



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN INC.
ABN 68 539 329 715



*Minutes of the ACW National Executive Meeting
Held on Monday 16th March 2015
222 Pitt Street, Sydney*

Welcome: Lyn welcomed and thanked everyone for their attendance to the meeting which began at 12.45 pm.

Devotions: Lillian led the devotions, referring to Proverbs 15:23 - everyone enjoys a fitting reply; the right word at the right time. Sometimes our words are misconstrued, what people hear is not what is meant. What you say and how you say it makes a difference. It feels good to say the right thing at the right time – and good to be the recipient of kind words. Words are important. Lillian quoted Mother Theresa ‘words that do not give the light of Christ increase the darkness’.

Present: Lyn Middleton (Chair), Brenda Dickinson, Pamela Freeman, Tricia Graham, Isabel Hewitt, Lillian Hodges, Elizabeth McEwen, Natalie McLeod, Shirley Mitchell, Jennifer Pepper, Denise Secomb

Apologies: Joy Inglis, Nancy McLaren

Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting 16th February 2015 were accepted as correct.

REPORTS

President's Report

Correspondence:

- ACWC prayer request for Pakistan *Reply was sent.*
- ACWC notice of death of Columba Bing Eclipse. *Reply was sent.* (Both of these notices were attended to on behalf of Helen Raymond who was holidaying)
- From Fran Moss, Secretary QLD Unit – appreciation for visit to Unit.
- Invitation from MU Sydney to attend Annual Festival Service, Friday 27th March. *Acceptance sent.*

Lyn's visit to the QLD Unit was a very warm and friendly occasion. The AGM was nicely attended and it was most interesting to hear/read the reports of the unit's activities. The QLD Unit is to be commended on what it has achieved as a small group and on what it has contributed to the overall funds of ACW. It was her privilege to install Alyson Madsen as the new State President along with the rest of the committee for the forthcoming year. Their Annual report was tabled.

The funeral service for Beryl Kirkwood whose life and contribution to ACW has been recorded in the HACW book, was attended.

Forward Group: Spoke with Lynette Green about the rolling out to all states /territories of the essay competition and to clarify some details. Units are asked to identify a school that agrees to participate and a contact person at the school and forward this information to Lynette Green. Lynette will then organize the competition with the school. When the essays are submitted each unit will receive (from Lynette Green) the ones from their state/territory for judging. The two judged best are to be sent back to Lynette Green for the final judging and for insert into the booklet.

All Units are requested to forward all monies received from the sale of the booklets to the National Treasurer. This is imperative to the funding of this year's competition and the reimbursement of costs expended.

The issue of whether State winners should receive an award was discussed.

Action: Lyn will write to Lynette Green regarding possible prizes in each state.

Vice President 1 – Denise Secomb

Denise contacted Billie Minogue regarding accommodation on the evening of 6th September. Billie advised there would be rooms available. Denise responded to Billie saying that numbers would be known following the close of Registrations on 31st March.

Following closure of Registrations, the Interim Conference program can be looked at and finalized and States and ACT advised of Devotions, Vespers and concert item etc.

Secretary – Isabel Hewitt

Responses have been received from the State Units regarding their preferences for Devika's visit. An itinerary will be put together and sent to Barbara Grear to make arrangements.

Past National Presidents: Information is being received from the State Units and work is continuing on this.

National Conference Photos: Isabel is working on naming people in the photos.

A circular letter will go out after today's meeting including a reminder of the date for National Conference and names of delegates, observers and deceased members. As well as submitting a written report Units will be asked to give a 5-minute presentation at the Conference.

Honouring Australian Church Women is being brought up-to-date by inserting dates where people are now deceased. Isabel would like to change entries in the book that don't conform to the style of the others. All agreed that Isabel should edit the book as necessary. Nancy will be advised.

Next Unit in rotation to take on National Executive: As ACT cannot take on National Executive, the next in rotation is QLD. Isabel will write to the QLD Unit to ask if they are able to accept the responsibility of forming executive for the years 2017 – 2019.

Treasurer – Jennifer Peffer

Jennifer had a query about the selling price of the Circle of Prayer booklets, as they are sold at different prices. Guidelines state that the price is set by NE, but State units can sell for a slight profit.

Jennifer has had responses from some units about the information sent out. She is working on a revised form to send out to Treasurers each year with an explanation about what they are for.

Current bank balance is \$10,094.46; ING account \$31,024.48; accounts for payment: Elizabeth \$45.15 for postage and Lyn \$15.10 for Queensland visit.

So far 11 registrations have been received for the National Conference.

Subsidies for incoming NE were discussed. The constitution states that all member subsidies are dependent on availability of funds. A subsidy of 50% of the travelling and conference fees was paid at the last Conference. Each individual is responsible for registering. May 1st will be used as the date to calculate the cost of air fares. Jennifer will get a quote for airfares from Qantas.

Current NE members will be offered 50% subsidy for the accommodation and they will meet their own registration costs.

The slow response of registration for the conference was discussed. Payment of registration must be made by 31st March. The possibility of an extension of time to the middle of April was discussed. An urgent reminder will be sent that registrations need to be in by 31st March – but will extend to 15th April. The Conference Centre needs final figures confirmed in May.

Invitations need to be sent to the National Denominational Organizations, all of whom have one delegate vote and two observers. A report from each organization should be submitted by 1st July.
Action: Isabel will write a letter to be circulated to the National organizations.

FLC Convener – Lillian Hodges

There will be a visit next week to Mum’s Cottage at Holmesville. Following the visit, Lillian will contact Cora Tabing-Reyes to advise her that the Centre has been visited.

In early April contact will be made with the State Conveners with a reminder that if they are sending application forms for a grant, they must be submitted by 30th April.

In response to a query from Lillian, Lyn confirmed that working papers for Conference have to go out in August, so reports from State unit conveners need to be in by 15th June. Lyn advised each convener to write to State conveners asking reports to be sent by 15th June; these will be collated into one report for the working papers.

Special Days Convener – Pamela Freeman

Decisions for the Special Project

The NE agreed that Cana Communities would be the Special Project for 2016.

Social Justice Convener – Shirley Mitchell

Shirley advised that she was following up on information from Amnesty International and was pursuing concerns about remote communities.

Website Manager – Brenda Dickinson

ACW Website Updates – All requested updates have now been actioned.

ACW and Facebook - In response to a request received on behalf of the ACW Forward Discussion Group, Brenda forwarded a report (circulated to NE) with attachments, to Lieut. Colonel Lynnette Green on February 18th, 2015.

ACWC No report

Australian Women’s Coalition Meeting was deferred.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1 Conference Registrations

The NSW State Executive has decided to use the Conference Open Day as their Spiritual Enrichment Day. It was agreed that an Early Bird Discount be offered.

The cut-off date for Early Bird discount will be 15th June and Registrations for Open Day Spiritual Enrichment Day cut-off will be 15th August.

2 Matters referred from National Conference

These matters will go as motions to National Conference.

There being no further business the meeting closed with prayer at 3.10 pm.

The next meeting will be held on 20th April, 2015.