

Central States Synodical Women's Organization
February 2-3, 2024 Board Meeting
At Hilton Garden Inn, Independence Mo

Present: Gloria Sharp, Kathy Steinke, Susie Borgstrom, Janice Gerken, Pat Dunavan, , Gaye Mizell, Jill Duis, and Louise Ahrens. Reverend Dinah Dutta was not able to attend.

Greetings: Gloria called the meeting to order at 3:50 pm since we were all gathered and in the room. She welcomed us and invited us to start early since we had a lot to cover.

Prayer and Devotions: Jill led us in a devotion based on the scripture found in Revelations 22:1. The tree by the River of Life was given as our topic and Jill spoke to the depth of our life as if we were the tree and our roots were connected to God as a stream full of healing, full of spirit and full of life. It was very inspiring.

Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement: Gloria led us all in the purpose statement.

Approval of the Agenda: Gloria presented the agenda for adoption. It was moved by Janice. Pat seconded the motion. It was voted on and carried

Approval of the Minutes: There were additions and corrections to the November 2023 minutes: Add the dates that were chosen, June 20-22 and June 27-29. for 2025 convention.. For future reference, add a list of board members and what newsletter articles each were to turn in to Vickie .Gaye moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Jill seconded the motion. The vote was held and carried.

Treasurer's Report: Janice gave the report as of 02/02/2024. In the operating account there was \$23,516.68. In the Barbara Nelson Fund: \$17,106.99. In the Education Fund: \$2,202.72. Janice presented a spreadsheet with the end of the year update for our review. Gloria noted that she had received a thank you to acknowledge our regular offerings from Churchwide. Susie moved to accept the report, Louise seconded it, the vote was held and carried.

Announcements:

Walking in the Word: The next newsletter date has not been decided, but at the next Zoom meeting we will have the hotel location and all the needed details to inform our Women of the ELCA about the convention in 2025. We will communicate with Vickie to see what works for her, and tentatively plan for June 15.

Educational Scholarship Application: The deadline for the application was March 15. We felt since we had no convention this year, there was no rush..The board decided by consensus to set the new deadline to April 15. This would give the board time to go through applications, choose the winner(s) and cut the check to the college in the fall.

Old Business:

Updates on the cluster meetings: Pat reported:

Eastern Missouri: Meeting April 27, at Good Shepherd of Manchester, Mo, with Rev. Kim Knowle-Zeller.

Osage: meeting June 1, at St Paul's of Cole Camp, Mo.

Central Kansas: Meeting in October at Lindsborg, Ks.

Border: April 27 at St. Mark's in Atchison Ks.

Western Kansas: The planning is in progress.

Cluster Grants: The board discussed how to process the grant money. Kathy moved to have Janice send a check to each cluster for 2024 cluster meeting expenses as designated by the

board for use of the Churchwide Women of the ELCA Leadership Grant. Janice seconded , the vote was held and carried. The check will be sent to each cluster as follows:

Eastern Cluster: Wilma Prifti

Osage Cluster: Becky Verslues

Central Kansas Cluster : Anna Prockish

Border Cluster: Louise Ahrens

Western Cluster: Rhonda Templing

Other notes for the cluster meetings: as representatives of our women's synodical organization, it is our goal to inform and support our women at the cluster level. It is good to give each individual a handout with not only "hold the date" information for the convention in 2025 but also Walking in the Word access, what we do with the offerings information and a challenge to build our education fund at the synod level. We suggest an offering with ½ going to our CSS Women of the ELCA and ½ to the Education fund. Some clusters will have a local charity already chosen to promote and that is fine too. We need to make sure they know how to communicate to our treasurer exactly how each sum of money is to be allocated when sent in.

New Business

Review of Board Policies: We each read a part of the paperwork out loud and updated each part as needed. The updated version will be shared and accepted at our next meeting.

The meeting was dismissed at 6:05 pm for Dinner

At 7:25, the Board gathered in the meeting room for a little mixer to get to know each other a little better. It was called "Speed Dating" and was fun for all.

At 8:11, Gloria called the meeting back to order.

Convention Planning

Report from the Hotel Seeking Committee: Louise, Janice, Kathy, and Gloria gave the report of their findings. The hotels that were researched were: Stoney Creek, The Embassy Suites, and the Hilton Garden Inn, all within the Independence Mo area. The Embassy Suites were more expensive than we were used to so it was not recommended. The Stoney Creek was not available for the 2 weekends that we had chosen for the convention of June 20-22 or June 27-29 but we were informed that they would have in house food by July of 2025. . The Hilton Garden Inn was a little more expensive and did not include a hot breakfast with the room but we had a larger space to work with.. It was decided to explore July 11-13 at the Stoney Creek. The committee would report their findings at our next Zoom meeting.

Closing Prayer was given by Gaye. The devotion was about having a good laugh and the Bible verse was Proverbs 15:3

At 9:10 pm the meeting was dismissed for the evening.

At 8:47 am the meeting reconvened.

Opening Prayer: Gloria called us to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

Convention 2025: Gloria had compiled the suggestions that were turned in to her for convention theme, song, and scripture.

A few moments were taken to explore the many possibilities that were before us. The board came to a consensus of “Vessels of Grace”, for the theme, Ephesians 2:8 for the scripture, and “Amazing Grace” for the song. Gloria asked us all to continue brainstorming for possibilities for speakers, breakout sessions, workshops, entertainment, worship, a registrar, and in kind gifts.

Elections for 2025. As the convention is conducted every other year, the election cycle for the board is going to be something we need to give close attention to. In 2025 there will be 4 officers or board members that will not be eligible to run for office for the next term. Please spread the awareness with your units and be proactive in bringing potential nominees to cluster meetings, talk it up.

Convention Planning Document: We took turns each reading a part of the Convention Planning Document and updated it as was necessary. The updated document will be shared at our next meeting and approved at that time.

Brainstorming: We explored ways to attract women of color and new members into our fold. We also were asking for ideas on how to keep women actively engaged between the cluster meetings and the convention in 2025.

Closing and Prayer: We all joined together in praying the Lord’s Prayer for the closing. Everyone was sent home with Scripture Psalm 118:24 and a farewell to travel home safely! The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Borgstrom, Secretary