

Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA
Board Meeting Minutes
Saturday, February 24, 2024
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota

Call to Order: President Ilene Penk called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Members present in person: Noreen Beranek, Barb Borth, Kathy Harwick, Jane Leitzman, Ilene Penk, Karen Quistorff, and Karen Skarphol.

Members Absent: Connie Dallmann, Brenda Danielson, Gwen Degner, Carolyn Enstad, and Carmen Maus.

Devotions: Ilene gave devotions based on Habakkuk 2:3.

M/S/P Karen S./Noreen to approve the **agenda** as printed, with additions allowed.

Prayer requests were shared. Ilene led us in prayer.

Reports:

- M/S/P Kathy/Barb to approve the **minutes** of January 20, 2024.
- Karen Q. presented the **treasurer's report**. The balance on hand is \$32,781.99 as of Jan. 31, 2024. M/S/P Barb/Kathy to approve the report.

Correspondence was received from Churchwide and from Grace Lutheran, Belview which has disbanded its women's group.

Unfinished Business:

Barb volunteered to work with **Adults Saving Kids** along with her daughter, Emily.

New Business:

[**Conference Gathering policy** reprinted from the minutes of March 25, 2023:

The SWO President does not pay registration fees for conference gatherings. Likewise, the liaison for each conference does not pay. However, Board members who attend gatherings other than the ones assigned to them, will pay for their own registrations.]

One of our conferences refuses to follow the above policy.

M/S/P as amended that, if a conference requires the SWO President and conference liaison to pay **conference gathering registration fees**, the SWO president and conference liaison will be reimbursed by the SWO treasurer; furthermore, the SWO treasurer *will* reimburse SWO Board members for registration costs when they attend conference gatherings that are not assigned to them.

The Board discussed having a display table at the **synod assembly** and creating a video for that event using clips from the SWO Convention.

The **2025 SWO Convention** will be held Saturday, May 3, 2025, in Willmar. The exact location will be determined.

The Board continued planning for the **2024 SWO Convention**. Plans are as follows:

- Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024
- Site: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls.
- Theme: “Be the Light”
- Carmen has developed the logo.
- Theme Verse: Psalm 82:4 “Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- Theme Hymn: ELW 715, “Christ Be Our Light”
- Offering Objectives:
 - ½ to CWO
 - ½ to Terebinth Refuge in Waite Park, Minnesota
- In-Kind Offerings
 - There will be a truck. The Mission Action Committee will call trucking companies.
 - The truck will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30. Mission Action is in charge.
 - Ilene will contact the church to see if there is a youth group that would be willing to help load the truck. Another option would be to contact a Scout troop. SWO will donate \$150.00 to the group that helps.
 - In-kind offerings of gift cards to Target, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS will be received to benefit the women of Terebinth Refuge.
 - Noreen will facilitate bandage rolling for attendees.
- Keynote Speaker: Aliyah Ewing from Terebinth Refuge
- Workshops:
 - Pr. Heather Culuris – Katie Luther
 - Emily and Barb Borth – “Exposure”

- Tentative schedule – adjusted since last meeting:
 - 7:30: Truck opens.
 - 8:00: Registration begins, displays open.
 - 8:30: Deadline for changes to voting members.
 - 8:45: Welcome/Voting Member Orientation/All voting members must be seated by this time.
 - 9:00: Opening Worship with Holy Communion – Pr. Heather
 - 10:00: Opening of Plenary Session I, Installation of New Board, CWO Rep. – Maria Lokensgard
 - 12:00: Lunch
 - 1:00: Gathering music
 - 1:15-2:00: Keynote Speaker – Aliyah Ewing
 - 2:00: In Kind Offering Report
 - 2:15-2:45: Workshops
 - Pr. Heather Culuris: “A Fabulous, Feisty, Faithful Woman of the Church”
 - Emily and Barb Borth: “Exposure”
 - 3:00-3:30: Workshops (same as above)
 - 3:45: Announcement/song/closing
- Registration Fee – M/S/P Jane/Barb to change the registration fee to \$40.
- Worship musician – from Gloria Dei – Ilene will call.
- Convention Mentor Chair – Ilene
- Convention Mentor Application Deadline – April 1
- List of hotels in Redwood Falls – Karen Q. will research.
- Convention Registration Deadline – April 22. Walk-ins welcome.
- Convention Registrar – Karen Q.
- Scholarship Application Deadline – April 1
- Scholarship Chair – Ilene
- Resolutions Deadline – April 4
- Resolutions Chair – Jane
- In-Kind Offerings Chair – Noreen
- Katie’s Cans – Karen Q.
- Signs – Mission Action, Noreen - Chair
- Convention Committees:
 - Credentials/Registration – Karen Q. and Karen S.
 - Displays – Brenda and Connie
 - Elections – Kathy
 - Minutes – Gwen and Conference Secretaries
 - Offering – Karen Q. and Conference Treasurers
 - Publicity – Gwen and Ilene.
 - Program Booklet – Gwen. Will use same printer in Hutch as last year.

- Resolutions – Jane and Conference VP’s
- Worship Leader and Chaplain – Pr. Heather
- Food/Hospitality – Carolyn and Karen S.
- Parliamentarian – Kristy Henriksen
- Photographer – Jane Tongen
- Synod Staff Liaison – Pr. Heather
- Organist – Ilene will ask for someone from Gloria Dei.
- CWO Representative – Maria
- Conference Assignments:
 - Registration – Great River Conference – 2 women needed
 - Greeters and ushers – Lac Qui Parle Conference– 4 needed
 - Table Decorations for 16 tables – Shetek Conference
 - Hostesses – Prairie Conference – 2 needed
 - Clean-Up – Crow River and Glacial Ridge Conferences – 2 needed from each

Reminders about deadlines for ***The Communicator***:

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Months</u>	<u>Deadline to Submit Articles and Information</u>
Winter	January, February, March	Dec. 8
Spring	April, May, June	March 8
Summer	July, August, September	June 8
Fall	October, November, December	Sept. 8

There will be **no SWO meeting in March.**

M/S/P Karen S./Kathy to adjourn. Following the Lord’s Prayer, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Gwen Degner, Secretary
SW MN SWO Board