

LCWR Region 9 Legislative Network
January 18, 2022 – 2:00 PM – 3:45 PM
ZOOM Meeting

Minutes

Chair: Jill Haberman

Prayer: Tracy Abler

Minutes: Sr. Rose Jochmann

Attendance: S Reg McKillip, S Toni Harris, Tim Dewane, S Barb Thomalla, S Kathy Wiesneski, S Rose Jochmann, S Ellen Sinclair, S. Mary Jo Selinsky, Tracy Abler, Jill & Steve Haberman, S Julie Tydrich (WRC)

Not able to attend: S Dorothy Pagosa, Pat Ruda, S Deb Fumagalli, S Kris Vorenkamp (SLW), S Kathy Slesar

I Prayer: Tracy Abler led the prayer in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, using some of his quotes.

II Introductions/ Check in:

- Tracy Abler: Sisters of St. Agnes, first lay JPIC coordinator, Sisters signed land conservancy, 100% solar,
- S Rose Jochmann, Bay Settlement, Leadership and JPIC Liaison, 50% solar, sustainability efforts
- S Barb Thomalla: Servite, 20 yrs. Legislative Network, small order, approve corporate stances, Active on Human Trafficking and Death Penalty
- Tim Dewane: SSND Central Pacific Region, 20 yrs. Legislative Network, now Wauwatosa, major efforts - divestment of fossil fuels
- S Ellen Sinclair: Salvatorian Sisters, JPIC Liaison, 10 yrs. Leg. Network, Attorney – evictions and deferred payments
- S Reg McKillip: Sinsinawa Dominicans, JPIC coordinator, 4 yrs. Leg. Network
- S. Mary Jo Selinsky, A New Genesis, first time Leg. Network, local grass roots in Oshkosh area.
- S. Kathy Wiesneski, Merrill, SCSC which is now a religious house, always interested in P&J issues.
- S. Toni Harris: Sinsinawa, was involved in the start of Leg. Net., Leadership, Liaison for LCWR Region 9
- Jill and Steve Haberman: JPIC for Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, 1 year Leg Network
- S. Julie Tydrich: PSPA. Executive Director and Liaison to WRC Board; instead of solar, co-generation – use steam to produce electricity for 20 – 30% savings.

III Acceptance of Minutes (September 28, 2021) and additions to today's agenda

IV Quick Reports

- Shared resource list from Sr. Ruth Battaglia – Tracy
 - Here is the link to the Wisconsin Resources document S Ruth compiled for us, and others helped update: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10IKLzGwYfn6J1HeAeOQYP6YA9U-WsC5/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118067359553173452557&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- 2022 Legislative Prayer Partners – Jill Haberman
 - 8 communities signed on this year with 194 participants. This is an increase over last year: 5 communities and 170 participants. It was possible to add the U.S. Senators from Wisconsin. A reminder will be sent in June – to continue this prayer until the end of the year. Thanks to the participants and to Jill for organizing this.
- Contact information: Jill Haberman
 - Congregations who are represented in the Leg. Net: Jill has provided an updated list of membership with contacts, emails etc. Refer to attachment sent 1/20/2022 from Jill.
- Earth Day Prayer for 2022 – Discussion
 - There was an extended discussion on whether or not to prepare an Earth Day Prayer 2022

- Tim reminded us that Pre-COVID, the intent was that religious communities across the state would host a contemplative prayer event. It would be a public event, inviting others from the local community to participate. The Zoom event last year was appreciated by religious communities in the Wisconsin, but that was not the original intent to ask the public the stand with us.
- It was decided that the Earth Day prayer event be put on “pause” for this year. Hopefully next year local groups can meet in person.
- Other groups around the state and nation will likely offer Earth Day prayers on Zoom. For our meeting in March, members are asked to note what is being offered and bring ideas to the meeting. We may be able to make a unified suggestion to LCWR members for an Earth Day prayer. **This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.**

V Defining Leg-Net Collaboration with WRC Topics for Discussion

- Jill introduced this topic of defining our collaboration with WRC and what that means. The Legislative Network was founded around the idea of working together on topics that are being address in the Wisconsin legislature. At the same time, emphasize the issues key to the national LCWR: the intersection of Creation, Immigration, and racism. In addition, our Legislative Network has concentrated on Human Trafficking.
- Sr. Toni reminded us of the decision recommended by this group and approved by LCWR 9.

“The Women Religious Collaborative (WRC) stated that the social justice portal “committee members will be expected to contribute expertise, advise on direction, assist in identifying additional resources, and facilitate connections.” Based on our experience as the Legislative Network of LCWR Region 9, we believe that we are in a position to contribute the work of our committee and its members to (WRC). Rather than forming a WRC social justice committee, which would likely draw members from the people already serving on the Legislative Network, we propose that LCWR 9 Legislative Network be the Peace and Justice “arm” of WRC offering the following services:

 - Analyze Wisconsin legislation and recommend action
 - Carry out LCWR National issues: currently the intersection of Racism / Climate change / Migration
 - Share resources: among communities (those with hired staff share with those with no hired staff)
 - Facilitate collaborative response on current justice and peace issues
 - Stay connected with other Wisconsin groups on issues such as Catholics at the Capital and Wisconsin Catholic Conference

We propose that the director of WRC be part of LCWR 9 Legislative Network.

We believe that, with the collaboration of the different communities’ communicators, a system to facilitate this kind of sharing via WRC can be established.”

- It was suggested that Julie be added to those receiving the Justice Alerts e-mailed by Tracy Abler every 1st and 3rd Thursday of month.
- Next, we decided that it would be helpful to assign one person from this group to be a “point person” for each of our topics of emphasis. These Point Persons will share any information that would be relevant to the whole group.
 - Immigration - Tim
 - Racism - Tracy
 - Trafficking – Reg
 - Juveniles without Parole / Restorative Justice (from Wisdom groups) – Tracy (?) or Mary Jo (?)
 - **Care for Creation / Laudato Si – No point person since we are all doing different work for the LS Action Platform in our communities; instead we will share updates at each Leg-Net meeting.**

VI Sharing on Legislative actions under-way in Leg-Net member communities

As indicated on the agenda, members shared actions by their respective community

- **Creation**
 - **From Barb Thomalla**
Last year's Earth Day prayer is on the You Tube site for the FSPAs; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUBEtBQj8D0>
 - **Laudato Si:** Reg and Tracy are in the process of signing up. Rose and Tim are moving toward that.
 - **Ellen:** distributing pollinator seed packets
 - **Kathy:** purple martin habitat has been developed
- **Immigration**
 - Jill and Steve assisted at Fort McCoy the week after Christmas
 - Lutheran Social Service, Milwaukee, is re-settling 500 Afghan refugees. Donations of clothes, blankets, etc. are being accepted
 - Green Bay Diocese is re-settling 100 Afghan refugees. Donations for various kits have been solicited: kitchen, bathroom cleaning, etc. Job placement in meat packing plants is not appropriate to Afghan's religious customs of preparing meat.
 - Ask Pres. Biden to end Title 42: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention can determine whether communicable disease in a foreign country poses a serious danger to those coming to our country.
 - Sinsinawa – Sisters who have been at the border are sharing their experiences
 - Build Back Better bill: includes justice for immigrants, farm workers, Dreamers
- **Racism**
 - **From Tim Dewane**
SSND Webinar on Critical Race Theory and Related Issues - [Webinar Recording and Resources](#)
SSND's are working on three tracks: Personal, Communal, Systemic
 - **From Kathy Wiesneski**
Recommended the YouTube video called, *The Truth About the Confederacy in the United States*. Highly recommended for EVERY American who will listen!!!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B3HzfYWQhH8>
 - **From Mary Jo Selinsky:**
ANG is delving into Racism and White Supremacy – Each month they educate themselves on some aspect
 - Native Peoples:
 - Land Acknowledgement statements: several communities have adopted statements
 - Boarding School issues being pursued by LCWR
- **Trafficking**
 - **From Sr. Toni:**
Check out the WAHTC (Wisconsin Anti-Human Trafficking Consortium) website: <http://stophumantraffickingwi.com/> to get more information.
 - **From Tim Dewane**
SSND is asking Sisters participate in a Training Session: put together by the Polaris Project, a leading national anti-trafficking organization, [Human Trafficking 101](#) is a free, one-hour training session comprised of six modules which address what human trafficking is, how it happens, who the victims and traffickers are, highlights the importance of knowing the story vs. knowing the signs, and discusses what we can all do in the fight against human trafficking. Watch [this \(SSND\) video message](#) to learn more about the training. Go to <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking-101/> to take the training.
 - **From Jill and Steve Haberman:**
In March, the St. Bakita Catholic Worker House is opening – a safe place and services will be provided for women who have been trafficked.
 - **From Reg McKillip**
The Safe Harbor Bill (S 245) would prevent minors (any child under 18) from being prosecuted for prostitution and treat them as sex-trafficking victims. Current Wisconsin law states that someone under 18 may be prosecuted for prostitution despite the fact that Wisconsin law also states that minors cannot legally give consent. Similar bills have passed in 29 states and Washington, DC

In October 2021, the Safe Harbor Bill passed out of committee in the Senate. However, it has not yet been voted by the full Senate. The Assembly version has not yet had a public hearing. This bill does have bipartisan support. However, a misunderstanding about the bill seems to have held it up in the Assembly. Some feel it will legalize prostitution. However, prostitution is illegal in Wisconsin, and it will remain so. The Safe Harbor bill only prevents child victims from being prosecuted for prostitution.

Contact your WI state representative to encourage him/her to do what is needed to get the Safe Harbor Bill a committee hearing and passed in the Assembly.

- **Restorative Justice**

- **From Tracy Abler:**

- <http://www.wnpj.org/> seems very well connected to the peace and justice issues we are working on, and sort of a hub of Wisconsin events, to include the [5-week series on mass incarceration](#).

- Bi-partisan bill in Legislature to ban “Juveniles without Parole”: LRB 4927. Those sentenced as juveniles are now adults. Bill would allow parole after 15 years

- **JCWR**

- **From Reg McKillip**

- **2022 JCWR Virtual Series: Advancing Justice Building Relationships for the Future Session One - Registration is Open!** Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (EST) Building Relations: Effective Collaboration within the Congregation. Join a conversation with a panel of justice promoters about how they work with leadership and communicators.

- **Session Two:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (EST) Short-term sharing and planning – What is already working? What are other creative ideas are working? Best practices about how we are adapting and responding and still be effective?

- **Session Three:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022, 4:00 - 5:30 pm (EST) Structural long-term planning for the work of justice (10+ years). A conversation about the long term. How do we structure our work in the future?

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- **Wisconsin Resources document** Sr. Ruth compiled for us, and others helped update: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/10IKLzgEwYfn6J1HeAeOQYP6YA9U-WsC5/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118067359553173452557&rtpof=true&sd=true>

VI Next Meeting

Date: March 30, 2022, 1:00-3:00

Chair: S Dorothy Pagosa

Prayer :S. Barb Thomalla

Minutes: Jill and Steve Haberman