

**United Methodist Women Blue River District Board Meeting**  
February 21, 2019                      Lincoln Saint Paul United Methodist Church

**Present:** Ann Cerveny, Mary Starr, Stacey Brandenburgh, Lynette Broderick, Jan Hauser, Susan Hanneman, Shirley Bornemeier, Marletta Stark, Vera Mazour, Rogene Silletto. **Absent:** Sue Orwen, Lisa Maupin, Sandy Blankenship, Ellie Wrigley, Kay Clark, Kathryn Griffith, Holly Matzke, Pat McGill, Sandy Scheef, Ruby Thelander, Esther Hay, Deanna Holland.

This meeting was rescheduled from February 19 to February 21 because of weather. Two sub committees, Nominations and the Spring Event Committee, met prior to the meal. A light dinner was served at 6:00 followed by fellowship time which included a discussion of concerns about the effects of the Special Session of General Conference meeting.

President Ann called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Susan was welcomed as a new BRD officer. Minutes of the November 27 Board Meeting were presented. Marletta moved and Jan seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

Stacey presented the Treasurer's Report. In 2018 the BRD submitted a total of \$68,448.46 to the Great Plains Conference **as our Pledge to Mission which was 123% over our 2018 Pledge**. Another \$18,810.66 was submitted as designated funds such as Epworth Village, UMCOR, Red Bird, United Methodist Ministries. A total of \$87,259.12 was submitted from local BRD units in 2018. The 2018 Treasurer's books were audited by Gabriel, Burger and Else, CPA in Seward. The report came back that everything was in order. The cost of the audit was \$625.00. Lynette moved and Jan seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed. A discussion followed the Treasurer's report about the cost of the audit and that we could possibly find a less expensive auditor. The auditor does not have to be a CPA. Stacey will look into this for the audit for 2019.

**OLD AND NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Jan and Stacey reviewed the December New York City UMW Seminar where they studied Mass Incarceration. They hope to start a UMW unit at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women. Jan and Stacey continue to have work projects and future meetings connected with the Seminar.
2. Rogene, Stacey, and Ann reviewed the GP Leadership Meeting.
  - \*All unit treasurers should use the UMW EIN number.
  - \*Response magazine will be bi monthly in the future.
  - \*Reading Program information will be on line from now on.
  - \*Books should be purchased from commercial companies like Amazon.
  - \*Kansas and Nebraska UMW members are learning to work together as they know each other better.
3. Twenty-eight attended the Making Sleeping Mats for the Homeless workshop led by Jan in Denton. She is planning another workshop to be held in Crete. The date is yet to be announced. In the future do not bring wimpy bags like newspaper bags, Dollar Store bags, and biodegradable bags.
4. Legislative Day was very successful with over 200 attending. The presentations were reported to be excellent and very timely.
5. The program by UMW National Officer, Emily Jones, on School to Prison Pipeline at Lincoln Saint Paul Church on February 8 was excellent and attended by about 20. Emily is continuing to work with Jan and Stacey on starting a UMW unit at the Women's Correctional Center in York.

6. The Fall BRD Annual Meeting will be October 12 at Lincoln Saint Mark's. The topic is Economic Injustice. Judy Acres from Della Lamb will speak.
7. BRD officers should make the initial contact with their adoptive unit.
8. The BRD Spring Event will be March 23 at Waverly UMC.
  - \*Planning is being led by Lisa, Ann, Pat and Jan.
  - \*The topic for the meeting is Hospitality and Birthday Cake and many small group activities are planned.
  - \*The offering will go to the UMW Legacy Fund as March 23 is also the National Day of Giving for the UMW 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - \*The in kind offering will be for Della Lamb.
  - \*We will celebrate that Denton is a new United Methodist Women unit.
  - \*One change will be that everyone will get a corsage for mission as they check in.
  - \*The next planning meeting will be held at Waverly on March 2 at 10:30 am.
9. The nominations committee reported that these positions need to be filled for 2020: president, secretary, nominations chair, communication coordinator. The secretary and communications coordinator positions need good computer skills. Everyone is encouraged to send recommendations to Shirley. Recommendations will also be requested on the evaluation form for the Spring Event.
10. The national membership census has had some difficulty in implementation. Susan is available to assist local units.
11. Concern was expressed about membership challenges and loss of BRD units – Eagle, New Visions, Wilber, Plymouth Peace.
12. Ideas for helping retain membership:
  - \*Have district wide events as mini mission u, mat making.
  - \*Let leaders in struggling units know they can choose what works for them as having fewer meetings, having fewer officers or sharing officer duties.
  - \*Join with neighboring UMW units for activities.
  - \*Focus on personal growth and membership support.
13. All are to encourage attendance for the METour, Mission u, and Spiritual Growth Retreat. Prayers are encouraged for a successful conclusion of the special session of General Conference starting February 23 in Saint Louis.

Ann closed the meeting with prayer. The next BRD Officer meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21 at Seward UMC with light supper at 6:00 and meeting starting at 6:30.

Mary Starr, BRD Secretary

Ann Cervený, BRD President

