



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**

***Minutes of Council Meeting, Monday 19th April 2021
10.30 am Level 10, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney
and by Conference Call***

OPENING: As for the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

PRESENT & APOLOGIES: As for the AGM.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 16th November 2020, *were confirmed on the Motion of Sue Meehan and Seconded by Moya Potts. Carried.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- 1) Constitution Review: The Special Resolution passed at the last meeting in November has been added to the Rules of the Constitution as Rule 10. No further work has been done to review the Constitution.
- 2) Calendar: 15th November meeting will be held at St Stephens Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments 1st March to 31st March 2021. The Credit Balance at Bank at 1st March 2021 was \$1781.88; Total Income for March was \$264.50; Total Payments for that period \$505.07. Credit Balance as per bank statement \$1541.31.

Accounts for payment: Reimburse E. McEwen for Teleconference (March) \$45.32; PPSEWA Membership \$45.00; NSW Dept. of Fair Trading \$47.00; Reimburse M. Noel, postage \$46.67. *Pat moved that the Financial Report be accepted and the accounts be paid; Seconded by Pamela Freeman. Carried.*

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Moya Potts commented that it was over-whelming the amount of support from various groups that have continued through this last difficult year and she is grateful for their support.

Special Days: Kincumber and Burwood/Concord/Strathfield, and Illawarra Branches will be conducting Fellowship Day. The Entrance/Long Jetty will not hold a combined service but will meet in small church groups. Donna has said that she is planning to put the service online again this year. Lyn will notify the branches accordingly. Newcastle will distribute an E-copy of the Order of Service to groups that have participated in the past. Lyn has not heard from any other branch but will send them a handful of Orders of Service to keep them aware.

Lyn commented that no WKS pamphlet has been printed. The information is on the back of the Order of Service for Fellowship Day. Lyn will bring copies so that the WKS information is available.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith Cayzer emailed sent apologies and emailed her report: The Fellowship Day Service copy is now with Executive. WKS 2021 write-up on the 2 scholars, Sandra Pawar and Kate Johnson is included. National Executive will give the Service on-line.

Easter Greeting emails were sent to several scholars, past and present. There were some replies with greetings, received from Leinamau, Esline, Sandra Pawar. Also Yane (NSW) who asked for prayer for her husband, Roni, who is having tests for health issues. Applications for WKS 2022 Pacific area are being accepted until the end of May.

Social Issues: No Report

Membership: Martha introduced Sue Meehan, representing the Illawarra Branch and Jay Turner, representing Burwood/Concord/Strathfield. Martha encouraged everyone to take some souvenirs: old style badges, bookmarks etc.

Pastoral Care: Jennifer Peffer has heard from several ladies following the Pastoral Care Prayer and Praise points which she sent out at the end of March. The contact seems to be well received especially by those who face health and family issues. Prayer points were included concerning the decisions at ACW National and State level which need our attention in the hope that people will be encouraged to attend the AGM next week sufficient to have a quorum to ratify or amend suggestions made by Executive. After such a lengthy absence from the routine of travelling into the city there is a hesitancy by many to venture far on public transport until the vaccine for covid is readily available.

Jennifer attended the Epping World Day of Prayer gathering where there was a reasonable number present but those who participated in the past at ACW Special Days indicated that WDP is now sufficient and even that could be beyond some who have gone into retirement complexes. Most churches who had women's organisations have not recommenced and some doubt they will. Jennifer doubts that Epping ACW Branch will be viable in the future.

Yvonne Coorey thanked Jennifer for her encouragement, prayers and dedication in giving support to all.

Newsette: No report

ACWC: No report

Reports received: The Reports were received on the Motion of Jan Harrison and Seconded by Valerie Hazlewood. Carried

Correspondence – Inwards

NE Minutes 2nd March

M. Dredge response to NSW letter 9/3

WA Unit re NSW Letter 9/3

WA Unit – possible Model for ACW NE

NE – Fellowship Day service & WKS leaflet

Anne Hocking State Library re process to acquire.

Anne Hocking State Library – query re National

Dr Liza Lamis – Easter Greetings

PWA – Span newsletter March 2021

M. Dredge re WA NE Model

Correspondence – Outwards

9/3 NE – NSW response to discussion questions and letter advising of future of NSW Unit

9/3 WA Unit – future of branch

State Library – photos of 3 boxes and contents

State Library – Examples of Profiles of Presidents and HACW

State Library – response to query re National

M. Dredge NSW response to WA NE Model

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) State Library: Elizabeth has been advised by Anne Hocking, the Acquisition Librarian at the State Library that she is processing our request to donate the ACW NSW Archives. All going well, the boxes will be ready to go to the Library early next year.
- 2) WA NE Model: This was discussed at the Executive Meeting and an email sent to NE President, Marj Dredge, advising that we considered that the model was not viable.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion to close ACW NSW Unit –

Tricia introduced the topic in New Business 'Motion to close ACW NSW Unit' with a heavy heart. In November 1938 the first meeting was at St Stephens Presbyterian Church in Macquarie Street, where we plan to hold the last meeting celebrating all that has been achieved. She commented that it's better to finish on a high note than just die out. The discussion that the Executive had is in the Agenda. The WA Unit would like to keep it going but they cannot fill the positions from their State. Although NSW put forward the idea of the National Executive being made up of people from different State Units, the Executive thought that the Model put forward from WA was not viable.

Lyn Middleton agreed with Tricia's comments and added that so many of our churches are moving away from designated women's ministry programs, declining to meet the membership of ACW and the rotating presidency. The only way of getting around it would be to open up to Associate Members and Branch Members, then we are moving from the concept of a group of Church representatives, nominated by their church women's organisation. Lyn agreed with Tricia's comment that it is better to go out on a high note than a low note. Keep as a memory the valued friendships and ministry of ACW, not something that just died out.

Tricia Graham moved the Motion:

Therefore, the Executive of the Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. move:

'In consideration of the age and health of our membership and that there is no one to replace positions on the Executive, the Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc. will cease its operations at the end of 2021. The Unit's funds will be distributed in accordance with the current Constitution.'

The Motion was Seconded by Moya Potts and was carried Unanimously (75% of the council members were present).

It was agreed that Branches would be notified after the National Conference on 18-20th October 2021. The Marj Dredge stated in her email of 14th April that NE would continue to research issues around FLC and WKS. This will be clear after the conference. Tricia stated that we will continue as we are until November.

Sue Meehan advised that the Illawarra group would continue to gather as a fellowship group but not under the umbrella of ACW.

Pat Cory advised that because we are an incorporated group there will have to be a discussion with the Department of Fair Trading. We need to discuss where the money will be sent.

Jennifer made the following comments and suggestions:

- The accumulation in the Newsette column began when she became Editor and was able to get a Christian printer to do the publication for NIL for a few years. The only expense then was envelopes and postage. Gradually the number of subs decreased and the number receiving the publication by email reduced those.
- Designated monies should go to FLC, WKS, Special Project if there is one, ACWC. The normal Travel Fund contribution and a generous amount towards Public Liability Insurance to cover until National finished (presuming it does – this will cover us as well). A contribution should be designated towards the legal costs involved in winding National up.

- National Conference – if it will be the last one NSW attends, then, as well as the normal contribution for our reps for fares etc, perhaps there could be some contribution given to those who indicate they are prepared to attend.
- For the last meeting at St Stephens Macquarie Street, we should have a first-rate speaker/s and pay the basic preaching fee, and have a catered light lunch to follow, all paid for from funds. St Stephen's may have caterers they use. Other suggestions 'Karen will Cater' or Mr Finger Food.
- A generous donation could be given to each of the special projects that NSW put forward in the past, eg Mum's Cottage, Hope Street, Bear Cottage etc.
- Donations to 'likeminded organisations' – World Day of Prayer, Girls Brigade, Bible Society, ecumenical organisations?
- Presuming that WKS, FLC, and ACWC are continuing then they should get funds, also some funding to ensure the Web Site is kept up appropriately until decided to finish it.
- Given that there are funds Jennifer would claim for postage to those she sends Pastoral Care Notes to and of course perhaps glossier print. Publicity materials etc. related to the final meeting etc.

Jennifer stressed that these are her views based on experience as a State President, Newsette Editor and National Treasurer.

Peg thanked Jennifer for giving us a framework to start from. Pat said that money in Fresh Hope Investments could be left until the end of the Financial Year. She will find out how much notice they need to close the account.

Tricia thanked everyone and said we have come to the right decision. We now look at how we can do it properly and finish well.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, 21 June 2021 Morning Tea: Uniting Church

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayer at 11.55 am.