



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

*Minutes of Council Meeting Monday 21st March, 2016
10.30 am, 222 Pitt Street Sydney*

WELCOME: President Tricia Graham welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to Mrs Renelle Neale, Deputy Chairperson of Pacific Fellowship of the Girls' Brigade and Elizabeth Neale's mother.

DEVOTIONS: Tricia led the Devotions reading John 12: 12-16. Tricia reminded us that Palm Sunday is a triumphant celebration, as it marks the beginning of the observance of the passion of Christ, which culminates on Easter morning with the celebration of the mystery of the Christian Passover. This ancient meal, the Jews' annual memorial of God's salvation, has become for us the Eucharist, the thanksgiving memorial of God's salvation, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Tricia prayed that God's will be done in our lives

PRESENT: 36 plus 2 visitors.

APOLOGIES: There were 8 apologies

MINUTES: The minutes of the Council meeting of 15th February 2016 confirmed as correct. *Moved by Heather Reid and seconded by Jan Harrison.*

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

1 NSW Unit Life Members – Tricia Graham explained that the committee appointed by the Executive (Tricia Graham, Isabel Hewitt, Pamela Freeman and Elizabeth McEwen) had conducted a ballot to nominate the State Life Members. There were 4 nominations received, and those selected by the Committee were Lynette Middleton and Jennifer Pepper. The appointment of Lynette Middleton and Jennifer Pepper as NSW State Life Members was voted on, and carried.

2 AGM – Nominations: Nominations have been received for all positions. Tricia encouraged Council Members to consider understudying Executive positions, so that serving on the Executive is less daunting.

3 The new brochure will be worked on by Jennifer when she returns from holidays and it is hoped that it will be ready for Dedication Day.

4 Dedication Day: The ACW NSW Annual Dedication Day and the Installation of State President, Pamela Freeman will be held on Monday 16th May 2016 at The Salvation Army, 34 Smith Street, Parramatta commencing at 11.00 am. Pamela advised that Parramatta station has lifts. It is a level walk from Parramatta Station, and close to buses from Epping and Hornsby. There are some parking stations on the other side of the line.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: The total Income for January & February 2016 was \$1091.33; Total Payments for January & February 2016 were \$586.90; the Credit Balance at Bank as at 29th February 2016 was \$2354.87. Accounts to be paid: Donation to Bible Society in lieu of Auditors Fee \$80.00; Donation to Uniting Church for use of Rooms \$350.00; The Salvation Army Dulwich Hill – Printing Fellowship Day service \$178.00; PPSEAWA Affiliation Fee \$45.00; L Hodges – Postage for FLC letters \$50.00. *Pat Cory moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and that the accounts be passed for payment, seconded by Isabel Hewitt.* Pat advised that ACW NSW Unit is now an internet banker. Pamela Freeman and Pat both have a customer number. The only change is that statements will be accessed on the internet rather than paying \$3 for them.

Fellowship of the Least Coin – Lillian advised that she will be speaking at Turramurra Uniting Church on 8th September. She has received the FLC information booklet which tells which countries have received grants for this year. Seven countries or regions plus World Day of Prayer International Committee and World Council of Churches 'Women in church and Society' have received grants. Lillian noted that this year the total giving to FLC is down by \$US28,917.00, having received \$398,571 in 2016. The number of projects in 2015 was 38, and 29 projects in 2016. Lillian will give details in Newsette of where the FLC money has been given, and the budget. Lillian shared a Devotion from Fangailupe from Tonga, based on Matthew 11:28, reminding us that Jesus invites us to learn from Him; and that being with Him will lighten our burdens. Lillian prayed that this passage will add hope and encouragement for us as we face the trials of today.

Special Days: The Orders of Service for Fellowship Day have been printed. Packages for branch reps will be available at the April AGM and Lyn will also bring spare copies of the Order of Service. She is still awaiting the arrival of the WKS leaflets. If they do not arrive before she packages the Orders of Service she will do a brief resume of this year's scholar to include in the package. The package will include a letter, Orders of Service, publicity, information on 2015 scholars and hopefully the WKS leaflets. The Topic for Fellowship Day is 'Change Starts from Within' prepared by Vic unit. Bible Readings: Luke 8:43-58 (The women with the haemorrhage); John 4:4-28 (The woman at the well).

Winifred Kiek Scholarship: Judith Cayzer reported that Leinamau (2007 scholar) has a heavy load of lectures and assignments continuing at Fiji Theological College. A newsletter from Christy Ferguson arrived (Melbourne 2009). She will be going to SE Asia on May 2 for two months back to her previous mission post. She is excited to be reconnecting with old friends and neighbours. She will be working to promote health education, particularly TB and childhood immunisations, also training and equipping Community Development Staff. She thanks God for this opportunity and asks for prayer that God will use her as His instrument there and that language skills will return as needed and for finances to continue. Esline in Vanuatu, 2016 Scholar – she intends to study there to develop leadership skills to pass onto the women she ministers amongst. Judith reminded everyone that the book 'Winifred' is a good read and only \$15, and read an extract from the book about World Day of Prayer and PPSEAWA.

Social Issues: Rae Goth highlighted three areas of concern: Upholding traditional marriage, clogged law courts and salmonella in eggs. She supplied form letters to write to the Prime Minister regarding marriage, to The Attorney General regarding law courts, and the Minister for Health regarding storage of eggs on shelves leading to a salmonella breakout.

Membership: No report

Pastoral Care: June Kay reported on Helen Hill's health and rehabilitation and asked that we pray for Helen and her husband, David.

Publicity: No report

Newsette: No report

CORRESPONDENCE Inwards

Lynette Green – Prayer request for Elaine Johnson

Helen Raymond re ACWC Report

Annette Cartwright, Wesley Women's Fellowship

Wollongong re FLC

Jan Currie – PPSEAWA Minutes and Membership Renewal

Helen Hill re Pastoral Care Convener

Girls' Brigade 'The Brigade Affect' Newsletter

Moya Potts, CWL – Thank you for congratulations

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CORRESPONDENCE Outwards

Moya Potts, CWL, Congratulations for AM

Annette Cartwright, Wesley Women's Fellowship

Wollongong re FLC

Sympathy card – family of Lorraine Hughes

Sympathy card – Elaine Johnson, ACW Nat. Vic President

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

1 Research Survey: Tricia had a survey from a young woman student who is doing a project about women who are looking after children and also the older generation too, in case anyone at the meeting fell into that category.

2 Lorraine Hughes' funeral – Tricia and other Council members attended Lorraine's funeral. Tricia commented that there was 'standing room only' at a lovely service which was a great tribute to Lorraine and her husband.

3 World Day of Prayer in Sydney: Tricia attended this service and was disappointed that there were only 35 people, but that it was a wonderful service

4 Tricia and Elizabeth attended the PPSEAWA International Women's Day Lunch at Turramurra, where the guest speaker was Gemma Sisia, an Australian woman who founded the School of St Jude in Tanzania in 2002, which educates bright children from poor homes who will be able to contribute positively to Tanzania through their education.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Bible Society: No report

Girls' Brigade: The Brigade Affect Newsletter had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Elizabeth Neale commented that the Kidsreach Conference on 20th February was a really good day, which involved the Boys' Brigade as well. There were good speakers from New Zealand and from the USA. Leadership Training took place at the end of February. On Easter Monday the Girls Brigade will take part in a parade in Sydney – this is something that the girls really enjoy. At the April meeting, Elizabeth will be travelling back from New Zealand after representing Australia at the Pacific Conference. The new office manager, Michelle, will come to the ACW April meeting. No decision has been taken yet about Brigade House. Renelle Neale, Elizabeth's mother, outlined the role she is about to take over as Chairperson for the Pacific Region, an area covering 11 countries. Renelle mentioned the difficulties Vanuatu has had since Cyclone Pam. Contact has been very difficult, but Renelle is hoping someone from Vanuatu can come to the Pacific Conference. She will be working to help Girls Brigade get re-established in Vanuatu. She asked for prayer for the meeting and is hoping to open up all the communications and will get to visit all of these countries in the region.

NSW Ecumenical Council: Isabel Hewitt mentioned the visit by Taize Brothers to Australia this year, and gave some dates of prayer services: 22nd September, 6.30 pm Prayer Service in the crypt of St Patricks Church Hill; a prayer service on 23rd September at St Alban's Church Epping, and at Mereweather at 6.00 pm on Sunday 25th September. There will be a youth gathering initiated by the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, at Varroville in the school holidays and hoping for big numbers, on Monday – Thursday 26-29 September. Contact Catholic Diocese of Wollongong to get details.

National Council of Women (NCW): The afternoon Tea at Government House hosted by the Governor and Mrs Hurley was a great success on February 25th. Mrs Hurley gave a musical rendition of a song she had written about NCW. The next event to celebrate the 120th Anniversary is a Breakfast to be held on Wednesday, April 13th at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel from 7.30 am. The Jean Arnot Memorial Luncheon will be held on Friday, May 6th at Parliament House. Please think of any women who will celebrate or have celebrated their 90th birthday and have worked in and for their community. Tricia has nomination forms. The first Council meeting at the new time of 4.30 pm worked well. The Speaker, Yamamah Agha was very interesting but was it was a very hot day, the attendance at the meeting was a little low. The guest speaker at the March 31st meeting will be Di Brown AM, a volunteer with World Health Organisation, speaking on her project at Sanglah Hospital, Bali.

Pan Pacific & South East Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA): No Report

World Day of Prayer: Shirley will have a report next month of WDP on 4th March and the money raised. Council members reported on other WDP services at various branches and all reported good attendance and a well-written enjoyable service.

CLOSE OF MEETING: There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.45 am, with prayer by Tricia Graham.

NEXT MEETING Monday 18th April 2016 (AGM)

Morning tea: Baptist Chairs: Anglican

Trading Table: The Salvation Army