

**LCWR 9 Fall Meeting (REVIEWED AND REVISED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
3/9/20)**

Fall Meeting

Siena Retreat Center Racine, Wisconsin

October 14, 2019

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

-Sister Jean Steffes, CSA called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

-Welcome and directions by the Siena Center Director. Introductions of sisters attending the meeting.

ATTENDANCE (On File)

32 members were in attendance

PRAYER

Sister Toni Harris, OP led the group in a “Prayer for Leaders”.

AGENDA (ON FILE)

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Bylaws changes

Reports

Minutes: Approved with three corrections:

-P.1 in the description for Lyn Korte, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, change from “degree” to “Certificate in Association Management”.

-P. 2 Table reporting under Emergent Planning Process From the National LCWR: Addition of the word “experience”, “Some younger members have leadership experience”

-P. 3 under Catholics at the Capital, addition Public Policy Committee, “Sister Mary Ann McMahon, OP is the liaison to the Wisconsin Catholic Conference Public Policy Committee.

Budget Report (On File):

-Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF explained that the CD named in the budget is in a money management account.

-The donation to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee was for the Racism Workshop. Everyone is invited. This donation was an Executive Committee decision.

-Members were made aware that each year 5% of the prior year’s budget is available for donations.

-The Financial Report was approved.

NATIONAL LCWR BUSINESS

-Sister Jean Steffes, CSA presented the Emerging Orientations and Religious Life from the National LCWR Office.

-Members were invited to reflect upon the Leadership Statement from the National LCWR and the “Embracing the Essence” handout from the 2018 National Assembly.

-A Video presentation of the National LCWR Office was shown, followed by discussion at the tables. Tables reported back and submitted their reports. A committee was formed to compile the report for the National Office.

-Sister Theresa Sandok, SDS, shared information as a member of the National Board. The Board had a sense that there was overwhelming support for the Orientations. It is “Emergent Planning” so it is not set in stone. The board voted to go forward with these Orientations. The Board supported the process continuing. It is important to send in our comments because the Board takes them seriously.

LCWR 9 WEBSITE

-Ms. Lyn Korte, CAE, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, presented information on how to access the website. The LCWR9 website is embedded in the website of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative.

-The LCWR9 user- name is: LCWR9 Password is: Leaders#9.

-There was a discussion suggesting that the minutes be sent as a PDF. A PDF offers more control of the posted content.

-Members are free to begin using the new website.

-Questions: There was a request that an e-mail be sent out to all members so that they will again have the ser name and the Password. It was recommended that Lyn Korte’s contact information be included in the e-mail.

-Yahoo Group: A question was raised about the difficulty people may have been having with the Yahoo Group. The problem has been resolved. A suggestion was made that the Executive Committee discuss looking into a different mail source other than Yahoo. Yahoo is not optimal. Lyn Korte can be of assistance in making the change.

-Calendar: A question was raised about posting events that are being carried out by individual communities on LCWR9 website calendar. Discussion followed regarding posting on the public calendar of the WRC. There was no resolution.

-The Executive Committee was asked to notify members via the list-serve when documents are posted on the website.

-Succession plan for Lyn Korte needs to be arranged soon so that the website will continue to be available should something happen to her. A plan will be forthcoming.

- Changes to a community website or correction of the posted information are to be sent directly to Lyn Korte.

-Lyn Korte was recognized by the members with applause for the great work that she had done on the website.

WISCONSIN RELIGIOUS COLLABORATIVE REPORT (On File)

-Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC acknowledged the excellent work done by Lyn Korte. In the course of the past 6 months, every member of the WRC was contacted, and their needs identified.

-Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC shared some of the programming that Lyn Korte had identified in her report.

-The Social Justice Portal was identified as a possible “public” portal. The WRC is working on the strategic plan.

- At the last meeting of the WRC Board it was decided to remove the name “Wisconsin” from the Mission Statement. In addition, a portion of the Mission was, in fact, a Vision statement. The goals were approved by the board.

-Sister Kathy Slesar, OP, asked for clarification on how the Justice Portal was going to work. Lyn responded that an Advisory Committee will be assisting her with the set-up of the various committees. There may be lay persons on the Advisory committee if they are working in these roles in a congregation.

-The Legislative Network Committee will be inviting Lyn Korte to come to their meeting to give a presentation on the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative.

LIAISON REPORTS: (On File IF RECEIVED)

-Communicators: Sister Diana DeBruin, OSF – Report pending.

-Human Trafficking: Sister Toni Harris, OP. Written report was sent to members. Sister Toni will be sending an addendum to inform members as to what others are working on.

-Two events under Human Trafficking were shared; the Democratic National Convention in 2020 and the Ryder Cup in September 2020. Legislative Network is working with the Human Trafficking Task Force.

-Communities represented at the Legislative Network presented a host of activities that are continuing in all of those congregations.

-Recommended to add Talitha Kum of the UISG as a resource.

-A suggestion was made to re-use the program developed for the Democratic Convention to be made available for other events.

Wisconsin Catholic Conference Policy Advisory Committee: Mary Ann McMahon, OP. Nothing to report at this time. She will be attending the meeting next month and will send an update at that time.

BYLAW CHANGES (On File)

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA shared the changes to the bylaws. The changes will be posted on the LCWR9 website.

Proposed addition: “to correspond with the retreat center of the regional meetings on cost, directions, equipment needs, and other details; and with the hosting congregations regarding the festive meal and, and if applicable the hostess gift as well as the prayer.

Sister Theresa Sandok, OSM, made the motion to approve the changes and Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC seconded: Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM

OCTOBER 15, 2019

WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

Sister Jean Steffes, CSA, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

PRAYER

Sister Toni Harris, OP, led the group in prayer: “ White Privilege”.

SPEAKER

-Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS introduced Rev. Bryan Massingale.

-Rev. Bryan Massingale presented the talk, **“The Catholic Church and the Struggle against White Nationalism: Missing in Action? (copy of the powerpoint on file)**

-The group broke for lunch at 12:15

-Fr. Bryan Massingale began the afternoon session at 1:04.

-The members recognized Fr. Massingale with a standing ovation. The feedback was positive and members acknowledged that the topic was sobering and called for a great deal of personal reflection.

-Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS thanked Fr. Massingale for his excellent presentation.

-Sister Jean Steffes, CSA called the group back to order and continued the meeting with items from the National LCWR.

LCWR NATIONAL RESOLUTION REFLECTION PROCESS – SISTER TONI HARRIS, OP.

The presentation began with prayer led by Sister Toni.

Resolution: Creating Communion at the Intersection of Racism, Migration & Climate Crisis (Documents from the presentation on file)

Sisters were invited to reflect upon three questions using a Venn diagram.

- What lies at the intersection of racism and climate crisis?
- What lies at the intersection of migration and racism?
- What lies at the core of all three?

Sisters were invited to reflect upon the following questions for contemplative dialogue

- Where do you see the three intersecting?
- What lies at the root of the moral/spiritual crisis we face?
- What do you see for yourself, personally, as your next best step as we strive to create a communion at the intersection of racism, migration, and climate crisis?

Summary Dialogue:

- What did you hear in the dialogue? What did you learn?
- What one insight, question, or concern do we want to share with the LCWR Global Concerns Committee?
- Anything you would like to share about the resolution or the process?

-Table reports were given. The final report (On File) will be submitted to LCWR9 members for review and then sent to the LCWR Global Concerns Committee.

LEGISLATIVE NETWORK: SISTER TONI HARRIS, OP. (Report on File)

-Sister Toni Harris, OP gave the history of the Legislative Network committee. Originally the committee was formed to focus on Wisconsin legislation and the issues that were concerns of LCWR9 from the legislative perspective.

-The desire expressed by LCWR9 members to help with funding a staff member at Annunciation House became a moot point as needs at the border changed. The current issue is on the Mexico side of the border.

-The actions that are being requested LCWR9 at this time are the following:

To continue the statewide day of contemplative prayer during Earth Day week. Each congregation is asked to have a Contemplative observance of Earth Day during the week of Earth Day. A prayer service is being prepared by Leg/Net. Since the next meeting of LCWR9 will be April 22nd, we will be able to pray together. Members should watch email for the prayer service to share with congregations.

-Sister Toni Harris, OP explained the origin of the resolution LCWR9 is being asked to consider signing. A Mining operation proposed in Upper Michigan on the Michigan Wisconsin border threatens the Menomonee River. A resolution would be sent upon out adoption to the Menomonee Tribe, and other interested organizations. (Resolution on file).

A suggestion was made to invite Region 5 to sign on to this resolution.

-Sister Pat Cormack SCSC, made a motion to adopt the resolution, it was seconded by Sister Karen Kappell, OSF. The motion was passed unanimously. Sister Toni Harris will send a copy of the resolution to the Religious Congregations that were not present in the room for the vote so that they will be aware of its' adoption by LCWR9.

-There were 11 representatives from the various LCWR9 congregations at the most recent Legislative Network meeting. This is an improvement.

-The Democratic National Convention: Legislative Network has created a Task Force to plan an action involving Catholic Sisters. The action will take its inspiration from the LCWR National Assembly resolution. Plans for this will be ready at the next Legislative Network meeting in March.

-The plan for this action involves having a visible presence or demonstration in the vicinity of the DNC convention. The Leg/Net task force has been in touch with Sister Simone Campbell, Executive Director of NETWORK. In addition, NETWORK sisters may need places to stay in our local convents.

-The members of LCWR9 approved that Legislative Network be the group to handle the action. Legislative Network will contact the Congregational Communicators.

-Sister Kathy Slesar, OP raised the question if there is a commitment to recycling at the DNC convention. Sister Toni Harris, OP will research the question.

TOPICS AND DATES FOR THE NEXT MEETINGS – SISTER ELLEN SINCLAIR, SDS
(copies on File)

-The updated schedule was presented. There is a need for host/prayer communities for 2021. Sisters were asked to sign up on the sheets provided.

-Prayer duties were clarified.

-A future conversation may be necessary about whether there is a need to have a host congregation since we are going to be meeting at Retreat Centers. Possibly a small committee may handle this. Tabled for future discussion.

-The possibility of reimbursement for wine purchased by the hosting group was raised. Tabled for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting.

-Future speakers: During the break sisters were asked to vote on preferred speakers using "Halloween colored dots".

Sister Ellen Sinclair, SDS reminded those present that the retreat centers must have a firm reservation of 25 and the numbers that we give them will be the firm number expected to be paid for.

NOMINATING ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE SPRING MEETING – SISTER ELLEN SINCLAIR, SDS.

-A nominating committee is needed to guide the process for elections.

-We will be needing to fill the roles for Chair and Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary & Treasurer.

-The Chair and Vice-Chair must be members of the National LCWR.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION FOR NATIONAL OFFICES- SISTER ELLEN SINCLAIR, SDS (Copy on File)

-Sister Ellen explained the process for the nomination.

-An addition to the process is the surfacing of names at the fall meeting. This is being done to assist members in identifying potential candidates. The process was added so that the nominating process would engender more involvement at the grass roots.

2020 Leadership Positions open:

President-elect

Board

Names of possible candidates for President-elect:

Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP

Maureen Geary, OP

Eileen McKenzie, FSPA
Amy Hereford, CSJ
Donna Pollard, OP
Mila Diaz Solano, OP
Sharon Glumb. SLW
Christine Garcia, SSND
Eileen Haynes, SCL
Jane Herb. CSJ
Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM
Janice Bader, CPPS
Sangeeta Ayithamattam, SCM
Deb Sciano, SSND
Dawn Kitt, FSPA
Marge Peron, RSM

Board

Tere Maya, CCVI

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ADJOURNMENT TIME OF THE MEETING

-A discussion took place about the possibility of adjourning to attend the 4:30 Liturgy. A number of those present expressed the desire to continue with the meeting in order to leave at an earlier time on the 16th, since some members have longer travel home. A vote was taken, and the majority decided to continue with the meeting and end at 5PM.

-The meeting ended at 5:00 PM and a Festive Meal followed.

OCTOBER 16,2019

-Sister Jean Steffes, CSA called the group to order at 8:45

PRAYER

-Sister Toni Harris, OP led the group in prayer “The Guest House”.

COMMUNICATOR’S REPORT- SISTER DIANA DIBRUIN, OSF

The Communicator’s shared that Joan Chittister, OSB, was the speaker at the National Convention

2020 OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD- SISTER JEAN STEFFES, CSA

-The group began in Contemplative Silence.

-Sister Jean presented the power-point (On File)

-The sisters present were invited to reflect on a question that asked, using the criteria, “what do you look for in an outstanding leader?”

-Names of the past Outstanding Leadership awardees were shared.
Biographies and photos of the nominees were presented.

TABLE REPORTS

Sister Patricia Chappell, SNDdeN, choice by table report 2,2, 1,2

-Model of sister to be recognized today. Strong
-Strong voice for the end of racism-in line with our resolution.

Sister Donna Markham, OP, One Table #4; 1st choice - noted her work with mental health issues.

Sister Patricia Murray, IBVM, Choice by table report 2,1,1

-all the reasons mentioned
-Global view, advocacy, Gospel living, Justice and peace.

Sister Mary Scullion, RSM, Choice by table report, 1,2,1

-Local systems change for homeless and mentally ill
- LGBTQ, Mental health
- outside the usual leadership circle, homelessness important, LGBTQ work is a message for the church.

- Sister Toni Harris, OP tallied the votes as they were announced by tables and Sister Patty Chappell, Sister Patty Murray and Sister Mary Scullion- All received an equal number of votes. The decision of LCWR9 was to nominate all three as first choice. The other regions will need to decide.

-Other- There were no other recommendations

INAUGURAL AWARDS 2020 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

-Sister Theresa Sandok, OSM explained these women have consistently been nominated for the Leadership Award and National LCWR desires to recognize their longtime contribution to Religious Life. These women will be given the award at the banquet:

Joyce Meyer, PBVM

Amata Miller, IHM

Helen Prejean, CSJ

ELECTION COMMITTEE

-Sister Jean Steffes, CSA asked the members to consider being on the Nominating Committee.

-Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF will send a list of the members eligible for election.

-The Nominating committee will be: Sister Diana DiBruin, OSF & Sister Lisa Kane, OP.

YAHOO LISTSERVE

-Exactly what the status is of our ability to use the Yahoo groups for posting documents is not clear. It appears that after October 21st LCWR9 will not be able to upload documents. The group may still e-mail for content but not include documents. LCWR9 materials will be available on the LCWR 9 website.

-Sister Theresa Sandok, OSM and Sister Rose Jochmann, OSF will be looking into the situation with the Listserve. Sister Pat Cormack, SCSC, suggested Sister Annemarie Sanders from the National LCWR as a resource since LCWR uses G mail.

REPORTS FOR LCWR

Sister Susan Seeby, CSA will be sending the reports that were compiled for the National LCWR to Lyn Korte, Executive Director of the WRC to be posted on the LCWR9 website. Sister Susan will send an e-mail via Yahoo Listserve reminding members that it is posted.

Members are asked to send any corrections to Sister Susan prior to the due date stated in the e mail.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Susan Seeby, CSA
Recording Secretary

(REVISED 3/9/2020 Executive Committee)