

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. STATE UNIT

Minutes of the Council meeting, held on Monday, April 13, 1987 at 139 Castlereagh St. Sydney.

The meeting opened at 11a.m. following morning tea provided by the Salvation Army delegates.

Those Present are recorded in the Attendance Book. There were 31 present and 17 Apologies, also recorded in the Attendance Book.

Devotions were read by the President, Mrs Graham, on the story in Luke's Gospel, chapter 10, of the visit by Jesus to the home of Mary & Martha. We are to get our priorities right! Prayer included prayers for the street children of the world. The Lord's Prayer was shared by the members.

We were joined by Mrs Prudence Gregory, our President's daughter, who was the guest speaker for the day. Prue, a solicitor, spoke to us about N.A.L.A.G. National Association for Grief & Loss, of which she is a member. This organisation was formed by professional people who saw a need for it after the Granville Train disaster. There are groups in all the mainland states & 8 Chapters in N.S.W.

Areas of grief were identified as Death or illness of a spouse. Divorce. Violence within a family. Handicapped children in a family, this area covering unresolved or chronic grief. Loss of employment, particularly through retrenchment. Loss of never having gained employment.

Ways of helping in these times of grief & loss were outlined. Some of them are simple & practical, shopping or cleaning, when a family is overwhelmed by grief, but everyday things still need to be done. A Counselling Course will be held in June, the second weekend, Mrs Gregory shared details with the meeting.

The vote of thanks was moved by Mrs Ridge & a gift of flowers & an A.C.W. spoon was presented to the speaker.

The Minutes of the March 16 meeting were read and confirmed.

Correspondence. Inwards.

1. World Community Day Service 1988. The Executive was pleased to announce that N.S.W. State Unit has been asked to write the 1988 service on the theme "Sharing Our Harvest".

2. Visit of Mrs Rathie Selvaratnam. Arrangements are under way for a visit to World Day of Prayer Committee & A.C.W. Two dates have been suggested, Aug. 31 & Sept. 7. The Executive recommended that we hold a luncheon on the day of the visit and that proceeds be allocated to Partners with A.C.W.C. costs of travel for Rathie

3. National Conference, 12-19 September. Travel arrangements for the conference were announced (Ansett will arrange group travel for Apex flights.)

The Conference will be open in many sessions to people other than delegates & observers. Names of those people hoping to attend the Conference & the associated Seminar on Travel were taken.

The details of the venue & the Conference programme are available in the October 1986 issue of A.C.W. News.

Table of costs to those attending are:-

\$30 registration, \$200 Conference expenses, includes accommodation.

Delegates to the Conference. Mrs June Graham, Mrs Marie McCann.

Official Observers. Mrs Marjorie Baker, Mrs Dorothy Lumb.

A motion was received that these ladies be our representatives at the Conference. Carried.

Outwards. The Secretary reported that all correspondence had been attended to following the March meeting. Fifty A.C.W. spoons have been ordered from Perfection Plate.

General Business. As the Annual Meeting was to follow this meeting, no reports were presented at the general meeting.

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Those who are able will come early and begin packing before the

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meeting. Those not able to come early are prepared to stay afterwards and finish.

President-Elect. It was with pleasure that the President made the official announcement that Mrs Marjorie Baker has been nominated by her denomination, the Churches of Christ to be the President of A.C.W. N.S.W. State Unit for the two year term, May 1988 to 1990. Mrs Baker was welcomed to the position of President Elect by acclamation from the members. Mrs Baker is well-known to the Council. She is at present the Membership Secretary and has been the Convenor of the Publicity Committee.

Change of venue of meetings. The ratification of the action of members of the Executive in changing the venue of Unit meetings was approved. Members were informed that notice of the unavailability of the Salvation Army rooms from April had necessitated action being taken to find another meeting place. The rooms at the Uniting Church building having been used before, were considered to be suitable.

Death of former member Mrs Valerie Lewis. Deaconess Andrews notified the meeting of the death of Mrs Lewis and read the following tribute.

Mrs Lewis died on March 8, 1987, aged 100 years. A service was held at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on March 11. Rev. Ron Hewitt of the Epping Churches of Christ delivered the Eulogy & spoke of Mrs Lewis' magnificent life of Christian witness & service. Her cheery encouragement & inspiration to all who met her will never be measured.

Mrs Lewis was a leader in her local church, in the Christian Women's Fellowship of the Churches of Christ & the Women's Inter-Church Council (now A.C.W.), having served as President of the latter. She was especially known for her love of the Bible & her recitation of the Scriptures.

During the past months, Mrs Lewis was a patient at "Chesalon", Beecroft. She & her family paid special tribute to the loving care she received there from the staff.

We join with her family in thanking God for the life & witness of a 'saintly' lady.

There being no further business, the meeting was reminded of the Annual Dedication Service at Wesley Chapel on Monday, May 18, to be followed by lunch. The suggestion that a donation of \$1 be asked from those attending the luncheon was well-received when it was announced that this money would go to Partners with A.C.W.C.

The Benediction was said, closing the meeting.

Confirmed.

Date.

*J. Galan*

15. 6. '87