

**Minutes**  
**South Carolina Women of the ELCA**  
**Thirty-Second Annual Convention**  
**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**  
**Lexington, South Carolina**  
**June 7-8, 2019**

**Becky Koch, Presiding**  
**Theme: "Grace in Community"**

*"Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."*

Hebrews 4:16

**Pre-Convention Business**

After volunteers' briefing, registration, pre-convention workshops, standing committees' meetings, President Becky Koch called on Secretary Elsa Hope to present the Orientation. Secretary Hope provided corrections to the Bulletin of Reports (BOR). She referred to page 4, that The Rev. Dr. Patrick Riddle be replaced by The Rev. Jason Antley. On page 5, add 9:30 a.m. and remove 4:30 p.m. as times for convention workshop Churchwide Representative Lois Bylund. Secretary Hope requested any further corrections or additions be given to her in writing before the close of convention. She completed her portion of the orientation with instructions specific to voting members and visitors with the reminder that voting members' registrations deadline was 9 a.m., Saturday, June 8, 2019, at which time the voting member registration will be closed. She also gave instructions regarding nomination forms which must be submitted to Julie Watson, Chair of the Nominating Committee, no later than close of business Friday, June 7, 2019. President Koch then called on Vice President Mary Soltis, Convention Chair to make announcements.

Vice President Soltis made administrative announcements to include table seating for voting members and visitors. She also:

- thanked the Young Women Guests in advance for their assistance as needed for the opening banner processional and serving as ushers at the Offering Ingathering and the closing Worship Service
- recognized Sarah Cheesman Convention Project Chair, who would be reporting the results of the Convention project
- reminded attendees that fifty percent of the convention offerings would be sent to Lighthouse for Life and fifty percent to cover convention expenses
- thanked Kristin Snelgrove for authoring the board skit and Gwen Furcron for preparing the Prayer Room
- invited everyone to browse the display tables

President Koch referred:

- to page 37 of the BOR for voting instructions by ecclesiastical ballot
- to page 30 and invited all to review the Proposed Budget for any questions that needed addressing or clarification
- to the requirement for voting members to complete and submit Resolutions Forms, by the close of business June 7, 2019, to Chair Jennifer Nuovo, Committee of Reference and Counsel
- to page 6 as she introduced the Convention Committees which were appointed prior to this convention

She recognized members of the various committees and thanked them for their service and also recognized the following for their faithful commitment and service in preparation of this convention:

- Mary Soltis, Convention Chair
- Kristin Snelgrove, Convention Co-chair and author of SCWELCA Leadership Presentation
- Sherry Sheppard, Registrar; Kaye Heins, Assistant Registrar
- Host Conference Leaders (Midlands Conference): Emily Wright, Coordinator; Elizabeth Lucas, Secretary; Cindy Bundrick (Financial Secretary)
- St. Stephen's Lutheran Church: The Rev. Patrick Riddle

- The Rev. Ginger Litman-Koon, Convention Chaplain
- Kathleen Cartledge, Musician; Sara Coffman, Song Leader
- Gwen Furcron: Prayer Room set-up and wrote room devotions
- Pat George, Technology Technician
- Amanda Cruse, Convention Photographer
- Carolyn Torrence, Parliamentarian
- Risse Snelgrove, SC Triennial Gathering Promoter
- Sarah Cheesman, Amanda Boatwright, and Dianne Lominick and their committees
- Julie Watson and the Nominating Committee
- Lois Bylund, Convention Coordinator of the Churchwide Executive Board
- Denise Warren and the following Young Women Guests:

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Church, City</b>
Heartland	Lillie Free	Mt. Horeb, Chapin
Saxe Gotha	Claire Fingerlin	Our Saviour, W. Cola

- Dianne Pitts and the following First Timer Guests.

<b>Conference</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Church, City</b>
Foothills	Cindy Hart	Immanuel, Greenwood
Foothills	Lynn Pode	St. John's, Walhalla
Foothills	Vicki Valera	St. Matthias, Easley
Heartland	Caroline Langston	Summer Memorial, Newberry
Midlands	Vicky Crapps	Living Springs, Columbia
Midlands	Susan Layton	St. Timothy, Camden
Midlands	Rena Nord	St. Timothy, Camden
Coastal	Nancy Carter	St. Luke's, Summerville
Saxe Gotha	Claire Fingerlin	Our Saviour, West Columbia
Western	Ruby Taylor	Union, Leesville

- Synodical Board Members listed on page 7 of the BOR
- Conference Leaders as listed on page 48 of the BOR
- Congregational unit presidents

Everyone was recognized with an applause of appreciation by attendees. President Koch closed the orientation session. After the orientation, the prelude and the banner processional to the convention hymn “*Grace Alone*,” introduced the weekend events.

**First Session**  
**Friday, June 7, 2019, 10:50 – 12 noon**

The Thirty-Second Annual Convention of the South Carolina Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (SC WELCA) was held June 7-8, 2019 at St Stephen's Lutheran Church. The first session opened with the “Formal Opening of Convention” found in the 2019 Bulletin of Reports, pages 8-9, conducted by Becky Koch, President, who declared this convention to be in session.

**Ingathering Offering and Litany**

President Koch called upon the Rev. Ginger Litman-Koon, Convention Chaplain, who led the convention in prayers of thanksgiving and litany for the Ingathering Offering. Kathleen Cartledge served as music leader. The Young Women Guests and First Timer Guests served as ushers and collected the offering.

President Koch called upon The Rev. Jason Antley, Associate Pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, who welcomed the convention.

President Koch called upon The Rev. Ginny Aebischer, Assistant to the Bishop, SC Synod who brought greetings from the Bishop and SC Synod.

**Adoption of Proposed Rules of Procedure**

President Koch called on Secretary Elsa Hope, who referred to the Proposed Rules of Procedures on pages 14-16 in the BOR. Secretary Hope moved that the Proposed Rules of Procedures be adopted (Board Recommendation #1 on page 16). The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.

**Adoption of Convention Program Agenda**

Secretary Hope referred to the proposed Convention Program Agenda for the 2019 SC WELCA Convention on pages 8-13 in the BOR. Secretary Hope moved that the Convention Program Agenda be adopted (Board Recommendation #2 on page 16). The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Koch called on Betty Jo Amick, Chair of the Committee on Credentials, who gave the First Report on Credentials as follows:

Voting Members	113	Visitors	27
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	2
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	10*
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>124</b>	Other	23*
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>186</b>

Chair Betty Jo Amick moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.

\*NOTE: Post Convention amendment to the Report of the Committee on Credentials: Visitors corrected from 29 to 27. First Timer Guests number was reduced from 11 to 10; review of the Registration File confirms 10 names. "Other" category was increased by one, from 22 to 23; one of the presenters was not included. Total Attendance remains the same – 186. This increase/decrease by 1 applies to all subsequent reporting for categories, YWG and FTG.

**Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Pastor Litman-Koon who offered a prayer for guidance. President Koch called on Linda Griffith, Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections, who gave instructions for the nominating/first ballot for Vice President. Votes were cast for the first ballot as the nominating ballot for the election of the Vice President. President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots. After the collection of the ballots by Tellers I and II, she declared the nominating ballot for Vice President closed.

**Announcements and Blessing of the Meal**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis for administrative announcements and instructions. Sarah Cheesman gave instructions for signing Thank You for Your Service cards. The goal is for 2,500 cards signed by lunch time Saturday. Vice President Soltis gave a quick overview of the vendors onsite to include SERRV, a non-profit fair trade agency whose mission is to empower artisans to earn a fair living for their work. President Koch called on The Rev. Litman-Koon who led the blessing for the noon meal.

**Second Session  
Friday, June 7, 2019, 12:50 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Joy in Singing**

President Koch called on Kathleen Cartledge and Sara Coffman to lead the convention in singing.

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Koch called on Betty Jo Amick, Chair of the Committee on Credentials, who gave the Second Report on Credentials as follows:

Voting Members	114	Visitors	27
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	2
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	*10
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>125</b>	Other	*23
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>187</b>

Chair Amick moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.  
\*See NOTE for First Report of the Committee on Credentials.

**Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave the results of the nominating (first) ballot for Vice President:

Eligible to vote – 124		Number of votes cast - 91	
Number of votes necessary to elect (75%) – 68		Number of illegal votes - 0	
Linda Albert - 5	Amanda Boatwright– 18	Sarah Cheesman–5	Sara Coffman - 2
Rae Davis - 1	Karen Freeman - 1	Brenda Fulmer - 2	Gwen Furcron - 3
Kristy Gardner– 1	Pat George–2	Linda Griffin – 2	Linda Griffith - 7
Kathy Harris - 1	Virginia Herlong– 3	Mary Lewis – 2	Merri Lewis - 1
Sabrina Matthews - 1	Marsha Mikell – 3	Linda Oswald – 3	Dianne Pitts - 1
Margaret Shirer – 2	Kristin Snelgrove - 4	Risse Snelgrove - 5	Mary Soltis - 5
Ruth Vorpagal -1	Denise Warren - 5	Linda Waltz - 2	Diane Wicker - 2

President Koch declared no one was elected on the first ballot. Anyone who wished to withdraw their name was asked to stand and be recognized. The following asked to be removed from the ballot and their names were struck from the ballot for Vice President: Dianne Pitts, Sara Coffman, Mary Soltis, Gwen Furcron, Merri Lewis, Karen Freeman, Risse Snelgrove, Margaret Shirer, Linda Oswald, Linda Griffith, Virginia Herlong, Rae Davis, Sarah Cheesman, Linda Albert, Pat George, Linda Griffin.

President Koch called on the nominees for the second ballot for Vice President. Each nominee came forward to state her name, church association, and the levels of participation with Women of the ELCA. Nominees eligible for the second ballot were: Denise Warren, Marsha Mikell, Kristin Snelgrove, Sebrena Matthews, Amanda Boatwright, Brenda Fulmer.

Eligible nominees not present: Kristy Gardner, Kathy Harris, Linda Waltz, Ruth Vorpagal, Diane Wicker

To be elected Vice President on the second ballot, two-thirds of the legal votes cast are necessary for election. President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave instructions for the second ballot for Vice President. After the vote, President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots and declared the second ballot for Vice President closed.

**Introduction of the Churchwide Representative**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis to introduce WELCA's Churchwide Representative, Lois Bylund.

Vice President Soltis' highlights of Ms. Bylund's bio: She and her husband, Leon, have three 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren. She is employed by a hospital services company as a customer service coordinator whose corporate headquarters is located in Minneapolis. She was reelected to the board at the 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention in Minneapolis. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead, MN in the Northwest Minnesota Synod. Lois has been involved with the Women of the ELCA since 1985. Over the years she has served as a board member, president of her congregational unit, coordinator, and president of her synodical organization.

### **Address of the Churchwide Representative**

She began by thanking the convention for the kindness and hospitality extended to her. She brought greetings from Lisa Plorin, President, CWO; Executive Director Linda Post-Buschofsky, the churchwide board and staff.

Ms. Bylund spoke of Women of the ELCA carrying out its mission through three expressions: congregational units, synodical women's organization, and the churchwide organization. Connecting these three expressions can begin with a simple invitation to a Bible study and fellowship and grow into involvement in local, national and international ministries as we answer God's calling.

Working together offers great opportunities for learning, service, spiritual growth through encouragement, support and nurturing future leaders, to bring forward new ideas, and ensuring congregational units have a voice by electing voting members to the Triennial convention.

She praised SC Women of the ELCA for their support of local and international ministries: collecting Freedom Bags for human trafficking and honoring our military.

Currently, an exploratory committee is investigating the organization's current business model, looking at the organization's government structure, communications methods, constitutional structure, and financial realities. More information about the committee and its mission can be found at [www.welca.org/future](http://www.welca.org/future). Participants of the annual conference of presidents and the last board meeting were asked to consider the following 3 questions:

1. If you could make changes to our constitution to encourage more participation in the organization, what would they be?
2. The triennial convention cost is approximately \$ 2,400 per voting member. Annual revenue from offerings have been insufficient to pay for the convention over the past two Trienniums. How could your synodical assist with the cost?
3. Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? Would it matter? Why or why not?

At the last national Youth Gathering in Houston, Women of the ELCA offered an interactive 3-day exhibit about human trafficking. Youth completed hygiene bags which included information and a list of resources available for help in the Houston area.

Ms. Bylund shared information about the award-winning communications: Gather, Café, Bold Connections and Interchange. Grants and scholarships are available; last year WELCA awarded \$20,500 in scholarships to 8 Lutheran laywomen and \$6,000 in seed grants for Raising up Healthy Women & Girls. She spoke of the many free resources available on the website to include: Daily Grace, Bible studies; brochures, booklets and power point presentations available for new member packets or church meetings. The [www.welca.org](http://www.welca.org) website has a blog page with various authors posting twice a week covering a variety of subjects related to WELCA. An example is, Jody Smiley's blog posting – "Geeks welcome here!" She encouraged the use of FACEBOOK, TWITTER, PINTEREST, and receiving publications via electronic devices to get and stay connected.

She addressed the question "Where do my offerings go?" by explaining the cost of the many free resources available for congregational units are included in the Churchwide annual budget. Additionally, she provided a list of other expenditures included but not limited to the following: administrative, operational costs, evangelism, global education, cross cultural experiences, social media presence, travel, racial justice and advocacy, stewardship, liability insurance, audits, and ordinary office expenses. The largest budget expense is the annual payment to the ELCA for office rent, technical services and other business expenses - \$176,000.

Thank Offerings which totaled 60% of the budget for the entire year was \$486,803, an increase of \$300,000 from the end of November to the end of December. Regular offerings, \$245,432, received at the end of 10 months represented about 54% of the regular offerings expected by the budget for the entire year. The total revenue and

support at the end of 11 months for FY 2018 was \$1,684,727. South Carolina WELCA gave \$22,500; units which gave directly to CWO was just over \$1,200; direct individual giving was \$750 bringing the grand total to \$24,400. Ms. Bylund reminded the convention that WELCA finances are independent and interdependent of the larger ELCA. Neither the ELCA nor synods list Women of the ELCA as a budget line item.

Every expression of our organization depends on voluntary gifts; increased giving can be done by designating gifts to Women of the ELCA publications and resources, Raising up Healthy Women & Girls, Katie's Fund, or the Triennial Convention. Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls is a program which helps congregations set up programs that help their communities. Katie's Fund is an endowment, generating income each year which supports ministries in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Gifts to Katie's Fund also support current ministry projects. The Triennial Convention is a constitutional requirement; the last 3 triennials have been paid for by closing out endowments and reserves which has become unsustainable. Gifts to support Triennial costs are greatly appreciated.

Regular offerings benefit all three expressions of this community of women. On-line giving allows for donations in honor or memory of a loved one; Faithful Friends is an easy way to give by monthly deductions from a bank account or credit card.

Lois shared her thoughts about getting younger or more women involved using church meetings, forums on Sunday mornings, power point presentations, Bible studies at a local coffee shop to talk about the Women of the ELCA and the benefits of involvement "Think outside the box. . . . Just try something new." She gave as an example of how one congregational unit was revived by meeting once a month for an hour with a short business meeting, offering and devotion for about 10 minutes with the remainder of the time doing a service project or planned activity followed by a meal together.

She requested to hear stories of what works well in congregations and thanked the convention for sharing time with her and stated it was an honor to serve alongside of women who make a difference in congregations, communities, and our society in the world. She expressed appreciation for the generosity and support of Women of the ELCA, and, especially how SC WELCA makes many ministries possible. She closed with "May God continue to bless you and your ministries here in South Carolina synod. Thank you."

### **Greetings:**

Dallas Shealy brought greetings from **Lutheran Retreat Centers**.

Chris Harris brought greetings from **Newberry College**.

Sarah Cheesman read a letter of thanks from Natalie Cooke who received a scholarship for **Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**. Sarah made a MOTION to record the names of 2017-2018 LTSS scholarship recipients, Sharon McCoy and Alston Lippert, as part of this convention's minutes. Motion was seconded. These names were omitted from previous convention minutes because the names were not available. MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis who read a letter of greetings from Rev. Dr. Mary Shore of **Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary**.

### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave the results of the second ballot for Vice President:

Eligible to vote – 125	Number of votes cast - 116	
Number of votes necessary to elect (66%) – 77	Number of illegal votes -1	
Amanda Boatwright -71	Kristin Snelgrove - 14	Sebrena Matthews – 9
Marshall Mikell – 8	Denise Warren – 7	Brenda Fulmer – 5
Diane Wicker – 1	Kristy Gardner– 0	Kathy Harris – 0
Ruth Vorpagal – 0	Linda Waltz - 0	

President Koch declared no one as elected on the second ballot. None of these names can be withdrawn. To be elected Vice President on the third ballot, the voting shall be limited to the two persons (plus ties) receiving the highest number of votes on the second ballot. A majority of the legal votes cast are necessary for election.

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave instructions for the third ballot for Vice President. Chair Griffith presented the top two names, Amanda Boatwright and Kristin Snelgrove as eligible names for the third ballot. After the vote, President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots and declared the third ballot for Vice President closed.

### **Report of the Treasurer**

President Koch called on Treasurer Quesada who gave the Report of the Treasurer and called attention to the financial reports through January 31, 2018 (BOR pages 27-32).

### **Presentation of the 2020-2021 Budget**

President Koch called on Jane Potter who reported on behalf of Roz Eckhardt, Chair of the Stewardship Committee. Jane presented the Proposed Budget for 2020-2021 on page 30 in the BOR. President Koch encouraged the voting members to study the proposed budget and be ready for its adoption Saturday afternoon at which time the floor would be open for debate and amendment. President Koch opened the floor for questions or clarification.

Marsha Mikell, St. John's, Charleston presented questions concerning the budget mailed out to voting members: First question was why the reduction of committees' budget amounts to \$400. Second question was why the Conference of Presidents shown as a line item budget item when funded by Churchwide.

Rachel provided clarification explaining each year in the past, \$200 was taken from each of the Committees as an offering to the Conference of Presidents. This year the decision was to identify the \$600 and show the amount as a line item as a contribution to the Conference of Presidents. President Koch shared the breakdown of ministries which received the contribution.

### **Greetings**

Ava Shealy (Cedar Grove, Leesville) brought Greetings **from South Carolina Church Youth**.  
Travis Goodman brought greetings from **Thrivent Financial**.

### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave the results of the third ballot for Vice President after asking the convention to show appreciation for the excellent work of the Tellers:

Eligible to vote – 125	Number of votes cast - 115
Number of votes necessary to elect: highest number	Number of illegal votes -2

Amanda Boatwright -97                      Kristin Snelgrove - 16

President Koch declared Amanda Boatwright as elected as Vice President of the South Carolina Synodical Organization of the Women of the ELCA. President Koch called on Vice President-elect Boatwright to come forward to say a few words. Vice President-elect Boatwright expressed her appreciation for the trust bestowed upon her from the convention to serve as vice president. She stated she has a lot of ideas, is very excited, and ready to go – and gave her thanks for the votes.

President Koch called on Julie Watson, Chair, Nominating Committee, to present nominations for Synodical Secretary and referred the convention to page 40 of the BOR for the biographical summary. President Koch thanked the Nominating Committee for their diligence and hard work. Chair Watson referred to page 15 of the BOR for the Proposed Rules of Procedures previously adopted by the convention voting members. Elections are governed by the SC Synodical Constitution, Article 6, Section 4, Items 1-6. Chair Watson submitted the following name as the nominee for the Secretary: Linda Roland

President Koch asked for nominations from the floor; no nominations were presented. A motion from the floor was made to close the nominations followed with a second. The MOTION CARRIED with a show of GREEN cards. President Koch announced the nominations for Secretary closed.

**Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave the instructions for balloting for Secretary and presented the name of Linda Roland as nominee. Even though there is only one nominee, vote by paper ballot is required by SC SWO WELCA Constitution. Votes were cast for Secretary. President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots. After the collection of the ballots by Tellers I and II, President Koch declared the first ballot for Secretary closed.

**Joy in Singing**

President Koch called on Kathleen Cartledge and Sara Coffman to lead the joy in singing.

**Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith, who gave the results of the First Ballot for Secretary:

Eligible to vote – 125	Number of votes cast - 116
Number of votes necessary to elect – 77	Number of Illegal votes - 1
Linda Roland - 115     Denise Warren - 1	

President Koch declared Linda Roland as SC WELCA Synodical Secretary and offered her congratulations. President Koch called on Secretary-elect Roland who thanked the convention for their confidence, vote and support.

**Announcements**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis for announcements who gave instructions for the workshops and the banquet. Following the announcements, the convention was adjourned for the workshops.

**Banquet**

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., Vice President Soltis welcomed the banquet attendees. Pastor Litman-Koon gave the blessing for the evening meal, and Vice President Soltis introduced the evening's entertainment, "The Women" presented by The Journey, A Performing Arts Ministry.

**Third Session  
Saturday, June 8, 2019, 8:50 a.m.– 12 noon**

**Announcements**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis for announcements. Sarah Cheesman gave an update on the progress of Thank You for Your Service cards.

**Gathering Songs and Prayer**

President Koch called on Kathleen Cartledge and Sara Coffman to lead the Joy in Singing and called on Pastor Litman-Koon, who reconvened the convention with a devotion using Hebrews 4:14-16 and led the convention in prayer.

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Koch called on Chair Amick who gave the Third Report of the Committee on Credentials as follows:

CU Voting Members	114	Visitors	28
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	2
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	*10
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>125</b>	Other	*38
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>203</b>

Chair Amick moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.  
\*See NOTE for First Report of the Committee on Credentials.

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

President Koch referred to page 40 for the nominees' biographies in the BOR and called on Julie Watson of the Nominating Committee to present nominations for Board Members. Chair Watson submitted the following names as nominees for the Board and President Koch asked for each to stand and be recognized:

Sarah Cheesman, Amanda West-Cruse, Merri B. Lewis, Karen S. Lucas, Ella Shumpert,  
Risse Snelgrove, Denise Warren

President Koch asked for nominations from the floor. No nominations were received. There was a motion to close the nominations followed with a second. The MOTION CARRIED with a show of GREEN cards. President Koch announced the nominations for Board Members closed.

### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith of the Committee on Conduct of Elections, who gave instructions for the first ballot for the two-year term of Synodical Board Members. Voting members voted for up to four of the names on the ballots.

Sarah Cheesman, Amanda West-Cruse, Merri B. Lewis, Karen S. Lucas, Ella Shumpert,  
Risse Snelgrove, Denise Warren

Votes were cast for the first ballot. After the collection of the ballots by Tellers 1 and II, President Koch declared the first ballot for Board Members closed. The person with the fifth highest number of votes will serve one year, completing the remainder of the board member term as a result of Amanda Boatwright's election as vice president.

### **2020 Triennial Gathering**

President Koch called on Risse Snelgrove, Triennial Gathering Promoter to provide information on the upcoming Triennial 2020. Risse brought greetings and provided information promoting the 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering with the theme of "Just Love" to be held July 16-20, 2020 Phoenix AZ. She encouraged all to attend, make new friends, share amazing experiences with worship, doing service projects, singing, and having opportunities to make memories. She encouraged the attendees to apply for one of the 10 \$200 stipends to be offered in September. Applications will be in the Ripple and on the SC WELCA website.

### **Leadership Presentation**

The SC Synodical Board and Officers presented a skit prepared by Kristin Snelgrove.

### **Keynote Address**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis to introduce the Keynote Speaker, Jen Thompson, Executive Director for **Lighthouse for Life**, a domestic violence non-profit organization serving five counties in South Carolina. Lighthouse for Life exists to bring awareness of human trafficking and restoration to victims of human trafficking. She gave an update on the Karis Home, a home of restorative care for young girls, 12-21, which has been in the works for the past five years. She introduced Heather Cook who told her story of being a survivor of human trafficking. She thanked the convention for making a difference in community and around the world. She introduced Bob Healy who has been working on legislation for the past 5 years, S.194 which has been passed in the Senate and will go before the House in January. She requested letters be written to representatives in support of the changing current legislation.

### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave the results of the first ballot for Board Members:

Eligible to vote - 125

Number of votes necessary to elect - 57

Number of votes cast - 114

Number of illegal votes - 0

Sarah D. Cheesman – 91      Risse Snelgrove – 75      Denise Warren - 75  
 Merri Lewis - 58      Amanda West-Cruse – 53      Karen S. Lucas – 46  
 Ella Shumpert - 42

A majority of the legal votes passed plus 1 is required for election to the synodical board. President Koch declared Sarah Cheesman, Risse Snelgrove, Denise Warren, Merri Lewis as elected two-year term board members of the South Carolina Synodical Board ending 2021. Amanda West-Cruse will serve as board member for a one-year term ending 2020 with the vacancy created following the election of Amanda Boatwright as vice president.

**Greetings**

President Koch called on Dr. Cathy Milejczak who presented a slide show and gave an update on the Tanzanian dormitories which had been destroyed by fire. Donations from last year's SC WELCA convention were used to replace furnishings and bedding. "In this great big world, we are only a little part of it, but we can make a big difference." She will be returning to Tanzania for dedications of the new medical ward building, water system, blessing of the furniture, and installation of the new bishop. She thanked SC WELCA for the donation in support of the Tanzania convention project.

**Joy in Singing**

**Report on Convention Project**

President Koch called on Sarah Cheesman, Chair of the Convention Project.

<u>Items</u>	<u># of Items</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Lighthouse for Life</u>	<u>Thank You for Your Service</u>
Complete Freedom Bags	428	Gift Cards	\$2,270.00	56 additional cards
Misc Personal Items	Several bags	Checks	6,760.99	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,030.99</b>	

**Greetings**

President Koch called on Ernest Beck who brought greetings from **Lutheran Homes South Carolina.**

President Koch called on Pastor Litman-Koon who led the convention in prayer for the blessings received in these gifts and the 44-plus tied fleece blankets tied during workshops for Lighthouse for Life.

**Presentation of Gifts for Lighthouse for Life**

President Koch called on Sarah Cheesman to present the convention gifts to Jen Thompson and staff of Lighthouse for Life. They expressed their thanks and appreciation.

**Greetings**

President Koch called on Robert Epting who brought greetings from **Lutheran Men in Mission**, Sandra Holland who brought greetings from **Novus Way**, Bedrija Jazic who brought greetings from **Lutheran Services Carolinas.**

President Koch called on Elsa Hope, Mary Soltis, Dianne Lominick, Gwen Furcron to come forward; she presented gifts of appreciation for their service.

**Announcements**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis for announcements and Pastor Litman-Koon for the lunch blessing; the convention sang the Doxology and adjourned for lunch .

**Fourth Session**  
**Saturday, June 8, 2019, 12:50 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Joy in Singing**

President Koch called on Kathleen Cartledge and Sara Coffman for joy in singing: *Grace Alone*

**Report of the Committee on Credentials**

President Koch called on Chair Amick who gave the Third Report of the Committee on Credentials as follows:

CU Voting Members	114	Visitors	27
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	2
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	*10
<b>Voting Strength</b>	<b>125</b>	Other	*23
		<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>187</b>

Chair Amick moved that the report be accepted. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.  
\*See **NOTE** for First Report of the Committee on Credentials.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

President Koch referred to page 39 in the BOR. She explained that Churchwide had assigned our South Carolina Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) four (4) triennial voting members based on the number of giving units in our SWO. These 4 voting members and the president will represent SC WELCA .One voting member is a person of color or whose language was other than English, one is a first-time voting member, and two are not restricted by category. We have three tickets (Ticket A, Ticket B and Ticket C); one for each category. Whomever is not elected on Ticket A will be added to either Ticket B or C as appropriate, and whomever is not elected on Ticket B will be added to Ticket C. An alternate, if needed, is the person with the next highest number of votes. In accordance with the constitution, there were no nominations from the floor.

President Koch called on Julie Watson of the Nominating Committee to present the nominations for Triennial Voting Members. Chair Watson submitted the following name as nominee for Ticket A

(Woman of Color): Gwendolyn Furcron. There was a motion to close the nominations followed with a second. The MOTION CARRIED with a show of GREEN cards. President Koch announced the nominations for Ticket A closed.

**Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith, Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections, who gave instructions for the first ballot for Ticket A (Woman of Color), Triennial Voting Member. Voting members were to vote for only one of the names on the ballot: Gwendolyn Furcron. Votes were cast for the first ballot. President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots. After the collection of the ballots, President Koch declared the ballot for Ticket A (Woman of Color), Triennial Voting Member closed.

**Presentation of Thank You for Your Service Cards**

President Koch called on Sarah Cheesman, Chair of Convention Projects, for presentation of the "Thank You for Your Service" cards to Chaplain Anthony Giunta (Coast Guard) and Chaplain Eddie Rubero (Air Force). The cards for the branches of service not present will be delivered at a later date.

**Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Chair Griffith who gave results for the first ballot for Ticket A (Woman of Color), Triennial Voting Member:

Eligible to vote - 125

Number of votes cast – 103

Number of votes necessary to elect - 52

Number of illegal votes - 0

Gwendolyn Furcron – 103

President Koch declared Gwendolyn Furcron as a Triennial Voting Member. She asked Gwen to stand and be recognized. President Koch called on Co-chair Cooke to give instructions for Ticket B (First-Time Voting Member to the Eleventh Triennial Convention). Since Gwendolyn Furcron was elected on Ticket A, Chair Cooke instructed that her name be struck from the ballot Ticket B. The following nominees were recognized as eligible for Ticket B:

Sarah D. Cheesman, Rae Davis, Patricia George, Elsa Hope, Ella Shumpert

Votes were cast for one of the names on the ballot. President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots. After the collection of the ballots by Tellers 1 and II, President Koch declared ballot Ticket B for First-Time Voting Member to the Eleventh Triennial Convention closed.

### **Report of the President**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis to preside as Chair while President Koch gave her report. President Koch referred to the President's Report on page 21 of the BOR. She reiterated her thanks for all the support of the SC WELCA with convention projects and ministries throughout the state.

### **Report of the Vice President**

President Koch called on Vice President Soltis who referred to her report on page 22 in the BOR. She expressed her gratitude for the support and encouragement received from so many during her tenure and especially for the help in convention preparation. Vice President Soltis invited those interested in volunteering for next year's convention to fill out the volunteer forms and invited all to complete the Convention Evaluations. She also encouraged suggestions for workshop leaders and entertainment for the 2020 convention.

### **Young Women Guest Skit**

President Koch called on Denise Warren, and the Young Women Guests and First Timer Guests for their presentation. In her introduction, Denise Warren encouraged the conferences to fulfill the potential of two attendees of each category, Young Women Guests and First Timer Guests. One attendee, of each category from each of the nine conferences, is funded by SC WELCA. The other is funded by respective conferences. There could be a total 36; 18 from each category representing congregations and conferences. She reminded all of the legacy of those who came before and the SC WELCA responsibility to leave a legacy as well. Young Women Guests and First Timer Guest presented a skit with the theme *Grace in Community* – in Boldness, Grace, and Gratitude.

### **Report of the Secretary**

President Koch called on Secretary Hope who referred to her report on page 23 in the BOR.. She expressed her appreciation for the SC Women of the ELCA who choose to share with others in need – victims of sex trafficking, disasters, war-torn countries, or a depressed economy. She thanked President Koch and the board for their leadership, service and support during her tenure.

### **Synodical Board Recommendations #3 & #4**

President Koch called on Jane Potter, on behalf of Stewardship Committee Chair Roz Eckhardt, presented Board Recommendation #3 on page 16 in the BOR, “That the Audit Report of the Treasurer be adopted.” She referred to the Report of the Audit Committee on page 26 in the BOR and moved that Recommendation #3 be adopted. President Koch stated that since the motion to adopt came from the Stewardship Committee, a second to the motion was not required. There was

no discussion. President Koch called for a vote on the recommendation to adopt the Audit Report. The MOTION CARRIED by a show of GREEN cards.

President Koch again called on Jane Potter, who presented Board Recommendation #4 on page 16 in the BOR – “That the proposed budget for February 1, 2020 – January 31, 2021 be adopted.” She moved that the recommendation be adopted. A second was not required. President Koch opened for amendment or debate.

Marsha Mikell, St. John's Charleston, made a motion to present an amendment to the Proposed Budget mailed to registrants on/about May 5, 2019: Reduce benevolence from \$3,500 to \$3,000, increase budget for each committee from \$400 to \$600 and reduce contribution to the Conference of Presidents from \$600 to \$500, resulting in no change to the total budgeted disbursements. The motion was seconded by Emily Wright.

Rachel Quesada, Treasurer, answered a question as to disbursement of funds: \$875 each to Disaster Relief in ELCA, Disaster Relief: SC Hurricanes, ELCA Good Gifts, and the Minnesota Synod in their support of the Hospital in Liberia.

She further explained each year in the past, \$200 was taken from each committee budget for the Conference of Presidents, resulting in a net budget for each committee of \$400. Therefore, this year the decision was to show the \$600 offering for the Conference of Presidents as a separate line item.

Vote was taken to end the discussion using GREEN and RED cards. MOTION PASSED.

Vote was taken to amend the Budget in the mailing which showed \$400 for each committee, and \$600 for the Conference of Presidents. The total as presented in the Bulletin of Reports Proposed Budget will not change.

President Koch called for a vote on the recommendation to amend the Proposed Budget in the mailing as presented by Marsha Mikell. The amendments do not change the totals listed in the Bulletin of Reports. President Koch called for a vote by raising GREEN Cards – YES (51 votes); or raising RED Cards - NO (31 votes). MOTION ADOPTED.

### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Co-Chair Kim Cooke who gave the results of the first ballot for Ticket B – Triennial First-Time Voting Members:

Eligible to vote - 125	Number of votes cast - 106	
Number of votes necessary to elect - 54	Number of illegal votes -3	
Sarah Cheesman – 34	Patricia George – 27	Elsa Hope – 23
Rae Davis – 11	Ella Shumpert – 8	

Since none of the candidates received the 54 votes required for election, President Koch declared no election for the First-Time Triennial Voting Members. Names for the second ballot of Ticket B were limited to the two names with the highest votes from the first ballot, Sarah Cheesman and Patricia George. The remaining names - Elsa Hope, Rae Davis, and Ella Shumpert were struck from the second ballot. President Koch called on Co-Chair Cooke who gave instructions for Ticket B, Ballot 2, First-Time Voting Member to the Eleventh Triennial Convention. A majority of legal votes cast will determine the election. Voting members were instructed to vote for one of the two names on Ticket B, Ballot 2: Sarah Cheesman or Patricia George.

Votes were cast for one of the two names on the ballot. President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots and declared the Ticket B, Ballot 2 closed.

### **Committee Reports**

President Koch called on Dee Bostick, Chair, who gave the Report of the **Committee on the Report of the President:**

The Committee for the Report of the President met on Friday morning, June 7, 2019, and reviewed the Report of the President found on page 21 of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention Bulletin of Reports.

1. Becky Koch, President, reported on the two convention projects, Lighthouse for Life which offers assistance to victims of human trafficking, and the thank you cards for active military.
2. She also reported on the nine conference meetings in 2018-2019, the Camp Kinard Retreat, SC Lutheran Men-in-Mission meeting, and the Conference of Presidents.
3. Becky recognized the diligent work of the dedicated board members of the SC WELCA organization.
4. This committee thanks Becky for her dedication to our awesome organization and her inspiration to each of us, her sisters-in-Christ.
5. Dee Bostick recommends the Report of the President be accepted as written.

*Dee Bostick (Chair), Ann K. Carlson, Faye P. Cumbee – Voting Members*

MOTION CARRIED by the show of GREEN cards.

President Koch called on Karen Freeman, Chair, Committee on Minutes who gave the **Report on Committee on Minutes 2019:**

The Committee on Minutes met after the business sessions to review the minutes of all sessions until 12:00 noon Saturday and found them to be accurate.

The Committee recommends the following:

1. That the minutes from Friday and Saturday up until 12:00 noon be approved.
2. That the approval of the remaining minutes of this meeting be the responsibility of the President and Secretary of the Synodical Women's Organization.
3. And be it further resolved that this report be adopted by a rising vote of the convention.

*Karen Freeman (Chair), Rae Davis (Board Resource), Pat Howard, Janelle Halliwell*

MOTION CARRIED by the show of GREEN cards.

President Koch called on Jennifer Nuovo, Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, who gave the **Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel**. Chair Nuovo was asked to bring any resolutions to the convention which were submitted for consideration. The only resolution presented was the Resolution of Thanks which needed no motion or second.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America recommends the following:

1. We express our sincere appreciation to St. Stephens Church, Lexington, SC for being a gracious host and allowing us to use their fine facilities for our convention this year.
2. We express our thanks to the Officers and Board Members, the Convention Planning Committee, and the Midlands Conference for planning and executing a wonderful convention.
3. Our sincere appreciation is extended to Lois Bylund, Churchwide Women's Organization Representative, for her attendance, support, and message.



### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Co-Chair Cooke of the Committee on Conduct of Elections who gave the results of the Ticket C, Ballot 1 – Voting Members the Eleventh Triennial Convention.

Eligible to vote – 125	Number of votes cast – 109
Number of votes necessary to elect – 56	Illegal votes - 1

Rae Davis – 19, Linda Griffith – 19, Pat George – 68, Elsa Hope – 35, Marshall Mikell – 12  
Linda Roland – 11, Ella Shumpert – 14, Risse Snelgrove – 24, Denise Warren – 13

President Koch declared Pat George as a Triennial Voting Member for Ticket C, Ballot 1. As Pat George was the only nominee to receive the 56 votes required for election, President Koch called on Co-chair Cooke to give instructions for vote on Ticket C, Ballot 2; Co-Chair directed the voting members cast votes for 1 of the top 4 names:

Elsa Hope, Risse Snelgrove, Rae Davis, Linda Griffith.

Voting members cast their votes; President Koch called on Tellers I and II to collect the ballots and declared Ticket C, Ballot 2 – Voting Member to a Triennial Convention closed.

### **Mission Committee Reports**

President Koch called on Amanda Boatwright, Chair **Mission: Community**, who referred to her written report on pages 33 in the BOR.

President Koch called on Dianne Lominick, Chair for **Mission: Growth**, who referred to her written report on page 34 in the BOR.

### **Announcements**

Vice President Soltis thanked Kathleen and Sara for leading the music during convention.

### **Joy in Singing**

#### **Invitation for Next Year's Convention**

President Koch called on Dianne Lominick who read Rev. Terry Amick's letter of invitation for the next convention, which will be held at Philips's Lutheran Church, June 12-13, 2020 in Newberry. Heartland Conference will be the host conference.

### **Joy in Singing**

#### **Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Co-Chair Cooke of the Committee on Conduct of Elections who gave the results of the Triennial Voting Member for Ticket C, Ballot 2 – Voting Member to a triennial convention.

Eligible to vote – 125	Number of votes cast – 97
Necessary to elect – 50	Illegal votes - 3

Elsa Hope – 52    Rae Davis – 16    Linda Griffith – 13    Risse Snelgrove – 13

President Koch declared an election for Ticket C – Triennial Voting Members: Pat George, Elsa Hope. They will be joined by Gwen Furcron, Sarah Cheesman, and next year's President-elect, as 2020 Triennial Voting Members.

#### **Final Report of the Committee on Conduct of Elections**

President Koch called on Linda Griffith, Chair of the Committee on Conduct of Elections, who gave the **Final Report for the Conduct of Elections**. Chair Griffith praised the voting members for so few illegal votes.

Madam President, Officers, Delegates, and Guests:

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your tellers for this 32<sup>nd</sup> Convention of SC WELCA. I would ask that the following stand and be recognized at this time:

Dianne Lominick, Kim Cooke, Donna Brown, JoAn Crowder, Linda Oswald, Gail Kane.

All the tally sheets and ballots are being given to the Secretary for file. Again, it's been a pleasure to serve.

Respectfully,

*Linda Griffith, Chair*

Linda Griffith and all members of the Committee on Conduct of Elections were recognized with a round applause of appreciation and thanks.

### **Unfinished Business**

President Koch called on Chair of Reference and Counsel Jennifer Nuovo for any unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

### **Prayer of Thanks**

President Koch called on Pastor Jackie Utley who offered a prayer of thanks at which time the convention adjourned to the St. Stephen's sanctuary for the sending worship and Formal Closing of Convention.

### **Sending Worship with Holy Communion**

The Rev. Litman-Koon, Presiding, with Ms. Lois Bylund, Assisting  
Installation of Officers and Board Members, Triennial Voting Members by Ms. Lois Bylund  
Formal Closing of Convention by President Becky Koch

At the conclusion of the worship service a Board Meeting, with all current, outgoing and newly elected members, was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Hope, Secretary  
South Carolina Women of the ELCA

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA  
2020-2021  
SWO Officers and Board Members**

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