



**AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
NSW STATE UNIT INC.**
*Minutes of Council Meeting, Monday 17th June 2019
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney*

OPENING: President Peg McEntee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DEVOTIONS: Peg presented a devotion from Romans 5:1-5 and said that the key words to note are: Faith, Peace, Grace, Sufferings, Patience, Perseverance, Hope, Love of God, Hearts and the Holy Spirit.

PRESENT: There were 26 members present and 10 apologies.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th April 2019 were initialled as correct, on the Motion of Tricia Graham, Seconded by Roslyn Abbey. Carried.

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 15th April 2019 were confirmed on the Motion of Lyn Middleton, Seconded by Moya Potts. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1. **Dedication Day:** Jan Harrison commented that it was a wonderful day and thanked Peg and those who helped her. Peg was very pleased that it was such a happy day and thanked those who put the service together and those who participated: music from Sharon, Pamela leading the singing, and speaker Sister Elizabeth Delaney.

2. **President Elect:** The Motion was read:

As the Baptist women have advised that they are unable to appoint a President at this stage, Executive proposes:

'That Tricia Graham be appointed for a 12-month term from May 2020 to give time for the appointment of the next President.

Lyn Middleton explained that Tricia has been put forward because she only served 12 months following Natalie McLeod's death when the Anglicans were in the chair. Jan Harrison expressed gratitude to Tricia for being willing to take on the President elect/President role. The motion was moved by Lillian Hodges and Seconded by Denise Secomb. Carried.

3. **Spiritual Enrichment Day 23rd September:** A speaker has been organised by Martha, Rebecca Naoum, Women's Service Team Leader from Baptist Care Hope Street organisation. Peg asked everyone to think about and pray for a possible venue.

4. **WKS Fellow Visit:** Dr Liza Lamis (FLC International Exec. Secretary) Dr Lamis will arrive in Sydney on 1st September at 6:10 am. Martha has offered to meet Dr Lamis and take her back to their home. Arrangements for showing Dr Lamis around Sydney will be discussed at August Executive meeting. She will then fly to Melbourne on Wednesday 4th September.

5. **Conference:** NSW Motion to Conference: The following Motion was read by Peg:

NSW Unit moves:

That in order to make it possible for women in smaller ACW Units to be involved in ACW National, steps should be taken to reshape the structure of National Executive. We propose members of National Executive be drawn from any State/Territory, with the President, Secretary and Treasurer appointed by National Conference. The Auditor would also need to be approved. Conveners for FLC, WKS, ACWC may volunteer or be chosen by National Executive. Meetings would be held as teleconferences on a regular basis. Term of office will need to be determined.

National Conferences would be held in conjunction with State/Territory Units as/if they are able, with National Executive responsible for all 'paperwork'. Units would assist in recommending venues, speakers, Bible study leaders, and any local attractions.

Rationale: The number of State/Territories able to host the National Executive in the immediate future has reduced to three. This proposal would give an opportunity for women in smaller units, now unable to host national executive, to be part of the national body if individually they are still able. It would also give every

state the opportunity to host a conference without all of the hassle. It would only need a couple of people working together to organise a conference in their state.

The continued involvement of all at national level is valued, and steps must be taken to make this possible.

Isabel Hewitt spoke to the Motion and explained that this is a conversation starter and hoped it will be looked at seriously to involve people who are getting marginalised. SA will be doing the next conference.

Lillian commented that this was discussed at the last conference. The suggestion had been to only have Delegates and Observers from each state attend the Conference to discuss business items over two days. Lyn stated that the finding at the last conference was that people want to continue with the conference, and this motion would allow that to happen in a more manageable way. Peg spoke about similar problems faced by CWL, and changes that had been made. Isabel commented that ACW has looked at 'what is the future of ACW' first in 2001, but no action has taken place. If we want things to change, we must do something different.

The Motion was moved by Isabel and Seconded by Judith Cayzer. Carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Pat Cory presented the Statement of Receipts and Payments for April and May. The Total Income for April and May was \$735.40; Total Payments for April and May \$372.55, giving a Credit Balance at Bank on 31st May 2019 of \$4667.94. Accounts to be paid: ACW National Conference fees \$2800.00; Donation for use of Marian Court Chapel \$100.00; E. McEwen \$23.84; L. Middleton \$93.15; I. Hewitt \$103.80.

Pat moved that the Financial Report be accepted and the accounts be paid; Seconded by Yvonne Coorey. Carried.

Fellowship of the Least Coin: Moya Potts began her report with prayer and gave an outline of her life. Moya described her role in CWL, where she has served as President of the Sydney Diocese and State President for a number of years. She is now a Branch President at Marian Court, and Deputy Chair, which is CWL owned and operated. Moya reminded members that FLC money boxes, prayer cards and Circle of Prayer booklets are available. Moya will be speaking to Salvation Army ladies in Campsie in October.

Special Days: Lyn Middleton reported that Fellowship Day material has been sent out and spare copies of the Order of Service were available. Branch representatives present at the meeting announced services will be held at St. David's Dee Why, Croydon Uniting Malvern Hill, New Lambton Uniting Church and Illawarra Kiera View Uniting Church. Last year there were only seven services throughout the state and this year there will be nine. Fellowship Day offering goes to Winifred Kiek Scholarship. As we did last year **for those who weren't able to attend a Fellowship Day Service, we will have the opportunity to contribute to WKS at the August Council Meeting.**

The World Community Day Service has been received 'Open Heart, Serving Heart'. This will be the last Friday in October. The Scripture readings are Matthew 20:29-34; Matthew 25:31-46; 1 Thes. 3:6-13. At WCD the FLC offerings are taken and the General Offering is split between ACWC and the Special Project (Hope Street). This will be spoken about on Spiritual Enrichment Day. World Community Day material will be ready at the August meeting and sent out by mail.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith thanked everyone for helping with morning tea. See the recent Newsette for more detail. **Eslie (Vanuatu, 2016)** sent her Denominational Newsletter. She writes that their Bi-annual General Meeting was held in May for forward planning, study and encouragement. The theme being 'Breaking Barriers to Move Forward' Acts 10:34-35. Lauren England (Qld. 2018) Lauren was going to have a home visit September and maybe visit our National Conference, but not now, will stay in the US and finish studies in January. **Rev. Geraldine Williame (Fiji 2019)** – Ministry and studies continuing. Applications for WKS 2020 will be decided by Trustees in coming months. Thank you for your support for WKS and Fellowship Day Services in July.

Social Issues: Three issues were highlighted: 1) Letter to The Vice Chancellor of UNSW regarding the proposal to cut entry requirements at the UNSW, asking if this will adversely affect the standards of degrees and the reputation of the University. 2) To the Minister for Health expressing deep concern about the lack of palliative care services; and 3) To the Prime Minister regarding exporting Australian waste to Asian countries. Sample letters were available.

Membership: Martha read out apologies from those unable to attend.

Pastoral Care: Helen Hill is writing to Life Members and Associate Members and has written to Carmel. Isabel reported that Marie Craddock is getting around and attending physio. Helen has written to Peg Blake and is hoping to hear how she is and has written to Bev Elliott.

Newsette: Isabel needs copy for the next issue by mid-July. Isabel is still chasing photos and placed a notice in the Herald and has had some responses.

ACWC: Tricia advised that Japan sent a donation to ACW to help those affected by floods in Queensland. Japan are our Prayer Partners, and Tricia read the prayer points they have asked us to pray for them, a copy of which was available to those present.

Publicity: Nothing to report

Reports received: Judy Hicks moved that the Reports be received, Seconded by Valerie Hazlewood. Carried.

Correspondence – Inwards

From Nat. Exec.: Minutes 20th May; Conference Information; Prayer for Tasmania Branch; Lynette Green – Liza Lamis flights
Lynette Green – Essay Competition
Lynette Green – Prayers for Japan
Full Colour Badges -Badge for Moya Potts
Women to Women re Pres. Elect
PPSEAWA Annual Report & Minutes
UCAF Year Book 2019
Wellington Uniting Church – FLC
Parkesbourne Uniting Church – FLC
Span June 2019: Presbyterian Women

Correspondence – Outwards

Annual Report to NE and State Units
Annual Report to Bible Society
Annual Report to PPSEAWA
Women to Women – response to letter
L. Green re L. Lamis flights
NE – Honours received by NSW members
NE – re NSW Banner
Wellington Uniting Church re FLC
Parkesbourne Uniting re FLC
NE – NSW Unit 2019 Office Bearers
NE – NSW Report to Conference

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE:

Essay Competition – Three applications have gone to schools in NSW, as well as one sent to Scots College, Bathurst, who came second last year.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/ TO ATTEND:

President Peg McEntee will attend the PPSEAWA Winter Luncheon on 26th June.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

Bible Society: No Report

Girls' Brigade: Elizabeth Neale sent apologies for the meeting. Girls' Brigade had their State Conference in Goulburn in May. A new constitution and elections were voted on. On the 1st June they held a State Event Kuikardu, which was held at Australian Reptile Park at Gosford. There were 270 girls, leaders and families in attendance. Pioneer Leadership training will be held on 29-30th June at Brigade House. On 3rd August they will be holding a special general meeting at Brigade House to elect a State Executive. Please pray for the ladies who are nominated for the positions.

National Council of Women: Tricia Graham reported that since the last ACW meeting, NCW held their Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon in May for 17 Nonagenarians, unfortunately there was no one

from ACW. At the last two Council meetings there have been interesting Speakers. The first was Sonja Freeman who spoke about her time as a Girl Guide as a girl and now as she has returned to Guiding as a young woman and taking a leadership role. The Speaker last month was Siri Andersen talking about ActionAid – an aid agency working mainly in Southeast Asia. The next function is the Foundation Day Lunch to be held at The Apprentice Restaurant, 695 Harris Street, Ultimo on 22nd August at 12 noon. NCW continue to have the Members and Friends Morning Tea on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.15 am in the Piccadilly Food Court in the Piccadilly Arcade. The Council meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month in the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts Pitt Street from 4.30 pm.

NSW Ecumenical Council: No Report

PPSEAWA: Helen Richardson reported that the speaker at the May meeting was Aletia Dundas, the International Programs Manager – PNG for Uniting World. She spoke about ‘Pacific Women – towards equality and leadership’.

World Day of Prayer: Tricia was pleased to report that World Day of Prayer were able to pass \$85,000 to the Bible Society for Slovenia’s Healing Trauma Program, from this year’s services. There were 270 services held and 11,000 people attended. The gift will train women who have experienced trauma to lead Trauma groups for women who have also suffered trauma. All the participants in these groups will receive a Scripture booklet. The material for next year’s services prepared by the women of Zimbabwe has been received and is being prepared for printing in July. The next meeting will be on 22nd July.

NEW BUSINESS:

Constitution Review:

Executive proposes

‘That the tenure of Presidency be changed to three years rather than five:

One year as President-Elect; Two years as President

In lieu of Past-President, the Secretary will organise a member of Executive to chair meetings if the President is unable to attend.

Peg read the above Motion, which will be voted on at the November Meeting.

Regional Members: Roslyn Abbey asked members to remember in prayer those who live in drought affected areas and find it difficult to make an extra trip to town to attend services. Attendance at World Day of Prayer was affected because of the need for families to conserve fuel.

ACW Illawarra Members have asked why Dedication Day isn’t included as a Special Day. Lyn explained that Dedication Day, State Conference and Spiritual Enrichment Day are prepared and celebrated by our State Unit only, whereas Special Days (Fellowship Day and World Community Day) are organised by National Executive. State Units take it in turn to prepare the services which are celebrated Nationally.

Peg read a Message from the new President of WUCWO ‘*at a crucial moment in human and Church history, we need the action of the Spirit to convert us and make us able to listen to the outcasts, children of God like ourselves; to work more in networks, establishing fruitful relationships between our organisations and to create new answers to current problems, with no fear of giving up what was ‘always done this way,’ when necessary.*

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.05pm, with prayer.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 19TH August 2019

Chairs: Presbyterian

Morning Tea: Salvation Army

Trading Table: Anglican