

Central States Synodical Women's Organization  
February 23, 2023 Board Meeting  
via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Vickie at 7:06 pm.

**Present:** Vickie Donnell, Kathy Steinke, Susie Borgstrom, Janice Gerken, Jill Duis, Pat Dunavan, Rev. Dinah Dutta, and Gaye Mizell. (Absent: 1 unfilled position)

**Opening Prayer and Devotion:** Gaye read from a devotional book of her Mother's. The title was "An Attitude of Gratitude".

**Reading of Purpose Statement:** The Purpose Statement of the Women of the ELCA was spoken in unison, led by Susie.

**Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda as presented was approved by consensus.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes of January 20 and 21 were approved by consensus and will be forwarded to the synod office to be placed on our webpage.

**Treasurer's Report:** Janice reported \$25,078.55 in the operating account and no change in the other funds. The report was approved by consensus.

**Announcements:**

**-Churchwide update:** We did receive the \$1000 check granted to each synodical organization to be used in a program or ministry in one of the three areas supported by Katie's Fund: leadership development, global connection, or living theology. Expenditure of the funds will be tracked within the operating budget and reflected on required reporting which will be due August 1, 2023.

**-Churchwide Leadership Event:** Living Faithful: Called and Thriving Feb 17-18. Those who participated in the webinar reported on the event. It was interesting, insightful, and had many good points to make regarding leadership.

**-In-Person Meeting:** Our next in-person board meeting is set for March 10 at 5 pm to March 11 at noon to be held at our convention location, Stoney Creek Hotel in Independence.

**Unfinished Business:**

**-What do we say when asked:** We discussed how to best answer the question (which was recently asked of a board member), "What do you do with the funds sent to the synodical organization?" We discussed some of the main things our funds go toward. It was suggested to make a short video or informative sheet.

**-Walking in the Word Update:** With the recent resignation of Mary Liby as our Newsletter Coordinator, we have had no volunteers to step into the position. Board members will continue seeking women with the gift of editing and publishing and the need will be presented again in the March issue of the newsletter. Vickie has been in communication with Mary and will move forward with the March issue, if necessary.

**-Board Member Appointment:** Jill had spoken with three individuals with potential to join the board, with no success. Following discussion, it was decided to leave the position open until convention elections.

**-Education Scholarship Deadline is March 1:** Gaye reported no applications had been received. A few of the board members did know someone filling the forms out so we should be receiving them soon.

**-Barbara Nelson Memorial Scholarship Deadline is April 30:** Gaye reported that we have 1 application so far. The application can again be included in the March issue of Walking in the Word.

**-Cluster events:**

Eastern Cluster: An in-person informational meeting is scheduled for April 22.

Border Cluster: An in-person informational meeting is planned in April.

Central Cluster: A Zoom meeting is planned in March to start the conversation with potential cluster coordinators.

**Convention Updates and Next Steps:**

**-Facility review:** Questions about food to be brought in for the hospitality room will be answered in March when Vickie and Janice are scheduled for the walk-through of our convention space and planned meeting rooms.

**-Music group:** Janice reported that the music for Friday evening, Saturday afternoon breakout, and Sunday morning had been confirmed. A pianist will also be available to provide support during the convention.

**- Fair Trade representation:** Gaye will seek confirmation.

**-Activities:** Activities available throughout the convention were discussed. Further exploration will be completed and the list will be confirmed at our next meeting.

**-Vendors:** Kim Knowle-Zeller is confirmed. We discussed the vendors we had last convention and agreed to invite them and a few more.

**- Favors:** the board has chosen the table favors for Friday and Saturday evening meals and will order them closer to convention.

**-Prayer Partner Activity:** We are exploring doing prayer partners differently. A few options were discussed and the activity will be finalized at the next meeting.

**-Elections:** There are questions regarding elections since we are moving to the bi-annual conventions. Rev Dutta led discussion and suggested churchwide as a resource for remaining questions.

**-Breakout Sessions:** Everyone reported back from the first round of 'asks' of potential session leaders. We have some confirmed and will firm-up remaining at the next meeting. Janice reported that Linda Daniels-Block, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Hazelwood has agreed to lead a Bible Study. Mari Asbury, Executive Director of Child Safe of Central Missouri, will be a presenter. Desires to lift up the issues of racial justice, care of the environment, and leadership continue to be priorities for inclusion in some way and are to be explored further in conversations with potential speakers.

**-In-kind Project:** The "Once We Were Refugees" contact person, Ann Say, was notified and agreed to participate in the convention. Pat is in communication.

**-Entertainment:** Janice reported that we have sent an email inquiry to explore availability and cost.

**-Logo and T-shirt:** Kathy showed what they had so far and all comments were positive

**-Worship:** Bishop Susan Candea's presence is confirmed for Friday evening worship and Holden Evening Prayer will be used.

**-Convention Chaplain:** Linda Daniel-Blocks will be present to serve as the Chaplin.

**Other New Business:**

-The raffle and silent auction were discussed

-The menu and some of the things the hotel helps with will be discussed closer to convention.

**Closing Prayer:** Rev. Dutta gave a prayer of praise, thanks, love, and light ,to close our meeting in prayer.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susie Borgstrom, Secretary