

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

MINUTES of the Council Meeting, held at 222 Pitt St. Sydney, on Monday, 19.3.90

The meeting opened after morning tea provided by the Catholic ladies, with the President, Marjory Baker in the Chair. Her words to us were the ancient words of St Francis of Assisi, 'Make me an instrument of your Peace, where there is hatred, sow love.' Prayer followed this reading, and the words in 1 John 4,18: 'No fear in love.'

Those present are as recorded in the attendance book, 29 are the apologies, 10. Special apologies were received from Treasurer, Dorothy Lumb and Dame Monica, both ladies having suffered damage to their homes in a violent hail storm the day before the meeting. Sympathy was expressed to these ladies and to any others.

Mrs Baker introduced to the meeting the morning's invited speaker, Hermine Partamian from the A.C.C. Migrant & refugee Services.

Hermine shared her story with us and explained what it must be like to be a refugee woman. Her moving address is recorded at the end of these minutes.

In thanking our speaker, Mina spoke for us all when she said that Hermine is a wonderful advocate, in fact she is a wonderful person. Mina expressed the hope that we might all be able to give some practical help to refugee people, even the simple things like taking a new-comer to the Social Security office or the supermarket. A gift of an A.C.W. spoon and a delightful posy of flowers (Margaret Jessup) was given to the speaker.

The Minutes of the February 19 meeting were confirmed on the motion of the meeting.

Business arising from the Minutes.

1. Reclaiming Easter 1990 Programme. The meeting was reminded of this project.
2. Partners with A.C.W.C. The National Committee will send to the Units a new leaflet to be used for this appeal. When ours arrives, we will have copies duplicated for distribution. Publicity is to be given through "Newsette".
3. Newcastle Earthquake Appeal. An amount of \$60 has been sent.
4. Council members were reminded that reports are required from reps. to other organisations, Branch reps., and Convenors, for the Annual Newsletter. At the April meeting, latest deadline.

Correspondence. The Correspondence as listed was received and dealt with.

Business arising from the Correspondence.

1. National Committee Minutes, 5 February. Council members were asked to consider for discussion at a later meeting, the proposal to change the name of Fellowship Day.
2. Letters to members of A.C.T. Legislative Council. The list of those to whom members should send individual letters will be ready for distribution in April.

Reports. There was no Treasurer's report, except that the books are with the Auditor.

W.K.S. No word has been received from Fai. We hope that silence means good news. Doreen has permission to come to Australia and will take up her scholarship in mid-July. Several places have offered her work experience with them.

W.K.S. Leaflets will be ready for inclusion with Fellowship Day services.

F.L.C. Mrs Bourke noted how difficult it was to follow the words of our speaker. She expressed the opinion that Australians fail to respond to the plight of refugees through our ignorance and apathy. She spoke of the visit of a man from Uganda, who gave thanks to God that Australians can not only look after themselves, but can also feed their pets. He was astounded at the rows of dog food on supermarket shelves. We must support by our prayers as well as by our giving those people who do God's work in helping people in other countries. In the chosen portion from "Circle of Prayer" we heard the words, 'love for our neighbours is the basis of peace'.
Publicity. Major Tong distributed copies of the invitations to her Installation as President of A.C.W.
Promotions. Help was sought for the teams working on Monday, 26 March, from 9 a.m. to collate and pack Fellowship Day services.

2.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Notice was given of the A.C.W. and Election of Officers to be held on 23 April, 1990.
The members of the present Executive were identified and Council was told that all members are eligible for re-election except Major Tong, who will relinquish Publicity Convenor when she becomes Unit President on May 21.
Nomination forms were distributed and are to be returned to the Secretary before the next meeting.
2. Installation Service.
Members were asked to take sufficient invitations for their Branches and denominations. Posted invitations will go out soon.
3. Best wishes for a successful seminar in Bombay were expressed to National President, Marie McCann, who leaves Sydney on March 28.

The Catholic ladies were thanked for the morning tea, the Presbyterians for setting up the room and the Baptist ladies reminded that they will be the hostesses in April, instead of the Salvation Army ladies.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with the President saying the Benediction.

Confirmed.

23.4.90