

Spring 2023 (4/30/2023) Meeting of the St. Paul's Christian Women

Attendance: 12 members attended. See attached attendance list.

Meeting was called to order by President Trude Sowada at 7:05 p.m. with a welcome and prayer. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Old Business

Review of Fall Minutes: Copies of the Fall meeting minutes were passed out for review. Pat Gruenke moved to approve. Carrie Fedor 2nd the motion. Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

Bazaar Report: Carrie F Luncheon sold out, fantastic attendance. Carrie Hartung reported net proceeds of \$19,852 (\$88 less than last year). Luncheon ticket sales and centerpieces sales were up, raffle ticket sales were down, bake sale net was up, silent auction sales and donations were down, craft table rental priced to break even.

2023 Bazaar discussion: Save the Date 11/11/23. Theme "Up on the Housetop". Roxanne Muehlbauer has metal house decorations planned accented with buffalo plaid red, black, and white colors.

Committee Chairs needed for 1) Entertainment & 2) Luncheon Wait staff

Entertainment ideas: Sandy Trossen suggested and will follow up on a man/woman duet she heard at Pioneer Place. Trude S. will follow up with Tim Elhard on availability of CHS Minnesingers.

Vendor discussion: Mary Croat lead a discussion. ~30 craft table vendors. Those in attendance agreed with suggestion that non-crafter vendors be parishioners. Price table rental to break even. Last year it was increased from \$20 to \$40. Currently provide free tables for 3 non profits (Mission Office, Terebinth, Shepherds of the Pines).

Bake Sale – Packages of smaller quantities sold fast. Suggest more small pies and 4 pack carmel rolls and kolaches.

Fish Dinner: Pat G. Positive net. This is meant to be a Fun Raiser not a fund raiser. Served 450. Many positive compliments from guests. Ran out of some sides. Pat will request summary report from bookkeeper. Custodian mentioned that cleanup was incomplete.

Spring Carmel Roll Sale: Palm Sunday weekend. Carrie H will check with bookkeeper on financial report of the event once April Financial reports are completed. Baked rolls in preparation for Easter Vigil Brunch also. Need to add a person to take charge of lining up sellers and getting start up cash and cash boxes for the before and after Mass selling crew.

DCCW Retreat: St Paul Christian Women org was the host for the 2023 DCCW Diocesan Retreat. Approx 140 attended. Trude share some of the survey feedback: need more bathroom space; speaker message was good; hard to understand her, spoke to soft, too fast, her microphone echoed; lovely music, added much to liturgy; meal and refreshments were good!!!, great choices, soup was great.

Disappointed in the low attendance from local parish community. Comment came that they did not feel personally invited by our CW organization. Website and bulletin and Mass announcements was not effective.

Thank yous: Sainly Stitchers, coordinated through St Peter's, sent a thank you for \$150 donation. It was used to purchase fabric, batting, postage expenses. Last year their quilts were donated to: School District 742 (11), Tri Valley Coop (13), Poor Clares (19). Pet beds made from scraps to Humane Society (9).

Andrea Fromelt sent a thank you for support of her spring '23 mission trip to the Dominican Republic through FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic Students) organization on the Winona State University campus.

New Business

Budget Presentation & Approval: Carrie H, Treasurer, reported that led the discussion on the 2023/2024 budget. Discussion of changes for new budget compared to last year: since ASA is not requesting money for the Student Support Fund or the Catholic Social Teaching fund, eliminate these \$500 gifts; increase Other gifts by \$1000 to \$2000. Project Christmas Bazaar net at \$20,000, project membership dues similar to last year actual (\$1700). This Projected budget is a net loss and will result in a draw down of the cash balance in the CW Restricted Account of approx. \$3600 leaving ~ \$15,000 in the account June 2024.

Carrie F. met with ASA Principal Carl about ASA needs. No response yet. ASA Teacher grant materials will be provided to ASA administration at the beginning of May. Teacher requests are due by end of May for review. Awards would be made available in fall for next school year. \$2,000 was included in 2022/2023 budget but not requested by teachers. \$2000 is included in the new budget.

Budget discussion items tabled and suggested for the Fall Meeting: 1) Consider increasing membership dues from \$10 to \$20. 2) Review and discuss change in CW Bylaws especially Article II Purpose 2. concerning Mass intentions.

Mary Ellen Keymer motioned to approve proposed budget, Pat G 2nd. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Social Justice Concerns: Brianda Cediell submitted a letter with an update on Hands Across the World and requested a donation of \$2000. After discussion, Carrie F motioned to donate \$500 to HAW from '22/23 budget. Mary Croat 2nd. Motion approved by voice vote.

Social Justice Committee update from Sandy Trossen. TAO committee is looking for new members from the 4 parishes in TAO ACC. Committee will have a meeting on May 10 and then break until fall. They are focusing on the increased pressure on people and families experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. Planning to have our TAO participate in the summer YES meals program. Watch for details.

Suggestion made to contact the Saturday Meal team leaders to get a feel of interest and willingness to coordinate meal prep and servicing crews for homeless or other shelters such as Place of Hope, Dream Center, Anna Marie's.

Upcoming Events: Rosary and May Crowning & Ice Cream Social May 1 6:00 at St Paul's : CW will help with serving the Ice Cream Social. Volunteers asked to report to church kitchen at 4:15.

National Day of Prayer coordinated by Celebrate MN Thursday, May 4th at noon to 1:00 at Stearns County Courthouse south steps.

Celebrate MN – August 11-12 at Whitney Park. TAO under coordination of Nicky Carlson will participate in this ecumenical St Cloud event.

What is it? A two-day festival to Central Minnesota for all ages — for free. In addition to KidsFest area, action sports, music by nationally known artists and a car show, there will be community outreach and opportunities to impact. It is ecumenical, civic and community.

[Celebrate MN - Celebrate MN](#)

Additional Items: Mary Ellen K. suggested watching the video Jesus, the Soul Shepherd, available on you tube passed out internet link [Jesus, The Soul Shepherd - YouTube](#)

Debby Feist spoke about her interest in restarting new member welcome initiatives in our parish. She and her husband moved to St Cloud 3 years ago and joined the parish 1 ½ years ago. Through her experience in Called and Gifted, she is working with Nicky Carlson and Carrie F. Discussing a survey to learn people's ideas about when to have New Member Welcome events, how many, weekday or weekend; availability of volunteers (youth, seniors, homebound, other?) to assemble new member packets; accepting donations for packets; availability and interest in creating a Parish Sponsor program.

Mary Ellen K. motioned to adjourn the meeting, Roxanne M 2nd. Motion passed with voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Bernie Quist, Secretary.