

**SC Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 9, 2018, 12:00 PM
Camp Kinard
6053 Two Notch Road
Batesburg-Leesville, SC 29070**

Officers Present:

Becky Koch, President
Margaret Shirer, Vice President
Elsa Hope, Secretary
Rachel Quesada, Treasurer

Board Members Present:

Shari Donley (Parliamentarian)	Mary Soltis
Dianne Lominick	Linda Roland
Sarah Cheesman	Merri Lewis
Amanda Boatwright	Gwen Furcron

Others Present:

Sherry Sheppard, Convention Registrar; Kaye Heins, Assistant Registrar; Linda Griffith, Nominating Committee

Call to Order: Becky called meeting to order and appointed Shari Donley as parliamentarian.

Devotions: Action Committee's (led by Sarah Cheesman and Amanda Boatwright) devotion was based on 1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:5-25, and Ephesians 3. A love project was assigned to the Board Members: writing and sending a letter to a friend letting them know how important they are.

Minutes: Minutes from SC WELCA Board Meeting held November 10, 2017, were approved as read. Congregational updates were passed out to respective conference liaisons. Elsa will provide updated congregational update form which includes a checkbox giving permission from congregational unit presidents to input their contact information into the churchwide database.

Correspondence:

Becky shared Christmas wishes from our sister synod in Japan, JELC-W 23.

REPORTS

President's Report: Becky welcomed Linda Roland, newest member of the board.

- Becky thanked the board for their email vote to approve \$500 End of Year Funds/Benevolence funds to the Tanzania Dormitory project. Dianne made a motion to ratify the email votes for sending \$500 for Tanzania dormitories out of the year-end funds. The vote was ratified by the board.
- Becky expressed her appreciation for the outstanding job Sherry Fowler is doing with the *Ripple*.
- Becky brought greetings from SC WELCA to Macedonia, Prosperity on January 21, and will give a temple talk at Holy Trinity, Anderson on Feb 11. She will attend the Conference of Presidents, Feb 23-25. Elsa will bring greetings to the Lutheran Men in Mission on February 25.
- Becky will submit the annual report for the Synod Assembly BOR on Feb 27.
- She attended the SC WELCA Financial Committee meeting on Feb 5 to develop the proposed budget for 2019-2020. She thanked Rachel Quesada, Jane Potter, and Roz Eckhardt for their leadership.
- Anna Sarver, churchwide representative, will address the convention and lead a Bible study. Becky read her bio summary: Anna Sarver was elected to her second term on the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves as treasurer and is on the executive committee. She is from Greensburg, PA, Southwestern Pennsylvania SWO. She has served her organization as treasurer, parliamentarian, and cluster planner. One of six children, Anna was born and raised on her family's farm. She has three grown children and 8 grandchildren. She and her husband own a dairy farm.

- Conference of Presidents (Feb 23-25): Last year Becky delivered a \$800 free will offering and \$400 in Walmart gift cards. Becky recommended the \$800 free will offering be reduced to \$400 and the \$400 reduced to \$200 for the Walmart gift cards. The free will offering will be donated equally from each of the 3 committee (Action, Community, Growth) budgets. The free will offering is distributed by Churchwide as follows: ¼ to the ELCA Deaconess Foundation, ¼ to Scholarship Fund of WELCA and ½ to support the remaining ministries of WELCA. Gift cards will go to Sarah's Inn, a Chicago-area domestic violence agency. Vote taken, recommendation passed.
- Becky asked that all board members attend at least two Spring Conference meetings. Meeting schedule and attendees follow:

Conference	Date and Time	Host Church	Liaison/Attendees
#1 Foothills	Sat., March 17, 10:00 am	University Lutheran, Clemson	Rachel, Elsa, Mary
#5 Heartland	Sun, April 22, 3:00 pm	Mt. Tabor, Little Mountain	Dianne Lominick , Elsa, Amanda, Sarah, Merri, Shari
#7 Coastal	Sat, March 17, 10:30 am	St. Luke's, Summerville	Margaret Shirer , Becky, Merri, Linda
#8 Saxe-Gotha	Sun, March. 18, 3:00 pm	Sandy Run, Swansea	Amanda Boatwright , Becky, Merri
#9 Western	Sun, March 18, 3:00 pm	Cedar Grove, Leesville	Gwen Furcron , Dianne, Elsa, Mary

Treasurer's Report:

As of January 31, 2018: Summary Sheet shows current cash assets are \$30,766.59 which includes a Mission Investment Fund CD of \$15,447.26 which matures on August 3, 2019 and BB&T Bank balance of \$15,319.36. For the fiscal year February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018 there was \$79,761.55 in Income/ Receipts and \$78,666.55 in Expenses/Disbursements. The Edna Corley Estate Mission Investment Fund CD matures July 2, 2022 and has a balance of \$35,630.71. Actual and Budget Receipts and Disbursements show: Budgeted Receipts - \$69,550.53, Non-Budgeted Receipts - \$10,211.02, Budgeted Disbursements- \$67,52.10, Non-Budgeted Disbursements - \$11,139.45 with an Ending Balance of \$30,766.59. Benevolence Funds were disbursed as follows: \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Response for U.S Hurricanes, \$2,000 to the Caribbean synod for hurricane relief, and \$500 for the 2018 Convention Project to replace furnishings in the girls' dormitories in Tanzania. The Treasurer's Report, submitted by Rachel Quesada, was received as information. Proposed Budget 2019-2020 (\$67,000) was presented to the board. Shari moved to accept the proposed budget. Sarah seconded. Motion passed.

2018 Convention Report:

- Nine workshops have been set up: Margaret was notified Lisette Martinez will not be able to attend the convention; therefore, Bachata Dancing will not be offered as one of the workshops. An email blast will be used to notify congregational presidents and Elsa will make changes to the registration form and send to Sherry Fowler and liaisons.
- Rev. Mary Finklea is set to go as keynote speaker; she is the *Love One Another* Campaign Chair and will speak about the service project for Lutheran Services Carolinas. Cindy McKeowen, Christian musician, artist, and author, will provide entertainment and accept a love offering. Length of time will be 20-45 minutes. Shari made a motion for the convention committee to spend up to \$300 and any associated fees for an honorarium for the keynote speaker, and a \$200 love offering for entertainment, lunch, banquet, and mileage. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

- Diimmler’s Catering and Special Events, 2261 North Lake Dr., Columbia SC 29212 is recommended as caterer for lunches and the banquet. Merri made a motion to accept Diimmler’s as caterer, and Mary seconded. Motion passed.
- Three hotels, Baymont Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn Express, and Comfort Suites, are reserved. Board and guests will be staying at Comfort Suites. Margaret passed out the forms for reserving rooms and assigning roommates for the board members.
- Margaret has contacted the Scout leader, Earle Wells from Redeemer for Scout support to set up tables prior to Thursday for decorating, set up the work and workshop areas with chairs and tables, help bring in supplies Friday morning, take out the supplies on Saturday afternoon, and take down tables. If Redeemer’s Scout Troop is not available to assist because of a conflict with camping trip commitment, he will provide points of contact for other scout troops in the area. Margaret asked for any board member to bring wagons to bring in supplies.
- Sarah Cheesman will oversee production of the board skit.
- Margaret will contact Pat George to display the “Christ Be Our Light” artwork during board skit. Becky is coordinating to have a church type banner for use during the convention.
- Vendors – Sybil Craft will have ceramics, Tom Genutis with woodworking items, Tanzania baskets and bracelets, note cards with “Christ, Be Our Light” theme for sale, and jewelry.
- There will be a social hour sponsored by Thrivent Financial, Friday evening at the end of convention day and before the banquet.
- Sherry offered the opportunity for a “Poverty Simulation Kit” exercise and staff to tend the booth and conduct the exercise during down times, breaks or shopping times. Sherry will check on the space required and get back with Margaret.
- Margaret met with Amelia, Epiphany and Coastal Conference leaders on Sunday, January 21 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Georgetown to provide guidelines for conferences for the job descriptions and assigned committees. She gave the host conference report: Amelia Coordinator, Emily Shirer; Coastal, Carolyn Berry, Kaye Heins and Gayle Grime; Epiphany, Dana Lee, Evelyn Wragg. Amelia has set up and clean-up, Creativity; Coastal will do goody bags; Epiphany will take care of refreshments. The Greeter Committee is comprised of 5 greeters from each conference to help guide people and bring donations from the parking lot and direct attendees to overflow parking in the shopping center. Margaret has 3 volunteers who will help Sherry with the registrations, two greeters in the front (one to field all questions and provide information). There will be a sign to identify the information table which will be located close to registration.
- Becky has scheduled a walkthrough of Redeemer facilities on May 5th. Wi-Fi is available in the fellowship hall.

2018 Nominating Committee Report: Linda Griffith, Chair, reported five nominations have been received for board members and one for Treasurer to date. Committee members, Diane Wicker and Judy Lybrand continue to seek nominees.

2018 Registrar’s Report: Sherri Sheppard reported that packet supplies (250 convention folders) are plentiful, thanks to Thrivent Financial. A computer (with hotspot) and printer will be on site. Supplies (nametags, lanyards, supplies) are on hand. May 5 is the deadline for packet insert copies to Sherry. Guests bringing greetings will be directed to sign in with the registration desk. Sherry will provide number registered and checks received on a weekly basis. Kaye Heins will continue to make phone contact with registrants to confirm registrations.

Committee Reports

- **Mission Action:** Amanda Boatwright stated there are eight volunteers to help Heidi Rixman (Lutheran Services Carolinas) gather items brought in. The inventory page listing needs is included in the latest issue of the *Ripple*; it will be completed by each church. She emphasized the in-kind gift items do not have to be collected as part of a kit. Congregational units can choose to collect as they choose.
- **Mission Community:** Mary Soltis reported emphasis on the 2017-2018 goals by using the SC WELCA website, Facebook and *The Ripple* to promote the use of WELCA Bible studies, create awareness and understanding of refugees and immigrants in South Carolina, promote WELCA Day/Bold Women’s Day (Feb 25) and the World Day of Prayer (March 2).

The 2018 World Day of Prayer theme is “*God’s Creation is Good.*” Participants are asked to think about how their actions and lifestyles impact the earth.

Karen Freeman, committee member is the Facebook administrator and continues with “Fun Facts on the Fifth.” Everyone is encouraged to “like” or “share” the fun facts.

Mary reported the *Ripple* Congregational Corner was a success with 6 churches submitting stories, ideas and pictures. Making the submission deadline dates known will play a big part in getting material for publishing. Suggestion was made to include deadline dates at the Conference spring gathering meetings.

- **Mission Growth:** Shari Donley shared the focus of the Camp Kinard retreat (February 9-10, 2018) as a time of fellowship and a weekend of “*Awe and Wonder.*” The information was distributed by conference liaisons during the fall conferences. She extended a special thank you to Agnes and Sallie Folk for organizing the retreat and facilitating the logistics. Isle of Palms retreat (April 27-29, 2018) registration form is posted on the website. There are limited reservation available. Ada Arthur will be conducting the Bible study.

Retreats: There was discussion regarding revamping the brochures for retreats, information provided for prospective attendees, and evaluations. Lessons learned will be shared during the Growth Committee transition in August. Rachel made the motion to give an honorarium of \$200 to Rev. Bruce Booher, presenter for Awe and Wonder retreat. Amanda seconded. Motion passed. Funds to pay the honorarium will be from the Growth Committee budget.

The Ripple and SC WELCA Website Report: Sherry Fowler sent in the communications report which stated the winter *Ripple* was sent to K & K Printing on Monday, January 22 with distribution to follow within 7-10 days. There were 274 printed *Ripple* copies mailed; 474 copies were emailed via Constant Contact on Monday Jan 29, 2018. If anyone would like to receive the *Ripple* via hard copy, let Sherry know. Rachel will check with other printing sources for cost quotes looking at lowering printing and mailing costs. Revenue from *Ripple* subscriptions was \$600 during 2017; cost of printing was more than \$2400 and using Constant Contact for email distribution was \$250.

Sherry requested board members inform her of any new items to be added or old items to be deleted.

Old Business:

- Application for printing the “Christ, Be Our Light” note cards will be submitted to Thrivent Action Team. Cards will be sold for 6-8 in a packet for \$10. The estimated cost for printing 500 with envelopes is \$202 plus shipping.

New Business:

- Sale of items at convention – for future conventions request 10% of profits made be paid by vendors unless contact is made by SC WELCA.
- Tote bags: Estimated cost is \$200 for 200 tote bags at 60 cents each. Consideration for covering the purchase and screen printing cost is the possibility of using Thrivent Action Team funds. Elsa will check with Vista Print for the cost of screen printing the bags.
- Silent Auction – Shari Donley and Growth Committee will spearhead and coordinate the silent auction. People can bring handmade items or bring themed gift baskets. Proceeds will go to support the Tanzania dormitory project. Constant Contact, the next *Ripple* issue, and Conference Spring Meetings will be used for promoting the Silent Auction. Rachel reminded any checks received must be made out to SC WELCA.

Upcoming Dates:

- March 5 – deadline for *Ripple* articles; publication submission date to K&K Printing is March 29
- March 26 – deadline for Board/Treasurer nominations

April 9 – Bulletin of Reports due to Elsa
April 10 – deadline for Young Women Guest/First Timer Guest nominations to conference coordinators
April 15 – Voting member registrations due to Registrar
April 27-29 – Isle of Palms retreat
May 5 – Board Meeting, Redeemer, Columbia; devotions by Community, lunch by Growth.
May 29 – Visitor registrations due to Registrar
June 7 – Pre-convention board meeting
June 8-9 – Convention

Other Notes:

- Becky has sent emails to congregational unit presidents requesting permission to list their names and information in the churchwide database. There are input challenges for individuals who do not want to have their personal information in the churchwide database. The Bulletin of Reports will be modified with unit leadership personal information removed and reposted on the website.
- Prayer Partner Gift Exchange with cost limit of \$10 took place at the end of the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM with the Missionary Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hope
Secretary

Approved, MEH, May 5, 2018