

CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2011 IN GREAT BEND, KANSAS

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Central States Synodical Organization met for their 24rd annual convention, September 23-25, 2011 at the the Highland Hotel and Convention Center, Great Bend, Kansas. Theme was “Rejoice” and the scripture selection, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:4-5.

Registration began at noon on Friday. Friday Fellowship, SERRV and Fair Trade along with a number of displays were available for convention attendees. The first choir practice was at 4:00 p.m. Delegate and participant orientations were at 5:00 p.m. Everyone was on their own for dinner.

CONVENTION OPENING at 7:00 p.m. Convention Chaplain, Reverend Cynthia Schnaath, opened with prayer. She also promoted Campus Ministry and shared information about the Joplin Cross which is displayed on the stage. The Joplin Cross is made from a beam of Peace Lutheran in Joplin which was destroyed by a Tornado, May 22nd, 2011. Attendees sang the Convention Hymn, “On Our Way Rejoicing”.

Iris Turnbull, President, Central States SWO, **introduced** Central States SWO **board members** Susie Borgstrom, Gloria Sharp, Cheryl Taylor, Kathy Ouellette, Carolyn Bauer and Jewell Swinney. Board members not present, Mary Keidle and Deborah Ruprecht. Also introduced was Central States Synod **Bishop, Gerald Mansholt, Reverend Rosalind Brathwaite**, Churchwide Board representative. We were privileged to also have Ann Hightower, Churchwide Staff, present for most of the convention.

Great Bend **Mayor, Dr. Mike Allison**, welcomed convention attendees to the city.

Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite addressed the convention and brought greetings from Jenny Michael, newly elected President, Women of the ELCA. **Rev. Brathwaite** centered her **message** on the Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement. She challenged attendees to help other women in their congregation understand the funding of Women of the ELCA. She stated the organization needs strong and faithful financial support. Also, support Women of the ELCA by using publications of Women of the ELCA.

Pastor Jim Strasen led the **Worship Service** of “Unfailing Light” with Communion.

Convention **song leader and choir director** was Doris Swenson and **pianist** was Mariam Strasen.

Splash and Pray, a water yoga session, led by Gloria Martin and Jewell Swinney and **Stretch and Pray**, a DVD program of stretches & meditation developed by Bishop Murry Finck of the Pacifica

Synod of the ELCA, were both enjoyed by convention attendees. Plus, \$1450.00 was collected for Nothing but Nets to purchase mosquito nets to help eliminate malaria deaths in Africa.

SATURDAY MORNING, 8:00 a.m., Rev. Brathwaite led **Bible Study** on the Convention theme. **Central States Synod Bishop, Gerald Mansholt**, addressed the delegates and participants

CENTRAL STATES SWO BUSINESS MEETING Central States Synod President, Iris Turnbull opened the business meeting. Kathy Ouellette, Vice President, called on Iris for the **Report of the President**. The report is printed in the convention program book (CPR)

CONVENTION STANDING RULES were presented by Secretary, Carolyn Bauer. They were read at the delegates' orientation and are printed in the CPR. Carolyn moved for the adoption of the Convention Standing Rules. Motion carried.

CORRECTIONS TO THE CONVENTION PROGRAM Vice President, Kathy Ouellette, noted the following **changes to the CPR**. Pg.5, Spelling of *Brathwaite*. Pgs. 18-19 Parliamentarian, Dorothy Selland; changes to Committee on President's Report, strike the name of Phyllis Glasker, change Board liaison to Susie Borgstrom; Board Liaison for Committee on Elections, Cheryl Taylor.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE Kathy Regehr, Registrar, reported the following as being registered: 36 Delegates

7 Officers and Board for a **voting strength of 43**.

75 Participants

4 Guests. **Total in attendance, 122**.

Kathy moved for the adoption of the Credentials Committee report, subject to revisions. The report of the Credentials Committee was adopted.

REPORT OF THE OFFERING COMMITTEE Miranda Oehrke, Chair, reported the **Love Offering** received from congregational units, Friday evening, was \$2433.00.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE Lois Viebrock, Chair, reported the following nominees for two year terms of office: **President**, Susie Borgstrom; **Treasurer**, Jewell Swinney. **Board Member(s)**, Rhonda Templing. **Nominations from the floor for Board Member** were Lois Viebrock and Mary Kern.

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS, Nevada Vetter, Chair, distributed ballots to delegates who voted for the office of president. Delegates marked their ballot for president. Ballots were collected

and counted. Susie Borgstrom received 43 votes, (22 votes needed to elect.) The chair declared Susie Borgstrom elected president for a two year term. Ballots for treasurer were distributed. Delegates marked their ballot for treasurer. Ballots were collected and counted. Jewell Swinney received 42 votes. The chair declared Jewell Swinney elected treasurer for a two year term. Ballots for the three board member positions were distributed. Delegates marked their ballot for three board members. Ballots were collected and counted. Rhonda Templing received 43 votes, Mary Kern, 42 and Lois Viebrock 43. The chair declared Rhonda Templing, Mary Kern and Lois Viebrock elected board members for a term of two years. Nevada Vetter, chair of the Elections Committee, moved that all ballots be destroyed.

TREASURER'S REPORT was presented by Jewell Swinney. Jewell noted the Financial Reports are printed in the CPR on pgs. 14-1 through 14-7. Jewell then presented the Synodical Women's Organization **Proposed Budget for 2012-2013** found on pg 15 of the CPR. Jewell moved for the adoption of the budget. The budget **was adopted** by a vote of the delegates.

REFERENCE AND COUNCIL, Loretta Holmes, chair, presented the **Resolution to thank all those who made the 24th annual convention possible**. Loretta moved for the adoption of the resolution. The resolution was passed.

COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTS REPORT, Donna Wilhelm, Chair, reported the committee has reviewed the president's report and feel the president has fulfilled her job description. Donna moved for the **adoption of the president's report**. Delegates voted to adopt the report.

BUSINESS MEETING CLOSED President, Iris, declared the business meeting of the 24rd Annual Convention Closed.

REPORTS FROM DISPLAY(S) PEOPLE AND IN KIND GIFT RECIPIENT REPRESENTATIVES

***Bethany Home**, a Christ centered home, has been providing nursing and rehabilitation service for 100 years in Lindsborg Kansas. We are grateful to them for providing bags for convention delegates and participants in commemoration of their 100th anniversary.

* **Oaks Indian Mission** became a Lutheran ministry in 1902. They serve children from tribal nations in Oklahoma. Oaks provides a home for children and counseling for their families.

***Kans for Kids** representative, Debbie Reif, shared a video. They provide assistance to children living with cancer. **One-fourth the convention offering** (\$875.) is designated for Kans for Kids.

***Camp Hope** is the recipient of more than \$400. worth of **In-Kind Gifts and \$569. in Monetary gifts** as well as the **106 fleece tied blankets** which participants worked on Saturday morning.

*Throughout the convention attendees had the opportunity to make **net corsages** and learn more about Nothing but Nets and the ELCA Malaria Campaign while making their corsage.

Tri-State Cluster orchestrated the **Prayer Partner Exchange before** the noon meal. During the Saturday noon meal, **Rev. Barbara McClain** entertained with her **Lunch and Laughter** presentation about the many hats each of us wear each day. Many wore their favorite hat.

WORKSHOPS (Two sessions) "Gather" Bible Studies, Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite; The Holy Land, Rev. Cynthia Schnaath; Camp Hope, Gail Moeder; and The Wetlands, Curtis Wolf.

BANQUET 6:30 p.m. with entertainment by the gospel quartet, 4-Told. Following the Banquet, **Barbara Nelson Baskets** were distributed to the highest bidder on the silent auction sheets. There were 32 baskets. Proceeds of \$931. will be added to the Barbara Nelson Scholarship Fund to support scholarships to Churchwide Triennial Convention and Gathering.

SUNDAY MORNING, 8:30 a.m. **Delegates** to the July Churchwide Women of the ELCA **Triennial Convention** (Kathy Regehr, Lisa Youngquist, Cheryl Taylor, VirJean Schuerman, Gloria Sharp, Kathy Ouellette, Nevada Vetter and Phyllis Glasker) shared highlights and experiences of attending the Triennial Convention and Gathering. They announced the **Ninth Triennial Convention will be in Charlotte, NC, 2014**. Sharon Hoffman, Vi Meyer and Barbara Prost **Barbara Nelson Scholarship recipients**, also shared information and experiences.

Kathy Ouellette introduced **SWO Grant Recipient, Lucille Boucher**, Smith Center, Kansas.

Heartland Cluster extended the invitation to the **25th Annual Convention for Central States Women of the ELCA at the Ramada Inn, St. Joseph, Missouri, July 27-29, 2012**.

President, Iris, declared the 23rd convention of the Central States SWO closed.

CLOSING WORSHIP 10:30 a.m. with Rev. Cynthia Schnaath presiding. During the worship service, Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite, Churchwide Women of the ELCA Board, **installed** continuing, reelected and newly elected officers and **board members** for Central States Synod Women of the ELCA. Sunday morning personal offerings were \$916.00. **Total Convention Offering, \$3434**.

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Bauer, Secretary Central States Synod Women of the ELCA