VSWO Board

***MINUTES***

**Meeting Date: 02/29/20**

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the VSWO Board was held on February 29, 2020 with some board members at Project Horizon, connecting with others via Zoom. The meeting convened at 10:00 AM, President Jody Smiley presiding. Members of the Board in attendance were Edith Blake, Sylvia Eley, Deniese Powell, Lavelva Stevens, JoAnn Fawley, Theresa Thomas and Judy Casteele.

**Devotions:**  Judy opened the meeting with devotions.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 2019 board meeting were reviewed and accepted as submitted.

**Convention Planning Report–Theresa & JoAnn**

* Hotel – Theresa shared information on 3 hotels she had contacted to provide a block of rooms for the convention. These will be advertised in the Call to Convention.
* Awareness Sessions – Possible awareness sessions include Service by New Creations on Human Trafficking; Justice by Sylvia; and Love by Pastor Adam Schultz (confirmed) possibly including Pastor Kelly Bayer Derrick and Pastor Phyliss Milton in recognition of the 50/40/10 emphasis throughout the ELCA.
* Bible Study – Pastor Derek Boggs of Salem Lutheran Church will be contacted to provide a Bible Study for convention participants during while voting members are in the business session on Friday afternoon.
* Musicians – Morgan Thomas will assist with Holden Evening Prayer. Theresa will contact someone to play piano/organ during convention
* Meals – The board approved $12-15 for lunch on Friday and Saturday. Theresa will follow up with potential caterers about providing lunch on both days. Board members will provide snacks for the event.
* Arrival – Board members will meet on Thursday afternoon. More details to follow
* Agenda – Theresa presented an agenda and Jody did as well. Jody will work to combine the two schedules and present a final agenda at our next board meeting.
* Cost – Lavelva moved that convention registration be set at $50 for full participants and $30 for one day participants. The motion was seconded and carried.
* Sophie Wilson Grant – Theresa moved that the Sophie Wilson Grant /Young Women Scholarship programs be combined and be offered to first-time non-delegate participants of any age. The motion was seconded and carried. Jody challenged board members to each come up with one woman to apply for a scholarship to attend convention. JoAnn will write an article for Visions adverting the Sophie Wilson Grant program.
* Registrar – Edith Blake agreed to be convention registrar.

**Secretary’s Report**

* Judy noted that the Call to Convention needs to go out by May 1, 2020. Items for inclusion are due to Judy by April 1, 2020. She will send a draft of the CTC to board members with the remaining required information noted.
* Judy reported that Synod Council has joined the NC Synod in a pastoral education debt reduction program. Information will be distributed to pastors/congregations in the near future.
* Judy is keeping a list of women who have registered for the Triennial Gathering. The board approved (at an earlier meeting) that the Betty Wilson Triennial Scholarship funds will be divided among those attending the Triennial Gathering. Women from Trinity, Pulaski have opted out of receiving a share of these funds due to their receiving significant financial support from a member of their congregation. Judy will share names of those attending with Deniese so she can distribute the scholarship funds.
* Judy is serving as the Triennial Gathering Promoter. In addition to keeping track of those attending, she will write an article for Visions about the gathering. Jody offered to work with SW Minnesota, our sister synod, about a gathering.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* P/L report – Edith distributed (via email) and reviewed the profit & loss statement.
* Deniese is working to update the list of treasurers/unit contacts. Please send any updated information to Deniese.
* Edith noted that there is $1,466 currently in the Betty Wilson Triennial Scholarship Fund to be divided among Triennial Gathering participants.

**President’s Report**

* Jody distributed and reviewed her report.
* Jody spoke about the Conference of Presidents, highlighting information about the Women of the ELCA border immersion trip.
* Jody asked board members to review her email regarding constitutional changes and to direct any questions/comments/concerns about the recommended changes to her.

**Conference Coordinator**

* Lavelva reported the following Spring Conference Gatherings: Central Valley on May 3 (Jody will attend); and Germanna on March 28 at Grace & Glory. Either Judy or JoAnn will represent the board at the Germanna Conference Gathering. Edith announced that the Tidewater Fall Gathering will be held on November 7.
* Lavelva distributed conference duties for the 2020 VSWO convention. Those include:
* Central Valley – pages for election
* Germanna – ushers
* Highland/Page – communion assistants
* New River – table decorations
* Peninsula/Tidewater – registration
* Richmond – lectors
* Southern Valley – communion elements (Good Shepherd) & greeters (Salem)
* Board – snacks, coordinated by Lavelva

**Committee Reports**

* Mission Justice – Sylvia distributed her written report. She encouraged congregations to lift up African American leaders during Black History Month 2021.
* Mission Discipleship – Jody & Lavelva plan to make personal contacts to units and encouraged others to do the same.
* Mission Stewardship – Edith lifted up the work with human trafficking victims by New Creations. Judy moved our 2020 convention love offering be given to New Creations. The motion was seconded and carried.
* Communication – Jody offered to create a flyer for convention. Board members were encouraged to help distribute the flyer and to also make personal contacts regarding convention.

**Old Business**

* Active Unit Assessment is an on-going project.
* A circulation manager is still needed for Visions. See Jody to volunteer or make suggestions.

**New Business**

* Nominating Committee – suggestions for Nominating Committee members should be sent to Jody.
* 2021 Convention – Carol Bailey and JoAnn Fawley will serve as the Long-Range Planning Committee for the 2021 convention. They’ll check out Fredericksburg, Charlottesville and Richmond as possible convention locations.
* Facebook – JoAnn will create a Facebook page for the VSWO to take the place of the Facebook group.
* Visions – Visions articles are due to Carol Johnson by March 14, 2020.
* Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held in June, possibly at Salem Lutheran Church in Mt. Sidney. Jody will send details.

Closing Prayer – Jody closed the meeting with prayer.

Judy Casteele, Secretary