

**SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION OF THE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD**  
**29<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**SEPT. 16, 2016**  
**FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP**  
**MINUTES**

The First Session of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention was called to order at 10:19 am by President Frances Voyce.

The Congregational Unit offering was collected. The assembly was reminded to fill out Form A for this offering.

Gale Hellier, convention song leader, led the assembly in singing “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” and “Jesus Loves Me”.

Devotions and prayers were led by Pr. Andrea Fluegel, Convention Chaplain, Exodus 3&4.

President Frances Voyce welcomed the voting members and visitors and led the assembly in reciting the Purpose statement.

Credentials Committee – At 10:05 a.m., Virginia Heczko presented the report of the credentials committee. The report was accepted. The report reads as follows:

In attendance:

- Voting members - 23
- SWO Officers – 4
- SWO Board members – 3
- Total voting members – 30
- Women of the ELCA Church Wide Office Representative – 1
- Women of the ELCA Church Wide Board Representative – 0
- Bishop – 0
- Assistant to the Bishop – 0
- Other Clergy – 2
- Visitors – 11
- Other Participants – 0
- Total number registered – 44
- Total eligible to vote - 30

The members of the board introduced themselves and gave brief biographical information.

The convention business committees were appointed as follows:

- Credentials: Chair – Pricilla Estola, Advisor – Virginia Heczko, SWO Board
- Elections: Co-chairs – Joan Jouppi, Barbara Denny, Advisor – Mary Lou Stefanski, SWO Board
- Minutes: Chair - JoAnne Nurmi, Advisor – Barb Rice, SWO Secretary

- Nominations: Co-chairs - Pat Schlinsog, Elaine Kuhlman, Bonnie Maki, Advisor – Jeannette Kuziej, SWO Board
- Offering: Chair – Gloria Niemisto, Advisor – Kristine Carlson, SWO Interim Treasurer
- Report of the President: Chair – Christine Mitchell, Advisor – Barb Rice, SWO Secretary
- Resolutions: Chair – Bonnie Maki, Advisor – Mary Lou Stefanski, SWO Board

The proposed rules of procedure were presented for adoption by Secretary Barb Rice. *As a recommendation from the board, President Frances Voyce called for a vote of adoption. The recommendation carried.*

The proposed agenda was presented for adoption by President Frances Voyce. *As a recommendation from the board, President Frances Voyce called for a vote of adoption. The recommendation carried.*

Secretary Barb Rice reviewed the Procedures for the Election of President.

Mary Lou Stefanski offered a prayer for the Election of President.

First Ballot for the Election of SWO President: The Procedure to Elect the President was re-read by Barb Rice. The first ballot was cast.

The representative from SWO Church Wide, Lois Bylund, spoke to the assembly.

Bishop Thomas Skrenes of the NGLS spoke to the assembly.

The result of the First Ballot for the Election of SWO President was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi, Melzee *Jacobson is elected as SWO President.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

The assembly was given a break for lunch at 12:16 p.m.

At 1:15p.m., Gale Hellier led the assembly in a few songs.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of business was called to order at 1:29 pm,

Vice-President Melzee Jacobson reported on pillowcase dresses, the SWO project for the 2015-16 year. She also provided information on the plastic bag sleeping mats for the homeless, the project for 2016-17, and the cause to which the convention in-kind offering is given.

Credentials Committee – At 1:30 p.m., Virginia Heczko presented the report of the credentials committee. The report was adopted. The report reads as follows:

In attendance:

- Voting members - 23
- SWO Officers – 4
- SWO Board members – 3
- Total voting members – 30
- Women of the ELCA Church Wide Office Representative – 1
- Women of the ELCA Church Wide Board Representative – 0
- Bishop – 0
- Assistant to the Bishop – 0
- Other Clergy – 2
- Visitors – 12

- Other Participants – 0
- Total number registered – 45
- Total eligible to vote - 30

President Frances Voyce called for the First Ballot for the Election of SWO Vice-President to be cast. This election is determined by ecclesiastical ballot.

The Report of the President was summarized by President Frances Voyce. President Voyce highlighted elements from the President's report as printed in the Convention Booklet.

The result of the First Ballot for the Election of SWO Vice-President was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the Second Ballot for the Election of SWO Vice President. The candidates are Pam Chouinard, Virginia Heczko, and Sue Hill.

Interim Treasurer Kris Carlson presented the financial reports found on pp 43-49, in the Convention Booklet, as well as the addendum of the audit of the period 6 mo. prior to Aug. 1, 2016 which covered the time from the previous audit and the time of ex-treasurer Jill Flickinger's resignation.

Interim Treasurer Kris Carlson presented the proposed budget for adoption (p. 47 of booklet) *This recommendation from the SWO Board received support from Bonnie Maki. The recommendation carried*

The results of 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for SWO Vice President was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi, *Pam Chouinard is elected as SWO Vice President.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the First Ballot for the Election of SWO Treasurer. There is one nominee, Kristine Carlson.

A report on the Triennial Convention of 2014 was presented by Mary Lou Stefanski. She encouraged the assembly to attend 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial in Minneapolis, July 11-13, 13-16 2017 and shared that it is a life-changing event.

The result of the first ballot for SWO Treasurer was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi, *Kristine Carlson is elected as SWO Treasurer.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the First Ballot for the Election of SWO Board Members for a 2-year term. The candidates are Susan Hill, Janet Penhale, Joanne Pierce, and Gail Schmidt.

Offering report was presented by Offering Committee Chairperson Gloria Niemisto. The offering report is as follows: Ingathering offering (from Congregational Units) - \$500.00; Regular offering - \$915.00; Mkuza Girls' School - \$174.00; Total offering - \$1,589.00

It was reported by Donna Ferson that the Third World Shop (now known as the World Handcraft Shop) earned over \$2,000. last year. So far this year, it has earned \$287. Jeannette Kuziej reported earnings for the SERRV Shop so far this year of \$100.

President Frances Voyce called for the First Ballot for the Election of the SWO Nominating Committee. Candidates are Kaaren Ness, Nancy Snay, and Joan Jouppi.

The result of the first ballot for the Election of SWO Board Members for a 2-year term was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. *Sue Hill is elected SWO Board Member 2-year term.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for the Election of SWO Board Members for a 2-year term.

The report of the Minutes Committee regarding the Minutes of the First Session of Business was presented by Chairperson JoAnne Nurmi. *It was recommended by committee to approve the minutes. The recommendation carried.*

The result of the first ballot for the Election of SWO Nominating committee was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. *Joan Jouppi, Kaaren Ness and Nancy Snay are elected to serve on the nominating committee.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

The result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for the Election of SWO Board Members for a 2-year term was reported by Elections Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot for the Election of SWO Board Members for a 2-year term.

President Frances Voyce announced that in the *Election of Triennial Voting Member, Woman of Color no vote need to be takes as our new president, Melzee Jacobson, fulfills this position.*

A resolution was presented by Resolutions Committee Chairperson Bonnie Maki. *The resolution reads as follows: "Whereas Frances Voyce, Jill Flickinger, Melody Kysiak and Mary Lou Stefanski have served their terms on the SWO Board, be it resolved that they be thanked for their service to the NGLS-SWO Board."*

The result of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot for the Election of SWO Board Members for a 2-year term was reported by Election Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. *Janet Penhale is elected SWO Board Member 2-year term.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for the Election of SWO Board Member for a 1-year term. Voting member Elaine Kuhlman nominated Joanne Pierce, and Gail Schmidt.

President Frances Voyce called for the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for the Election of Triennial First Time Voting Member.

The result of the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for the Election of Triennial First Time Voting Member was reported by Election Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for the Election of Triennial First Time Voting Member.

The result of the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for the Election of SWO Board Member for a 1-year term was reported by Election Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. *Joanne Pierce is elected SWO Board Member for a 1-year term.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

The result of the 2nd ballot for the Election of Triennial First Time Voting Member was reported by Election Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. *Jeannette Kuziej is elected Triennial First Time Voting Member.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for the Election of Triennial at-large Voting Member.

The result of the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot for the Election of the Triennial at-large Voting Member was presented by Election Committee Chairperson Joan Jouppi. (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

President Frances Voyce called for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for the Election of the Triennial at-large Voting Member.

*Motion was made by Jeannette Kuziej, supported by Gloria Niemisto that the ballots be destroyed. The motion carried.*

SWO Board Member Jeannette Kuziej shared a publication that supports the welfare of the children of the SERRV artisans and their communities in Nepal, India, and South Africa.

Fran showed quilts that have been donated to the FLLC quilt auction and advocated for Fall Festival and Quilt and Fine Arts Auction.

The result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot for Election of the Triennial at-large Voting Member was presented by Elections Chairperson Joan Jouppi. *Gail Schmidt is elected Triennial at-large Voting Member.* (Please refer to the synopsis of the ballot count at the end of this document.)

The 2016 Travelling trophy was awarded to the IGO Cluster.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

## **Synopsis of Ballot Results**

**First ballot for the Election of the SWO President:** 30 eligible voters, 6 illegal ballots, 21 legal ballots. Melzee Jacobson, 19 votes; Pam Chounard, 1 vote; Darly Kempannen, 1 vote. Melzee Jacobson is elected president of the SWO of the NGLS.

**First ballot for the Election of the SWO Vice-President:** 30 eligible voters, 5 illegal ballots, 23 legal ballots. Mary Lou Stefanski, 7; Pam Chouinard, 8; Bonnie Maki, 2; Virginia Heczko, 2; Gale Hellier, 1; Barbara Rice, 1; Susan Hill, 1; Donna Ferson, 1. Donna Ferson, Gale Hellier, Bonnie Maki, Mary Lou Stefanski, and Barbara Rice declined. Pam Chouinard, Virginia Heczko, and Susan Hill will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot.

**Second ballot for SWO Vice President:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 30 legal ballots. Pam Chouinard, 22; Virginia Heczko, 7; Susan Hill, 1. Pam Chouinard is elected president of the SWO of the NGLS.

**First ballot for the Election of SWO Treasurer:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 30 legal ballots. Kristine Carlson, 30. Kristine Carlson is elected treasurer of the SWO of the NGLS.

**First ballot for the Election of SWO Board Member 2-year term:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 30 legal ballots. Sue Hill, 22; Gail Schmidt, 14; Janet Penhale, 13; Joanne Pierce, 11. Sue Hill is elected SWO Board Member 2-year term.

**Second ballot for the Election of SWO Board Member 2-year term:** 30 eligible voters, 2 illegal ballots, 27 legal ballots. Janet Penhale, 12; Gail Schmidt, 8; Joanne Pierce, 7.

**Third ballot for the Election of SWO Board Member 2-year term:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 29 legal ballots. Janet Penhale, 20; Gail Schmidt, 9. Janet Penhale is elected SWO Board Member 2-year term.

**First ballot for the Election of SWO Board Member 1-year term:** 30 eligible voters, 1 illegal ballot, 29 legal ballots. Joanne Pierce, 19; Gail Schmidt, 10. Joanne Pierce is elected SWO Board Member 1-year term.

**First ballot for the Election of SWO Nominating committee:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 30 legal ballots Kaaren Ness 30, Joan Jouppi 30, Nancy Snay 30. All nominees are elected to the SWO Nominating Committee.

**First ballot for the Election of a Triennial first time Voting Member:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 30 legal ballots. Jeannette Kuziej, 14; Gail Schmidt, 11; Nancy Snay, 5.

**Second ballot for the Election of a Triennial first-time voting member:** 30 eligible voters, 1 illegal ballot, 29 legal ballots. Jeannette Kuziej, 21; Gail Schmidt, 8. Jeannette Kuziej is elected Triennial First-time voting member.

**First ballot for the Election of Triennial at-large Voting Member:** 30 eligible voters, 0 illegal ballots, 30 legal ballots. Gail Schmidt, 15; Janet Penhale, 7; Catherine Sanborn, 5; Connie Schmidt, 2; Nancy Snay, 1.

**Second ballot for the Election of Triennial at-large Voting Member:** 30 eligible voters, 3 illegal ballots, 24 legal ballots. Gail Schmidt, 17; Janet Penhale, 7. Gail Schmidt is elected Triennial at-large Voting Member.

Alternate Voting Member for both First Time and Triennial at-large Voting Member is Nancy Snay.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Rice, SWO Secretary