

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA
October 25-26,2024 Board Meeting
Hilton Garden Inn, Independence MO

Present: Gloria Sharp, Kathy Steinke, Susie Borgstrom, Janice Gerkin, Pat Dunavan, Gaye Mizell, and Louise Ahrens in person and Jill Duis and Rev Dinah Dutta via Zoom.

Greetings: Gloria greeted everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:15.

Devotions: Janice gave our devotions and prayer from a “Be Still and Know” book of devotions. She talked about our storms and sadness, the lives of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, and our Lord and Savior’s lesson “I am the Resurrection and the Life”.

Purpose Statement: We all joined in the purpose statement together.

Approval of the Agenda: It was moved by Kathy and seconded by Pat to approve the agenda. The motion was voted on and carried.

Approval of the Minutes: It was moved by Pat to approve the minutes from the May 9 meeting. Janice seconded, we voted and it carried. The minutes will be emailed to the Central States Synod office and posted on our website.

Treasurer’s Report: Janice reported \$27,923.94 in our operational fund, \$17,128.29 in the Barbara Nelson Scholarship Fund, and \$2,779.07 in the Lynn Starr Educational Scholarship Fund. Susie moved to accept the report, Louise seconded, we voted and it carried.

Announcements: Newsletter articles were discussed. The deadline was set for November 1. The assignments are as follows:

Kathy: Synod Convention 2025

Janice: Financial Update and Lynn Star Educational Fund

Susie: Western Kansas Cluster Meeting and pictures

Rev. Dinah: Reflections from your Kenyan Trip

Pat: Update on clusters and Kansas LWR Ingathering

Jill: Central Kansas Cluster Meeting and pictures

Louise: Border Cluster Meeting and pictures

Gaye: Growing Katie’s Fund

Gloria: President’s Report and Missouri LWR Ingathering

Old Business

Synod Assembly Booth: Gloria reported on the display we had at Synod Assembly. She promoted the cluster meetings and Walking in the Word newsletter. Jill helped. It went well.

Review of 2024 Cluster Meetings:

Eastern Missouri: Gaye reported that the Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller was the speaker and gave the Bible study. It was held at Good Shepherd , Manchester MO.

Osage: Janice reported the meeting was held at St. Paul’s ,Cole Camp,MO. Pastor Sandy Schlesselman gave the Bible study and spoke on different kinds of love to go with the theme “Just Love” Also Katherine Hayes-Wallenburg spoke on the concept of spiritual direction.

Border: Louise and Pat reported from the meeting at St. Mark’s, Atchinson,KS . The theme was Love,Hope, and Renewal, where spring and gardening were part of the day.At their second gathering at Lord of Love, Belton,MO, Ann Say and Sarah Kelso were presenters.

Central Kansas: Jill and Susie reported. Lindsborg churches hosted. Art and History of the churches were shared. The Dallah Food Bank of the Messiah Church was newly renovated and toured. Rev. Kim Frederking was the Bible study leader.

Western Kansas: Susie reported from the Trinity church in Hays. "Just Love" was the theme. The Speaker was Heidi Olsen, who spoke about what her organization does to stop human trafficking. There was also a style show after lunch.

Approval of Documents:

The updated document "Central States Synod Women of the ELCA Convention Planning and Execution" was presented for approval. Susie made a motion that we approve the document. Pat seconded the motion, it was voted on and carried.

The updated document, "Central States Synod Woman of the ELCA Board Policy" was presented for approval. Susie made the motion to approve the document. Jill seconded, it was voted on and carried.

New Business

Cluster Updates: Pat passed out the updated list of units that were active and their contact information. This information is used to determine how many voting members we will have at the 2026 Triennial Convention to be held July 13-15, 2026.

Unit Assessment for Triennial: The Central States Synod Women of the ELCA have 86 active units this year. There will be 4 voting members plus the synodical president in the 2026 virtual business meeting for Triennial, July 13-15. The in-person gathering for the Triennial will be in Des Moines, Iowa, on July 16-19.

The Board took a break at 5:30 for dinner.

At 7:15 Kathy led us in Bible Charades and a "Happy Salmon" game

At 7:47 Gloria called the meeting back to order.

Companion Synod Exchange: A communication was read inviting us to participate in a trip to PaPua New Guinea in 2025. They are interested in coming to the Triennial in 2026. It was discussed and we decided to promote it and each woman will need to find her own funding. Pastor Gary Teske is the person taking the lead on this.

Lynn Starr Educational Scholarship Application: The board went through the application from last year and updated it for the year 2025. Gaye will accept the applications and present them to the board when it is time to make decisions for awards.

Convention 2025:

What we have decided

Date: June 20-22, 2025

Place: Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO

Theme: Vessels of God's Grace

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8

Hymn: Amazing Grace

Registrar: Marty Berggren

Kathy led the board in a review of the convention agenda of 2023 for any changes to be made for 2025. She also led the discussion of evaluations from 2023 to help plan our next convention.

At 9:11 we dismissed the meeting with prayer.

At 8:30, October 26 we reconvened our meeting.

Devotion and Prayer: Susie gave morning devotions from Acts 20:4 titled "My Life My Faith" and added a verse for planning from Proverbs 16:3... Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed.

Convention 2025 Brainstorming:

When planning the convention it is important to evaluate what was done last time and get Ideas from what the board brings to the table plus some of the suggestions from past participants. Conversation with each other and those from cluster meetings and individuals, give us ideas to choose from. We are in the planning stage right now, so names and details will not be expressed in the minutes. Those subjects discussed were:

- Keynote speakers. We have a few ideas and have to contact the people.
- Workshops. Sing-a-Long could be done again. We have many suggestions.
- Entertainment. We have a group in mind and will contact them.
- Worship. Worship has been discussed and always takes time to plan .
- Vendors. We will try to contact more vendors this year. Gay is our vendor contact for booths and we will contact the Bridge.
- Logo. Kathy has some ideas for the logo. She will bring them to the next meeting
- T-shirts. We will have t-shirts, Kathy and her group are already working on it.
- Chaplain. We are working on asking someone before the next meeting.
- Activities for Participants. Kathy has some ideas
- Saturday Afternoon Activity. White Elephant Bingo is a possibility.
- In-kind Gifts. We will have in-kind gifts
- Elections. All offices are up for elections plus we will have triennial voting member elections.
- Prayer Partner Time.
- Orientation for voters and participants.
- Promotion for Katie's Fund.
- Bible Study/ Evening Devotions.
- Food for the event was discussed. The food has been chosen and is on site so it promises to be much better than the last convention.

Kathy closed the meeting with prayer and we dismissed at 12:27 PM to go safely to our respective homes.

Respectfully Submitted
Susie Borgstrom, Secretary