

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
Minutes of meeting held Monday 19 August 2002 at 76 Abernethy Rd, Belmont

The meeting commenced at 10 a.m.

Chair Lee Edwards

Present Barbara Bourhill, Olive Dell, Phillis Dolling, Lee Edwards, Margaret Ker, Leeola Loughnan, Marie Major, Sheila Mellar, Laurel Pearce, Janet Watts, Leila Wilson

Apologies None

Welcome Lee Edwards

Devotions Olive Dell shared the story of Paolo, a Brazilian whose conversion, and enrolment as a Salvation Army soldier, led to his wearing the two 'S's' on his shirt ('Saved to Serve' or 'Saved to Save'). Threatened by a gang for his beliefs, Paolo fought back, and was branded by the gang leader with an 'S' on his forehead (cf. St. Paul "mark of the Lord Jesus"). Flora Larson poems: 'Awkward Saints' (difficult to love) and 'Too Small a Saint', a prayer that God will pardon our pettiness and make us more like the Lord Jesus. Prayer of thanks for work of ACW. Lee thanked Olive and noted that St. Paul addressed Corinthians as saints but then pointed out their shortcomings.

Minutes of previous meeting

Amendment (WKS report): add to correspondence outward: to all States and to WKS trustees

With this amendment, the minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

Business Arising

Public Liability Issue Sheila Mellar and Barbara Bourhill reported that they had been advised that public liability is covered in Anglican and Catholic church premises. Leila and Laurel will follow up for Uniting Church and Salvation Army. It was clarified that NSW State Unit has already incorporated.

Correspondence List attached.

Inward

- Item 22: receipt will be handed to Barbara Lacy at Assembly.
Item 26: South Australia is following up on public liability.
Item 35: Invitation forwarded to Victorian Unit

Reports

President (Lee Edwards)

- ◆ Lee had been preacher/speaker at Floreat Fellowship Day Service and commended Vera Wilson and other Uniting Church members for organisation and kindness.
- ◆ NCWA Presidential Series 'Consumer Rights and Your Communications Services'
- ◆ Visit to Sydney for AWC meeting. Hospitality of Jan and Graham Harrison much appreciated, as was opportunity to meet with NSW Unit members.
- ◆ Invitation to launch of NCWA book *From the Heart*
- ◆ Invitation to UCAF Fellowship Day, where Ann Connan (UCAF National President) will report on attendance at World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women last year in England.
- ◆ Correspondence: letters from Eunice Reidy and Jan Harrison, also emails and phone calls.
- ◆ Correspondence from ACT, Queensland, Tasmania Units: need to check guidelines regularly.
- ◆ Congratulations to Phillis for newsletter and to Catherine Derries for all the work she did on Fellowship Day.

Re Guidelines: Leila noted that Guidelines for President and Vice President may be needed.

Vice Presidents

(Leila Wilson) Leila had checked Constitution: corrected copy to Leeola. Motion 15 A/B 2001 Conference: Leila suggested raising at ACWC Assembly. Laurel noted she had received no response to letter.

(Barbara Bourhill) Work continuing on Bursary Book.

Treasurer (Sheila Mellar)

- Books not yet returned by auditor. Phillis presented account for payment.
- Payment to ACWC. Total \$US5885.26, expenses \$US1000, donations \$2936.93, endowment fund \$1658.12, partners \$276.37, signature fund \$13.84.

Publications and Publicity (Phillis Dolling)

Newsletter: 530 copies sent. Postage \$76.05, printing \$244 (extra page). Next issue will be Christmas one. Info needed re FLC.

Fellowship of the Least Coin (Olive Dell)

Circle of Prayer ready for despatch. Olive took copies to Victoria, Lee took copies to NSW. Letters to Units with 'Messages and Reports' mentioned other material. Still 120 copies of previous *Circle of Prayer*.

Social Justice Issues (Laurel Pearce)

- *Valuing Parenthood* studied
- *Women With Disabilities*: noted that they won national human rights award.
- Domestic violence: good material available at *Women Together* forum. Laurel noted Churches do not always deal with this issue well.

At 12 noon the meeting was adjourned for lunch. The meeting resumed at 12:30.

Reports continued

Winifred Kiek Scholarship (Janet Watts)

- Correspondence inward: Jean Roberts, Mina Whybourne, Trustees (info on recommended applicants). Outward: new scholar Lai Mui Ching (April), with info on ACW and assurance of prayers.
- Scholarship: 3 applicants recommended, enough funds for all. All meet criteria: age, commitment, area of service. Noted that they come from all over Australia, so personal contact should be possible. Balance of funds will be held for unforeseen expenses. Janet noted that, in accordance with Guidelines, she had liaised with a second National Executive member (Barbara Bourhill).
- Bursary Book: see above.

Australian Women's Coalition (Lee Edwards)

- Face to face meeting Ibis Hotel, Sydney Airport 3-4 August. Representatives of all nine organisations present. Pan Pacific South East Asia Women's Association likely to be accepted as tenth member. Strategic Plan finalised, also procedure for press releases. Proposal re project on paid maternity leave dropped.
- Development of Policy and Research. Agreed projects: Osteoporosis, Women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (ACW hopes to be involved), Grandparenting (COTA proposal), Domestic Violence, Bill of Rights, and Women in Prison (AFUW).

Financial Report: tensions re proposal to remove 'umbrella' position of NCWA. National Executive members shared Lee's concern re dangers in this approach. It was noted that the present arrangement is in place until next August. Other two consortia are staying with parent body.

- Administration: Elizabeth Bennett's contract as Prayer Officer signed. Pat Dart provides secretarial support. Lee suggested we submit item on WKS scholars (as soon as confirmed).
- Next Face to Face meeting 23/24 February in Canberra. Lee noted that this would provide her with an opportunity to visit State Units in Melbourne and South Australia, if invited. Travel costs would be covered by National Executive, but hospitality would be responsibility of Unit.

Special Days (Marie Majoor)

- Fellowship Day 2003: Victorian Unit is happy to prepare Order of Service, but advise it will not be ready before November. Maree to remind that *early* November would allow adequate time to present to National Executive meeting on 18 November.
- Maree has written to Olga Scott (ACT Unit) re World Community Day 2003. Maree noted that Guidelines require consideration of WCD projects in November of previous year, however we need to start work now. Suggestion Guidelines may need to be changed to October.
- 2002 Project: Leeola will write to both projects, requesting that they send ten copies of information to each State Unit.

ACWC (Barbara Lacy per Leeola Loughnan)

- Arrangements finalised for new Secretariat
- Assembly news
- Please keep up prayers for Iluminada's health
- New roster needed for Prayer Partners

General Business

- Conference news: Leeola will investigate possibility of Lotteries Commission funding for transport. All Saints Chapel to be considered as possible venue for service. Conference to be major agenda item at October meeting. Leeola to put reminder in Circular re early investigation of travel costs.
- Guidelines for World Community Day project: National Executive members expressed preference for Australian, non-government projects. Need to have a specific project and rigorous accountability. Suggestion that we consider whether project should have specific Christian content or simply be compatible with Christian principles. Further discussion needed.
- Guidelines for convenors: Leeola circulated retyped copies for final check.

Next meeting: Monday 16 September.

Devotions: Maree Majoor.

Morning tea: Barbara Bourhill.

The meeting closed at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes confirmed

National President

Date

CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS 2002:

1. 15/7 AWC ACW July Report to be forwarded to all Units.
2. 15/7 Women With Disabilities (Aust) requesting a membership or donation.
3. 16/7 Kookmultimedia -- double CD set titled Essential Guide to Pilates -- re purchases.
4. 16/7 Christian Conference of Asia News Vol 37 June 2002.
5. 16/7 ACW VIC Beth Skilbeck -- photo of Eunice Reidy plus extra information and thanks.
6. 16/7 National Treaty Conference, Canberra, 27-29 August. Cost \$700.00, daily \$275.00.
7. 17/7 Iluminada Domingo -- state of her health.
8. 18/7 Lee Edwards -- correct email addresses for AWC Report.
9. 22/7 ACW ACT re letter re Refugees -- Fellowship held annual luncheon -- a biblical blessing -- 'May you live to be 120 years old' -- speaker then enlarged on this.
10. 22/7 Barbara Lacy re Iluminada's health.
11. 23/7 ACW ACT Jean Thomson -- re Refugee letter.
12. 24/7 Lee Edwards -- corrections of July Report of AWC
13. 24/7 Barbara Lacy -- Answer to Secretary's query re Iluminada's health costs.
14. 29/7 ACW ACT Evonne Sullivan through Jean Hambley advising of Terry Reeve's death. Evonne knew Secretary was Terry's prayer partner.
15. 29/7 ACWC Iluminada -- copy of ACWC Liturgy for Assembly.
16. 29/7 Barbara Lacy -- letter to those attending ACWC Assembly with information.
17. 30/7 ACW QLD Minutes of meeting 24th June.
18. 06/8 AWC July News Sheet.
19. 06/8 ACW NSW Newsletter August 2002.
20. 06/8 Australian Domestic & Family Violence Clearinghouse Newsletter June 2002.
21. 06/8 ACW VIC Minutes of meeting 28th June.
22. 06/8 Yasuko Nakayma acknowledging receipt of \$1000 for four delegates plus change of email address.
23. 06/8 ACW TAS re Refugee letter.
24. 06/8 ACW QLD re Refugee letter plus advising of Terry Reeves death on 25/7/02.
25. 06/8 ACW ACT re Refugee letter, Life Members.
26. 07/8 ACW SA Minutes of meeting 12th July.
27. 08/8 ACW WA Minutes of meeting 19th July.
28. 09/8 Barbara Lacy inquiry about presentation of Pat Walker's badge at Assembly in Korea.
29. 09/8 Barbara Lacy ACWC assembly Newsletter August. Copy of ACWC Constitution and By Laws proposed amendments.
30. 12/8 Barbara Lacy re report to ACWC Assembly plus Pat Walkers email address.
31. 12/8 Barbara Lacy advising report will arrive on Thursday 15th August.
32. 13/8 Shunila Ruth -- Prayer Request for Christians in Pakistan under attack.]
33. 23/7 Sheila Mellar -- advising of monies sent to ACWC Treasurer -- email sent by secretary.
34. ACW News.
35. 16/8 Unifem Aust invitation to 13th AGM to be held in Melbourne, 13 September.
36. 17/8 ACWC Report from Barbara Lacy

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS:

1. 24/7 ACW SA re acknowledgement of letter dated 25th June.
2. 26/7 Mrs L Sanderson -- requesting she be part of the Conference in 2003.
3. 01/8 Leila Wilson and Barbara Bourhill -- requesting they check retyped Constitution for errors.
4. 18/9 All ACW Units with update of final Guideline updated from 2001 Conference.