

Australian Church Women National Executive

Minutes of meeting of National Executive held at Yarralumla Uniting Church Centre, Monday 25th November 1996 at 9.30am.

Present: Evonne Sullivan, President; Betty Farrell, Vice President; Olga Scott, Vice President; Jean Thomson, Hon. Secretary; Helen Lloyd, Treasurer; Eileen Holley, Fellowship of Least Coin Convenor; Beth Webb, Publications Editor; Ruth Burmester, National Life Member; Jan Abrahamffy, National Minute Secretary Elect; Lynette Green, ACW National Representative to Asian Church Women's Conference.

Apologies: Jenny Jarvis, Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor; Betty Laurie, Special Days Convener; - admitted to Hospital this morning.

Announcements: (1) The National President welcomed Major Lynette Green to the meeting. Lynette, Australian Church Women National Representative to Asian Church Women's Conference, had recently returned from the ACWC General Committee meeting in Tokyo, and felt it necessary to consult with ACW National Executive on matters arising from the meeting.

(2) Evonne advised National Executive of the recent death of 1978 Winifred Kiek Scholar Deaconess Barkat Das in Pakistan, who will go down in history as one of the most successful WKS Scholars.

Devotions: led by Eileen Holley, based on Names of Jesus, including a piece about the name 'Emmanuel', followed by prayer.

Minutes of meeting of 28. 10. 96. Confirmed, moved by Beth Webb, seconded Olga Scott.

Business Arising

1. The National President formally welcomed Mrs Jan Abrahamffy to the National Executive, Jan will fill the vacant position of National Minute Secretary. **In accordance with ACW Constitution, 6.2.3; all State/Territory Units are hereby notified of her appointment for the purpose of formal ratification.** A short CV is attached.

2. National Guidelines - now typed, including some corrections. Jean and Evonne will complete this.

3. National President expressed the thanks of the Executive to Jenny Jarvis for preparing the tribute to Deaconess Mary Andrews, included with the October National minutes.

National President then sought a motion that "All non-urgent business and reports be held over to the next executive meeting" Moved by Betty Farrell, seconded by Helen Lloyd, **passed unanimously.** This enabled the National Executive to hear National Representative Lynette Green present a comprehensive report on her attendance at the ACWC General Committee Meeting in Tokyo; and would allow sufficient time to discuss with Lynette matters arising from her report..

Reports:

1. **National President - Evonne Sullivan** reported a telephone call with Deaconess Frances McKechnie in Alice Springs. A World Community Day Service would be held in Alice Springs at 7pm on 29th November in the Anglican church. The speaker will be the President of the Palliative Care organisation in Alice Springs. Following supper, a meeting would be held to form a Branch of ACW in Alice Springs. National Secretary to write with greetings and best wishes.

Evonne attended the 11th National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast at Parliament House on 4th November, a very worthwhile function. Guest Speaker was Rev Dr John Howell "The vital signs of a healthy nation". Guests were welcomed by the Prime Minister, The Honourable John Howard.

2. **Winifred Kiek Scholarship National Convenor** - Jenny Jarvis' written report indicated that she had been working on the Guidelines and had completed the checking of National Conference minutes for any changes. These have been noted and passed to National Secretary for implementation.

Copies of current application forms have been received from Dorothy Ferrier (Winifred Kiek Trust) for inclusion in Guidelines if needed.

Deaconess Shirley Harris (Sydney) had tendered an account for telephone expenses incurred in arranging the visit of Deaconess Barkat Das. Shirley also gave news of the recent death of Barkat in Pakistan. A short tribute will be written for next ACW News.

Letters have been written to both the 1997 Winifred Kiek scholars congratulating them and asking for a photograph for the WKS brochure. The printer can arrange to have photos scanned ready for production.

A Christmas letter is being prepared to go to all Winifred Kiek scholars.

3. **Fellowship of the Least Coin - National Convenor Eileen Holley** reported she had written to Miss Gwen Davies in Darwin, thanking her for FLC Monies received from the Uniting Church fellowship group there.

A letter has been sent to each State/Territory Convenor enclosing Eileen's report on her visit to New Zealand for the ICFLC Meeting as an ACW Official observer.

The FLC crested spoons and badges had been received and in consultation with National Treasurer, the price for each were set at \$4.00 to State/Territory Units.

3. **Publications** - Beth Webb - Always interested to receive items of news from Units for ACW News. Copy for next ACW News is needed by early January, please. State/Territory Units are reminded that the correct address for same is still **PO Box 95, Yarralumla ACT 2600.**

4. **Special Days** - National Convenor Betty Laurie was presently hospitalised, but reported in writing that the Order of Service for World Fellowship Day 1997 had been typed and proofread and a second draft prepared. Captain Maree Hambleton was to be congratulated on the inspiring front cover design which so faithfully portrayed the spirit of the theme of the service.

The main thrust of the service prepared by Queensland Unit was excellent - except for one element.

Copies of the Order of Service had been distributed at the last meeting and, after studying the monologue on the ailing woman, members of National Executive expressed differing views on the suitability of the monologue for inclusion in a service of public worship.

Following discussion, National President conducted an opinion poll which resulted :-

One member in favour of the service as is;

Two members against inclusion of monologue;

Remainder of National Executive were in favour of the service **ON THE PROVISIO** that the monologue 'the ailing woman' **BE OPTIONAL.**

Action: National Secretary to write to Queensland Unit conveying this information, and requesting permission for the monologue to be made **OPTIONAL.** Alternatively, another reading, and monologue, more suitable to public worship may be substituted.

5. **National Treasurer - Helen Lloyd -**

Financial report as attached was accepted on the motion of Helen Lloyd, seconded by Eileen Holley. The Term deposit has been renewed. A letter has been sent to the Treasurers of each State/Territory Unit reminding them of the monies due to be sent to the National Treasurer by November 30th.

Accounts as below, were passed for payment/ratified on motion of Helen Lloyd, seconded by Beth Webb.

Reimburse Phone expenses to Deaconess S. Harris	\$ 52.00
Photocopying of two sets of National Minutes	\$ 77.40
Reimburse National Secretary for Stationery purchased	\$ 23.45
Air Fare for Major Lynette Green (Melb/Can/Melb)	\$368.00

WKS Trustees (return balance of Fellowship Money)	\$624.60
J. Thomson - Postage for 2 lots of National Executive Minutes	\$ 49.15

National Treasurer agreed to handle the ordering of ACW crested badges .

Report from ACW National Representative to ACWC - Major Lynette Green

1. Lynette expressed her appreciation to National Executive for the opportunity to present her report of the ACWC General Committee Meeting in person.

In presenting her report, Major Green circulated copies of the ACWC Action Plan for the calendar years 1997 - 1998.

The thrust of the Plan is :-

Christian Education and Nurture,	Budget: US\$ 70,000.00
Stewardship & Resource Development	Budget: US\$ 110,000.00
Witness and Service	Budget: US\$ 130,000.00

With an overall budget of US\$ 310,000.00; funding became a high priority.

2. One of the problems seen by ACWC is the fact that International Council of the Fellowship of the Least Coin no longer funds the ACWC to the same extent as before. ICFLC has been completely independent since 1984, but ACWC still has more representatives on the ICFLC committee than any other body, and it is painful to some of the Asian countries to fully understand that ACWC is no longer fully funded by ICFLC.

3. At a previous meeting it had been proposed that a special ACWC Million Dollar Trust Fund be set up, with the interest from such invested monies to be used for ongoing expenses of the ACWC. This plan is still to be implemented, and if carried out, successfully would help make ACWC self sufficient. Lynette reported that ACWC had prepared "Pledge of Commitment " certificates for distribution. The purpose of the certificates was to seek enrollment in various categories of financial commitment. Lynette had brought back the quota of certificates for Australia which she would distribute equally to each State/Territory unit.

Action : Lynette to distribute certificates with a covering letter describing the purpose of same.

Please Note: All monies donated/collected under this "Pledge of Commitment" by State/Territory units are to be forwarded to the National Treasurer, please.

4. Australia has sent an annual amount of A\$ 5,000.00 for the last several years; derived from one half of the collection from all World Community Day services held throughout Australia with a supplement from ACW National Executive if necessary.

Action: After discussion the National Executive decided that the present annual contribution should be the subject of discussion at 1997 National Conference with the amount subject to review.

5. The 11th Quadrennial Assembly of ACWC will take place in Bangkok from 11th to 16th November 1998. The Theme is Rejoice! Reclaim, Respond. The Assembly will coincide with the 40th Anniversary of ACWC.

The ACWC logo is to be updated to publicise the 40th Anniversary.

Lynette commented that there was no provision in the ACWC Constitution or Guidelines regarding rotation of venues for Quadrennial Assemblies, therefore those attending the General Committee Meeting in Tokyo were surprised when Bangkok was announced as the 1998 venue.

Action: Following discussion it was agreed that Lynette would write to ACWC seeking clarification of procedures employed in deciding the venues for Quadrennial Assemblies.

6. Lynette reported that, on arrival in Tokyo, she was made aware of the perceived lack of support by Australian church women of the ICFLC Meeting held recently in New Zealand.

Action: National Secretary will write to ICFLC explaining that Australia was offered only one place at the meeting, that of an Official Observer. ACW was honoured to be able to send Major Eileen Holley, National Convenor for Fellowship of the Least Coin to Christchurch in that capacity. In the letter it will be emphasised that the ICFLC meeting in New Zealand was well publicised by Australian Church Women throughout Australia for quite some time prior to the meeting.

7. Lynette reported that Asian Church Women's Conference Executive Secretary Rev. Iuminada Domingo was looking forward to visiting Australia for the 1997 National Conference of Australian Church Women, and was prepared to carry out any programme arranged for her. Iuminada had indicated that she was willing to visit the various State/Territory units as invited. The visit to Australia is part of a strategic plan and it is possible she will be visiting New Zealand also.

Action: National Secretary to circulate all units asking if they wish to host a visit from Iuminada during her Australian tour in September prior to the Conference.

When this information is to hand an application for a Winifred Kiek Fellowship will be submitted to cover Iuminada's travel expenses.

8. Australian Church Women's Conference is going through the process of being registered with the United Nations as a fully accredited Non Government Organisation.

9. Lynette informed the National Executive that ACWC had sent a letter to the Netherlands (church women's organisation) to indicate support for their campaign against legalised prostitution, especially to protect the children.

10. The National Executive was informed that the order forms for Circle of Prayer Volume 14 required immediate attention.

Action: National FLC Convenor to follow this up.

11. A question and answer session followed, with all members of National Executive made fully aware of the problems inherent in an organisation such as ACWC.

12. The National President thanked Major Lynette Green sincerely for giving of her time to come to the National Executive meeting. It had been a very valuable and most informative exercise. National Executive had appreciated the exchange of information.

Correspondence as listed - received/endorsed on motion of Betty Farrell, seconded by Beth Webb.

B/A

Out:- 1. Letter to Dorothy Ferrier (WKS Trust) outlining the necessary procedures to be followed in filling a vacancy on the Trust.

2. Letter to Hon. Secretary SA unit expressing concern that the proposal to grant voting rights to a National Life Member at State unit level may be inconsistent with ACW Constitution and Guidelines.

In:- 1. Two letters from African organisations seeking funding from ACW would be referred to the African representative on the ICFLC.

Action : National Secretary to reply explaining that ACW does not have funds at its disposal for such appeals.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of SA unit held 8. 11. 96 were perused.

Action:- National Secretary to write extending congratulations and good wishes to newly elected Executive, Convenors and Trustees.

The successful Community Concern recipient for 1997 was the Joint Churches Domestic Violence Action Group.

National Executive noted that the proposed motion to amend the SA unit constitution " that South Australian Life Members and National Life Member (SA) be eligible to vote" was carried.

General Business:

National President announced that the President of Tasmanian unit, Lieut. Joanne Harries had been safely delivered of tiny twins, a daughter - Morgan and a son - Aidan. National Secretary to write with congratulations and best wishes to the family.

Next Meetings:

Monday 16th December at Yarralumla Uniting Church Centre.

Devotions: Jan Abrahamffy

Hostess: Olga Scott

Friday 10th January 1997 at 9.30am at the home of National President.- Planning meeting for National Conference.

Date

National President

Correspondence for ACW National Executive Meeting on 25. 11 96

Inwards

30. 10. 96 1. Aust Federation of Pregnancy Support Services re Conference in Geelong , July 1997. ACW will not attend. December
2. Office of the Status of Women - Agenda Oct 1996
1. 11. 96. 3. Kagan Community Youth Group Kenya re help requested. see B/A
4. D. Ferrier - Casual vacancy on WKS Trust. see B/A
5. E Holley from D. Wagner US - FWD
6. Office of the Status of Women - Agenda Oct 1996
- 4, 11. 96 7. ACW NSW Unit re advertising ACW at World Day of Prayer
8. Newsette ACW NSW Unit tabled
6. 11. 96 9 Peg Blake to E. Sullivan FWD
10 Senator Margaret Reid - thanks for greetings sent
11. Qld Unit ACW Minutes of meeting on 23. 9. 96 filed
12. What Figures from ABS Sept 1996 tabled
13. newsletter 'returned to sender' from Rev M Chick Fwd to editor
7. 11. 96 14 Parcel from Perfection badges FWD to E. Holley Invoice to Treasurer
15 ACT Greens notice of meeting on 10. 11. 96 unable to attend
16. CWL Aust Inc Newsletter July- October 96 Tabled
11. 11. 96 17 NSW Unit to Eileen Holley -orders of service - FWD
12. 11. 96 18 Affirmative reply from Jan Abrahamffy
19. 11. 96 19 Vic Unit - Minutes of meeting 25. 10. 96 enc directory Tabled
20. 11. 96 20. Odondi Women Group Kenya see B/A December
23. 11. 96 21 D Ferrier Minutes of AGM SA Unit see B/A
23. 11. 96 22 No Euthanasia - pile of Petitions etc - 1 copy to ACT UNIT

Outwards

31. 10. 96 SA Unit re National Life Members
Gale Research Unit re ACW Statistics (no copy)
4. 11. 96 Greetings to Deaconess F. McKechnie
Jan Abrahamffy re Nat Exec
8. 11. 96 NSW Unit sympathy
Thanks to Mr C. A. Bromwich Hon. Auditor
9. 11. 96 WA Unit congrats to new Pres etc
UC A Fellowship group re new bus.
Note to CARE Australia - asking to be taken off mailing list.