

**South Carolina Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, May 21, 2022
The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Newberry, SC**

Present:

Officers:

President: Risse Snelgrove

Vice President: Amanda Boatwright

Secretary: Linda Roland

Treasurer: Virginia Herlong

Board:

Christie Gardner

Merri Lewis

Karen Freeman

Joy Derrick

LaTynia Taylor

Sarah Cheesman

Excused: Denise Warren

Also Present: Denise Caulder (Parliamentarian), Cindy McManus, Kristin Infantino

Opening Devotion by Merri Lewis

She read a selection from Deborah Mc Dermot (friend of Merri's) titled "Watching Your Weight". The real question is "why do I need a diet?" She says, "I am the problem, not the diet." James 1:4, says "Let steadfastness (endurance) have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing." Steadfastness comes with faith; faith in God who gives us strength.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Karen to approve the previous Board minutes. Second by Christie. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Linda read Thank You letters from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia for our \$1400.00 donation, from Sally Folk for the memorial donation for her mother Agnes, and from her congregation, St. Luke's in Florence. There was also a thank you from Brenda Crooks. No one was sure what it might be for beside our prayers.

Treasurer Report - Virginia

Bank statements as of 3/31/2022 showed a bank balance of \$17,835.75. Cash available was \$13,668.03. As of 5/18/2022 the 2 -year CD had \$15,000 and the 6-year CD had \$35,630.71.

Virginia stated that our practice is to send them 60% of the Regular Offering we receive, not the amount budgeted to send them.

Motion by Virginia that we take \$5000 out of Edna Corley Estate Mission CD for the Newberry Nursing Scholarship and place the balance in a 2 -year Mission Investment Fund CD. Second – Joy. Motion carried. Then in two years we can place more in the scholarship fund, etc.

Virginia is also involved in the James R. Crumley Archives. She states they want our old records, though Becky Koch had been told to take back what they had and most of that is stored in Risse's garage. We will bring items for the archives to the next board meeting for Virginia to take there.

Virginia attended a CWO online training for Treasurers. Acts 6:1 – 7 was used as a basis for a Bible study and then they reviewed the constitution. Linda Post Bushkofsky stated treasurers were to send

churchwide the amount of money churchwide says we are budgeted to give. Virginia believes that if we do that we would not be able to function in SC.

President's Report – Risse

Risse has been asked to be on a churchwide committee for stewardship and development. She highlighted the amount budgeted for the CWO to operate; \$1,636,250 annually. Of that amount, salaries require \$622,950 for the 6 staff members. Risse contacted our CWO President to request a letter from her for our BOR. Risse was nervous that we would not receive it before the deadline May 5 for our BOR. Joy assured Risse that she would make sure that we received the letter before the deadline. Joy thanked Risse for contacting her and told Risse to feel free to contact her if we should have any other needs or concerns.

Linda Post Bushkofsky is strongly encouraging each board member to be a "Faithful Friend" . That money goes to the CWO budget.

Risse will be unable to attend the SC Synod Assembly due to her daughter, Jana, needing to head back to Texas for further treatment. She asked if someone could take her place on Monday, June 13th about 9:55 to speak and to set up the display table and create the display. Joy volunteered .

Risse wants to start a Long-Range Planning Committee to look ahead at least 5 years for where to hold the convention and would like volunteers for that, especially a chair.

Risse assigned board members to convention committees as their resource person. The list will be in the BOR.

This is a list of her activities since the last Board meeting:

- February 2022
 - Planning for Camp Kinard Retreat with Mission Growth Committee
 - Attended the Camp Kinard Retreat where 30 women across the stat attended safely and had a wonderful weekend in community, fellowship and Study
 - Wrote articles for Ripple Newsletter
 - Meeting with Jennifer Nuovo via zoom to train her on the Google Drive access to the convention registration spread sheet I created for her.
- March 2022
 - Attended Foothills Conference meeting at St. John's Walhalla, SC
 - Attended CWO anti-racism training via Zoom
 - Attended The Living History of Faithful Filled Women by CWO via Zoom
 - Assisting the Nomination Committee with election information etc.
- April 2022
 - Attended the Isle of Palm Retreat
 - Attended Presidents/Vice Presidents training from CWO via Zoom
 - Met with Virginia Herlong on Minute-by-Minute Convention Schedule and Agenda, mission areas and treasurer updates.
 - Attended Macedonia Lutheran Church's Mother/Daughter/Friend Tea
 - Telephone meeting with Linda Roland regarding BOR needs
 - Created and sent the SC WELCA Board Report for the SC Synod Assembly BOR

- May 2022
 - Met with the Mission Area Committee Update team regarding change of names for the committee areas via Zoom with Virginia Herlong, Karen Freeman, Joy Derrick and Janine Wagner.
 - Met with the constitution/bylaws and standing rules committee via zoom on updating the standing rules and constitution. Sarah Cheesman attended, Christie Gardner was absent
 - Created minute by minute schedule for convention and agenda for the BOR
 - Created the President's Report for BOB and emailed it to Linda Roland
 - Assisting the nominating committee with contact information, forms and letters
 - Working on updating the SC WELCA Constitution and Bylaws
 - Updated SC WELCA Board Goals for 2022-2023 for BOR and Website
 - Created Agenda for May 21, 2022, board meeting
 - Worked with Cindy McManus on Mailchimp blast for registration and nominations
 - Communication with our CWO President Joy Michalick regarding her letter for the BOR and our Churchwide Rep.

VP Report – Amanda Boatwright

Amanda highlighted some of the items relating to the convention:

- Jan Piersol has arranged for men from the congregation to set up on Wednesday evening and takes things down on Saturday at 4:00 PM free of charge.
- She has volunteers to assist with for parking at concert.
- She still needs a musician for the worship service as the previous one has a wedding to play at 5 pm.
- As travel expenses have skyrocketed for the entertainers, she asked if we have a Love Offering during the concert. **Motion** by Amanda to have a "Love Offering" at the concert to help with travel expenses for Lady Love Smith and her husband Reggie Smith. Second by Sarah. Motion denied.

Virginia then stated that we can use some of our funds to help defray their costs. It is costing them over \$2000 just to travel. **Motion** by Virginia to pay the \$3000 contract plus travel expenses. Second by LaTynia. Motion carried.

- As the church is not charging us to use it for the convention, the **Convention Committee moves** to give them \$500 for use of facility. Motion carried.
- She needs to turn in numbers for food by June 15th. As costs have gone up, she has had to work with providers to change the menu to accommodate that. She is looking at salads instead of some sandwiches.
- Hotels are arranged. She will cancel the Holiday Inn if not enough sign up.
- Workshops are all set.
- She requests that Board members be at the church on Thursday, June 23rd at 10:30 AM to help with set up or as soon after as possible. She will order in pizza for lunch from Irene's.
- We will meet at 5:30 dinner before the Board meeting at Irene's in Newberry. Then we will return to church for the Board meeting.

Registrar Report per Risse

Jennifer Nuovo, Registrar, reports that we currently have a total of 75 registrations. 61 of those are Voting Members. 50 Voting Members, 4 officers, 7 Board members, 10 visitors 3 First Timer Guests, and 1 Young Woman Guest.

Cindy will resend an email blast with upcoming the deadline as a reminder for registration.

Nomination Committee - Kristin Infantino

The committee has had a very difficult time getting any women to run. Currently there is one candidate for Secretary, and 3 for the 4 Board vacancies. (Denise Warren has said she wants to run but has not followed through with her forms yet.) We still are supposed to have double the candidates for each position. The new constitution states that we can choose how many Board members we need, from 3 -8. Risse et al feel we still need 8 board members. There are 4 candidates for the Triennial.

Committee motion to accept nominations report with amendment of Pat George would not be a first-time attendee to the Triennial. Motion carried.

Lunch

Standing Rules

Risse thanked Christie and Sarah for being on a committee to review our Standing Rules. Copies with proposed changes were passed out and Sarah reviewed them with the Board members.

Motion by Standing Rules Review Committee to accept proposed changes as written with discussed changes. Motion carried. Risse will place them on the Google Drive for all to access.

Mission Growth – Denise Warren No Report

Motion by Joy to rescind nominations approval made earlier by the Nominations Committee. Second by Karen. Motion carried. Denise can be placed in nomination on the convention floor if she desires.

Motion by Virginia that we use the slate from Kristin with the addition of Sarah Cheesman for Triennial and removal of Denise as we do not have her paperwork. Second by Karen. Motion carried. Sarah did not realize she was eligible to run, or she would have already applied.

Mission Community - Karen

This is what she knows currently about Fall Conference meetings:

- Foothills will have fall meeting. No date yet.
- Amelia will be on September 17th.
- Heartland is planning with no set date yet.
- Saxe Gotha will be Sept 18th.

Mission Action – Sarah

She is working on a poster display for scholarship funds. She wants Pat George to be able to put info on the screen at convention.

Communication Committee - Cindy

- Cindy asked if she should send *The Ripple* to each congregation including those listed as inactive. The answer is Yes.
- She is planning to highlight an area on our website informing congregations how to start a WELCA group at their own church. It will include a link the churchwide website.
- There are still about 100 on the email list with addresses that do not include their names, so she has no idea of who is getting them. We will try to identify as many as possible at the convention.
- She has also added a prayer request page to the website and information about prayer. Requests come to Cindy, and she will place them on the prayer page.

Facebook

Risse and Karen are working on it. They are trying to have items from SC WELCA at least every other day.

Unfinished business

Mission Area Committee – Virginia

They have put together a diagram (attached) to place on the website displaying the integration of Discipleship, Stewardship, and Justice as they affect all three of our committee areas: Growth, Community, and Action. This will also be explained at the convention.

Board Skit

Sarah asked if we want to present a skit as the Board and we agreed. It will be on Saturday afternoon. We will each portray a woman of the Bible. Sarah will put clues to her identity on the screen for the attendees to guess each one.

New Business

Grant Request

Wanda Peery organizes a retreat for the Women's One Year to Live Ministry. She sent an attached explanation and is asking SCWELCA to donate toward the program.

Motion by Virginia that we take \$1000 out of benevolence as a one-time grant to One Year to Live. Second Joy. Motion carried.

Amanda has gone to one of these. Sarah asked that they invite us to a session. Amanda should ask if Wanda can give a 3- minute speech about it at the convention.

Churchwide Rep

Lori Garcia from Texas will be attending the convention as our churchwide representative. Risse has spoken to her. She is available to help with a workshop if needed. Risse handed out her biography and picture. Amanda may have an opening for someone to lead the sex trafficking workshop. She will ask Lori if that becomes necessary. Currently we do not have space for Lori to do a workshop of her own.

Fair Trade store

SERVV used to let you sell fair trade on consignment. They no longer do that. Mayan Hands (limited stuff) does not let us pick out what we want. They determine how and what to send based on numbers present. Risse suggested that we could order with our tax ID as a nonprofit, pay ourselves, and what we don't sell Risse would purchase so her church can use it for a sale in the fall. If we do, she wants some of us to help choose the items. Jana will run it.

LaTynia suggested pens for WELCA table at synod assembly.

Risse asked for ideas of where to have a convention next year. Suggestions were Trinity in Greenville, St. Luke in Summerville, and Zion in Lexington. Denise Caulder will ask her pastor tomorrow about Zion in Lexington.

Motion by Virginia that we earmark the worship service offering for the Newberry Nursing Scholarship. Second by Merri. Motion carried.

Next meeting 6/23/22 after 5:30 PM dinner at The Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Newberry.

The Ripple deadline – August 1st.

Article for the next Ripple about the workshops will be written by :

- Opera house –Karen
- Making cards -Joy
- Sexual trauma - LaTynia

- Bible Study -Joy
- Crosses- Denise
- Chrismons -Karen
- Seeing God- Merri
- Museum – Christie

LaTynia will pick up Lori Garcia at the airport and serve as her liaison. Thursday and Friday she will room with Linda Roland. Saturday she will stay at Sarah's. Sarah will take her back to the airport on Sunday.

Remember to bring a \$ 10 - \$15 gift for your secret prayer partner to the next board meeting. It was suggested that we let our prayer partner pick out a gift from the Fair-Trade store and we pay for it as our gift to her.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM with the missionary benediction.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Roland

Secretary