



February 2018

As all of you know, technology changes – constantly! Hadn't realized the technology changes with our November/December issue of Pacifica Partners until the January issue came out and women were asking how to print. So here is a bit of explanation that I hope will help.

When you open the email with the newsletter, you are actually reading the newsletter on the internet. There are links to various parts of our web site. For instance in my article the links are bolded and if you hover your mouse over them, they will become underlined and the hand will appear that you can click and you will be at the indicated spot on our website. If you are on the email list for Pacifica Synod, you will be getting the Pacifica News and Notes and they do exactly the same thing.

So to print, the newsletters are in PDF format under Resources and Links on the web site. And right now the March Event flyer and registration form are there also. You will be able to print any of the pages as you normally would when it has been an attachment in the email.

Our convention planning team has met for the first time and will meet again March 24th. We can share that we have chosen Faith Lutheran in Sun City as the site for our convention November 2-3, 2018. We have chosen a nearby hotel that should serve our needs but more on that later. Not sure if we will tweak it any more – but we chose “With God All Things Are Possible” as a theme. We know our churchwide rep will be Karen Voris from Alaska. And we know our churchwide director, Linda PostBushkofsky, is also planning to attend. We will continue to give out information as it develops.

Last year I put off the task of updating our unit information. We must provide contact information on any and all units in our Pacifica Synod. The information is used by churchwide to determine how many voting members we will have at the triennial convention. In Minneapolis we only had three voting members. This is down from five just a few years ago. If our information is not up to date, it is difficult to determine the number of votes we are eligible to have. Besides, the contacts will also directly receive information from churchwide.

So to begin with I am requesting that all units email me with the following information on one to two contact persons in your congregational unit:

Name, Address, Phone #, email address, and Church name and city.

I would really appreciate receiving this information as soon as possible. My email address is in the board directory on our website.

Next I know the question is whether or not you are a unit. Here are the four basic criteria:

- Meet together for study, support and mission (*Café* and *Gather* offer great ways to do this)
- Participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond your congregation. (e.g. Our March Event, our Synodical Women's Convention, Triennial Convention and Gathering)
- Support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA (e.g. through offerings)
- Designate leadership to communicate with synodical and churchwide women's organization – in other words, have at least one or two contact names.

Note that the above do NOT include having a traditional board of officers. If you have women's ministries happening on a regular basis and you have women who participate by attending our synodical and/or churchwide events and you send an offering to our synod and/or to churchwide and you can supply me with the info I listed above for contact women, you still qualify as a unit.

We do still have a few units who still function in a traditional way – but if you do not, please know you can still qualify as a unit and make meaningful contributions as a unit in our organization.

On another related subject, we often remind and are reminded that our organization is incorporated separately from our church congregations. That is why we have a churchwide organization with staff. That is why each unit should have a separate bank account and a separate constitution. It can use your congregation's federal EIN or you can call churchwide and get their number. I know that even having a treasurer can become difficult. I have seen it work that the women's account becomes part of the congregation's account – but only if it is accounted for separately and only used at the direction of the women's unit. It should never be part of the congregational budget.

From the beginning of time I think, women have been leaders and instrumental in raising funds and establishing churches and promoting causes and on and on. Our organization promotes all of that. But still we are part and parcel of the mission of the whole church. If your unit raises funds in any way and designates some for a project in your congregation (the kitchen, roof, solar power, youth trip to their National Gathering, etc.) then you should joyfully share that news with your church council and the entire congregation. And those purposes should be designated and shared prior to the event that raises funds. Your unit is also still accountable to the congregation and should willingly share its treasurer's report with the council and congregation. Definitely highlight and be proud of all you are doing!

Anew in Christ!

President Eunice Hanson