

LCWR-9 Fall 2015 Minutes
October 19-21, 2015
Hosted by Racine Dominicans
Siena Retreat Center, 5637 Erie Street, Racine, WI 53402

Monday, October 19, 2015

Call to Order

Chairperson Pat Cormack, SCSC, called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 19, 2015. The agenda was previously provided (Attachment A).

Attendance

32 members representing 13 congregations attended (Attachment B).

Welcome

Welcome by Sr. Maryann McMahon, OP and Claire Anderson, retreat center director, who explained the logistics.

Introductions

The sisters introduced themselves by community and shared one thing that their community was considering as a way to celebrate the Year of Mercy.

Opening Prayer

Anita Henning, CSA, led us in prayer using the poem "Sacred Walk" (Attachment C).

Minutes Approval

Ellen Sinclair, SDS, presented the draft of the minutes of the April 27-29, 2015 LCWR-9 meeting, which were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report

Agnes Johnson, OP, distributed the finance report that was accepted without any changes (Attachment D).

Report by Liaisons – Written reports were available on the private LCWR 9 member website before the meeting. The liaisons responded to any questions or concerns.

Legislative Network – Sue Seeby, CSA, liaison. Nothing further on Monday as Sue was not able to be present. A discussion of the Legislative Network purpose was a topic on Wednesday.

Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium – Celine Goessl, SCSC, contact. Celine is no longer able to represent us. Members were asked who in their community is willing to pick up this responsibility. Please get back to Pat Cormack, SCSC, by November 15, 2015, with full contact information of any volunteer.

LCWR9 Communicators of Women Religious and Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force – Jomarie Zielke, CSA, liaison. The Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force distributed a tool kit to all parishes in the states. It is aimed at faith formators and JPIC persons. At this meeting they provided one toolkit per community. A question arose, "Can we use the references on

community websites?” Jomarie will get back to us. LCWR9 asked them to look at bus ads in the Northwest part of the state.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference Public Policy Advisory Committee – Jean Steffes, CSA, liaison. John Huebscher, executive director of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, is retiring at the end of the year. We want to thank him. A card was circulated for all present to sign.

Diana DeBruin, OSF, shared information on a project going on in Milwaukee for a House of Hospitality for prostitutes and women who are involved in human trafficking on the South side of Milwaukee. Currently the Lake OSF, SSSF, and SSJ-TOSF are working with Benedict Center, which runs the Sisters Program. This is a community-based program designed to help women engaged in street prostitution begin a journey toward healthier, safer lives. The program is a collaborative effort that targets the Washington Park Neighborhood and surrounding areas which suffer a high incidence of prostitution. This new collaborative effort will do something similar on the south-side. They need a first year budget of about \$150,000 and lots of volunteers, as well as grant writer assistance, etc. Phase 1 will be a drop-in center with referral and respite resources. Diana & Carol Rigali, OSF, will provide a summary statement (attachment G provided after the meeting).

Upcoming Meetings

Theresa Sandok, OSM, reviewed the dates/locations/responsibilities for 2016 and asked for volunteers to plan prayer for fall 2017. A New Genesis volunteered.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Prayer</u>
2016	Apr 18-20	Stevens Point	SSJ-TOSF	FSPA
2016	Oct 17-19	Oshkosh	CSA	SSM
2017	April 3- 5	Milwaukee	SSSF	SDS
2017	Oct 16-18	La Crosse	FSPA	ANG

Other Reports/Updates

The term of all the LCWR9 officers ends with the spring 2016 meeting. Therefore we need a Nomination/Election Committee for the Region elections in spring. Members were asked to think about it overnight and let Pat Cormack know Tuesday morning if they wanted to volunteer for the committee. Ann Rehrauer, OSF, Donna Koch, OSF, and Nancy Langlois, OSF, volunteered.

Agnes Johnson, OP, gave a report on the Racine Dominican building project. Phase 3 (independent living) is on hold because their partner, Lincoln Lutheran, went into receivership. They are working with professionals to find another partner and necessary licensed beds.

Update on Sisters without Borders: Breaking Open the Future (the December 5, 2015 gathering with Mary Hughes, OP, for sisters post-1965 entrance): 23 are registered so far. Deborah Fumagalli, OSF, will send the brochure to Maria Vinton, SSM, to be posted on the LCWR9 member website.

Report on Collaboration interest group – Pat Cormack, SCSC, shared briefly on the pre-meeting discussion by those interested in exploring what would be the possibility for a structure for collaboration. Topics will include civil and canon law, finance, pastoral needs, care of sisters, grieving, and difficult transitions. We will form a steering committee to get organized and seek grant funding. If a community wants someone on the steering committee let Pat know by November 1, 2015. A larger group with a representative from each interested community will be gathering as needed, including before or after regular LCWR9 meetings.

2016 Outstanding Leadership Award

After reviewing the history and criteria for the LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award (Attachment E), we raised names at tables and then decided as a table on a couple of names to share with the entire group.

Names raised included: Janice Bader, CPPS, Simone Campbell, SSS, Iliia Delio, OSF Sharon Euart, RSM, Annmarie Sanders, IHM, Nancy Schreck, OSF, Nancy Sylvester, IHM, and Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA

After considering these names overnight, the region decided to send forth the names of Janice Bader, CPPS, and Simone Campbell, SSS. Ann Rehauer, OSF, will prepare the sheet on Janice, and Marcia Lunz, OSF, will prepare the sheet on Simone.

Tuesday morning October 20, 2015

Maryann Zollman, BVM, spoke on “Living and Leading in Communities of Consecrated Life for Mission: Stories Around a Well in the Company of Mary.” Her presentation is posted on the LCWR9 website.

Tuesday afternoon October 20, 2015

LCWR Resolution Process

Pat Cormack, SCSC, provided an overview of the LCWR Resolution Process. Members had already been provided with the handout *LCWR Contemplative Decision-Making Process: Assembly Resolutions* (Attachment F).

What are we currently doing as a region?

Trafficking, sustainability, systemic change, Legislative Network, an umbrella of awareness.

Individual communities’ efforts on anti-trafficking.

Task Force with justice promoters and communicators.

Collaborative house with Benedict Center.

Continue from awareness to action on trafficking.

Prison reform is intertwined.

Examine our complicity in our community.

What are we called to do?

No new resolution. Continue to work with the trafficking and congregational efforts on sustainability.

Have LCWR9 Anti-Trafficking Task Force continue its work, ask if interested in inviting other groups, resurrect the hotel letter, and advertise the hotline and text number

LCWR Call 2015–2022

Pat Cormack, SCSC, led a reflection on the LCWR Mission Statement and the Call using a Lectio Divina type process. One person read the Mission Statement and excerpts from the Call. Members were invited at tables to share a word that struck them, an insight, and a prayer that was rising up in them. This was followed by large-group sharing.

The business meeting was adjourned. We celebrated Eucharist together with the Dominican community and enjoyed a festive dinner.

Wednesday Morning, October 21, 2015

Discussion of the history and purpose of the LCWR9 Legislative Network

The LCWR9 Legislative Network and each community was asked to reflect on four questions.:

1. How does your community coordinate social justice ministry on behalf of the community?
2. Do you have a person designated to participate in the LCWR9 Legislative Network? If you do, how do you envision that person's responsibilities in the Network? Do you foresee difficulties in maintaining that presence going forward? If you do not have a member on the Network, what are the primary reasons?
3. LCWR9 has a long history of significant efforts at legislative advocacy at the state level. How important should this ministry be for LCWR9 going forward? What steps might the region need to take to insure the ongoing life of the Network? What steps would your community be prepared to take to do so?
4. What input does the current membership of the Legislative Network have to share on these questions?

These questions were discussed at tables. Then the tables reported on what this input from leadership teams and from the network suggests about the future of the Legislative Network.

Table Responses:

About half the communities present have a representative on the Legislative Network. A couple of representatives are full time in JPIC work (both are employees), some are part-time (staff or sister), while the rest are sisters who do JPIC in addition to their other ministry assignments.

It would be helpful to have a flow chart on what JPIC entities we participate in and how they relate to each other. For example, the Legislative Network, Wisconsin Catholic Conference, Network (the national lobby group), Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium, Wisconsin Council of Churches, etc.

Questions raised:

How many people are needed on the LCWR9 Legislative Network?

Would it be possible to build a public side to the LCWR9 website that could be accessed by LCWR9 community members?

Some communities would like to get information on upcoming legislation.

The Legislative Network suggested having a lobbyist for Catholic Sisters in Madison. Do we want to take on this expense? A lobbyist would be expensive. What would we be duplicating? Do we need a lobbyist in Madison?

A Justice Center could it be a clearing house for groups working with issues and bringing those issues to us.

Can we get a synthesis of what is going on?

Can the Legislative Network help us do the social analysis and drafting of what needs to be communicated?

Can some Legislative Network meetings be done telephonically? Consider using associates. Work electronically.

What are our expectations, and what does the Legislative Network want from us? The group approved having the LCWR9 executive committee appoint a subcommittee to look into these questions and coordinate with the Legislative Network.

Contemplative Process

Tables were asked to complete the following statement: In light of what we have shared, we feel U.S. religious life and/or LCWR is being called to The following responses were presented:

support each other through changes within community and continue to be prophetic voices for justice through the power of community and training of others.

impact the church in contemplative decision making.

continue to model lives of contemplation, integrity, peaceful dialogue, and conflict resolution.

walk with others so we live into the largeness of God where there will be enough for all.

engage in contemplative dialogue with the institutional church about expanding the roles of women in the church.

Ann Rehrauer, OSF, and Theresa Sandok, OSM, agreed to draft the final statement in light of all that we have heard from one another. They e-mailed the statement to the members who agreed on sharing the following insight with the rest of LCWR:

We feel LCWR is being called to contemplative dialogue with church leaders about engaging women in all areas of decision-making in the church so that the processes and outcomes may be enriched by the wisdom, life experiences, and perspectives of women.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Sinclair, SDS
Recording Secretary