

**SC Women of the ELCA  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, February 21, 2021 3:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting**

**Officers Present:**

Becky Koch, President  
Linda Roland, Secretary  
Rachel Quesada, Treasurer

**Board Members Present:**

Sarah Cheesman	Risse Snelgrove
Rae Davis	Amanda Baker
Kristin Snelgrove	Amanda Cruse
Merri Lewis	Denise Warren

**Absent:** Amanda Boatwright

**Also Present:** Diane Wicker, Cindy McManus

**Call to Order:** Becky welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Becky introduced Diane and Cindy. Cindy is our new *Ripple* newsletter editor.

**Devotions:** Kristin provided a devotion about how we survive in crazy times like these because we choose faith. It was based on Psalm 23. She ended with prayer.

**Appointment of Parliamentarian:** Diane Wicker

**Minutes and Correspondence:** There was no correspondence to report. Motion by Risse with second by Sarah to approve the previous minutes. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

**President: Becky Koch**

A year ago, our world came to a halt because of COVID-19 and we continue to do our part to stop the spread, using face masks and staying 6 feet apart. Some of our churches have begun holding services. We are having this board meeting via Zoom because it is the safe thing to do. Some of us have had our first or second vaccines and some have not.

I thank the Board for their support during this time. We have had to make some difficult decisions, like not having the Camp Kinard retreat or spring conference meetings. On a positive note, we voted to bring Cindy McManus in as a non-board member as the new *Ripple* Editor.

I thank the convention committee for their work on the recommendation regarding convention. We voted to cancel the June convention and to have a virtual convention. This decision will require us to do things differently and do things outside the box and our comfort zone. We all have much to do to make this an enjoyable yet meaningful convention. I know we are up to the challenge. I am in the process of finding a way to handle ecclesiastical balloting at an affordable price.

**Highlights since the last Board meeting:**

November 8, 2020 – Gave the message at Our Savior Lutheran Church in West Columbia.

December 5, 2020 – Ad for *Ripple* Editor & Website Manager via Constant Contact & email

December 9, 2020 – Ad went out for Editor and Website Manager via eNews

January 11, 2021 – Sent a letter out via Constant Contact and email (unit presidents) informing ladies about not having Camp Kinard retreat or spring meetings. Also, CWO information.

January 14, 2021 – Participated in a zoom meeting with the convention committee. This included Amanda Boatwright, Sarah Cheesman, and Amanda Cruse. Denise was absent due to illness.

February 4, 2021 - Submitted a Video greeting for Lutheran Men in Mission for their annual convention on February 20, 2021.

February 9, 2021 – Participated in a zoom Stewardship Meeting to discuss the 2022-2023 budget. This included Roz Eckardt, Rachel, Donna Brown, and Dee Bostick.

February 10, 2021 - Submitted a devotion to Pastor Mary Finklea for Camp Kinard. She is working on a project called “The Jesus Way” which is a walking trail around the camp that follows the stations of the cross.

February 18-20, 2021 – Plan to Participate in a virtual Conference of Presidents event called Pivot, Don't Panic with Rachel, Linda, Sarah, Rae, and Risse (substitute for Amanda Boatwright).

Becky thanked everyone for all the support as we have had to make some hard choices.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Rachel Quesada**

Like so many things in our world, the financial results for our February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021 fiscal year have also been significantly impacted by the pandemic as well SC WELCA programs and projects.

We began this year with a checking account balance of \$13,164.13 and ended the year with a balance of \$15,510.77. Regular Offering of \$17,783.26 were 59% of the budgeted amount of \$30,000. Joy Offerings of \$4,009.82 were 40% of the budgeted amount of \$10,000. As budgeted, 65% of Regular Offerings were sent to Churchwide WELCA and 100% of Joy Offerings were sent to ELCA Good Gifts. Other income included \$3,447.75 for the convention projects, of which \$2,471.75 were sent to the projects and the balance is in reserve to be sent in 2021. The LTSS Scholarship this year was \$1,337.36. The total income for the fiscal year was \$30,983.01 and the total expenses were \$28,636.37 compared to the total budget of \$64,800.

Receipts of Offerings for February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021 were sent to each congregational unit treasurer earlier in February.

During 2020 we received two unexpected donations; \$500 from Bunny Wessinger and \$500 from Thrivent that had been on their books for several years and had been intended for convention use.

The report will be filed for audit.

Sarah asked about who has received our scholarships. That information does not come to the treasurer. Rae will find out so we can put that information in the *Ripple*.

**Motion:** The Stewardship Committee recommended the adoption of the proposed budget for 2022-2023. (See attached) No Second needed. Motion carried.

**Vice President Report: Sarah presented this for Amanda Boatwright**

The Convention Committee team and I wrote a recommendation for a virtual convention this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The recommendation passed. The convention committee, Becky Koch, and I are working on finding a company that can help SC WELCA with our need to have a virtual convention as well as help us with our voting process. Once we have that information we find a place, hopefully a church to hold our 2021 virtual convention. At that virtual convention it will have all the board members, the company we go with people, and a few other ladies' services as we see needed. This virtual convention all depends upon a vote from the 2017 Church Wide Organization triennial delegates. Delegates have to the end of July 2021 to vote. So, the convention committee is looking to have our virtual convention in August-September 2021. The committee needs everyone schedules. The first weekend in August is out due the CWO triennial convention being held August 3-5, 2021.

Also in the recommendation we voted not to have a in person convention on June 11-12, 2021 at Redeemer in Newberry. The convention committee and I will be canceling all hotels, caterers, workshops leaders, speakers (not including bishop), church guests, and table vendors. We will also express our thanks to each of them working with us and willingness to help make our convention the best it can be.

Sarah asked that we email Amanda to let her know our availability for September and October to assist in choosing a date for a virtual convention. Kristin will contact Conference Coordinators to let them know our date is up in the air in case they are planning fall conferences. This will also be included in the *Ripple*. It was noted that the Foothills Conference Coordinator has resigned due to a move out of state. Becky will follow up with that.

**50th Anniversary Committee Report: Amanda Boatwright**

The 50th Anniversary Committee of Ordinated Female Pastors has come together and decided that we should mail out the gifts to the female pastors. Sarah and I went to the post office to check on prices to send our gifts last year. I went back this year to double check prices. To send gifts in South Carolina it is \$5.50 to \$6.00. To send other places within USA it is \$5.50 to \$8.00 a package. This all depends on where in USA the gift is being sent. The one we must send to Canada was \$11.55 to send that gift. All prices are subject to change depending on a rise in prices. With the cost being so high, we would like to get our committee members to take the gifts to female pastors who live near to them in person. We would like to send out the packages in March and will do this once we have our new revised list of addresses.

**Motion:** The Committee motions to mail the gifts to the female pastors. Motion carried.

**Nominating Committee Report: Betty Jo Amick**

Hello, Sisters in Christ, The Nominating Committee has been busy seeking out "Bold Women" for the Nominees for Treasurer and Board members for the slate for our 2021 Convention. We have eight ladies for the Board slots. They Board reviewed the names and approved the list. We are still seeking one more nominee for Treasurer. Please ask around in your churches and conferences and see if there are any ladies that have the gift of financial accountability and are willing to submit their name on the ballot. My report will be in this next edition of the *RIPPLE*. There will also be an application for

nomination included. Some of the above ladies had submitted applications and photos last year before the pandemic for the bulletin of reports. Does Linda Roland have copies or do these ladies need to send in a new application? If I need to contact any of these ladies about redoing their applications, let me know and I will contact them. As I spoke with each one, I asked if there were any changes from last year's application. There were none at that time. Thanks to all ladies that are now serving as officers and board members and a special thanks to those ladies who continued on after the virus hit and we were not able to have our convention in 2020. Sharing God's Love, Betty Jo Amick, chair of Nominating Committee. Committee members: Gail Kane, Margaret Shirer, Ruth Morgan

**Motion:** Sarah made a motion with a second by Amanda Cruse that we tell the Nominating Committee there is a new deadline of May 30<sup>th</sup> for accepting nominations due to the later date for the convention. Motion Carried.

### **Communications Report: Sherry Fowler**

The *RIPPLE* Fall publication was sent to K & K Printing on Thursday, October 29, 2020 with a response from K & K Printing that the printed newsletter should be mailed out the first week of November. Two hundred fifty (252) printed copies of the *RIPPLE* were mailed. Six hundred and seventy-two (675) copies of The *RIPPLE* were emailed via Constant Contact on Thursday, November 5, 2020. On November 4, 2020, a letter was sent to Becky Koch and the SC WELCA Board advising of my resignation as The *RIPPLE* editor and SC WELCA Website editor. (Attached) This opportunity was sent to all on the SC WELCA email list and was posted by the SC Synod on their ENews. Cindy McManus expressed an interest in the volunteer position. The SC WELCA Board agreed that Cindy McManus would be the new *RIPPLE* editor and Circulation Manager. I have contacted Cindy and plan to work with her on the publication of the Winter *RIPPLE*. The Winter 2021 *RIPPLE* was postponed by the SC WELCA Board. Hopefully, it will be ready for distribution by the end of February 2021. Constant Contact (or some other email distributor) will need to be subscribed to distribute the emailed *RIPPLE*.

Becky noted that expenses were down because we did not have a summer *Ripple*. We can save money by using Mailchimp to send the *Ripple*.

Karen Freeman continues to manage our Facebook page and there is a person interested in taking over the webpage.

**Motion:** Sarah motioned with a second by Amanda Cruse that we give LTSS \$25 in honor of Sherry Fowler. Motion carried.

**Motion:** Rae motioned with a second by Amanda Baker that we give a personal gift to Sherry costing no more than \$75 as an added thank you for her five years of work publishing the *Ripple* and website. Motion carried. Rae will investigate getting the gift.

### **Triennial Gathering: Risse Snelgrove**

Risse reported that the Triennial Gathering has been cancelled. The Triennial Convention will meet via Zoom the first weekend of August. The next Triennial will meet September 18, 2023 in Phoenix, AZ.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Action Team Report: Rae Davis**

- ❖ Ripple article with updated status on the project to be delivered after board meeting and by deadline.
- ❖ Additional 153 masks received and delivered since last meeting – current total 947.
  - SCNCAC confirms this is a valuable ministry and their need is ongoing!
  - Handsewn masks are great, but it is also acceptable to purchase them for donation since both youth and adult sizes are readily available. *Both Cloth or Disposable masks are acceptable.*
  - Rachel has on hold for this convention year SCNCACs Gift cards and SCNCAC and LDR monetary donations totaling \$1290 for SCNCAC and \$230 for LDR.
- ❖ Given lack of regional meetings, please be vocal advocates of our SCNCAC and LDR support and projects.

Sarah suggested putting a square box in the next *Ripple* that can be cut out containing a reminder for ladies about our convention projects. Cindy said she can put out that information in a separate email if we wish. Rae, Kristin, and Cindy will meet to decide the best way to get project information out to everyone.

### **Community: Kristin Snelgrove**

Gatherings continue to be on hold with COVID-19. We received feedback from six people about what they are doing during COVID-19 to spread joy and continue practicing their faith safely. These were included in *The RIPPLE*. We are also welcoming on Cindy McManus as our new *RIPPLE* editor. We will be putting a bio in *The RIPPLE* to introduce Cindy as well as thank Sherry for all her hard work over the years. If you would like to include some thoughts or memories of working with Sherry please let Kristin know or e-mail them.

The Committee would like for us to switch from using Constant Contact to Mailchimp. See information below.

### **Constant Contact**

- \$20.00/month
- Paid in full for 6 months – \$18.00/month
- Paid in full for 12 months – \$17.00/month
- 0 – 500 contacts
- Unlimited sends
- Over 100 customizable templates

### **Mailchimp**

Free Account – no charge

- 0 – 2,000 contacts
- 10,000 send limit/month
- 2,000 daily send limit/month
- 5 templates

\$9.99/month

- Up to 5,000 contacts

- More templates
- Custom branding

There is no contract to sign so we can always change to a different plan or terminate our account.

**Motion:** The Community board recommends we switch from Constant Contact to Mail Chimp. Motion carried.

#### **Growth: Merri Lewis**

The Feb. retreat at Camp Kinard has been canceled for this year due to the current global pandemic. The Isle of Palms retreat is still on the calendar for April 30-May 2 but that is subject to change. Most WELCA congregational units are not meeting in person at this time, and there are not likely to be any spring conference meetings. In the *Ripple* article there will be information for online devotions, Daily Grace, blog posts, and a Bible study in the Gather magazine so that our WELCA women may stay connected to other Lutheran women if they so desire. Our committee will be looking into the possibility of a virtual Bible study or retreat if that is something we feel we may be able to initiate since we do not know when we might be able to have another in-person retreat.

#### **Old Business:**

**Mileage Reimbursement:** Rachel presented the information she found on current IRS reimbursement for mileage for charity organizations. (See attached). Essentially we are entitled to \$.14/mile. Anything above that is taxed.

**Motion:** Rachel moved with a second by Sarah to change the reimbursement from to reflect IRS guidelines. Motion carried.

**Standing Rules:** Rachel has been reviewing the rules for updating. She suggests the following changes to the Standing Rules to comply with current practices and/or language. (Changes in italics)

SWO CONVENTION, Item 4: Pertinent Convention materials shall be *emailed (or mailed if no email address)* to the *voting members* by the secretary...

SWO CONVENTION, Item 9: Change delegate to *voting member* in 9. A.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES, Item 3: All reports shall be prepared by committee chairs *and emailed to all Board members prior to the Board meeting.*

**Motion:** Rachel motioned with a second by Rae that we change the wording in The Standing Rules as above. Motion carried.

**Committee Revamp:** Churchwide has been using different terminology for committees than we currently use: Justice instead of Action, Stewardship instead of Community, and Discipleship instead of Growth. Risse will meet with Rae, Kristin, and Merri to make those changes and implement them so we are more compatible with Churchwide.

**Constitution Questions:** Becky stated any needed updates to our SWO Constitution would be best discussed in a retreat setting once a new Board is elected.

## **New Business:**

**Conference of Presidents:** In a big change from usual, the conference, titled – Pivot, Don't Panic, was held this past week via Zoom with five other Board members invited to attend. Those who attended each took a few minutes to explain what she learned during the 3-day event.

## **Interim Online Voting:**

Online vote from December 3, 2020

It is the recommendation of Mission: Community that Karen Freeman continue to maintain the SCWELCA Facebook page. We further recommend that the Ripple Editor and Website manager be separated into two different positions in order to maximize the gifts of those selected.

Vote – 11 yes. Motion carried.

Online vote December 8, 2020

We need to vote on the Stewardship/Audit committee.

Rachel asked that I send out the following motion:

***I move that the following people be approved to serve on the 2020-2021 Stewardship/Audit Committee: Roz Eckhardt as chair, Dee Bostick and Donna Brown.*** (Second by Sarah)

Vote: 11 yes. Motion carried.

The duties of this committee are to prepare a budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year for Board approval in February 2021 and for adoption by the 2021 convention and to audit the 2020-2021 financial records.

Online vote January 6, 2021

We have **two recommendations** on which the board needs to vote. I believe they should be considered as two **separate** recommendations. Since these recommendations come from committees, they do not need a second. I am opening the floor for discussion until Wednesday at 5:00 pm.

**1. The Community committee recommends that no conference meetings be held this spring.**

**2. The Growth committee recommends that we do not sponsor the Camp Kinard retreat in February.**

Vote: 11 yes Motion carried.

Online vote January 22, 2021

Becky had two recommendations on which the Board needed to vote.

The job descriptions are pretty much the same as they have been except they have been split into three separate descriptions.

Cindy McManus is interested in *The Ripple* editor position. Cindy is the Administrative Assistant for Bethlehem Lutheran in Irmo and attends church at St. Andrews in Columbia. Sherry, Kristin, and I have spoken to Cindy. She has worked with MS Publisher software for many years and is familiar with

Constant Contact. She works 16 hours/week. We feel she is well suited for *the Ripple* editor/circulation manager. Sherry will work with her on the Winter issue.

The recommendations from the Community Committee follow:

**1. The Community Committee recommends that the board adopt the job descriptions for *The Ripple* editor, *The Ripple* Circulation manager, and the Website manager.**

**2. The Community Committee recommends that we accept Cindy McManus as our new *The Ripple* editor and circulation manager.**

Vote: 11 yes. Motions carried.

Online vote Feb. 5,2021

Currently the Church Wide Organization (CWO) for WELCA is voting on a recommendation for approval to have virtual convention be allowed throughout the organization. This vote will not be finished until late July/August 2021. CWO has recommended that all states do not plan to have any in person meetings or conventions through June 2021. Therefore, the Convention Planning Committee is recommending cancelling the in-person June 11-12, 2021 convention. The committee also recommends that we plan for a virtual convention and that all Board members would be present to coordinate and communicate during the one-day virtual convention. The date for the virtual convention is to be announced once we find a place that will accommodate a virtual meeting.

Vote: 11 yes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

Next Board Meeting – one month prior to convention unless we need to meet sooner.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Roland

Secretary