

Directions Newsletter

SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

New Board

- President:** Julie Leeper
- Vice President:** Virginia Eggers (not pictured)
- Secretary:** Anne Pietscher
- Treasurer:** Dianne Strickler
- Board Members:**
 - Jeanne Crow
 - Kris Elgin
 - Heidi Hotvedt
 - Christine Meyers
 - Beth Stufflebeam
 - Teresa Ziegenmeyer



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WELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

“As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

DATES

- WELCA Triennial Convention:**
September 21-24
- Cluster 5 Fall Gathering:**
September 30
- Cluster 1 Fall Gathering:**
October 7
- Cluster 2 Fall Meeting:**
October 7
- Cluster 6 Workday:**
October 7
- Cluster 9 Fall Meeting:**
October 7
- Lutheran World Relief Pick Up:**
October 21
- Winter Directions Deadline:**
November 10

PRESIDENT REPORT

Greetings:

As I write this article, I can't help but give thanks to God for the many wonderful women in the Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization! Each and every one of you has a role to play in your congregation, your Cluster, the Synodical Women's Organization, and the world, and your unique gifts are need where ever you are.

I give special thanks to the many of you who helped make the 2023 Convention and Gathering such a success! There were great speakers, super organizations to support, and a wonderful location. Most importantly, there were many faithful participating women who love and support each other and the programs supported by the Women of the ELCA.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as President for the next two years. It is a privilege to serve, especially with the support of the fantastic women on the 2023-24 Board. I look forward to being with as many of you as possible during the coming year. You will also hear from me and from our Communications Team via email if you are on the SWO email list. If you are not already on the email list and would like to be, just send an email to SEIA.WELCA@gmail.com and put "Enroll" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include your name, cluster number (if you know it) and the name and location of your congregation.

Please reach out to me if you have questions or need the support of the SWO. You can reach me at julieeeper@yahoo.com or at SEIA.WELCA@gmail.com Blessing! Julie Leeper

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

Greetings from Virginia Eggers your new Synodical Vice President:

A little bit about me, I am a farm wife and have three married children and nine grandchildren. I am an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in Andover, Iowa. I have been on the Cluster V Board and was on the SWO Board for seven years. I enjoy cooking, baking, quilting, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Thank you to the 2023 Convention Voting Delegates for electing me to fill the one-year V.P. position on the SEIA SWO Board. I was unable to attend the June Convention/Gathering at Stoney Creek, but I have heard that the speakers, programs, and Christian fellowship were excellent.

One of my responsibilities as Vice President is to be the advisor to the Nominating Committee. This committee will be looking for the following nominees to be on the 2024 Convention Ballot – Vice President a two-year term, Treasurer a two-year term and three Board Members for a two-year term, and three Nomination Committee Members to serve for one year. Remember that each congregation is entitled to send a voting delegate to the annual Convention to elect officers and board members and to participate in the business of our Synodical Women.

Save the Date June 14 & 15, 2024 and plan to attend the 36th Annual Convention/Gathering in Clinton, Iowa at Zion Lutheran Church.

As summer ends, I pray you have enjoyed time to vacation and recharge and I close with these words from Zechariah 2:6-13 "I am with you always. Sing and rejoice...! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst says the Lord" verse 10. God is present and a comfort in our lives. From the Friday July 7, 2023, The Word in Season devotional booklet. You can reach me at virginiaeggers1949@gmail.com

CLUSTER NEWS

CLUSTER 1

Cluster 1 met at Bethesda in Ames on April 22nd. Our program speaker was Shelley Goecke on “Find Your Fireflies”. It focused on gratitude and who has had an effect on your life? Devotions from 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 were given. A monetary donation was given to Bethesda Community Food Pantry. The business meeting was held and refreshments were served before the program. The Fall Gathering will be October 7th at Bethlehem in Slater. The guest speaker will be Donna Moore sharing information about the program “Dress a Girl Around the World” <https://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/> For information contact Dawn Spencer.

CLUSTER 2

Cluster 2 Will have their Fall Gathering on October 7th at Holy Trinity, Newton. For more information, please contact Sandy Chandonia 641-485-0360 or gma3g4b@outlook.com

CLUSTER 5

Cluster 5 will hold a Fall Gathering meeting at St. John Lutheran in Preston on September 30th beginning with registration at 8:30 and refreshments provided by the Calvary Lutheran Women of Sabula. A hymn sing will begin at 9 AM to get things started with a Bible study on Romans 8:37-39 by Rev. Erick Swanson and a program by My G.E.A.R. Following the morning’s activities, a luncheon will be held. Registration is \$7.00 and can be called/sent to Joyce Badrick at 563-357-8594 or jbadrick@netins.net. Please come join us!

CLUSTER 6

Our next workday will be on Saturday October 7th. Contact Cindee Schneckloth for more information 563-320-7107 or cindeeschneklloth@gmail.com

CLUSTER 9

First Lutheran Chariton has set the date of Sat. Oct. 7th for our fall Cluster meeting, please put this date on your calendar and I hope to see many of you there! Kim Crawford of Circle of Freedom in Corydon will be the main speaker. Contact Anita Simmons, St. Paul’s Albia 641-932-7063 or alsimmons@mchsi.com

CLUSTER 10/11

Our Fall meeting will be in October. Information will be sent out soon!!



MINUTES OF THE 35TH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SWO CONVENTION BUSINESS MEETING

Friday and Saturday, June 9-10, 2023 - Stoney Creek Hotel-Des Moines, Johnston, Iowa

CREDENTIALS REPORT: Roberta Jurgersen Friday 6/9/2023 3:47 PM

Number of the SWO Officers	3
Number of SWO Board Members	6
Number of delegates	15
Total eligible to vote	24
Number of non-delegates	10
Program presenters	4
Guests (incl 1 Churchwide rep)	1
Total in Attendance	39

Credential Committee Report adopted; quorum has been established.

CALL TO ORDER: President Carol Gruhn called the Business Meeting to order at 3:50 PM, adjourned at 4:50. Chaplain Tania Schramm opened with Prayer, the assembly recited our Purpose Statement

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Joyce Carlson appointed

APPOINTMENT OF CONVENTION BUSINESS COMMITTEES:

Claims: Dianne Strickler
 Credentials: Roberta Jurgersen
 Registration: Carol Gruhn, Roberta Jurgersen
 Elections: Kathryn Bly, Laurie Kuehl, Marcia Smith
 Reference and Council: Julie Leeper
 Nominations: Virginia Eggers, Sue Mangels, Ardy Proehl

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Secretary Anne Pietscher offered to read aloud the proposed rules as written in the 2023 Gathering Program and Reports, (GPR); rules of procedure were adopted.

PROPOSED AGENDA: Secretary Anne Pietscher moved the adoption of the agenda with the flexibility of the Chair to reorder items as necessary, motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE: Dr. Freddie L. Jordan, Ph.D. who will speak tomorrow

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Bio - Information on candidates running for election can be found in the GPR. Nominating Committee advisor Sue Mangels reported on one office at a time before paper voting commenced on that office. President: There were no nominations for President. Wanda Miller nominated Julie Leeper; she accepted.

Vice President: There were no nominations for Vice President; Lavone Heston nominated Virginia Eggers; she accepted.

Secretary: Anne Pietscher has accepted nomination for a second term.

Board Members: Jeanne Crow, Julie Leeper and Beth Stufflebeam have accepted nominations. Julie Leeper is no longer eligible as she has been elected as President. Christine Meyers has accepted a nomination.

Nominating Committee: Judy Munger and Julie Klecker were nominated from the floor and accepted.

ELECTION RESULTS: given by the elections committee.

President: (2-year term) Julie Leeper (24 votes)

Vice President: (1-year to complete a 2-year term) Virginia Eggers (24 votes)

Secretary: (2 year term) Anne Pietscher (24 votes)

Board Members: (3 for 2 year term, need 3) Jeanne Crow, Beth Stufflebeam, Christine Meyers (each received 23 votes, 1 invalid ballot)

Nominating Committee: (3 for 1 year term) Judy Munger (23 votes), Julie Klecker (24 votes)

INTRODUCTION OF THE SYNODICAL WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE BOARD 2022-2023:

President Carol Gruhn

Vice President (none)

Secretary Anne Pietscher

Treasurer Dianne Strickler

PRESIDENT REPORT: (pg. 23 of the GPR) Carol emphasized the last paragraph in her written report: she encourages everyone to say "YES" to requests to take office on your Cluster of Synodical Board.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT: no report

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The SWO Board has approved the minutes of the 34th Annual Convention Business Meeting as found on pgs. 33-36 of the GPR.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The audit for 2/1/2022-1/31/2023 was performed 2/9/2023 (pg. 37-38 of the GPR)

The proposed budget for 2023-2024 (pg. 38 of the GPR). Proposed budget was adopted

Checking account balance as of 6/9/2022 \$9,885.39

Dianne Strickler moved to adopt the treasurer report and budget; Beth Stufflebeam seconded, carried.

REFERENCE AND COUNCIL: Julie Leeper recommended Courtesy Resolution 2023.1 in thanks for the work of the planning committee and the facilities staff for adoption. Motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS:

Discipleship Report (pgs. 24-25 of the GPR) Heidi Hotvedt encouraged people to celebrate Bold Women Day and write the name of a bold woman on a heart on the trifold display.

Justice Report (pg.26 of the GPR) Kris Elgin encouraged everyone to participate in Lutheran Day on the Hill, to be aware of and pray and advocate for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and the people of Ukraine.

Stewardship Report (pgs. 27-28 of the GPR) Roberta Jurgensen has made arrangements for the Lutheran World Relief pick-ups in both fall and spring; see pg. 27 for the quantity of quilts, kits (health, school, baby, fabric) churches involved and funds collected for shipping expenses.

Voted to Approve all board reports.

BUSINESS:

Old Business: anyone wanting to receive email from our SWO is encouraged to be added to the list.

New Business: "Directions" newsletter will now be the responsibility of Heidi Hotvedt and Dianne Strickler.

ANNOUNCEMENT of THE 2024 GATHERING: June 14-15 at Zion Lutheran Church in Clinton, IA Theme: "Just Love"

FIRST BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED at 4:50, no second business meeting is required

CREDENTIALS REPORT: Roberta Jurgensen- Saturday 6/10/2023 8:45 AM

Number of the SWO Officers	3
Number of SWO Board Members	6
Number of delegates	17
Total eligible to vote	26
Number of non-delegates	17
Guests incl 1 CW rep	1
Total in Attendance	50

Adoption of the Credential Committee Report; Credentials Report Approved

CLAIMS REPORT: by Dianne Strickler. Offerings to date \$1,968.00 to be divided between the CWO and IMPACT

CLOSING WORSHIP, INSTALLATION: Bishop Amy Current led the worship, Dr. Jordan installed the SWO Officers and Board, done by 3:35 PM

Respectfully submitted by Anne Pietscher, SEIA SWO Secretary



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Join Us at the WELCA Gathering in Phoenix, AZ September 21-24, 2023!
We invite you to experience a life-changing event with other bold women of faith.

There's still time to register! For more information go to
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) FALL PICKUP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 8:30 TIL NOON

Two pickup sites:

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR WINDSOR HEIGHTS

WINDSOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6222 UNIVERSITY AVE, DES MOINES, IA

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1363 1st AVE SW, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Please Complete This Sheet and Bring It Along with Your Items (Keep a copy for your records)

ELCA	LCMS	OTHER

Each Church bringing items should make a cash **donation of at least \$40.00 for the trucking expense**. We encourage those congregations that can do more, please send more!

Church Donating Items _____

Church Address _____

ITEM	# OF ITEMS	# OF BOXES
QUILTS		
PERSONAL CARE KITS		
SCHOOL KITS		
FABRIC KITS		
BABY CARE KITS		

NO BOX SHOULD WEIGH OVER 35 POUNDS!

QUESTIONS TO DORI STANEK 319-845-3030 OR 319-558-9773 - CEDAR RAPIDS
 JAN GRANNES 515-279-8017 - WINDSOR HEIGHTS

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) FALL PICKUP

Packing and Shipping Instructions

1. **Use Strong Boxes!!!** Packed boxes should weigh no more than 35 pounds
2. Please fill boxes completely, cut down boxes if necessary.
3. Only one type of kit in each box. Do not mix kits.
4. Place a label (sample below). Make copies for each box.
5. Please fill you donation forms completely and bring to pickup site.
6. As of May 15th, the Quilt and Kit Tracker is out of service. To see a full list of countries that received quilts and kits this past year go to <https://lwr.org/downloads/quilt-kit-distribution-map-2022> For more information about Lutheran World Relief go to <https://lwr.org/>
7. Please note the change in donation amount (at least \$40.00 from each church donating quilts/kits).
8. Know that your efforts will be blessed by God in His service.

SHIPPING LABELS

Contents _____

Contents _____

Weight _____

Weight _____

From Synod _____

From Synod _____

Church _____

Church _____

Address _____

Address _____

JUSTICE *JUS-TICE noun* ['JƏS-TƏS]

- a: justice is faith in action; it addresses inequities in political, economic and social systems;
- b: justice is equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion;
- c: justice includes serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, the society and the world;

For 35 years, Women of the ELCA has been a leading force in anti-racism work within the Lutheran community, with trainings, networks, resources, articles, and advocacy. And yet, we've only scratched the surface. We need only look at recent happenings within our church and society to know so much more needs to be done. Our organization, through the churchwide executive board, has committed itself to undergird our mission and ministry with three anti-racism foci: awareness-raising, accompaniment, and advocacy. The work is all ours to share, in congregational units, in synodical organizations, and in the churchwide women's organization.

With accompaniment, European descent women (the majority within our organization) are asked to walk in solidarity with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) women in the struggle for racial equity. The bottom line is developing authentic relationships with BIPOC women.

Join Women of the ELCA's Racial Justice Advocacy Network at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/racial-justice-advocacy> We are a network of bold women working towards systemic change through racial justice education and advocacy. Take time now to learn more about the network.

DISCIPLESHIP *dis-ci-ple-ship noun* [di-'sī-pəl'ship]

- a: discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.
- b: disciples are followers of Jesus who are intent on carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) and the Great Command (Acts 1:8).

At WELCA, participants practice seven marks of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. Whether it be making quilts and health and school kits for [Lutheran World Relief](#) or studying the Bible together, or assisting in worship, they grow in faith and share what they've learned with friends and neighbors. For more information go to <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/discipleship>

STEWARDSHIP *stew-ard-ship noun* ['stü-ərd-,ship]

- a: the office, duties, and obligations of a steward
- b: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something

especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

Women of the ELCA encourages and equips women to consider their responsibility and capacity for stewardship.

We create educational resources about giving and managing money, including devotions, Bible studies, and program materials for individuals and small groups.

Donate to support the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Learn more about Thankofferings, Faithful Friends, and Katie's Fund. And please share the monthly stewardship devotion with the women in your congregation. For more information go to <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/stewardship>

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

**WELCA SOUTHEASTERN IOWA
SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (SWO) BOARD**



President
Julie Leeper
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Des Moines, 50320
641-891-4527
julieleeper@yahoo.com



Vice President
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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Racial Justice Efforts, Southeastern Iowa Synod Pr. Erika Uthe 319-338-1273 uthe@seiasynod.org	Directions Newsletter Heidi Hotvedt 563-221-1410 hhotvedt@msn.com Dianne Strickler 563-422-8099 diann3strick@gmail.com

CLUSTER LEADERS

Cluster 1 Marilyn Greene 305 West 5th St Huxley, IA 50124 515-597-2265 mmgreene48@hughes.net	Cluster 2 Sandy Chandonia 209 N. East St Toledo, IA 52342 641-485-0360 Gma3g4b@outlook.com	Cluster 4 Vicki Adamson 13482 Ramsey Rd Anamosa, IA 52205 319-462-2096 vickia@relmach.com	Cluster 5 Dianne Strickler 401 ½ S. 2 nd Bellevue, IA 52031 563-422-8099 diann3strick@gmail.com
Cluster 6 Cindee Schneklath 21539 250th St Eldridge, IA 52748 563-320-7107 cindeeschneklath@gmail.com	Cluster 8 Deloras Stigge 11475 N Gear Ave Burlington, IA 52601 319-754-6997	Cluster 9 Anita Simmons 1117 D Ave Albia, IA 52531 641-932-7063 alsimmons@mchsi.com	Cluster 10/11 Lavon Heston 6300 School St, Apt 309 Windsor Heights, IA 50324 515 490 3074 lavonheston@msn.com

PLEASE HELP ME OUT!

As both the co-editor of the Directions and the SEIA SWO treasurer, I am asking for some assistance from all our church members/groups. So, if you get this newsletter, please get the following to Dianne Strickler:

1. Check your records for when you last renewed your subscription and if it is over a year ago, you need to send a renewal. I have a list of subscribers but think that this would be a help. Renewal forms for the Directions newsletter is on the next page. Note: one copy is sent to each church in the Synod, if you haven't seen it check with your church office/pastor/etc. for it.
2. I need contact information for the treasurers in our Synod Women's group/churches. I know some of you send offerings from the regular church accounts and many from WELCA groups. Name, address, emails, phone would all be nice to have.
3. Also, speaking for both Heidi and myself, we would like any ideas/suggestions you have on updating, improving, adding to the Directions newsletter. How to make it more relevant? What type of information do you want included? Our new format can be easily read online and emailed too! Are you interested in receiving it both in print and digitally?

Return Address:

Dianne Strickler
 401 ½ S. 2nd Street
 Bellevue, IA 52031
 Return Service Requested

NOTE TO CHURCHES: Please make this newsletter available to women in your congregation!

Directions Subscription Form

Cost is \$8.00 annually

Payable to: **SEIA Synod Women of the ELCA**

MAIL to: Dianne Strickler
 401 ½ S. 2nd Street
 Bellevue, IA 52031

If you are sending in a subscription for more than one person; or if you are a board or Cluster Leader renewing or new subscriber please put the information on a separate sheet of paper, with names and addresses.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip +4 _____

Phone _____ Church and Town _____

Email _____ Cluster _____