

Central States Synodical Women's Organization
April 13, 2023 Board Meeting
via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by Vickie at 7:00 pm.

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

Opening Prayer, Devotions and Reading of the Purpose Statement: Vickie provided a devotion and prayer from God Pause daily devotion from Luther Seminary. The purpose statement of Women of the ELCA was shared to open the meeting.

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

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes for March 10 & 11, 2023 meeting held at Stoney Creek in Independence, MO were approved by consensus and will be forwarded to the synod office to be placed on our webpage.

Treasurer's report: Janice reported \$24,089.44 in the operating account, \$16,591.37 in the Barbara Nelson Memorial fund, and \$3,679.22 in the Central States WELCA Scholarship fund. The proposed budget FYE 1/31/2025 was discussed and will be brought for final approval at the next meeting.

Announcements:

-**Newsletter:** 33 were sent out via USPS and 252 via email.

- **Packets for Convention:** 164 were sent to congregations and 70 were sent out to individuals.

-**Facebook:** The invitation letter to the convention with link to our web page and March 2023 issue of *Walking in the Word* have been forwarded for posting on our Facebook page.

Unfinished Business:

-**Education Scholarship Letters:** Letters have been sent to recipients for request for pictures to be sent for convention information booklet. Preliminary invitation to Saturday evening dinner was included. Vickie will have further communication with recipients.

-**Barbara Nelson Fund:** Applications are due by April 30. It has been reported that only one application has been received.

-**Cluster Gatherings:**

Border Cluster is meeting April 15 at Hosanna! Lutheran in Liberty for brunch, devotion/study, sharing, and fellowship. Information will be available for all to learn about forming active units, and connecting with other women at convention and at triennial. The newsletter, convention packet and our introduction to Women of the ELCA pamphlet will also be available to them. Louise Ahrens, cluster coordinator, has taken leadership in planning the event.

Eastern Cluster is meeting May 6 for breakfast, a Bible study in Philippians, an open forum, and lunch. The event will be held at Trinity in Manchester under the leadership of Wilma Prifti, cluster coordinator.

New Business:

-**Convention:**

Facility Review—Janice reviewed the facility accommodations and answered questions asked.

Fair Trade—Last year it was decided to share ½ the cost of the room used for the Fair Trade merchandise. It was decided by consensus to have them pay \$200 for use of their space this year. Vickie will be in contact with Johanna Erdman from the Bridge.

Convention Program Deadline—Items for the convention booklet need to be submitted to Vickie no later than June 1st. Items needed and person responsible for notification follows:

Rev Linda Daniels-Block—picture and bio. Janice will notify.

Kelsey Scism- picture and bio—Jill will notify.

Rev. Dutta- picture and bio

Jill Duis- picture and bio

Contemporary band- picture and description. Janice will notify.
Mary Asbury- picture and bio—Janice will notify
Churchwide Representative-picture and bio—Vickie will notify
KC Wolfe- picture and bio—have necessary information
Lauren Bailey—Scholarship recipient-picture and bio —Janice will notify
Dani Kerns- have necessary information
President's report—Vickie
Secretary's report—Susie
Treasurer's report—Janice
Proposed budget for FYE 1/31/2025—Janice
Nomination Bios for President, Treasurer, and 3 Board Members
Nomination Committee: Rhonda Templing, Gloria Sharp and Kathy Steinke, board liaison
List of Cluster Coordinators—will include all that have agreed to serve as of the convention
List of Vendors—Gaye will provide
Stewardship Report- Janice
Cluster Coordinator Report- Pat
Discipleship Report- Rev. Dutta
Social Justice Report- Jill

Sustaining the Light Breakout Session: Have been unsuccessful as of the meeting date in procuring a presenter for this session. Several options were discussed.

Board Liaison to the Nomination Committee: Janice volunteered to be the board liaison.

Confirmation Letter to all of the Presenters: Confirmation messages need to be sent to all presenters to confirm the specific date, time, supplies needed, remuneration, and board contact. Kathy volunteered to provide communication.

PowerPoint Presentation: Vickie did the one last year and it was received well. It was a nice touch coming into the convention room. Vickie volunteered to make the one this year also.

Scavenger Hunt: It was decided to let everyone work on the scavenger hunt until Saturday noon as some participants arrive later on Friday and might want more time to participate.

Bingo: Bingo will be available from 3-5 pm in the main room. Pat and Vickie will make sure to pick up some small prizes. Everyone may donate prizes if you wish. We will have the rule that each individual may win only twice.

Blessings Jar: This activity will be during the business meeting. Everyone who doesn't participate in the activity during that time will be sent home with the supplies to make one.

Prayer Partner Activity: Vickie will prepare cards to write prayer requests that will be available at the registration desk on Friday. The center where attendees will gather for prayers to be offered will be arranged for and will be communicated with the chaplain who will give advice on how to proceed.

Centerpieces for Tables: Kathy had made one and asked if everyone approved. Consensus was for her to proceed with having them available for use at the convention.

May 22nd is Hotel Reservation Cut-Off Date: Make sure everyone knows to get their room before May 22 because there is a wedding that same weekend and rooms could be unavailable after this date.

The next scheduled meeting will be via Zoom on May 18.

Closing Prayer: Rev Dutta offered up a prayer of Hope and Light and of Thanks for Gathering us while asking for strength to be disciples and make a difference. Thanks Be To God!

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Borgstrom, Secretary