastal: Water Mission
- Saxe-Gotha: Patsy Amick (Speaker) and Flood Relief
- Western: I Care

Following are highlights of the Mission Community Committee Goals for 2018-2019:

- Promote SC WELCA website and Facebook page.
- Promote use of WELCA provided Bible Studies.
- Promote and create awareness of the local and global projects (Lighthouse for Life and military thank you cards).
- Promote and focus on World Day of Prayer.
- Encourage congregations to host WELCA Day/ Bold Women's Sunday.
- Promote and encourage Congregational Corner for *The Ripple* where congregations can share experiences and ideas.
- Promote and encourage young women to be involved in WELCA and attend conventions and conference meetings.
- Start up a "Prayer Corner" for the Facebook page where congregations can ask for prayer for someone in need, natural disasters, congregation needs, and for the synod.
- Start up a "Recipe Corner" for *The Ripple* where the congregations can send in their favorite recipes to share.
- Collect pictures of veterans/active duty military to hang on the mural for display at convention. We will share their pictures, time served, and branch served; the purpose is to honor and recognize the military.

**Mission Growth:** Dianne Lominick reported the committee will continue with activities supporting the 2018-2019 goals:

- Encourage attendance at retreats held at Camp Kinard and Lutheridge by providing information and publicizing activities.
- Promote awareness of the 2020 Triennial Convention in Phoenix, AZ.
- Provide information encouraging the building of relationships between generations through mentoring.
- Support and promote ELCA churchwide efforts to address natural disasters, human trafficking, domestic violence and hunger.
- The Camp Kinard retreat, a time of fellowship and learning, will be held February 8-9, 2019. The retreat begins with dinner at 6PM Friday and ends after lunch on Saturday. The video presentation is *How Lutherans Interpret the Bible* by The Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell. Linda Roland from Lord of Life in Bluffton, SC will facilitate a follow-up discussion. Brochures were provided at all fall conference meetings and the registration deadline is January 4, 2019. The Isle of Palms retreat will be held on April 26-28, 2019. The registration form is in *The Ripple*.
- Isle of Palms retreat (April 26-28, 2019) presenter will be Ada Arthur. St. Luke's, Florence sponsors the retreat.
- Mary presented a craft idea for prayer rocks and Rae suggested making Chrismons for the retreats.

**Old Business:**

- SC WELCA Goals for 2018-2019 were reviewed. They will be posted on the website. Amanda Baker made a motion to approve the goals as listed; Sarah seconded. MOTION PASSED.

**New Business**

- **Triennial Stipends** - \$200 for 10 attendees for a total of \$2000 was offered by SC WELCA for the last Triennial Gathering. Kristin made a motion to offer \$200 stipends to 10 registered attendees for a total of \$2000. Seconded by Amanda. MOTION PASSED. Kristin also made a motion for the process to award stipends to the first 10 registered applicants be on a first call, first basis. Rachel seconded. The MOTION PASSED.
- **Christmas Card Mailing** via email will not continue this year.

**Other Notes:**

- Devotions were given by Mission Growth and lunch was provided by the Mission Action.
- Camp Kinard retreat registration forms for the board members were completed and turned in to Rachel Quesada.
- *Ripple* articles are due January 4, 2019.
- BORs will be included in visitor packets.
- Next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2019, following lunch at 12:00 pm at Camp Kinard, Leesville (Devotions by Mission Action, Lunch by Mission Community).
- Triennial Voting Members must be nominated by their congregational unit. The nomination form will be revised to include the requirement.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM with the Missionary Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elsa Hope, Secretary

Approved: 020819, MEH