

WOMEN
of the
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America,
Nebraska Synodical
Women's Organization



Expressions

Hoins Elected to Two-Year Term as President

Ardith Hoins, Davenport, was elected president of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA, Saturday morning during the sixth biennial convention.

Other officers elected were Arlene Johnson, Shelby, vice president; Joan Berggren, Nebraska City, secretary; and JoAnn Rohrs, Auburn, treasurer.

Board Representatives were elected as follows: Central, Diane Langer, Osceola; High Plains, Kandy Pflaster, Cozad; Metro East, Trudy Hutton, Blair; Midlands, Beth Meyer, Fremont; Northeast, Judy Stahlecker, Spencer; Southeast, Rose Miller, Pickrell; and Southern Prairie, Lynn Echternkamp, Clay Center.

Attendance is 268

Registration, as of Saturday afternoon was 268 persons, including 100 delegates and four officers for a voting body of 104. There were seven other board members, seven conference coordinators, 10 agency representatives, 103 visitors, 34 guests and three clergy.



Stories of Quilts

Keynote speaker Jacqueline Tobin, Colorado teacher and author of women's stories talked about the research and discovery which went into her book, "Hidden in Plain View."

She learned from an African American woman selling quilts in the market at Charleston, N.C., of the meanings which various quilt patterns had to the slaves in the 19th century, and how they helped them negotiate the Underground Railroad.

Tobin urged the women present to write their own personal stories down. "Don't let them die," she said.

CW Exec Reports

Linda Post-Bushkofsky, who is executive director of churchwide Women of the ELCA, reported on two women's magazines available from churchwide.

She high-lighted an electronic magazine, *Café*, which is designed for women between 25 and 35.

On the other hand, she called *Lutheran Woman Today* "one of the best things Lutherans do," saying it had recently won 15 awards.

She said 80 percent of the Women of the ELCA \$3.2 million budget comes from offerings, and thanked the Nebraska Synod for sending offerings monthly.

Barnyard Filling Up

God's Global Barnyard, an ELCA World Hunger Appeal which supplies animals around the world, benefited from the tangible offering. By 6 p.m. Saturday, more than \$6,000 had been contributed.

Cost of the animals overseas is cow, \$500; pig, sheep or goat, \$100; fish farm, \$75; flock of chickens or ducks \$15, pair of rabbits \$10.

Braasch Leads Study

Vicar Cathy Braasch of Hope/Smithfield preached at Friday evening's worship and healing service and led Bible Study on Saturday morning.

Friday night she told stories of several bold women of faith in her congregation, some living and some who had already passed on to their reward.

"God is calling us," she said, to steadfast faith in action, to tell others what God has done for us and to invite them to come and see."

On Saturday, she explored the theme verse for the convention in its setting in 2nd Corinthians 3:1-6.

Paul was confident in the message, but realized he was not sufficient in himself, but God was at work in him, she said. "God is the source of sufficiency and competency."

Adopt Two Budgets

The Nebraska SWO adopted budgets for this year and next. The 2003 budget totals \$126,525 and the 2005 budget is for \$116,525.

Treasurer R. LaDene Rutt said the budgets were larger than the 2002 budget, but smaller than the one for 2001.

Convention Committee

Betsy Hansen of First/Fremont and Shirley Thomlinson of First/Kearney were co-chairmen for the convention. Other committee members were Ardith Hoins and Arlene Johnson

President's Challenge

In her president's message, Ardith Hoins challenged the units to rethink what they are doing to see how they can best fulfill the Women of the ELCA purpose to Mobilize... Act... Be Bold...'

She suggested that as well as asking themselves how they can get young women involved, they should also consider how to get the other women involved.

"Just because you invited a woman several years ago and she didn't come, doesn't mean you shouldn't re-invite her," Hoins said.

She suggested building relationships as a basis for helping other women know what we are about.

"Are you the same organization you were 10 years ago?" she asked. "Are you doing the same activities with the same members, or are you reaching out?"

Music of 'Celebration'

"Sounds of Celebration," which had been leading contemporary worship at First/Fremont for eight years, provided music for convention worship and business sessions.

It was composed of two singers, two guitar players, a pianist and a drummer.. Their purpose was not entertainment, but worship, they said.

Mission Offering

A total of \$5922.50 was received in the Mission Offering. It will be divided between churchwide and the Nebraska synod I.D.E.A. project.

Pajama Party Success

When T. Marni Voss arrived for her Saturday evening presentation and discovered her audience in pajamas, robes and sweats, she was not taken aback.. "Just give me a few minutes," she said, and was quickly back in her own pajamas.

For the next hour she had the audience laughing, even when she got to some basically serious advice about how to live life:

- When you say goodbye, say it well, even if you expect to see the person the next day. Tell them how you feel about them.
- Do not spend time with people you do not care for, or doing things you don't want to do.
- Spend some time alone with your thoughts.
- Forgiveness is not an option.
- Enjoy.

After dining on typical slumber party food, the convention crowd was treated to a showing of "The Sound of Music," with officers and others mimicking the roles of the main characters and everybody invited to sing along on the familiar songs.

Greetings from Others

Greetings were read from the Companion Synods in Argentina and Northern Tanzania, and from Pacifica Synod, our companion in the United States.

Bringing greetings in person were Pat Neuhauser of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Missouri Synod, and Juanita Diaz of Church Women United.