

## PART D



### Report of the President NT-NL Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) April 2018

Rebuilding infrastructure among our Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (W-ELCA) units in the many churches in the six geographical conferences has been a priority. In April 2014, we had 24 active W-ELCA units and have now grown into 40 active units throughout our synod.

Communication is another one of our priorities. Our SWO board members are liaisons to the presidents in the different conferences and maintain contact with them throughout the year. We have a person putting together our newsletter, *The Tapestry*, six times a year. We have a social media coordinator who puts finishing touches on the newsletter and sends it out to our member churches and members of our local W-ELCA units. She is able to put news stories on Facebook and on our SWO website.

During July 2017, twenty-four (24) of our women attended the Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. This was the largest group of women to attend this event from our synod in several years. Among the many events, they heard many inspiring speakers, including our Bishop Eaton, attended workshops, contributed to service projects, and enjoyed the fellowship of Christian women from all over the United States and the world.

This February, I spent three days in Chicago at the Lutheran Center meeting with the other 63 synodical presidents across the US. We heard many interesting speakers and attended several workshops. Information was on overload this weekend.

We had a very successful retreat at Briarwood Retreat Center last October. It was a beautiful place to meet. We had good attendance from throughout the NT-NL, great speakers, good food, and wonderful fellowship with one another.

Briarwood has a Labyrinth but no signs for it. The SWO board has voted to put a directional sign near the Shalom area, and the informational sign will be placed at the entrance to the Labyrinth, which is in the woods at Briarwood behind the dining hall.

Spring brings many Spring Gatherings in which the women in the various conferences get together to take care of business, have Bible study, and have fellowship with one another. The Metroplex North conference will be meeting April 7<sup>th</sup> at Rejoice Lutheran in Frisco. The Heart of Texas conference will meet at First Lutheran in Temple April 14<sup>th</sup>. The Panhandle conference will be meeting in Lubbock April 21<sup>st</sup>. May 19<sup>th</sup> the Eastern Conference will be meeting at St. Stephen's Lutheran church in Shreveport, LA.

June 22-24, our vice-president Pam Nye and I will be hosting the Region 4 presidents and vice-presidents retreat near Crawford, Texas. We have rented the Bosque House for the weekend. Fifteen women will be attending this retreat from Nebraska south through the states to the Gulf Coast of Texas. There are 6 synods, and all will be represented at this retreat, plus three women from the Executive board of the Women of the ELCA.

Our Synodical Women's convention will be held the weekend of October 26-28 at Rejoice Lutheran in Frisco. There will be a business meeting on Friday afternoon, where a new president and board members will be elected. Saturday morning, our speaker will be Kathryn Koob from Iowa who will speak to us about her 444 days in captivity during the Iran Crisis in late 1979 and early 1980. There will be other events and activities during the weekend.

I am in my 4<sup>th</sup> year as president of the Women of the ELCA. It has truly been an awesome experience. A lot of work, but also a lot of rewards seeing the ministry of women in their local units serving their church, community, and the rest of the world.

Blessings and Peace,

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