



# *The Oregon Grapevine*

*Oregon Synodical Women's Organization*

*Volume 25, No. 3 - August 2011*

*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.*

## **Women of the ELCA**

### **Mission Statement:**

***"TO MOBILIZ WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST."***

### **Oregon SWO Mission Statement:**

***To promote spiritual growth through faith in Jesus Christ.***

***Please don't throw me away or stick me in a file! Take me apart, copy me! Share me with your friends. Your editor and I thank you.***



**Greetings from your Grapevine**

**Editor:**

**I hope this finds you enjoying the final stretch of summer. Fall will be here before you know it.**

**If you're like me, your calendar days are full with various functions and commitments. This summer for me its been two family reunions, a wonderful vacation to Utah to see Zion National Park & Brice Canyon and three weddings.**

**As we approach fall, please take a look at what the women are up to in this issue of the Grapevine.**

**You'll find triennial reports, SWO Convention Registration and Nomination forms and the conventions key note speakers bio. If you haven't signed up for the convention in Newport, there is still time to do so. It's not too late!**

**Please share and pass Grapevine editions on so many can be informed, not just a few.**

**Blessings to each and everyone of you as we soon say goodbye to summer and greet a new Fall season.**

**Becky Smith,  
Grapevine Editor**

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October 7, 2009 to October, 2011**

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# Presidents Message



I hope this finds all of you enjoying our summer. It seems like the warm weather and sunshine would never arrive, but the Lord in his infinite wisdom and grace has provided us with some amazing days. While our rain never seemed like it would end, many of us have been very fortunate with our health, families, communities and weather. My daily prayer is that those of you who are struggling that the Lord be with you always and that he lead and guide you to better days.

The SWO Board continues the process of planning and organizing events and activities that fulfill our mission as active, bold women of the ELCA. We continue to “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.” We would love to hear what your unit is planning, has carried out, or needs help with. I personally have heard from some of you and look forward to hearing from many more units and fellow sisters in Christ.

The Triennial Gathering in Spokane July 14-17<sup>th</sup> was a wonderful time for a renewal of faith, rejoicing and responding with approximately 2000 sisters in Christ from all over the United States and many other countries. Be sure to read Margrethe Farnstrom and Nancy Kingston article about the Convention and Gathering later in this issue.

In closing I would like to remind you that the Oregon Synodical Women’s Biennial Convention is in Newport, Oregon from September 30 – October 2. The board is busy finalizing plans for an informational, rewarding, faith filled weekend. Check out the article that appears in this issue.

May the Lord Bless you and yours,  
Sonja Hoffman

### ***In Memoriam***

*Naoma Lee passed away on Thursday, August 18, 2011. She served God, her church and the SWO board as Treasurer. She will be greatly missed by her sisters in Christ. A celebration of life will be held on August 27 at 1:pm at St Stephens Lutheran in Gladstone, OR. Please keep her family in your prayers.*



# NOTES AND CENTS

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I would like to say "THANKS" for your generous giving of offerings. Oregon is blessed for having so many selfless Women Of The ELCA Units.

I have listed below Units that have sent in offerings from 9-1-10 through 7-31-11.

FIRST - Astoria	CALVARY - Hillsboro
PEACE - Pendleton	ST. MARK - Salem
OUR SAVIOURS - Lebanon	ZION - La Grande
TRINITY - Dallas	TRINITY - McMinnville
TRINITY - Tulelake, CA	HOPE - Klamath Falls
SPRINGFIELD - Springfield	CENTRAL - Portland
EMMANUEL - Willamina	CHRIST THE KING - Milton-Freewater
IMMANUEL - Woodburn	ST. LUKE - Portland
OUR SAVIOR'S - Lake Oswego	TRINITY - Gresham
KLAMATH - Klamath Falls	CENTRAL - Eugene
PORTSMOUTH TRINITY - Portland	ST. JAMES - Portland
THE GOOD SHEPHERD - Eugene	FIRST - St. Helens
OUR SAVIOR'S - Prineville	ZION - Redmond
GETHSEMANE - Portland	UNITED - Eugene
IMMANUEL - Silverton	NEW LIFE - Florence
ASCENSION - Medford	EMANUEL - Cornelius
FIRST IMMANUEL - Portland	EMMAUS - Eugene
MILWAUKIE - Milwaukie	ZION - Oregon City
ZOAR - Canby	GOOD SHEPHERD - Cave Junction
ZION - The Dalles	FAITH - North Bend

If your Unit has given an offering and you are not listed, please contact me.

**Registration is open for the 2011 Convention in Newport.** You will note that the fee for sending a delegate is lower this year. We hope that this will help with delegate travel expenses along with the travel funds we returned to units.

The OSWO books are always open for questions/review.

Your Sister In Christ,

*Marcia*

Marcia McClanahan/OSWO Treasurer

503-659-3440 or mcclanahan001@comcast.net



## Unit Information

Please remember to send all changes in unit leadership to the Synodical secretary, Gloria McCuchen, PO Box 23352, Eugene, Oregon 97402; 541-344-1969, cell: 541-515-9175; [glojmc@yahoo.com](mailto:glojmc@yahoo.com). The SWO board keeps a roster of units and contact information and we try to have that be as up-to-date as possible. Send the name of either the president or other designated contact person, along with her complete mailing address, phone number(s) and email information. Don't forget to include the name and address of the congregation.

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## Grapevine

Any unit who would like to receive the Grapevine electronically should also be listed. For these, just the name and email address are sufficient. Any women in your unit who would like to have her own copy may send her email address to **Sonja Hoffman** at [queensoj@comcast.net](mailto:queensoj@comcast.net).

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### Grapevine Subscription Blank

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**New**     **Renewal**  
Subscriptions by mail are \$8.00 for 2 years.  
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Make checks payable to Oregon SWO

**Send To: Marcia McClanahan**  
**11895 SE Kehrli Dr.**  
**Milwaukee OR 97222**

# Triennial Reports: Convention



Report from the Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA  
Nancy Kingston, Delegate  
Spokane, WA  
July 12 – July 14

Three delegates, Sonja Hoffman (Synodical president), Margrethe Farnstrom and Nancy Kingston (elected delegates) arrived in Spokane on Monday, July 11, anxious to learn about our organization and have an impact on the next three years' activities. Our other two elected delegates were unable to attend.

Rather than make this report too lengthy, please consider going to the website [www.elca.org/Growing in Faith/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial Convention and Gathering](http://www.elca.org/Growing in Faith/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial Convention and Gathering). On the website, you will see photos, reports of the business meetings and highlights of the speakers.

The newly elected president is an enthusiastic, faith-filled woman from Pensacola, FL. Her name is Jennifer Michaels. The 17 member board was also elected along with a vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Our Region One was lucky enough to have three board members elected, but none from Oregon. They are Sandy Lange, Montana, Phyllis Rude, Alaska and Ely Smith, Tacoma WA.

A \$2.3 million budget was adopted. That is \$110,000 less than the 2011 budget. The staff and elected members of our Churchwide WELCA are certainly making every effort to make our funds stretch without losing the important programs that we all support.

Presiding Bishop, Mark Hanson, addressed the convention. He thanked the women of the ELCA for its leadership of the whole church and shared the state of the ELCA and its challenges. Several memorials and resolutions were passed. Again, they can be found on the website if you are interested.

Our thanks for your confidence in us, as we worked to represent all of the women of the ELCA from Oregon.



# Triennial Reports: Gathering

Some thoughts from the Gathering that followed the convention.

The idea expressed by our new president, Jenny Michaels, portrayed that the Holy Spirit's presence with us was felt throughout the event. I share that feeling as well.

The speakers, worship services, and workshops were truly inspiring.

We had the opportunity to view the "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" film. This documentary tells of Leymah Gbowee taking a stand for peace and organizing the women in Liberia to end the fourteen years of civil war and violence through prayer and silent protest, some on the steps of the presidential palace. She was one of the speakers and challenged us to reclaim our space by identifying wrong. God is calling us to speak up in this upside down world where evil is good and good is evil. "He who called you will equip you."

Nora Gallagher shared her thoughts and feelings when she almost went blind. Her minister advised her to stick to what is real now, not to look to the past or the future. Every day she spent time by a creek where she learned about herself. She came to realize what she was missing was God and prayer and grace filling the void. "Jesus may not look strong but it will suffice."

Camp Dianoigo (meaning to rouse in a person understanding and the desire of learning) was the area for shopping, experiencing new ministries, and working together through servant opportunities.

Women brought \$10,420 in gift cards and 11,160 minutes of phone cards to Transitions, a Spokane-area organization that works to end homelessness and poverty for women and children. They were also given 600 health kits and hundreds of school supplies. Fifty-eight clothing support kits, nearly 800 bags of socks and 2,225 prayer shawls went to Lutheran Community Services Northwest for distribution to Spokane-area hospitals. The clothes and prayer shawls are given to women and children affected by rape and domestic violence. Eighty quilts were completed for Lutheran World Relief during the gathering.

Over 360 participants in the Run, Walk and Roll event gathered \$18,515 in support of the health initiative of WELCA. The Thankoffering service offering was \$41,790. Other offering totals were not available.

We learned that, beginning with the September issue, *Lutheran Woman Today* will now have the title of *Gather*. This will allow women from other denominations to enjoy the award-winning magazine without it suggesting that it is specifically for Lutheran women.

The next Triennial convention and gathering will be in Charlotte, N.C. in July, 2014. Please visit [www.elca.org/Growing in Faith/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial Convention and Gathering](http://www.elca.org/Growing_in_Faith/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial_Convention_and_Gathering) for additional details.



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!



# Rejoice!

Luke 1: 47     "...and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

## **Women of the ELCA**

### **Oregon Synodical Organization**

#### **Tenth Biennial Convention**

**Best Western Agate Beach Inn, Newport, Oregon**

**September 30, 2011 - October 2, 2011**

*The SWO board invites you to join your Synodical sisters for bible study, music, entertainment, learning opportunities, speakers, and guests. Our keynote speaker and one of our workshop leaders will be Kathy Slamp. You can read more about Kathy in a separate article in this Grapevine.*

*Virginia Eggert ordained pastor and our 2010 representative to the Polish Womens' Forum will be our bible study leader and chaplain. She will also be presenting information about her trip.*

*The breakout sessions will include: Dealing with Clutter; Accessing WELCA resources on the Web; Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality: Justice and Equality for All; Poland through the eyes of Virginia Eggert and Anna Pinkas; our Polish Guest; and Kathy Slamp's workshop.*

*On Friday evening we hope that we will be able to show the documentary, Pray the Devil Back to Hell (see Triennial Gathering article) which will be followed by fellowship and a vesper service.*

*We will again be holding a Silent Auction to benefit Our Polish Exchange program . We need items or gift baskets for the auction. Come on ladies put your heads together and bring us a wonderful item . We can use all sort of things. **GIFT BASKETS CAN BE SIMPLE TO EXTRA FANCIED I AM SURE YOU CAN COME UP WITH A GREAT IDEA..** We look forward to seeing them all.*

*Fill out the registration form that follows, make your room reservations and join us for a weekend of rejoicing in the Lord. See you there!!*

OREGON WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
**Tenth BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
September 30 -October 2, 2011  
Best Western Agate Beach Inn - Newport, Oregon

# NON-DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ CLUSTER \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration and full payment of \$125.00 is due by August 30, 2011**  
Fee includes meals for Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

**Please make housing reservations directly with the hotel.**  
(See separate page for hotel information.)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check made payable to Oregon SWO and mail to: Marcia McClanahan, Registrar  
11895 SE Kehrli Drive  
Milwaukie, OR 97222  
503-659-3440

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**\$10 fee for cancellations**

**No reimbursement after September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Registration may be transferred - send a friend**

**COPY FORM AS NEEDED**

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**Oregon Synodical Women of the ELCA NOMINATIONS FORM**  
**Officers and Board 2011**  
**To serve October 2011 to October 2013**

**NOMINATED FOR (Circle one):**

President      Vice President      Secretary      Treasurer      Board Member

**Name of Nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregational Unit/Cluster:** \_\_\_\_\_

(The following information is needed to help us in filling our openings per Churchwide By-laws.)

**AGE RANGE:** under 25 \_\_\_\_\_ 26-35 \_\_\_\_\_ 36-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 51-65 \_\_\_\_\_ 65+ \_\_\_\_\_

**RACE:** American Indian: \_\_\_\_\_ African American: \_\_\_\_\_ Asian: \_\_\_\_\_

Pacific Islander: \_\_\_\_\_ Caucasian: \_\_\_\_\_

Please use reverse side to provide information about your most current activities in your local unit of Women of the ELCA, your congregation, Synod, community, and your work history.

If you are elected to a Synodical office, you are required to vacate any other office you may be holding at the local or cluster level. If you are working on a specific project, you must vacate when the project is complete.

I do hereby consent to having my name submitted as a nominee, and if elected, I will accept the responsibilities of the office to which I am elected.

**Nominee's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Person Submitting form:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail by July 1, 2011 to:**

**Gloria McCuchen**  
**PO Box 23352**  
**Eugene, OR 97402**

(please complete other side)

Copy form as needed

**2011 Officer or Board Nomination Page 2**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please list last five years:

**WELCA Unit Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Congregational Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Synod Activity (Church or WELCA):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Community Activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Vocational History (if retired, list previous work experience):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Special Gifts/Interests/Strengths to Share:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Biennial Convention Keynote Speaker



## ***Kathy Slamp***

If you're looking for someone who is refreshing and real, Kathy Slamp is that person. In 2001, Kathy resigned her position with the public schools, took a giant step of faith, "got out of the boat," and began *Vessel Ministries*. Since then, her speaking has taken her coast to coast where she speaks to groups of all sizes and many different denominations. During this time, she has written and published eleven books and produced two professional DVDs. Kathy's down-to-earth sincerity and sense of humor endear her to audiences wherever she goes. Her spiritual depth and life experiences make her someone with whom people easily relate.

Kathy was raised in Alaska, and during the summers, she uses her knowledge of Alaska where she serves as the on board naturalist for a major cruise line. Each week she makes four presentations in the ship's theatre, as well as narrating from the bridge when the ship visits glaciers, spots whales, etc. On the ship, she speaks to thousands of individuals from every country in the world.

Kathy taught public school in seven different states and at all levels (K - college); she also served as a high school assistant principal. Kathy was raised in a pastor's home, and she is married to Dr. David A. Slamp, a pastor in Oregon. They have two grown children--a married son in Washington State and a daughter in New York City. They have two grandsons.

Through her speaking and writing, Kathy inspires and challenges her audiences to grasp the basic and vital Biblical concept: We are all chosen to carry this amazing treasure: Christ in you is the hope of glory. As Christians in this world, God chooses to use each and everyone of us as His vessels!

### ***Education:***

B.A. in Education, NW Nazarene University  
M.Ed., Washington State University  
Admin. Certificate, W. Texas A & M University

# Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality

The 2011 training of existing and new women for Women of the ELCA's anti-racism network, Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality (TDTR) will be at Seabeck Conference Center on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. This training is only for Synods 1A through 3D or 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the churchwide organization. Training in the past has been for all of churchwide. This will be our only chance to train new women for three years.

Therefore, the SWO board is looking for women who would like to attend this training. Do you have an interest /sensitivity in racial reconciliation and racial justice? Do you have organizational skills and would you be willing to share your knowledge and training with units and groups in our synod. This is a three year commitment. If you are an ELCA anti-racism educator you can also be a TDTR member.

All housing, meals and air transportation during the training event are covered by churchwide. Your ground transportation from home to the airport and from the airport to the training site will be covered by SWO. If you choose to drive from your home to the training site churchwide will reimburse mileage but not meals eaten on the road. There is a possibility that SWO could reimburse for those meals.

There is a September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for nominations. If you would like to be considered or are interested, please contact

Sonja Hoffman at 503-282-8119 or by email [queensonj@comcast.net](mailto:queensonj@comcast.net). My address is also listed with the Board member information on page 2 of this issue and you can send me a note. If you are not interested, but you know a women in your church or another ELCA church who might be **please** pass this information along. You do not need to be an official/affirmed church unit to participate in SWO activities.

