



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 2nd floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 20th February 2012, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: Mrs Jennifer Peffer, the immediate past President, extended a welcome to every one for the first meeting of the year. A Special Welcome was also given to the Guest Speaker, Susan Randall and to Major Nancy McLaren, a former Council Member.

The President, Mrs Nola Dickson, was absent on Norfolk Island.

DEVOTIONS: These took the form of reflections about the beginning of the new year. The need to seek God's wisdom in all aspects of life through prayer - both for individuals and as an organisation.

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart plans his ways but the Lord knows his steps." You fail when you take your eyes from the goal. We must pray every day that ends with a 'Y'. Jennifer ended her devotion with a prayer for the meeting and for this coming year.

PRESENT: 41 as recorded. **APOLOGIES:** 10 as recorded. **VISITORS :** 2

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 15 November, 2011 were confirmed following two amendments. Moved Rae Goth, Seconded Norma Dumbrell.

BUSINESS ARISING: National Executive communicating regularly re progress on upgrade of Constitution..

GUEST SPEAKER: Jennifer introduced Susan Randall who had been invited by Nola Dickson to come and share her experiences as a Girl Guide volunteer at Sanglam, Pune, India in 2010. Before leaving to volunteer it was necessary to learn the language (Hindi) and have special dress appropriate to the area. She wore this to the meeting and also had pictures related to her experiences of helping in a Creche for workers' children run by Developers who were engaged in high rise construction building. Older children received tuition and exposure to some technology but equipment was limited and often items provided by the 'volunteer' helpers. Food was provided for children at lunchtime. Once a building was completed that crèche would be closed and workers and children would move onto the next development site. Helen Hill expressed thanks, on behalf of the meeting, for the interesting talk.

The Acting President then invited Major Nancy McLaren to bring the Council a greeting and news of her ministry since she and her husband were moved to Armidale to oversee the Salvation Army work in the north of the state – a very large area involving thousands of miles of travel each year. She misses the fellowship of the ACW women and does not have much opportunity to participate in Special Days. Nancy had held ACW – NSW Executive positions and been National President when we were last National Executive.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported that the books have been audited and the Cash at Bank stands at \$6,275.17. Accounts to be paid or ratified, passed on the motion of Helen Richardson and Jan Harrison.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Lillian Hodges said that this is a new year with new opportunities to serve God, so she would like us all to be ambassadors. She is due to speak in June at Lithgow and Hurstville Uniting Church. Gerringong and Smithfield are closing down, Lillian read a letter from one group which told of the sadness this decision had caused. Lillian prayed about the woman at the well, she received so much more than water, she brought Living Water to the people. May we be like the Samaritan woman and take water to the people.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton confirmed that the Multicultural Concert will be at St Mary's Catholic Church in Manly, corner of Whistler and Raglan Streets. Lyn has recruited some items for concert but many more required.

A prayer request from Rev. Lee Moon Sook for earthquake victims in Philippines. Ramona Cowle was able to enlarge on the situation telling of many deaths and missing people. National Representative, Laurel Pearce had sent word from Australia.

Following notification of the Young Women's Forum to be held in Bangkok and Australia's invitation to send one delegate, Lyn put forward the name of Sonia Pell (Salvation Army) who had been recommended highly. Lyn Middleton moved the nomination, seconded by Beatrice Kay, who knows Sonia and her abilities. The relevant papers would be forwarded to be considered along with any nominations from other states.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman said that most news is in Newsette. Amended Constitution and copy of Public Liability Insurance Certificate had been posted to branches. Concerns about the Special Days Project, Bear Cottage at Manly were satisfactorily answered and an invitation to their Open Day on 26th February extended. Although our nomination was the only Project submitted and accepted in principle a vote from NSW had to be taken to ratify our acceptance. Moved by Pamela Freeman, Seconded by Carmel Keys.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith remarked that Christmas cards etc are not as regular as in the past, but sometimes come later than expected. There is need to be on the look out for possible applicants for 2013 scholarships. Alan Walker College has been restructured due to finances and only the Principal travels overseas. Judith read two letters from applicants for 2012 and they sound very fine young women, one known and endorsed by Denise Secomb. The National News Circular had been received from the Convenor. News had been received from Ruth Marsipal, Chris Ferguson (2009). Details of the 3 Multicultural Australia Scholars for 2012 - Sarah Dingle (SA), Denise Champion (SA), Kyounghee Cho (NSW) were read to the meeting.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys raised these concerns:- (a) Aged Care is insufficient, (2) Euthanasia is to be put to Parliament again, (3) Same Sex Marriage, (4) Women in Armed Forces- sexual abuse, in combat, (5) Problem Gambling, (6) Underage drinking and drug use, (7) Abortion, (8) Asylum Seekers, (9) People living with disabilities, (10) Constitution report.

MEMBERSHIP: There is to be a new Uniting Church Representative, Colleen Johnson, unable to attend today. Life Member Marie McCann present.

PASTORAL CARE: Olive Edmondstone said there was nothing to add to Newsette, but she knew there were people who are suffering so to please let her know then she can send a card or make a phone call to them.

NEWSETTE: Jennifer Pepper reported that the February issue has been printed and mailed. An audit of the distribution is well underway but some items need clarification regarding payment. The introduction of a common renewal date for Newsette subscriptions and Associate membership, Denominational, Organisation and Branch Affiliations is proposed. Articles for inclusion in Newsette should be restricted to 300-340 words (an A5 page) at most. Copy should reach me by 7th of the month before circulation i.e. January, April, July & October. Priority for inclusion will be given to regular features about ACW and ACWC, also articles about inter- church cooperation, as these are more appropriate than those about any one denomination.

PUBLICITY: Isabel Hewitt is working on a prayer diary with information helpful to members. This will take us through to May.

The reports were received on the motion of Denise Secomb and Bernice Baker.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

- a) National Minutes for November, January and February
- b) Two letters from National
- c) National Circular for November and January
- d) ACT Unit Newsletters
- e) Letter from Jan Condon informing us of two new Salvation Army Representatives
- f) Invitation to attend UCA Adult Fellowship Annual Dedication Service
- g) Christmas Card from PPSEAWA
- h) Return thanks card from the family of Bruce King
- i) Information on Young Women's Forum from National
- j) UCA Sydney Day Mission support group, invitation to attend annual Get Together
- k) National- prayer request from Rev. Moon Sook
- l) SA Annual Report, Newsletter, advising new President's name and new Executive.

PUBLICATIONS: Newsette and SPAN

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward) acknowledging Jan Condon's letter re new representatives

BUSINESS ARISING FROM CORRESPONDENCE

Invitations discussed, volunteers to attend functions

HONOURING CHURCH WOMEN: Isabel told us about Lynette Bertwhistle, Pat Franklin, Mollie Ongley, Vera Thorpe, Pauline Crosby, outlining their life of service to the many areas of interest their service took them.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

Nola and Helen had attended the Thanksgiving Service for Judith Cayzer's Mother at Carramar,

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS:

Nola is to speak at morning service at The Entrance Presbyterian Church on 26th February.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Yet to meet this year

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Shirley Mitchell reminded everyone the WDP Service is on 2nd March and to check where their local service is being held.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: No Report

GIRL'S BRIGADE: Ruth Dickinson reported that 136 young women, 14-20 years of age had attended the bi-annual event 'Fono Marae' (meeting place) at Stanwell Tops, focusing on developing leadership and team building skills. A highlight of the week long camp was the visit of Ruth Chikasa the International President. Several girls committed their lives to Christ and many said they had grown spiritually and would never be the same again. Concurrently, the Pacific 'Fono Marae' was held in New Zealand, about 40 attended from 7 countries. Many new friendships were formed at both gatherings.

All companies have reopened this year with no closures, so this is very encouraging – most are growing in numbers. Still looking for a State Treasurer, someone with skills in the financial area and has heart for ministry within Girls Brigade.

CHURCHES TOGETHER: Isabel reported Cardinal Pell has announced that Catholic Bishops are withdrawing soon, so this has caused concern, but there are 17 denominations who belong. Restructure and prayer is needed.

Reports moved on a motion by Isabel Hewitt and Shirley Mitchell

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- a) AGM 16th April, 2012, A handout with information regarding the positions to be filled and nomination forms were available and members urged to prayerfully consider these as Nominations close at the March meeting..
- b) Annual Reports should be mailed or emailed to the Secretary as soon as possible.
- c) Isabel spoke about Service of Dedication at 11am on Monday 21st May to be held in Uniting Church Carrington Avenue, Strathfield. Public transport is strongly recommended on the day.

Norma Dumbrell spoke briefly of the trip to Myanmar and her thanks for prayer support as she and her husband had been invited to visit so they could be thanked for all their years of devotion in ministry to the people there.

Thanks to the Uniting Church ladies for morning tea, and to the Catholic ladies for setting up the room.

CLOSING PRAYER was given by Jennifer, reminding us to pray on all the days ending with a 'Y' as her devotion had encouraged.

NEXT MEETING: 19th March 2012

MORNING TEA: Catholics
CHAIRS: Salvation Army

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____