

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA
Board Retreat Meeting Minutes
Saturday September 2, 2023
Lutheridge, Arden, North Carolina**

Present:

Officers:

President: Risse Snelgrove

Vice-President: Christie Gardner

Secretary: Shari Donley

Treasurer Elect: Rachel Quesada

Board:

Sarah Cheesman

Diane Wicker

Merri Lewis

Sallie Folk on Zoom

Cindy McManus

Joy Derrick

Linda Roland

Excused Absent: Virginia Herlong, Treasurer, LaTynia Taylor

Morning Devotion: by Cindy McManus on the meaning of Sisters in Christ.

The business meeting was called to order at 9:14am by President Risse Snelgrove.

Report of the Secretary – Shari Donley

Pre-Convention Minutes Approval: Cindy M. moved and Christie G. second to approve the June 22, 2023 Pre-convention board minutes with one correction. Motion carried.

Special Called Board Meeting Minutes Approval – Diane W. moved and Christie G. second to approve the June 24, 2023 Special Called Board minutes. Motion carried.

Post-Convention Minutes Approval: Diane W. moved and Sarah Cheesman. second to approve the June 24, 2023 Post-convention board minutes with one correction. Motion carried.

Correspondence

- Correspondence shared was from Pastor David Coffman of Newberry College, Dallas Shealy of the SC Lutheran Retreat Centers, Susan Uehling of the WELCA For Just Lunch regarding the layettes for Tanzania, Michelle Burley Gantt of the Women on a Mission Ministry Program for the grant request response, Jay Salter from Newberry College for the Nursing Scholarship support and Tom Counts from the SC Lutheran Men in Mission for being able to speak at the 2023 convention.

Treasurer Report - (Refer to Google Docs)

Rachel Quesada presented the report with Virginia Herlong on the phone to answer any questions or concerns. There is approximately \$6,000.00 in spendable cash. The documents were reviewed and received as information.

There was discussion and consensus to put in the RIPPLE about submitting the regular offering from the conference units.

President's Report – Risse Snelgrove (Refer to Google Docs)

Risse S. presented her report with the following information.

- Organizing the 2024-2025 year to include two-year long-range planning
- Working to help prevent teenage suicide
- How we are using the Katie's Fund Grant
- Assigned Board responsibilities
- Composing and mailing hand-written thank you notes

It was agreed to send our handbook to the CWO rep per her request with the condition that the handbook will not be shared with anyone without our permission.

There was discussion on what we do as a Board and the importance of attending meetings and events.

Vice President Report – Christie Gardner (Refer to Google Docs)

- Convention Evaluation Results – Jennifer Nuovo has the report.
- Convention 2023 Critique:
 - More interaction with the Board Members
 - Provide a workshop for Questions and Answers with the Board
- Convention 2024 Update:
 - The 2024 Convention staff listing was distributed.
 - The committee brought forward the following recommendation:
 - Theme is “Just Love”
 - Bible Verse is 1John 4:19
 - Song is “We Love Because God Loved Us First”
 - Logo is a patchwork heart to be designed by Marilyn Zielke
 - The Board approved the above theme, Bible verse, song and logo.
 - The committee brought forward the following recommendations:
 - Greg Van Dykson on teen suicide as Keynote speaker and
 - Tim Lowry, a storyteller and humorist, for the convention entertainment at the cost of \$750.
 - The Board approved the Keynote speaker and the entertainment.
 - The following workshops were discussed:
 - Pastor Clark with potter
 - Craft with Marcie Vyse
 - CWO and Board joint leadership workshop
 - Thrivent session
 - Bible and Prayer study with Ashlyn Cox
 - Art Gallery trip
 - Pastor Kara Stewart with Neighborhoods Together and
 - A walk to the Farmers Market (2 trips 8A and 11A)
 - The following caterers were discussed:
 - Parish House
 - Cozy Kitchen
 - Eclectic Catering
 - Christie G. moved and Linda R. second to keep the convention meal expenses to \$55 per person. Motion carried.

- The following hotel recommendations were discussed:
 - Comfort Suites
 - Comfort Inn and
 - Holiday Inn Express

The meeting was suspended at 12:25pm for lunch and for the Breakout sessions.

The meeting resumed at 15:22.

Conference Coordinator Report – Diane Wicker (Refer to Google Docs)

Diane W. provided an update on the current conference leaders listing and next conference meeting dates. All Board members are encouraged to attend the conference meetings. We are to encourage to have the conference report form and the officers form filled out at the conference meetings then send to the President, Secretary and Conference Coordinator. Attention will be given to the Update conference that is not active now. It was suggested to take the Life Honorarium forms to the conference meetings.

Communication Committee Report – Cindy McManus (Refer to Google Docs)

- **RIPPLE** – Will be printed and mailed next week.
 - Letters are being written to subscribers a month before expiration.
 - Cindy is gathering bids from other printers to reduce costs.
- **Web Master Contact Person:** Lisa Petty is doing a great job.

Mission Growth Report:

Cindy McManus reported there is active planning for the Isle of Palms retreat to be held on May 17 – 19, 2024. There is active planning for the Camp Kinard retreat on February 16 – 17, 2024 and are asking for ideas for a program. Denise Warren will be helping with this event planning. The goals for the coming year are:

- Keep the website up to date,
- Address inactive units
- Use MailChimp to ask for retreat leaders.

Mission Community Report:

Linda Roland reported the following goals for the coming year:

- Follow-up on the Resolution from last year by encouraging congregations to use their own surveys for their own revisioning,
- Assist congregation to facilitate growth of units via Ripple articles, synod newsletter and leadership training using our synodical women’s handbook.

Mission Action Report:

Sarah Cheesman reported the following goals for the coming year:

- Bring Honorary Life Memorials recognition to the forefront,

- Recognize those who have received nursing scholarships and
- Contact WELCA in Japan on a possible Bible Study for Teens

The committee recommended the following projects for the convention will be:

- Local Project – Collect funds for “The Fifth Gospel Foundation” to provide a scholarship for seminary students and rostered ministers in need and wish to go to the Holy Land and
- Global Project – Collect funds for farming equipment in Tanzania

The committee recommendations for the convention projects were approved.

Old Business:

- Resolution for Triennial – Christie G. will take the South Carolina form along with the signatures and attach it to the CWO form and take it to the Triennial convention.
- Cindy M. moved and Merri L. second to ratify the 7-20-23 email vote to remit \$300.00 to the Triennial Gathering to cover costs. Motion carried.
- Joy D. volunteered to be the Teen Suicide Prevention Task Force coordinator.
- Unit and Conference training on the handbook:
 - Start to coordinate and schedule training sessions at conference meetings or a special session
 - Conference Leaders need a copy of the handbook
 - Plan additional training events for April and May 2024 at four possible sites

Diane W. moved and Cindy M. second to send \$200.00 to Lutheran Disaster Relief from the Benevolence budget line item for Maui and Hurricane Idalia victims. Motion carried.

Joy D. moved and Diane W. second to send MailChimp note to send monies to Lutheran Disaster Relief to encourage women to prayerfully consider sending a donation. Motion carried.

- Long Range Planning Committee report – Christie G. handed out a list of the convention venues for 2023 to 2027. Added to the list for 2028 was a Heartland hosted convention at St. Phillips in Newberry.

New Business:

- Year Calendar of Events for Board meetings includes:
 - 2-16-24 at Camp Kinard starting from 10:30AM to 3PM
 - 5-4-24 at St. Lukes in Summerville
 - 6-20-24 pre-convention meeting at St. Lukes
 - 6-22-24 post-convention meeting at St. Lukes
 - TBD – August or September 2024 for a Board Retreat
- Board responsibilities and Board meeting attendance were discussed.
- RIPPLE deadlines for 2024 are:
 - February 23,
 - May 13,

- August 2 and
- November 1

Completed Prayer Partner sheets were available for pick-up.

The business meeting adjourned at approximately 18:03.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shari Donley,
SCWELCA Secretary

Approved on Friday, February 16, 2024