



AR-OK Women of the ELCA

Winter 2015 Newsletter
(January-February)

AR-OK WELCA President's Message

Greetings Ladies, I hope everyone has had a joyous Christmas and will have many Blessings in the New Year.

When assigned a topic for the Board members for the Newsletter, I let the Spirit take control. I am applying one of the same topics to my message.

The board meeting in November is for outgoing and new Board members to exchange paperwork, thumb drives and encouragement for those outgoing to share pearls with new members. Other parts of agenda include picking the Spring Gathering and Fall Convention themes and Bible verses. We always start our meetings with Devotion and for the last two years that is where ideas for themes have been generated. It is the Spirit there guiding and inspiring us and our creativity. Our Spring Gathering was a typing error on my part but it just seemed to fit. Technology is great and everyone's phone came out as we went searching for bible Verse our Gathering Trainer could work with. It is so wonderful to see the Board bounce verses around until the best fit is found.

Then when we started on the Fall Convention theme certain key words jumped out at us during the Devotions done by Jane Nelson. Some of the words have been used in past conventions so the ideas started flowing again (I believe the Spirit was there again). The Devotions did include various Bible verses and we felt they just were not the right one, so the hunt was on again, out came phones, and a Bible.

So not to keep you in suspense, the Spring Gathering Theme – "God's Living Water - Panning for Souls", with the Bible Verse Proverbs 11:25. The Fall Convention Theme – "Spiritual Hydration", with the Bible Verse I Corinthians 10:4.

I can't wait for everyone to enjoy both those themes.

It is so gratifying to see the Board take ownership of this important task for the Women of this Synod. The bonds that form at these meetings are so cherished by all.

Also at this meeting I received a resignation from Penny Budzien who is prayerfully and strongly considering running for President in the fall. Keep her in your prayers. I have appointed Betsy Borseth to fill out the board member-at-large/Mission Discipleship term. We are still looking for a Conference V Representative, please prayerfully consider.

As this New Year begins we look forward to completing tasks unfinished but more exciting starting new project some shared some individual but always know God is by your side guiding and sharing that journey with you. In some areas your Sisters in Christ are also walking with you encouraging supporting and always there to listen, so reach out and share your gifts with one another.

In God's Love, Joy and Peace,



Board Meeting November 2014, photos by Penny Budzien

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Thoughts from outgoing Vice President, Ellen Gifford



What an amazing experience this has been. I had no idea what I was really committing to but what a delight when I look back. The highlight has to be the Region 4 Presidents and Vice Presidents retreat in New Orleans, LA. I had never been to NOLA so I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the sights, even the 9th Ward where Hurricane Katrina hit. The restoration was still going on. Sharing experiences with other Christian ladies is wonderful, too.

It was fun meeting other AR board members and conference reps along I40 and travelling to Oklahoma. I especially enjoyed travelling to the sites of our Fall conventions where the board meetings were held. I could not attend the conventions since I always celebrate my Mom's birthday at the end of each September. She turned 103 this past September 28, 2014.

Our President, Sophia Carr, hosted many meetings and I got to sleep in the "Lavender Room".

It was wonderful to see how quickly the board came up with the Bible Study themes for Springs Gatherings and Fall Conventions. They were always "spot on".

I wish our new Vice President, Carol Beck, all the best and thank everyone for letting me be your Vice President from 2010 thru 2014. I will never forget the spirit-filled ladies within the AR/OK SWO.

God's Blessings to All,
Ellen Gifford

Thank you for supporting me for the last 4 years as treasurer. I have greatly enjoyed this time. I have met many of you and began friendships with you. You have all enriched my life, and blessed me. I would also like to thank all the unit treasurers for all their work, and all of you for all your work to help and support the ministry of the Women of the ELCA.

I would encourage everyone to pray and think about being on the board. This is a great group of women, we laugh, share, pray, and work.

Thank you all again, and I will miss the women on the board. Michelle Staedeli



AR/OK SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION BOARD

It has been a great pleasure to serve on AR/OK SWO board. When I found the need to leave the board it was with sadness that I turned in my resignation. Being a part of this sisterhood in Christ has been a great experience. I have learned many things, made friends, and shared many different experiences, The Triennial Gatherings (Spokane Washington & Charlotte North Carolina) Co-Chairing the convention in Shawnee OK, just to name a few.

I do hope that I might be called to serve on this board in the near future. So it is with Peace and Blessings that I leave the board, and many thanks for allowing me to serve on the AR/OK SWO board. Penny Budzien



Message from your new Vice President, Carol Beck

I felt called to serve on the Board of the AR/OK SWO. I accepted the nomination for the office of Vice President and was elected at the fall 2014 convention. I have previously served as in a mission position, treasurer and Conference III Representative. I gave up the position of treasurer of Bartlesville Church Women United to join the SWO Board. (My new philosophy: if I take on something I must give up something). I am currently serving as Vice President of the Washington County School Supply Drive (We supply 2500 student with supplies and backpacks), President elect of Pilot Club of Dewey, and Secretary/Treasurer of Our Savior Lutheran's WELCA unit. I also attend two Moms in Prayer groups and deliver nutrition project meals one day a week. I retired last fall from as an adjunct instructor for Rogers State University. I will be babysitting more for my two grandchildren and my husband and I have several trips planned. My hobbies include exercising, books on CD and web-surfing. One of my duties as vice president is to chair the nominating committee. This year the positions open or up for election are President, Secretary, Conferences I, II, III and V, Mission Justice and Mission Discipleship. Thankfully we have some women who have expressed interest in serving in several positions. However if you or someone you know would be interested in serving, please contact me or Debra Big Eagle.

Peace be to all,
Carol Beck



My name is Betsy Borseth.

My family recently moved to Oklahoma from Alabama. I am originally from Minneapolis, MN. My husband is the Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

We have three boys; Nathan 16, Andrew 13 and Peter 12.

I have participated in the Lutheran women's organizations through my life. I have been blessed in my participation in these groups. I have been encouraged in my journey, challenged in my faith and loved in my weakness.

It is a pleasure to serve on the AR/OK Synodical Board.



Hello! My name is Theda Hall and I am the newly elected Treasurer of the AR/OK Synod.

I am very humbled to be the keeper and dispenser of the AR/OK Synodical Women's monies and serve on the board all with the help of God. (Michelle, I may be asking lots of questions.)

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I was born in Oklahoma City, then, my family moved to Fayetteville, AR when I was in the ninth grade. I graduated from high school and attended one year of college at the University of Arkansas. From there, I moved to Rolla, MO, where I met and married Robert, the love of my life (we will celebrate our 50th anniversary this Sept). He graduated with a civil engineering degree and his first job was in Owensboro, KY. From there, he was transferred to Monroe, LA where I went back to school and graduated from N E Louisiana University (now called University of Louisiana at Monroe) with a B.A. in Accounting.

One day in January 1975, a friend called Robert and asked him if he was interested in working as an engineer on the Alaskan Pipeline. On April 1st (no joke), he left for the frozen north. I joined him in Dec of that year after I graduated. We made a 7 yr commitment to stay in Alaska. Some 34 years later, we remembered that commitment and began making plans to retire. Alaska is a beautiful and pristine state and still has many opportunities for everyone and is a slice of heaven. But, as we contemplated retirement, we knew we wanted to be closer to family. We chose N W Arkansas as another slice of heaven. Robert has a sister in Springfield, MO and I have a sister and brother living in Fayetteville and Springdale, respectively. And, I have to admit the real reason we chose this area. We have two darling great nieces and two sweet great nephews. It so happens that one great niece and the two great nephews are also our god kids and they are all from the same family. The god kids are Olivia (9 yrs); Keegan (5 yrs); and Tobias (2 yrs). The other great niece is Tesa (12 yrs) and is a true athlete, excelling in basketball, soccer and softball. (You probably know by now, that we do not have any children; but have lots of god kids ---some are in their 30's & 40's.)

While Robert was engineering in Alaska, I was involved with accounting. About 25 yrs ago, I decided to establish my own business; so I started out with one client (whom I still have) and quickly found my services were in demand. Right before we retired (?), two of my clients asked me to continue to work with them. So, that is why I go to Alaska in January of every year to help them with all their year-end work. It gives me a chance to visit with friends and past clients, too.

At United Lutheran Church, I am VP of our Church Council, Treasurer of WELCA & serve on the Social Ministry Team. I am involved with ESA (Epsilon Sigma Alpha-a non-collegiate service organization) whose main philanthropic endeavors are St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Easter Seals along with many local chapter projects. This will be my 43rd year with ESA. I also try to play bridge at least three times a month. And, of course, try to schedule as much time as possible with those three precious god kids. And, every year, we take a vacation to Destin, FL with my family.

As I mentioned, Robert is a retired engineer and his passion is numismatics—coin collecting. He has been doing this ever since he was a young teenager. He goes to the national shows as well as all the local shows and works three days a week at a coin shop.

We are so grateful for the life we live and thank God for his many blessings and I look forward to serving on the AR/OK Women's Synodical Board.

After Feb 1st, 2015, please send your **contributions** and **vouchers** to
Theda Hall, 55 Dunsford Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72701



Conference II - Central Oklahoma

5 years ago St. John built a new building, with that came a mortgage. With a smaller congregation, some of the ladies decided to form the Kitchen Krew to help contribute funds towards the mortgage. On the first Friday of month, the ladies prepare a Fabulous Feast, which is served from 11:30 am - 6:30 pm. We have gotten "famous" for our pulled pork meal. This consists of pulled pork, potato salad, slaw, roll, dessert and drink. Other months have Chicken & Dumplings, Beef Stew, Chili and Stuffed Big Bake Potatoes. Our busiest month is November, when we prepare a Thanksgiving meal of Turkey (16 birds) dressing, mash and sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, roll, dessert and drink. All of our meals are all you can eat for \$8.00 for adults. The congregation helps out by supplying the desserts.

We all know that Lutheran ladies are good cooks, so this is an ideal way to bring funds to your church!

Blessing to you....
Debra Big Eagle

*Each one should use whatever gift she has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God's grace in it's various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10

Conference III - Eastern Oklahoma

I enjoyed seeing my sisters in Christ at our annual Spring Gathering Planning meeting. We met at Joy Lutheran in Tulsa, Oklahoma, last Saturday. Susan Humphrey led the training in an entertaining way with music and verse. Theme: God's Living Water. Bible verse: Proverbs 11:25.

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bartlesville, OK, will install their pastor, Janai Robinson, Sunday, February 15, 2015, 3:00 PM.

Conference III Spring Gathering is scheduled April 11, 2015, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Bartlesville, OK. Registration starts at 8:30 AM. In-kind offering for Oaks Mission: bottled water.

With God's guidance, Lutheran women will continue to serve and support those in need within their communities and the World.

God's love, peace, and understanding to you all.
Norma Zor
Conference III

Member-at-large/Mission Justice

It is fun serving on the Synod WELCA Board -- participating in planning the Conventions, Spring Gathering themes and deciding on charities to benefit from WELCA funds are some of the activities. The best part is meeting women from around the synod who serve on the board and learning something from all of them. One of the other highlights for me is putting together this newsletter. It comes out three times a year: Winter - after the planning meeting, Spring - after the Conference Gatherings, and Fall - after the Synod Convention.

Editing is a very simple task with MS Publisher, Carrie Nix the previous editor gave me copies of her last issues to use as a template, and helped me through the first issue. If you haven't used Publisher, but are familiar with Word, it is a snap to learn. Documents, photos, and PDF files can all be just dropped into place in the newsletter, or you can write text directly into it. Then you convert to an easy to mail PDF file and send it out! (If you have a different publishing program -- then you know that would work as well. I've only used .pub)

When my term is up in October, the Editor position will be open. If you think you would like to take on this task and have any questions, feel free to ask me. It is not an elected position, it is also possible to be editor without being on the board. Being on the board, however, makes it much easier to "be in the loop". (Any position on the board would do). So consider, pray and volunteer! Transition might be easiest if my last newsletter is the post-convention Fall edition, we could do it jointly so you'd get the knack. Your first newsletter would be a year from now!

May God strengthen you to follow your calling,
Judy Nybeck

Malaria Campaign Update

Happy New Year to all! 2015 will be the last year of fund raising for the ELCA malaria campaign. The goal is \$15 million dollars and right now the ELCA has raised a little over \$13 million. In the AR/OK Synod we have raised over \$265,000. I have set a goal for our synod to raise \$35,000 this year so we can reach a goal of having raised \$400,000. I hope you who read this (or pass it on to the appropriate member of your congregation) will plan a fund raising event in your congregation. Please let me know of any events you plan and money raised. I would like to share it with other congregations.

Our donations are making a difference! In a weeklong workshop earlier this year, the malaria program taught dozens of youth participants, in the country of Malawi, to do just that: to create a well-composed message about malaria prevention and control, and to get that message to the masses. The youth learned to use song, drama and dance to capture the attention of a crowd and to relay important, even life-saving messages: Malaria is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Malaria is preventable. You can choose behaviors that keep your family safe.

“The use of dramas, poems, songs and traditional dances can play a major role in the fight against malaria because many people will be reached at one time, and people will be entertained while getting the message concerning the problem.”

Thank you for all the work you have done for the Malaria Campaign!

Diane Bloodworth
A/OK World Hunger
Malaria Campaign Chair

P.S. If WELCA Units want to be recognized for their contribution to the Malaria Fund it has to go through the AR/OK Synod WELCA, Treasurer. (address on page 4), Peace, Sophia Carr

Oaks Indian Mission



How You Can Help the Oaks Indian Mission

PRAY

James 5:16 tells us “the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective.” Please pray for the children in our care, our staff, and for those who support us. Without the fervent prayers of the believers who support us, we would not be able to achieve our goals in caring for God’s children in Oklahoma and the surrounding states who so desperately need us.

ASK YOUR CHURCH TO BE INVOLVED

There is an opportunity for your congregation, as a church body, to serve in helping the needy children of the Oaks Indian Mission. Please be an advocate for the Mission and encourage your church to unify to serve in some capacity whether financially, physically or in prayer.

(information from <http://oaksindianmission.org/>)

Attention Thrivent members...please remember Oaks Indian Mission when you make your Thrivent Choice designations. We are most appreciative of every dollar and thank you for these gifts.

They make our ministry and the care of our children possible.

Thanks, Susan Humphrey

ARKANSAS/OKLAHOMA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

2014-2015 Board

(Terms: October 1 – September 30, years listed,
Except Treasurer's Term)

BOARD OFFICERS			
President (Conference II)		SOPHIA CARR 11200 S INDIAN MERIDIAN RD NEWALLA, OK 74857-8968 Term 2013-2015	Home: (405) 386-2622 Cell: (405) 821-0863 Email: srcarr@mcloudteleco.com Ascension Lutheran, Del City, OK
Vice-President (Conference III)		CAROL BECK 453 CHISHOLM CIRCLE BARTLESVILLE, OK 74006 Term 2014-2016	Home: (918) 335-0705 Cell: (918)766-3157 Email: mrsbeck@gmail.com Our Savior, Bartlesville, OK
Secretary (Conference III)		ANN AMBLE 2557 CHAPEL HILL ROAD BARTLESVILLE, OK 74006 Term 2013-2015	Home: (no line) Cell: (757) 646-9877 Email: ambledale@yahoo.com Our Savior, Bartlesville, OK
Treasurer (Conference IV)		THEDA HALL 55 DUNSFORD DR BELLA VISTA, AR 72715 Term Feb. 1, 2015 -Jan. 31, 2017	Home: (479) 715-6841 Cell: (479) 899-3044 Email: tlhent@aol.com United Lutheran, Bella Vista, AR
BOARD MEMBERS			
Western Oklahoma Rep. (Conference I)		(Open) Are you called?	Home: Cell: Email:
Central Oklahoma Rep. (Conference II)		DEBRA BIG EAGLE 16311 ARCHERY RANGE SHAWNEE, OK Term 2013-2015	Home: (no line) Cell: (405) 585-7778 email: grammiesage@sbcglobal.net St John Lutheran, Shawnee, OK
Eastern Oklahoma Rep. (Conference III)		NORMA ZOR 224 E ZION PL TULSA, OK 74106-3709 Term 2014-2016	Home: (918) 630-9752 Cell: (918) 630-9752 Email: nrmzor1@gmail.com Prince of Peace, Tulsa, OK
Western AR/Ozark Rep. (Conference IV)		JANE NELSON 1 SYSTON LANE BELLA VISTA, AR 72714 Term 2014-2016	Home: 479-855-2745 Cell: 479-855-2745 Email: wallybv@cox.net United Lutheran, Bella Vista, AR
Mid-Arkansas Rep. (Conference V)		(Open) Are you called?	Home: Cell: Email:
Mission Justice (Conference II) (Newsletter Editor)		JUDY NYBECK 308 BRENTWOOD DRIVE EDMOND, OK 73013 Term 2013-2015	Home: (405) 330-8730 Cell: (405) 824-1955 Email: pjnybeck@aol.com Lord of Life Lutheran, Edmond, OK
Mission Stewardship (Conference II)		JOYCE "JO" WALKER 17302 DRUMMOND RD. SHAWNEE, OK 74801 Term 2014-2016	Home: (405) 590-8267 Cell: (405) 517-5493 Email: spiritbear4861@gmail.com St John Lutheran, Shawnee, OK
Mission Discipleship (Conference II)		BESTY BORSETH 2110 BENTHAM WAY YUKON, OK 73099 Term 2015 (partial)	Home: (612) 247-2543 Cell: (612) 247-2543 Email: borseth@usfamily.net Resurrection Lutheran, Yukon, OK
❖ Trainer/Spring Gathering ❖ Trainer/Conference Reps (Conference III)		SUSAN HUMPHREY 11519 S HUDSON AVENUE TULSA, OK 74137-8106	Home: (no line) Cell: (918) 695-4045 Email: dabblers54@gmail.com Joy Lutheran, Tulsa, OK

AmazonSmile

Debra Big Eagle told us at the last board meeting about another way to donate to Oaks Indian Mission. It is one of the charities available at AmazonSmile.

“AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support. “ (from their website. Judy N)

Gather magazine is now available in a digital format on their website and for iPad and Android tablets and smartphones. Visit gathermagazine.org to view the online digital version or download the App for your phone or tablet.

You must be a print subscriber to access the full Magazine digitally. To view the magazine online or on your tablet, you’ll use the subscriber ID number found on your address label.



(I downloaded the Gather App for my phone from Google PlayStore-- and can now catch up on reading during the lunch hour! Judy N.)



Daily Grace is now available for your android device as well as your Apple Devices, available free at Google Play or iTunes, or receive the message via email by signing up at eepurl.com

Daily Grace offers Faith Reflections. In these brief writings you’ll encounter God’s extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace.

Something missing that
you would you like to see
In the next newsletter ?

...email your articles,
ideas and comments to:

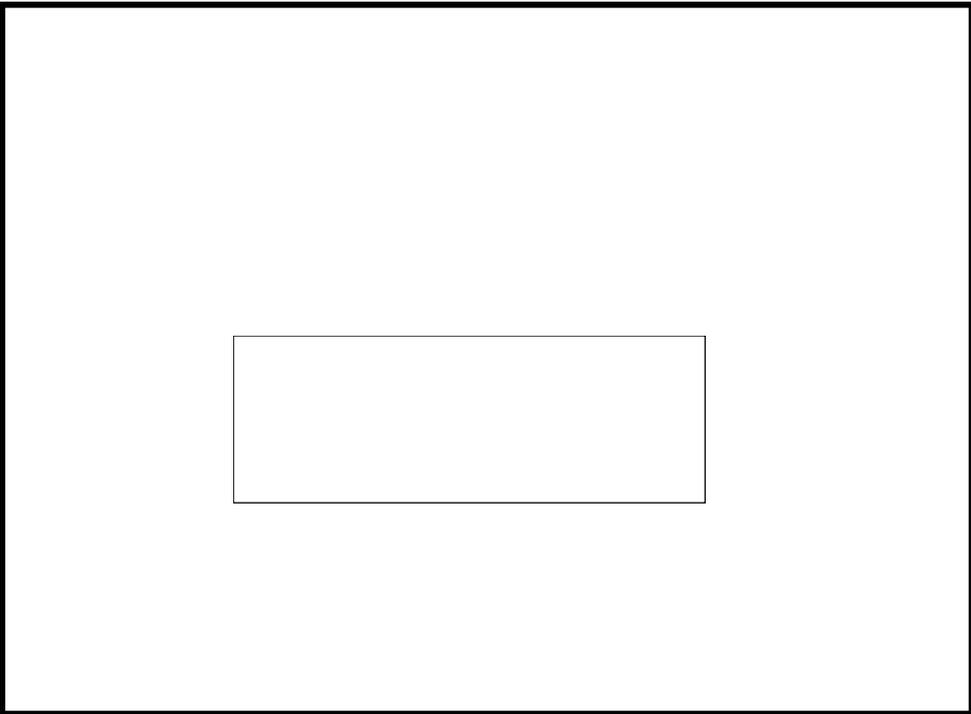
pjnybeck@aol.com

(or letter mail address on pg.7—Judy Nybeck)

Spring Training Meeting
Joy Lutheran , Tulsa, OK
January 17, 2015



Spring Training photos by Judy Nybeck



AR/OK Women of the ELCA

2015 Spring Gatherings

- Conference II: St. Mark, Midwest City, April 11
- Conference III: Our Savior, Bartlesville, April 11
- Conference IV: United, Bella Vista, April 18
- Conference V: Prince of Peace, Hot Springs, April 25

2015 CONVENTION

**Conference IV Host
October 2 - 4, 2015**

Good Shepherd Lutheran, Fayetteville, AR
Oma Blackwell & Sharon Walker,
Convention Co-Chairs



**Visit the
WELCA
website...
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information, ideas, news
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