

Minutes
South Carolina Women of the ELCA
Thirty-Fourth Annual Convention
Lutheran Church of The Redeemer
Newberry , South Carolina
June 24 – 25, 2022

Risse Snelgrove Presiding
Theme: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Pre-Convention Business

Voting member orientation and orientation for Young Women Guests and First Timer Guests – 9:00 am

Linda announced the following changes to the BOR:

- Page 9 under Lutheran Institutions change Whitney Metz to Rev. David Coffman
- Page 9 add Wanda Peery from One Year to Live Program under Organizations
- Page 9 change SC Lutheran Church Youth from Rev. Emily Edenfield to Sydnie Taylor under Organizations
- Page 11 under Committee on Minutes replace Marie Rodriguez with Mona Turner from Messiah, Mauldin, Foothills Conference. Also replace Beth Cribbs as Chair with Sallie Folk from St. Luke's, Florence, Epiphany Conference. Also, the Committee on Credentials Suzanne Heusinger replaced Sheila Huff.
- Page 11 Committee on Reference and Council should be Committee on Reference and Counsel.
- Page 12 at the bottom of the page the Host Church should be The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Newberry
- Page 13 Under Synodical Board Members remove Amanda Sease-Baker. Amanda resigned from the board and her position is open for elections. Denise Caulder phone 803-446-4569.
- Page 21 Board Recommendations renumber these recommendations:
 - Strike number 2 That the recommendation on Budget Procedures as printed in the Bulletin of Reports be adopted. This is not printed in the BOR, therefore , change #3 to #2, change #4 to #3 and change #5 to #4
- Page 51 Under Conference Six.....Midlands we are sad to say that Coordinator Emily Wright passed away several months ago. Emily was a dedicated member of SC WELCA and loved by many.

- Page 51 Under Conference Eight.....Saxe Gotha officers are:
 Coordinator Ella Shumpert, Emmanuel, West Columbia
 Secretary Kristie Marshall, Transfiguration, Cayce
 Betty Enlow, St David, West Columbia

Risse gave orientation instructions.

Amanda Boatwright made housekeeping announcements.

Sing along – 9:45 am

First Session – 10:00 AM

Formal opening of the 34th Annual Convention of the SC Women of the ELCA

Singing of convention hymn – He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands

Opening liturgy

Plenary Session One

Greetings from Ann Caughman, WELCA President of The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, for Pastor Matthew Titus of The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer as he was away. We presented a gift to the congregation for use of their facility.

Introduction on the Board, committees, past Presidents, conference presidents and special guests.

Greetings from Bishop Ginny Aebischer

She talked about our theme and how we are an extension of God’s hands in the world. Keep BOLDLY serving Jesus and loving your neighbor.

Denise Warren announced that the Mission Growth Team is promoting the new ELCA Good Gifts catalog. She has copies available here.

Report of the Committee on Credentials by Shari Donley

Voting Members	77	Visitors	11
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	0
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	5
Other	13		
Voting Strength	88		
Total Attendance	117		

Shari moved the report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

Adoption of Board Recommendation #1 –Rules of Procedures

President Snelgrove called on Secretary, Linda Roland, who referred to the Proposed Rules of Procedure found on pages 19 – 21 in the BOR. Secretary Roland moved that the Proposed Procedures be adopted (Recommendation #1). **Motion carried.**

Adoption of Board Recommendation #2 – Agenda (pages 19 - 21)

Secretary Roland referred to the Convention Program Agenda for the 2022 SC WELCA Convention on pages 19 - 21 of the BOR. Secretary Roland moved that the Convention Agenda be adopted (Recommendation #2). **Motion carried.**

Appointment of the Parliamentarian

Denise Caulder

Balloting

Prayer by Rev. Megan Lineberger for guidance in election of a Vice President.

First Nominating Ballot for Vice President

Betty Jo Amick, Chair of the Committee on the Conduct of Elections, explained the procedure using the blue ballots. Balloting proceeded.

Amanda Boatwright provided announcements and dismissed everyone to the first workshops. Blessing of the meal by Pastor Megan Lineberger so we can eat as we get back from workshops.

Workshops A

Nominations from the floor for Secretary closes -12:00 noon. Please have them in to Kristin Infantino.

Lunch 12:00 noon

Plenary Session Two

Sing Along – 1:00 pm

Ingathering Offering with blessing by Rev. Megan Lineberger.

Second Report of the Committee on Credentials by Shari Donley

Voting Members	77	Visitors	11
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	0
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	5
Other	15		
Voting Strength	88		
Total Attendance	119		

Balloting – Results of the first ballot for Vice President by Betty Jo Amick

Betty Jo Amick explained the results and who received votes. Three-fourths of legal votes were necessary to win on the first ballot.

- Amanda Boatwright – 28
- Joy Derrick – 6
- Sarah Cheesman – 4
- Jennifer Nuovo – 4
- Christie Gardner – 4
- Jan Piersol – 4
- Linda Griffith – 4
- Mirian Derrick – 2
- Donna Fulmer – 2
- Diane Wicker – 2
- Merri Lewis – 2
- Linda Roland - 2
- Betty Jo Amick – 2
- LaTynia Taylor – 2
- Barbara Wilson – 1
- Sallie Folk – 1
- Virginia Herlong – 1
- Kristin Snelgrove (Infantino) – 1
- Pat George – 1

After names removed, remaining candidates are:

- Amanda Boatwright
- Linda Griffith
- Diane Wicker
- Kristin Infantino.

Second ballot is yellow.

Prayer for guidance for the second ballot for Vice President (Pastor Lineberger)

Second ballot for Vice President

Greetings - Wanda Peery from One Year to Live Retreat

Thanked us for our donation and explained the program and invited us to her table to find out more information.

Adoption of Board Recommendation #3 – Accounting Review (page 31)

Sarah Cheesman moved to adopt Board Recommendation #3.

Motion Carried.

Greetings:

From Rev. David Caughman - campus pastor of Newberry College

Twenty-three countries are represented by staff and students. There are three building projects going on at the moment. He thanked us for SC WELCA support.

From Tom Ramsey – SC Lutheran Men in Mission

He is Executive Director for LMM. He invited us to their next convention. He talked about their upcoming plans for growth and supporting the community.

Balloting – Results of the second ballot for Vice President by Betty Jo Amick

Amanda Boatwright – 57

Diane Wicker – 8

Kristin Infantino – 1

Linda Griffith – 21

Amanda Boatwright elected VP

Greetings:

Katrina Jorgenson from Thrivent

Every year Thrivent has money left over that had been earmarked for benevolence in congregations. Come see her at the booth to learn about Action Teams so that money gets used as intended. She also introduced another Thrivent financial advisor, Jeff Malott, who explained some of their services.

From SC Lutheran Church Youth – Sydnie Taylor

She explained several ways they get youth involved in service. She is available to discuss their services and needs during the convention.

Break 2:00 pm

Report of the Stewardship Committee

Sarah Cheesman, Chair, presented reports for the last fiscal year. See pages 32 - 35 in the BOR. These reports are from the previous treasurer who cannot be here today. The floor was open to any questions. One typo was found in the date being backward. No questions.

Presentation of the 2023 – 2024 Budget

Sarah Cheesman then presented the current and proposed budget for 2023-2024. Virginia Herlong answered any questions related to this. Why was budget to churchwide decreased? They ask for 50%, and we decreased to 60% as our offerings have decreased. Board expenses went up due to inflation.

Rules of Procedure

Risse explained about ballot for Secretary.

Report of the Nominating Committee for Secretary by Kristin Infantino

Kristin presented nominee on page 45 of BOR. Sarah Cheesman moved to close nominations from the floor, second by Elsa Hope.

Prayer for guidance in elections (Pastor Lineberger)

First Ballot for Secretary

Greetings from Sandra West - Lutheran Services of the Carolinas

She explained services they provide using personal stories of clients.

Announcements by Amanda Boatwright

Committee on report of the president will meet at 4PM.

Banquet starts at 6:15

Workshop B – 3:15 pm

Workshop C – 4:30 pm

Dinner – 6:15 pm with blessings by Pastor Lineberger

Entertainment by Reggie and Ladye Love Smith in the Sanctuary

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022

8:30 am Registration opens. Voting Members registered by 9:00 am

8:40 am - Announcements

8:45 am – Morning Devotions by Pastor Megan Lineberger

She shared some resources: Rachael Held Evans with Matthew Paul Turner book “*What is God Like?*” which she read as our devotion. The Sarah Bessey book “*A Prayer to Learn to Love the World Again*” she read this as well and ended in prayer.

Plenary Session Three

Third Report of the Committee on Credentials by Shari Donley

Voting Members 79 Visitors 11

Officers 4 Young Women Guests 0

Board Members 7 First Timer Guests 5

Other 15

Voting Strength 90

Total Attendance 121

Shari moved the credentials be accepted. **Motion carried.**

Report of Offering from Virginia Herlong

- Joy Offering \$3,261.92 +YTD = \$4,474.04
- Convention Offering \$1,977; half = \$998.50
- Nursing Scholarship \$10,524.50 + YTD = \$11,018.75
- Katie’s Fund \$1300.00 +YTD = \$1794.25
- Total Offering \$17, 063.42

Balloting –by Betty Jo Amick

Report of vote for Secretary – Shari Donley with 82 votes was declared winner.

First Ballot for Board Members

Kristin Infantino from Nominations Committee presented the following:

Candidates for Board are Linda Roland, Cindy McManus

There were 2 nominations from the floor for the Board – Denise Warren and Diane Wicker.

Motion from Karen Freeman with second by Beth Cribbe to close nominations from the floor.

Motion carried.

Prayer for Guidance in elections after nominations report above by Pastor Lineberger.

Greetings from Novus Way – Rev. Jan Setzler

He reported about the current status after the pandemic. They are on track to get summer camp back to almost pre-pandemic numbers. He thanked everyone for their great support. Adult activities are also back.

Greetings from Lutheran Theological Seminary

Dr. Mary Shore, who was to speak has COVID. So, Amanda Spangler substituted. She brought greetings and was a new graduate herself. She thanked us for all the ways we support them.

Triennial Gathering Report

Linda Griffith explained about what they are. The theme is still **JUST LOVE** on Sept. 20 – 24 , 2023 in Phoenix. The Bold Connections website will keep you up to date.

Risse reminded us about the Isle of Palms Retreat next May 7 and 8, 2023. She will be the speaker. Dates for the Camp Kinard retreat will be announced in *The Ripple*.

Report of the First Ballot for Board members

Betty Jo Amick reported eligible to vote 90. 83 votes cast. Illegal votes – 2

Cindy McManus – 79

Linda Roland – 78

Diane Wicker – 81

Denise Warren -74

Risse declared all four candidates elected.

Break – 10:00 am

Report of the Nominating Committee – Triennial Voting Members

Risse explained there are three ballots to elect women from each category and how we determine the number of candidates. Even though our active units have decreased, churchwide is letting us send four voting members beside the President to the upcoming Triennial. Whoever is not elected on a ticket, will move to the following ballot.

Kristin Infantino presented LaTynia Taylor for Ticket A; Ella Shumpert for Ticket B; and Pat George and Linda Roland for Ticket C.

Prayer for guidance in elections (Pastor Lineberger)
First Ballot A – (A Woman of Color)

Greetings from Tanzania – Dr. Cathy Milejczak

Tanzania is a companion synod to the SC Synod. She brought greetings from their new Bishop. There will be a trip to Tanzania next July. She invited anyone who would like to come along. Now she needs surgical equipment and to get 10 more beds so they can apply for a government doctor. She is looking for offerings and sponsors. Six of the orphans they have been helping will graduate this fall. The crosses we have been making in the craft group this weekend will go with Cathy to Tanzania. There will be 140 crosses.

Results of Ticket A

Betty Jo Amick announced that 85 votes were cast. LaTynia Taylor received 85 votes. She then announced the Ticket B vote.

Greetings from Churchwide Representative – Lorie Garcia

LaTynia Taylor introduced our Churchwide Representative, Lorie Garcia. Lori brought greetings from our WELCA President Joy Michalicek and the Churchwide Board and office. She asked the women to answer a question on paper. Why WELCA? Then she had us share the answers at the tables. She invited us to share WHY we are involved with other women. She reviewed things we do as an organization. She asked a second question, “What would you do if your unit had no limits?” She had women shout out answers.

Greetings from Lutheran Homes – Beth McClain

She invited us to learn more about the senior living facilities available in South Carolina. She stated we should learn about the various options as “tools” for the future in case they are needed. She did this by asking us to answer questions for ourselves.

Adoption of Board Recommendation #4 – 2023 – 2024 Budget

Sarah Cheesman presented Board Recommendation #4 on page 21 to adopt the proposed budget for 2023-2024. There were no questions or debate. **Motion carried.**

Report on Triennial Ballot B

Betty Jo Amick reported that there were 84 votes. Ella Shumpert had 84 votes as First Time Voting Member at the Triennial. She then presented Ticket C. Vote for only 2 of the 3 candidates.

Blessing of the meal by Pastor Lineberger – Lunch

Plenary Session Four

Board Skit

The Board members each portrayed a different woman of the Bible and gave 3 clues to the assembly to guess who she was. The correct guesser of each won a prize.

Fourth Report from the Committee on Credentials by Shari Donley

Voting Members	79	Visitors	11
Officers	4	Young Women Guests	0
Board Members	7	First Timer Guests	5
Other	15		

Voting Strength 90

Total Attendance 119

Shari moved to accept the report. **Motion Carried**

Balloting – Triennial Ticket C

Betty Jo Amick announced the results of the C Ballot

84 votes cast:

Sarah Cheesman 72

Pat George 54

Linda Roland 40

Sarah and Pat will go to the Triennial as Voting Members. Linda Roland is the alternate.

Greetings from South Carolina Retreat Centers – Dallas Shealy

She greeted us and asked how many have been to Camp Kinard. This year they plan to put in a new pool, residential kitchen, and chapel. The Camp Kinard WELCA Retreat will be February 24 and 25, 2023.

Risse then asked for ideas from everyone for us to discern how to use the \$1000 churchwide grant. Email her at snelgrove.risse@gmail.com.

There will be a SC WELCA website page as a Bible Study resource. If you have recommendations, please see Cindy McManus.

Keynote Speaker – Dr. Jerry Alewine/ Dr. Jenny Linder

Amanda Boatwright introduced our two speakers.

Dr. Alewine, the dean of nursing and health science at Newberry College introduced himself. He talked about shortages in all health care positions. A great part of that is a shortage of nursing instructors.

Dr. Linder spoke in more detail about the nursing program. They have increased to 20 students per class now. They are building a new nursing building and science center. They both were very thankful for the scholarship we are establishing.

Report from the Action Committee on Convention Projects

Sarah Cheesman gave this report from page 39 in BOR.

As of today, we have:

\$16,953.50

\$ 494.25 will be added from half of our offering

\$ 5,000.00 will be added on July 3, 2022, from the Board

\$ 22,447.75 will be our total. We also know there are more checks in the mail

Katie's Fund

\$1,700.00

\$ 424.25 will be added from the offering

\$2,194.25 Total

Report of the President

Barbara Wilson reported that her committee had reviewed Risse's Report via Zoom on May 21st.

They all approved and moved to adopt the report. **Motion carried.**

Risse then thanked the assembly and said how proud she was of all of us. We have kept going through the trying times over the last few years of pandemic. We have lost 22 congregational units active in the past 2 years. She thanked outgoing Board members and those coming on new. She used the book, *Canoeing the Mountains* by Tod Bolsinger, as the basis for explaining how we will move forward together.

Report of the Vice President

Amanda Boatwright stated her report is on page 27 in the BOR. She thanked God and everyone who has helped her these past years. She called several ladies up to recognize them for their help and gave them each a necklace with a "world" on it. She also thanked the Heartland Conference for its help with the convention. She asked everyone to fill out their evaluation forms.

Risse then presented Sarah Cheesman and Merri Lewis with a gift of appreciation for their service on the Board.

Report of the Secretary

Linda Roland referred everyone to her report on page 28 of the BOR. She thanked all who helped her and encouraged others to step out of their comfort zones and try something new when called.

Break – 2:10 – 2:20

First Timer Guests

Briana Harris introduced a skit put on by the 5 First Timer Guests - A Typical Day in the Life of a Superhero (or youth staff coordinator). It was very cute and well received.

Report of the Committee on Minutes

Sallie Folk reported that her committee met with the secretary and reviewed the minutes through this morning's session. She moved to accept the report. **Motion carried.** Risse and Linda will review the remaining Minutes.

Report of Reference and Counsel

Sandra McKie presented a resolution about the need to retain and attract members to SC WELCA so we can continue to meet our mission and fulfill our purpose. She read the resolution and moved to accept the resolution. This will be discussed under Unfinished Business later in the convention.

She then read the Committee Resolution on Appreciation.

Unfinished Business

Janine Wagner, St. John's, Spartanburg, moved that we accept the proposed resolution. Risse then reread the resolution. (See attached)

Discussion :

Sarah Cheesman from Bethel Lutheran spoke in favor of the resolution.

Vote: **Resolution adopted.**

Announcements

Risse invited everyone to the 2023 convention to Zion Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC on June 23 and 24, 2023. Saxe Gotha Conference will be the host conference.

Take your BOR into worship service to have closing litany.

Amanda then drew names for "Goodie Bags".

Holy Communion Service

Installation of Officers, Board, and Triennial Voting Members

Closing of convention and Liturgy

Board Meeting of all current, outgoing, and new officers and board members following worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Roland

Secretary