

**SC Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, June 27, 2021, 5:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Officers Present:

Becky Koch, President
Amanda Boatwright, VP
Linda Roland, Secretary
Rachel Quesada, Treasurer

Board Members Present:

Amanda Sease-Baker
Rae Davis
Amanda Cruse
Risse Snelgrove

Sarah Cheesman
Kristin Snelgrove
Merri Lewis
Denise Warren

Others Present: Elsa Hope, Parliamentarian, Cindy McManus

Devotion and prayer: Sarah presented a “thought for the day” based on Lamentations 3:31-32 dealing with grief. Kristin offered prayer.

Call to Order: Becky called the meeting to order and appointed Elsa as Parliamentarian.

Minutes: Minutes were approved for February, March, and April zoom board meetings. Sarah asked about follow-up by the Action Team regarding posting the names of scholarship winners. Rae had not known to do that. She will find out the names to follow up.

Correspondence: Linda read thank yous for memorial gifts from St. Luke Lutheran Church acknowledging our gift for Agnes Folk; from Reggie Cruse and St. Peters Lutheran Church for Cary Cruse, and from Becky Koch and the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakeland Region for Bob Koch.

President’s Report: Becky Koch

Becky thanked the board for their support and prayers during this time of her husband’s passing.

President activities since the February Board meeting:

- March 28 – attended the virtual Saxe Gotha conference meeting
- April 17 – sent an email to unit presidents informing them about the death of Agnes Folk
- April 18 – attended the funeral for Agnes Folk in Florence, SC
- April 27 – ordered **A Place For You** brochures for goody bags for Synod Assembly
- May 8 – sent letter via email to unit presidents announcing date for convention
- May 15 – sent a video greeting to Synod office for Synod Assembly
- June 20 – attended the graveside service for Sallie Folk’s father in Newberry, SC
- June 23 – attended the visitation for Amanda Boatwright’s father in Leesville, SC
- June 24 – attended the funeral for Amanda’s father in Leesville, SC

She stated that since our board meeting in February, we have had a couple of called board meetings via Zoom. In February, the board approved asking Cindy McManus to be the website

manager. In March, the board voted to have the convention on Sunday, September 26, from 1-6 pm. In April, the board voted to hire SCAV to handle our virtual convention. The Ripple went out in March.

The following is information from SCAV to help clarify any confusion:

SCAV information from Ed Beaman:

SCAV does not need any list of registered attendees or visitors. WELCA will be responsible for distributing the links to the appropriate people. We will provide the links closer to the conference. There will be two links.

The first link is for registered "voting" attendees only. These people will be allowed to participate in the conference as if they were actually at the meeting such as voting or questions.

The second link will be a YouTube link for Visitor viewing only for anyone who wishes to watch. They can only see and hear, just like you might watch your church service from home. They cannot ask questions and we will turn the comment off. We will provide that link and you can distribute as you please. You can even put the link on your website or even the Synod website.

Becky reviewed the following motion from our April meeting about charging visitors a fee as anyone will be able to view the convention on YouTube. Motion: by Risse/second Amanda Cruse that the registration costs for the convention should be \$20 per voting member, \$5 for visitors, plus the costs of a printed and mailed BOR if they request it. Motion Carried. (Linda will investigate those costs.)

Motion: Risse motioned with a second from Rachel that after further research and reviewing the constitution, we should rescind the cost of \$5 for visitor registration. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 4. Motion passed.

There was much discussion about issues surrounding the ability of visitors to have a voice, make nominations, or accept a nomination. The Elections Committee will have the ability to call anyone nominated from the floor and visitors will be able to communicate through their voting members. Sarah stated that if they did not register they would not see the areas for giving toward the projects, offering etc.

Motion: Sarah motioned with a second by Amanda Cruse that both Voting Members and Visitors should register so that they can express if they want a BOR either electronically or as a hard copy. Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0. Motion passed.

Becky will use videos when needed to fill in time during the convention and asked we send any ideas for those to Amanda Boatwright.

Treasurer's Report: Rachel Quesada

Offerings have been increasing lately as more units have stated to meet again in person.

Highlights of the financial reports for the first 5 months of 2021-2022 fiscal year (February 1,2021 through May 2021) are as follows:

Treasurer Summary Sheet: Our bank balance on February 1,2021 was \$15,510.77 and on May 31,2021 is \$20,270.05. In addition, there is a Mission Investment Fund CD of \$15,000 which matures in August 2021. The interest from this CD is transferred to our checking account quarterly - \$165.87 for the first 2 quarters of 2021.

In addition, there is the Edna Corley Estate CD balance of \$35,630.71 from which the interest income is transferred to our checking account and along with net income from Life Memberships provides scholarships to LTSS, \$367.68 as of May 31, 2021.

Receipts and Disbursements: Offerings as of May 31,2021 include Regular Offerings of \$3,806.70 and Joy Offerings of \$475.00, Convention Income of \$1,000, donations to the Convention Project of \$181.58 and RIPPLE subscriptions of \$28. Expenses include \$479.05 to mail 50th anniversary gifts and \$581.21 for the RIPPLE publication and board expenses of \$196.49.

Congregational Unit Giving shows income from 25 congregational units as of May 31, 2021. During the first part of June, we have received offerings from an additional 14 congregational units.

Recommendation: Renew the Mission Investment Fund CD of \$15,000 which matures in August 2021 for another 2 years and have the quarterly interest transferred to our checking account. Vote: Yes – 11, No – 0. Motion passed.

Sarah questioned the Ripple financial information and Cindy realized she had made a mistake that she will correct.

The Report will be filed for audit.

VP Report: Amanda Boatwright

I hope this Spring has brought back some hope to you for the end of this pandemic of Covid-19. As Summer is approaching us, I hope you are finding ways to show love as Christ did for us and others. I know I have been busy showing Christ's love by helping my local food banks by organizing small coupon gatherings to organize coupons, cut coupons and make lists to shop for the needs for our local food pantries to help feed families in need. Just seeing the appreciation on the faces of these families is like seeing God's love shining back through these grateful people's faces. My heart is so grateful I can use my love of couponing to help others in need. I hope and pray that all my SC WELCA ladies are safe and well. I love each of you and pray daily for you.

I hope by now everyone has heard about our virtual convention. The virtual convention will be September 26, 2021, from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. The voting members and visitors will need to register by August 2, 2021. They must have a valid email address for confirmation of registration and to be sent the link to login into the virtual convention. All voting members must login in separately in order to vote. To see all documents presented during the virtual convention, you must login in with a computer, laptop, or iPad. The Bulletin of Reports (BOR) will be emailed to all who have registered. If you wish to receive a printed paper copy you must denote this choice on your registration form and include the appropriate fee. Please note that

the registration form includes the places for registration fee, BOR fee, convention offering, and projects donations.

The voting members and visitors will need to register by August 2, 2021. Rachel requested that we keep the registration form to one sheet of paper due to copying needs. Cindy will assist the committee to make that happen.

50th Anniversary Committee Report (Sarah Cheesman)

The 50th Anniversary Committee met at Sarah Cheesman's home on March 13, 2021, to assemble and pack the celebration gifts to our 50th Anniversary female pastors. Ninety-five packages were mailed out on March 23, 2021. They hope by now that all our female pastors have received their gifts of appreciation for their service to our Lord from South Carolina WELCA. Three gifts came back and were resent. We have received seven thank-you notes.

Action Team – no report

Growth Team

Remembering Agnes Folk. We on the Growth Committee were sorry to lose our friend and WELCA sister, Agnes Folk, who passed away on April 15, 2021. Agnes was a long-time SC WELCA member and former board member. As past chair of the Growth Committee she was responsible for starting the overnight retreat at Camp Kinard. Along with her daughter, Sallie, Agnes served in a non-board position as Retreat Coordinator, providing refreshments for our Camp Kinard retreats. She also provided many meals for the Isle of Palms retreats. She will truly be missed.

We are looking forward to the Virtual WELCA Convention on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021. This will be something new for us, but we women of the ELCA can certainly do whatever is needed in order to conduct our business meeting and elections, even with Covid restrictions! In addition to participation by the delegates from each unit, there will be a plan for visitors to view the virtual gathering. More information will be forthcoming prior to the convention.

SAVE THE DATE! The new dates for the Isle of Palms retreat are April 22-24, 2022. The cost will be the same - \$130. Again, there will be more information coming.

We hope you have had a chance to look at some (or all!) of the Women of the ELCA's free, downloadable resources. There are so many to choose from, and you are welcome to use them individually or with your circle or congregational unit. Since we are in the season of Pentecost, you might want to download the Pentecost, Prayer and Power program which connects the disciples' experience at Pentecost and the days leading up to it with three areas in which we can be a blessing to others through prayer and action: women's health, violence against women, and clearing the "red tape" that keeps people from being fully empowered. To find this, and more, go to www.welca.org. You will even find an app for your smart phone to receive a daily devotion.

We on the SCWELCA Growth Committee are thankful that the days of in-person gathering for worship and study are slowly arriving and pray that all of you are doing well and staying connected to your sisters in Christ.

Community Team Report

The Foothills Conference will be having a fall gathering on November 6. I spoke with the Conference Coordinator for Epiphany who said it was very doubtful they would have one. Midlands is waiting to confirm a church is available to host. Amelia will not be having a conference. I have placed a call to the other Conference Coordinators, Secretaries and Treasurers and have not heard back yet. We have also received several articles for the congregational corner.

Nomination Team Report

It is our pleasure as the Nominating Committee for the 2021 Convention to state that we are pleased to have a slate of nominees for the positions for nomination of election. They are as follows: Treasurer: Virginia Herlong (Heartland) Board: Brenda Fulmer (Heartland) Rae Davis (Heartland) Amanda Cruse (Western) Karen Freeman (Saxe Gotha) Kathi DeVoe (Foothills) Amanda Sease Baker (Western) Joy Derrick (Coastal) Dee Bostick (Foothills) We thank these ladies for allowing their names to be placed on the nominating ballot. Their biographies and photos have been sent to the Secretary, Linda Roland for publication in the Bulletin of Reports for the Convention in September.

Sarah questioned whether it is acceptable for a woman to serve on the SC WELCA Board in any capacity while serving in an ELCA SC Synod position. Becky and Risse assured her that would not be considered a conflict of interest.

***Ripple* Report**

The RIPPLE Winter issue was sent to K & K Printing on March 9, 2021. Wayne Kanipe, with K & K responded informing me that the newsletter would be mailed out early the next week. Two hundred fifty (250) printed copies of the RIPPLE were mailed. On March 18, 2021, one thousand two hundred forty-four (1,244) copies of The Ripple were emailed using Mailchimp. According to MailChimp, nine hundred forty-seven (947) were opened with 26.4% of those clicking on links. Information from Rachel Quesada - Our total expenses for 2021 so far are \$609.21: \$245.00 for postage fees and \$336.21 for printing cost. Year to date we have received \$28.00 for subscriptions. The SC WELCA website has been updated as new information comes in, especially concerning the SC WELCA Annual Convention in September 2021. I have been working on a new look for the website but will not bring that to the Board until the new Board of Directors have been installed.

Articles for the next *Ripple* are due by July 1, 2021.

Triennial Report

2020 Triennial Convention - Proposed Constitutional Changes for Churchwide Women's Organization (CWO) and Synodical Women's Organizations (SWO)

- Encourage SWO leadership to be a participant (instead of "must be") in a unit
- Foster (instead of "must") have clusters or conferences in the SWO

- Leaders may be called chairs, co-chairs, or coordinators (instead of currently defined officers)
- The SWO Treasurer keeps traditional title to facilitate her work with banks
- SWO Board may be “three or more” (instead of the current set number)
- Allow one officer and one board member from the same unit: (currently only one from the same unit)
- Churchwide Executive Board be composed of 15 women - 4 officers, 1 elected member from each ELCA region, and 2 at-large members: (currently 21 - 4 officers and 17 elected members)
- Executive Board to at least three (20%) persons of color or whose primary language is other than English and at least three (20%) persons under the age of 45 and/or persons of the LBGTQIA+ community; (currently requires only 10% of persons of color or whose...)
- Elect only three voting members to triennial convention – president (or chair), one woman of color or whose primary language is other than English, and one first-time voting member under the age of 45; (currently president plus one voting member for every 25 units in the SWO)
- Board meetings may be held by videoconferencing; (currently not specified, but usually face-to-face meetings)

Deadline for submitting amendments to the Executive Board was March 15, 2020. Voting members at this Triennial Convention will determine whether these amendments go into effect. The adoption will require a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Risse discussed her take on the proposal to decrease the number of Churchwide Board members and would like information to go out in the *Ripple* to all members but especially to our Triennial Convention Voting Members.

Old Business:

Prayer Partners: As we have not been able to meet in person, Becky suggested that we each reveal ourselves to our Prayer Partner sometime in September before the convention and send that person a gift.

Meeting before convention: Becky will contact us to determine if we need another Board meeting prior to the virtual convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Roland

Secretary

Addendum:

May 12, 2021, Rachel sent out the following for an email vote:

In accordance with our Standing Rules and past practice, Linda has made a motion that the SC WELCA Board make a donation from the Board Expense line item of \$50.00 in memory of Robert Koch to the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakelands. I will second this motion. **Motion carried with 9 out of 9 votes.**

June 22, 2021

The Executive Committee recommends that we make a \$50 donation to the Lutheran Hospice agency in honor of Amanda's father. Please vote by 5:00 PM Friday, June 25th. **Motion carried with 9 votes out of 9.**

August 10, 2021

Becky requested a vote on the following:

The executive committee makes the following recommendation:

"The executive committee recommends that the 2022 convention be held at The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Newberry, SC on June 24-25, 2022."

Motion passed unanimously 8/13/21

August 26, 2021

Becky sent out the following:

Ed Beaman (SCAV) called me yesterday with a concern he and Hayden (his tech guy) have about the nominations from the floor and the resolutions. He strongly suggested that we require these forms to be submitted prior to the day of the convention due to time constraints.

I emailed Linda Bushkofsky to see if this was allowed and she said we could do this as long as we notify people in advance.

The executive committee voted on the following recommendation from me:

"I recommend that Nominations from the Floor for the 2021 SC WELCA convention be received by Betty Jo Amick, chair of the Nominating Committee, no later than Friday, September 17, 2021. These forms may only be submitted by registered voting members and must be signed by the nominee to show consent."

The committee also approved this recommendation:

" The Executive Board recommends that Resolutions be submitted to Linda Griffith, chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, by Friday, September 17th."

According to the 2019 Rules and Procedures, resolutions may only be submitted by registered voting members.

The email to all registered voters and registered visitors has not been sent. If these recommendations pass, we will make corrections and send it out this weekend. I have attached a Nomination from the Floor form which will be sent with the other information.

August 27, 2021

Becky amended the recommendation to add email consent.

"The Executive Board recommends that Nominations from the Floor for the 2021 SC WELCA convention be received by Betty Jo Amick, chair of the Nominating Committee, no later than Friday, September 17, 2021. These forms may only be submitted by registered voting members and must be signed by the nominee to show consent. Email consent is acceptable."

" The Executive Board recommends that Resolutions be submitted to Linda Griffith, chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, by Friday, September 17th."

Motions passed unanimously.