

Central States Synodical Women's Organization  
March 10 & 11, 2023 Board Meeting  
Stoney Creek Hotel, Independence, MO

The meeting was called to order by Vickie at 6:33 pm on Friday evening.

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

**Opening Prayer and Devotion:** Kathy led us in a devotion from her mother. It was from the "Word in Season" and out of the book "A Lantern in Her Hand". It referred to Psalm 119, the message being that God's Word is the lantern that lights our path.

**The Purpose Statement** was read in unison.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting were approved by consensus.

**Treasurer's Report:** Janice reported \$25,073.55 in the operating account, \$16, 591.37 in the Barbara Nelson memorial fund and \$3,679.22 in the Education Scholarship Fund.

**Announcements:**

**-Walking in the Word** articles are to be turned in by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**-Facebook submissions:** According to our position descriptions, the secretary is to send information for posting on our Facebook page. Vickie suggested that we change that. It was discussed and approved by consensus to change so that "any board member may send information" for posting on our organization's Facebook page.

**-Plans for Cluster Gatherings**

Border cluster will meet April 15 in Kansas City

Eastern cluster will meet May 6 in St. Louis

**-Former Cluster Gatherings**

March 19 in Phillipsburg, KS

April 15 in Windom, KS

April 29 in Osage Beach, MO

**Convention Planning:**

**Convention Theme:** The Lord is my Light

**Convention Scripture:** "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?" Psalm 27:1a

**Convention Song:** Shine, Jesus, Shine

**Convention Goal:** Let your light shine

**-Convention registrar:** Marilyn Dial from Messiah Springfield will serve. Janice will send her \$300 for expenses to send registration packets to congregations and attendees at 2022 convention.

**-Timeline:** The tentative agenda, logo, and registration packet information is on target. The following dates were established and approved by consensus:

**Registration packets** mailed: March 24-31

**Grant applications** due: May 15

**Officer and Board Member nominations** due: May 1

**Convention program reports** due: June 1

**Vendor display tables** due: June 1

**Participant registration with T-shirt order** due: June 1

**Voting member packets/e-mail invitation** for Zoom meeting: June 12-17

**Hotel reservation** deadline: May 22

**-Convention plans:** The room arrangements and meals will be finalized on March 13 when Janice and Vickie meet with hotel staff.

**-The T-shirt design:** Design was discussed and approved by consensus. It will cost the same as last year.

**-The banner:** Design was discussed and the same friend from Messiah Springfield that made last year's banner will be asked to help again.

**-Convention grants:** The number of grants given will depend on the number of applicants. The grant is for the cost of registration, a value of \$90 this year.

**-Prayer partner activity:** Rev Dutta suggested that time is given to make prayer a priority. Options were explored and decision made to collect individual prayer concerns, written and placed in a bowl. This would be a place to meet with the chaplain as a small group, pray for the concerns requested on that day. Vickie volunteered to make cards where concerns can be written. Kathy will bring a clear bowl and Janice will bring a table-top cross.

**-Hospitality room:** Room will be available throughout the convention for gathering with friends. Attendees will be encouraged to bring handiwork.

**-Shopping at The Bridge:** Fair Trade shopping will be available throughout the convention.

**-BINGO:** This is planned from 3 pm to 5 pm on Saturday. Pat will bring supplies and she and Vickie will bring prizes.

**-Scavenger hunt:** Kathy is making up page of clues that will be available at the registration desk. It will end at 5 pm on Friday evening and results will need to be turned in at the registrar's table. A prize will be given on Saturday to those completing.

**-Blessing jar craft activity:** Activity will be offered for participants during the Saturday business meeting time. Voting members may pick up supplies to make a jar. Gaye will pick up supplies for the activity and turn in the receipt to be reimbursed.

**-Bible study** led by chaplain: Study, based on the convention theme, will be offered during the business meeting time for participants and repeated as a break-out session.

**-Banquet recognitions:** Special recognitions that will be made at the Saturday dinner were discussed.

**-Assignments:**

**Banner:** Messiah Springfield

**T-shirt distribution:** St. Marks and Trinity St. Louis

**Table grace:** Will be assigned after registrations come in

**Barbara Nelson silent auction:** Former Ozark Mountain cluster will assist with setting up and oversight

**Mini raffle:** Former Mid-MO cluster will assist with setting up and oversight

**In-Kind contributions:** Our Savior Topeka will assist with off-loading, gathering and placement to the assigned holding area.

**-Triennial** convention and gathering: Promotion of convention and gathering will be done with announcements and other information. Churchwide representative will be given time to present also.

**-Vendors:** Gaye will send out letters of invitation to potential vendors.

**-Friday and Saturday evening table favors:** Pat and Kathy will procure these.

- Welcome from Independence** for opening of convention: Janice will make the call to the city office and request a representative be present at 6:30 on Friday evening.
- Churchwide representative:** Churchwide has been notified of convention dates. Plans are for representative to promote Triennial and lead a Bible study/devotion on Saturday morning.
- Friday evening **LOVE offering:** The offering on Friday evening will be ½ to churchwide, ¼ to Child Safe in Sedalia, and ¼ to Once We Were Refugees.
- Business session:**
  - Reports:** President's, Credentials, Nominating, and Offering committee reports will be included.
  - Election of officers:** With transition to bi-annual conventions and the constitutionally required 2-year terms in board positions, special consideration needs to be given to maintaining continuity on the board until elections are next held in 2025. Vickie will be making contact with churchwide to discuss preferred option of current board members whose terms are not completed in 2023 serving an additional year until 2025 election. Moving forward with this preferred option requires election of president, treasurer, and 3 board members at the upcoming convention.
  - Treasurer's report:** Janice will provide report.
  - Approval of proposed budget:** Budget for FYE 1/31/2025 will be approved.
- Break-out sessions:**
  1. **Walking in the Light:** Bible study led by Linda Daniels-Block, Chaplain
  2. **Being the Light:** A presentation by Mary Asbury from Child Safe
  3. **Sustaining the Light:** A leadership presentation with discussion
  4. **Sharing the Light:** A sing-along with live contemporary music
- Cluster coordinator session:** Cluster coordinators will be given recognition and attendance at cluster gatherings beginning in 2024 will be encouraged at opportunities throughout the convention. Initial meeting with coordinators as a group will be held at 3:00 pm on Saturday.
- Saturday evening:** Cluster events beginning 2024 will be explained and attendance encouraged. Entertainment has been contacted and availability confirmed. Potential funding for this was discussed.
- Sunday morning recap:** Prior to Sunday morning worship, announcements and summary of business meeting outcomes will be given.
- Sunday morning worship:** Offering will be given ½ to Central States synodical organization and ½ to Education Scholarship Fund
- Education Scholarship applications:** The deadline for application has been met with 2 forms turned in with qualifications met by both. Motion made by Janice and seconded by Pat to award \$1000 to each of the applicants. Motion carried. Vickie will notify applicants by letter with invitation extended to attend Saturday evening of the convention and submit a photo for the convention booklet.
- Registration packets:** Packets will include:
  - Letter from president
  - Letter from registrar
  - Registration form (late fee and cluster coordinator discount will be removed this year)
  - Tentative agenda
  - Nomination form for officer/board members
  - Resolution form

T-shirt order form

In-kind contribution information

**-Mailing of registration packets:** Mailing will go to each congregation and individuals that attended the convention last year.

**Closing Prayer and Recess:** Rev Dutta gave a prayer to bless the end of the day and motion carried to recess at 9:36 pm until post-breakfast the following morning.

**Meeting Reconvened** at 8:06 am on Saturday morning

**Opening devotion and prayer:** Vickie provided devotion based on John 3:17 from “Water and Spirit”.

**Convention planning continued:**

**-Table decorations:** Options were explored for decorations. Kathy, Janice, and Jill will collaborate on the project.

**-Menu options:** Janice shared information available on meal options and prices. Janice and Vickie will finalize meals when meeting with hotel staff on March 13.

**-Audiovisual equipment:** Options and costs were reported on by Janice.

**-Water, coffee, and tea stations:** Will be available at a per day cost.

**-Meeting rooms:** Will be confirmed at the March 13 meeting with hotel staff. Will have rooms for The Bridge; In-Kind contributions; 3 break-out rooms at the same time; hospitality room; convening/dining room; and board room. Will have suitable space for registration table and vendors.

**-Bios and photos:** Education scholarship recipients, musicians, breakout leaders, entertainment, chaplain, keynote speaker and churchwide representative will be needed for convention booklet.

**-Walking in the Word assignments:** Due as soon as ready for March issue.

Pat: Once We Were Refugees

Rev Dutta: Discipleship—“Be the Light”

Kathy: Activities and social aspects of the convention—“Sharing the Light”

Janice: Entertainment, silent auction and mini raffle

Gaye: Grants for registration fee for convention

Picture of the convention logo

**Next meeting** will be via Zoom at 7:00 pm, March 30

**Closing prayer:** Closed with the Lord’s Prayer and by reading of Genesis 31:49”...The LORD watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other.”

**Meeting adjourned** by consensus at 10:05 am.

Submitted by:  
Susie Borgstrom  
Secretary