

LCWR-9 Spring 2016 Minutes  
Hosted by Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis  
SSJ-TOSF Motherhouse, 1300 Maria Dr., Stevens Point WI 54481

**Monday, April 18, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Pat Cormack, SCSC, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM on Monday, April 18, 2016. The agenda was previously provided (Attachment A).

**Attendance**

31 members representing 11 congregations attended (Attachment B).

**Welcome**

Welcome by Sr. Michelle Wronkowski, SSJ-TOSF, and Sr. Mary Ann Stoltz, SSJ-TOSF, who explained the logistics.

**Introductions**

The sisters introduced themselves by community and shared one thing that their community was doing in social justice.

**Opening Prayer**

Karen Kappell, FSPA, led us in prayer using a poem by Edwina Gateley.

**Minutes Approval**

Ellen Sinclair, SDS, presented the draft of the minutes of the October 18-20, 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 C). For the collaboration project a \$50,436 grant from the GHR Foundation just received approval. The Erica P. John Fund provided a \$25,000 grant. A grant from the Hilton Fund for Sisters may be available for the implementation phase.

**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. No questions. Legislature is not in session so legislators are back in their districts. Next Legislative Network meeting is October 5, 2016, at 10 a.m. in Fond du Lac. Community representatives can connect technologically if needed. Catholics at the Capitol, March 28, 2017: Will LCWR 9 consider co-sponsoring? Positive discussion, but need more details about what is involved in co-sponsoring.

*Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium* – Celine Goessl, SCSC, attended Friday’s meeting and provided a short summary. Going forward Margaret Kruse, OSF, will be the contact. Celine is no longer able to represent us.

*LCWR9 Communicators of Women Religious and Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force* – Jomarie Zielke, CSA, liaison. The Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force distributed 755 toolkits to all parishes in the state. At next week’s meeting the Task Force will start the evaluation of the toolkit and its distribution. On Tuesday afternoon we had a follow-up conversation on use of the grant from the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother for anti-trafficking projects.

*Wisconsin Catholic Conference Public Policy Advisory Committee* – Jean Steffes, CSA, liaison. Sent a copy of the summary of the meeting with the bishops on Catholic higher education. Next meeting is on May 25, 2016. If there is a volunteer to attend in Jean’s stead, let her know.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Theresa Sandok, OSM, reviewed the dates/locations/responsibilities

Carol Zinn, SSJ, is currently with Plante Moran. She will be speaking on legacy planning at our October 2016 regional meeting. Prior to assuming her current ministry she was on her community’s leadership team, President of LCWR, and NGO representative for the Sisters of St. Joseph at the United Nations.

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

### **Nominating Committee**

Donna Koch, OSF, presented the report of the nominating committee. The following sisters were willing to serve:

Chair: Theresa Sandok, OSM (1<sup>st</sup> Term)

Vice-Chair: Ellen Sinclair, SDS (1<sup>st</sup> Term)

Recording Secretary: Diane Baumann ANG (1<sup>st</sup> Term)

Corresponding Secretary: Maria Vinton, SSM (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

Treasurer: Agnes Johnson, OP (2<sup>nd</sup> Term)

No one wished to nominate from the floor. By acclamation the slate was accepted.

## **By-Law Discussion**

As there were few sisters willing and able to serve in LCWR9 elected officer positions, Theresa Sandok, OSM, opened a discussion by presenting a possible edit to the by-laws. This possible edit was merely to “prime the pump” for discussion given the just elected officers averted a need for the immediate future. The possible change would reduce the number of those on the executive committee by combining the duties of the recording secretary and corresponding secretary into a single secretary position. The vice-chair would also pick up some additional duties. (attachment D)

Question was raised about the required skills for secretary. Maria Vinton, SSM, confirmed that the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother will continue to maintain and host the LCWR website. The secretary merely has to post.

Various possibilities were discussed including combining regions, using non-leadership sisters for different tasks, doing Region 9 leadership in a different way, and/or determining what tasks no longer need to be done.

If members have other suggestions, please send them to Theresa Sandok, OSM.

## **Sisters without Borders**

There was a meeting of post Vatican II sisters at Racine on December 5, 2015. Deb Fumagalli, OSF, Sue Seeby, CSA, and Marilyn Ketteler, OSF, led the group. There were 75 sisters registered from 12 communities. Mary Hughes, OP, was the speaker. The group was very hopeful.

## **Collaborative Project**

Pat Cormack, SCSC, reviewed the report and the grants. The Committee met with consultants on March 18. The meeting was very energizing. Canonist Frank Morrissey, OMI, shared his work in Canada, and canonist Kelly Connors, PM, shared her experience with collaborative governance in St. Louis. Because there is no transfer of patrimony, a civil corporation is all that is needed. Attorney Dennis Purtell said legally it could be relatively easy to do the documents when we know what we want. Scott Wallenfelsz, SDS, shared on financial collaboration that is already occurring. Hertha Longo, CSA talked about her experience of consulting with various communities. Maureen Gallagher is the facilitator. She suggested that our current work is to determine what we want, and what values are important.

Theresa Sandok, OSM, presented the LCWR 9 survey update. A copy is available on line. The PowerPoint will also be posted.

## **Tuesday morning April 19, 2016**

Fr. Dan Crosby, OFM, led a prayer on the Year of Mercy (Attachment E) and then shared on the topic of mercy. He encouraged Sisters to get in touch with their experience of mercy and with the realization that, in the midst of life, of everything that goes on, there is a deeper reality that God’s mercy is here.

## **Tuesday afternoon October 20, 2015**

Began afternoon with lectio divina using Acts.

### **LCWR Resolution Process**

Pat Cormack, SCSC, provided an overview of the LCWR Resolution Process. Members had already been provided with the 2016 Assembly Resolution. It is the same as 2015 with the addition of the words “particularly racism” in the fourth line. Talked at table about the three questions:

1. Can we support this proposal? Why or why not?
2. If not, what would need to be changed in order to gain the support of the region?
3. What do we recommend: edits, revisions, amendments?

Large Group discussion: Can our region support the intent of the proposed resolution without amendment? No.

The region was equally divided on two different edits. Our major issue was with the word “particularly.” We felt that this elevated racism above other issues. We also couldn’t agree whether it was a root cause or should be the effort to bring about systemic change.

Two possible edits, both were shared with National LCWR: (Attachment F).

What are we currently doing as a region?

Brainstormed on what we are currently doing as a region. The primary focus was Anti-Human Trafficking and the Share El Salvador. Response is Attachment G.

### **Nominations and Elections LCWR Officers**

Pat Cormack, SCSC, showed the slides indicating the benefits of serving on LCWR national office and the qualities and abilities for all officers, which are summarized on Attachment H. We then reflected individually on what type of leadership is needed at this time in light of the LCWR Call 2015-2022. We then shared with each other. Many qualities were mentioned including: pastoral, compassionate, respectful, collaborative, faith-filled, ability to network, someone who can work within the framework of our present Church, understands the global connection, lighthearted, articulate, globally aware, future thinker, contemplative, willing to work with CMSWR, continue to provide culture of dialogue, openness/mediation skills, media skills, able to think on her feet, sense of leaving legacy, steady, even-keeled, creative.

The region decided to put forth the following names and a sister volunteered to complete the nomination paperwork:

Anncarla Costello, SND, prepared by Jean Steffes, CSA

Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP, prepared by Mary Howard Johnstone, OP

Marcia Lunz, OSF, prepared by Ann Rehrauer, OSF

Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN, prepared by Pat Cormack, SCSC

### **Task Force Grant**

Last fall we asked the task force to look at awareness of trafficking measures in the western and northern part of the state. Given the budget remaining what priorities or direction do we want to give? We want representation in all five dioceses. Attend to dioceses not yet addressed, distribute stickers of hotline number, and conduct a survey of the use of the toolkit. In press coverage, let the press know that the state has not yet publicized the hotline number. Give remaining balance to the collaborative house of hospitality in Milwaukee.

### **Apostolic Visitation letters**

Several communities received letters within the last week in response to their specific community apostolic visitation. The consensus was that it was too quick to have a discussion of the letters as the leadership teams have not had an opportunity to discuss among themselves. Theresa Sandok, OSM, shared that she will have a discussion with Lynn Jarrell, OSU, on Thursday if members had any questions they wanted asked.

### **Annual Report**

For discussion: How has your region experienced the great deep? or What thirst of the world has your region attempted to meet? We discussed at tables and the tables shared up to three items:

Sisters without borders, trafficking task force, collaboration

The key issues were human dignity and justice, human trafficking, restorative justice, LCWR Call

The need and gift of mercy – human trafficking, house of hospitality, El Salvador; collaboration.

Funding – young women collaborative, human trafficking, quest for mercy

Trafficking – survivors

Young victims of human trafficking, sustainable energy, Wendy's boycott

Human trafficking – thirst for human dignity and justice

Spiritually that informs action – woman at the well, mercy, trafficking and trip to El Salvador

This was summarized into our annual report submission (Attachment I).

### **Blessing of those leaving leadership**

We blessed those among us who will finish their time in leadership before we gather in the fall. This time Mary Howard Johnstone, OP, was the only leader present who was finishing her term.

We noted that a special thank you to Pat Cormack, SCSC, will occur at the festive meal.

As we had completed our agenda and several members were not able to stay for a Wednesday morning session, we adjourned and gathered for our Festive Meal in the dining room.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Sinclair, SDS  
Recording Secretary