

# Pacifica Partners

December 2019 -- Volume 29, Issue 6

## From the President's Desk



Our convention 2019 is now a memory. Once again, I encourage you to visit our website, [www.pacificawomen.org](http://www.pacificawomen.org), and view the many pictures taken by Jean Durbin of First Lutheran in Redlands. You can also listen to the [YouTube link](#) and hear our keynote speakers, Sara Larson and Professor Charlene Rachuy-Cox. If you were not able to attend, these are good ways to get a taste of all that happened this year and resolve to come next year!

We had seventy-five in attendance this year. That number includes four male spouses, six display persons, and our guest pastors. Thirty-seven evaluations were submitted. We asked attendees to rank from one (lowest) to five (highest) all the components. The results have not yet tabulated in spreadsheet format, however, I can report that there were a sprinkling of "3s" and a rare "2" but mostly "4s" and "5s". What was a bit different from the last two years is that there were fewer additional comments either critical or in praise.

There was some criticism of the silent auction process. This was Christina Watson's first year of doing this so it was a learning curve for her. I will share the evaluations and am hoping she will share her enthusiasm for the event again with solutions to what happened this year. We did raise \$1,165 from the silent auction and \$665 for seminary scholarships – it was very successful!!

Even business meetings were ranked higher than usual. Except, until I read the comments, I had not even realized I did not give time to read the new bios for nominations from the floor for board members before we voted. I apologize for that!! I was so focused on getting all the business done, when in fact we did end up with several minutes to spare before closing worship.

The programming elements were very well received. Many cited the Bible studies, or Woven Image music concert, or our Keynote speakers as their favorite convention experience – also the fellowship and connecting with others.

There was only one comment, I'd like to address as the writer did not give a name. "I thought it would be more a retreat experience w/o biz meetings & voting as a big part of it." Per our constitution, we must have a convention/business meeting – that is simply how we operate. However, we can make it bi-annual so that every other year it can be much more of retreat experience. You may remember that during my last time as your president, we did elect as a board to make it bi-annual but it was immediately returned to annual with a resolution at the convention. Cost is the other factor – both for churchwide and our synod budget. Something to again think about?

Again, another comment that someone asked, “why extra cost expense for glossy paper over regular paper” for the convention booklet. The glossy paper was not extra expense – it was less expensive!! The printer gets this glossy paper on skids – so lots of it! The number of pages did have to be divisible by four as the sheets are double the size and therefore folded. We originally had a table of contents page which made it 25 pages so that was eliminated and the inside cover pages as well as the back cover were all utilized.

Mark your calendars for our March Event in Palm Desert March 7, 2020! And of course Triennial Gathering in Phoenix July 14-16, 2020. See the forms to apply for scholarships on the website. Don’t let funds keep you from experiencing “Just Love” – the worship, the music, the speakers – all part of Triennial in Phoenix!!

**Anew in Christ!**

**President Eunice Hanson**

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## **Meet Your 2019-2020 Pacifica SWO Officers and Board Members**



### **President Eunice Hanson**

A PK – preacher’s kid – Eunice was born in Iowa but raised in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Married a “son of the congregation” whom she met when they were ten. Eunice became an accountant and he became a highway patrolman.

They have five children, three currently live with them, one is in Texas, and one in Nevada. They have five or eleven grandchildren depending on how you count them. Youngest was in teens until newest one arrived in Nevada a little over a year ago.

They moved to California in 1990 and enjoy the much more stable weather! Both of them were born into the Lutheran faith and have had no trouble becoming active in a congregation everywhere they have lived. And they both are now officially retired from paid jobs and are enjoying it though they both still stay very busy – isn’t that the definition of retired?



### **Vice President Keala Simoes**

Keala and her husband own Motor Werkes, Inc. which specializes in German Automotive Repair. They have worked together since 1988 and were married that same year. Keala has one son who is a captain in the Marine Corp. He attended the United States Naval Academy and is currently stationed at Twentynine Palms, CA. She is a racial mixture of Hawaiian, Filipino, and English, Keala was born and raised in Hawaii.



### **Secretary Rosemarie Peterson**

Rosemarie is a California Native having been born in Los Angeles and raised primarily in the Inland Valley. She worked for the City of San Dimas for thirty years and have a degree from Cal Poly Pomona in Business Management and Human Resources.

Rosemarie is widowed and am blessed with two married sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. A fourth great-grandchild will arrive in April.

In her free time, she enjoys golf, bowling, and traveling.



### **Treasurer Laura Ortiz**

Laura is a San Diego native. Her parents migrated to the United States in 1966 from Mexico and Laura's first language was Spanish. She learned to speak and write English at the age of four, when she started pre-school. Laura is a graduate from Hilltop High School in Chula Vista, CA and has taken many college courses thereafter.

She has one daughter who is currently a senior at San Diego State University majoring in Accounting. Her parents and two sisters also live in San Diego. They are a very close family and are kept busy with their VERY large extended family.

Laura has worked in the banking industry for many years and in 1998 she discovered her love for accounting. Having worked for many different businesses ranging from Radio Broadcasting, IT Staffing, Newspaper/Magazine Publishing firm, a CPA firm to her current position at a Property Management Company.

She joined St. Mark's in 2003 and from day one has been involved with just about every aspect of the Church from Sunday School Teacher, Cradle Roll Coordinator, Council Member, Transition Team, Call Committee, Treasurer and WELCA Unit President.



### **Board Member Melissa Anderson**

Melissa is a retired middle school teacher who has been married to her high school sweetheart for almost forty-nine years. They have three grown daughters and six grandkids. Kurt and Melissa are avid sports fans and attend and travel to USC sports in football, men's and women's basketball, and volleyball. They are also Angel baseball fans. She has become a runner and am involved in several challenges that keep her on task. Melissa also enjoy crafts, gardening, reading historical non-fiction, time with family, and being very involved at church.

### **Board Member Viola Angebrandt**

Viola is the oldest of four with three brothers. She was a single



parent since her son was three. Christopher is now happily in love and living in Long Beach. Her current household consists of two adopted rescued dogs (Skippy John Jones, a chihuahua, and Angel Toastie, a terrier) who give her a reason to get out of bed no matter nor how much pain she is experiencing due to fibromyalgia. They help her make the most of each day.

For thirty-nine years Viola was a registered physical therapist at St Bernardine Medical Center where she now volunteers after being medically retired in April 2018. She arranges fundraising events. Currently, she is the caregiver for her mother in hospice care at her home.

Viola's hobbies are crafts, traveling/exploring, reading, journaling, singing, developing brass bell skills, learning to quilt, loom weaving, collecting, working out (exercising) in gym, bowling, painting, going to see plays, watching movie bicycling, and scrapbooking.

In 2020, she is planning a trip to attend the Passion Play of New and Old Testament at Oberammergau Germany, with visits to Munich Germany; Swiss Alps, and Paris, France.



#### **Board Member Karen Marie Ford**

A Ford for the Lord! Karen's prayer is to please God. That being said she is a saint and a sinner wrapped up in one, like a burrito. MS baptized, confirmed she attended St Thomas Lutheran Church and School in Michigan. She enjoys her three children and their families, they all live within a half an hour of each other. Melissa likes golfing, outdoor activities, and her new home in Leisure World. One of her favorite books of the Bible is Proverbs especially 31.



#### **Board Member Karen Lloyd**

Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri where Karen lived till she finished college earning a teaching degree. She spent two years working in an orphanage near Mexico City. Returning to St Louis, Karen married her husband, who then took her to Europe for nearly four years. Again returning to St. Louis he attended seminary, while she worked as a teacher. They started their family with one adopted son and then had one of our own. Both of them miracles from God.

After seminary they moved to North Dakota for their first church.

Afterwards they returned to Army for the next twenty-six years

living in Europe as well as all over the USA. While serving their country Karen had many paid and volunteer opportunities: from teaching school children, to teaching adults about the military. As well, as Sunday school teacher, women's Bible study teacher, or working with Cub Scouts. She held many positions with the military units with which her husband was assigned, while raising their two sons. After retiring in 2012 from the military, they took a congregation here in California to be near their grandchildren and have now retired from there to be even nearer and more active with them. While residing in Fallbrook, CA, after making their twentieth move, they will still be active in churches around the synod, while placing their membership with Hope Lutheran in

Temecula.

Karen enjoys sewing, recently making quilts for the homeless at CCLM, the VA hospital in Loma Linda, and the local Ronald McDonald's house also in Loma Linda. She also enjoys reading, sewing/craft projects, and traveling. Karen would love to see more of the world and the beauty that God has created, as well as visiting the many friends they have acquired over nearly forty years of ministry. Right now her focus is on the grandchildren, a boy and a girl, and seeing life anew through their eyes while helping with their care and education.

God has truly blessed her in the things she has able to see, do, and accomplish over her life time and she prays that she will have many years to see, do and accomplish more.



#### **Board Member Pastor Patrice Nordstrand**

Daughter of life-long Lutherans, who also spent time learning of other denominations so Pr. Patrice could also say, she is a Lutheran by choice.

Pr. Patrice began seminary in 1973, just three years after the decision to ordain women. She is now retired but flunked retirement a couple of times, so have been serving as a part-time Interim pastor. She became active in Women of the ELCA in 1987, as I was asked to be the convention speaker, preacher, seminary leader, workshop leader, and liturgist. She says, "if you think that's a reflection of my sterling abilities, let me remind you I was for several years, the only female pastor in the Iron Range, MN as I think of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod." She tries to serve whenever she is invited to do so.

She loves to laugh and to share her life experiences.

She loves to travel and engage in meaningful conversations.

She loves to invite others to give of themselves.

She loves Jesus who makes all things possible.

Pr. Patrice says, "she wishes she could think of a good joke to share, but maybe this one life experience: At seminary her first year, her professor said to the class, "Don't worry about your faults. Pastors never have to worry about them!" I was quite surprised and also excited to hear this, not ever wanting to have my faults exposed. The professor said, "No, because you see it will only take a matter of a few months, and then everybody in the congregation will know ALL your faults! And so they do."



#### **Board Member Marlene Rosselli**

Marlene was raised in Illinois through 7th grade after which her family moved to California. Following graduation from La Puente High School in the San Gabriel Valley, she attended California Lutheran College in Thousand Oaks where she majored in French. Marlene taught elementary school for eight years then transferred to teaching high school French for thirty years before retiring.

Marlene was married to Jacob Rosselli for 17 ½ years before he died as a result of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). They had no children. She has one niece with children and grandchildren and

dozens of cousins.

She loves to travel and have visited over thirty countries over the years. She currently is trying to visit more places in the United States. She loves to sew and have been a part of the quilting circles at her last two churches. Long ago (before arthritic knees she loved to ski – water and snow – hike, and garden. Working with children and youth gives her the greatest joy.



**Board Member Jeanne Sandvig**

Jeanne grew up in the mid-west, Iowa, to be specific, and graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Pharmacy. She practiced as a pharmacist for forty-five years, twenty-eight of those years in Long Beach CA, retiring in 2015. About thirteen years ago, she began oil painting, taking classes at an adult school, and have produced several paintings over the years. This past year, Jeanne submitted a landscape to the Orange County Fair and received an honorable mention ribbon. Three years ago, she started learning to play the guitar. Jeanne finds these new activities challenging and stimulating as well as giving her great pleasure and several new friends.



**Board Member Janet Wood**

Janet has been married to Mike for thirty years and they have a twenty-six year old daughter named Michelle. She has a dog sitting business that brings her joy. Janet enjoys the theatre, concerts, movies, reading, and baking cakes/cookies.

**Thank you to the Outgoing Board Members**



Installation of the 2019-2020 Pacifica Board



Additional pictures from the Convention and Gathering will appear on the [website](#) later this month.

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**Be bold! Do justice! Wisconsin women grow into advocacy**

A snippet...

"The more we learned about this horrible crime, the bolder we got. We followed a pattern championed by Cherish All Children, a Lutheran organization that works to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. Their model suggests we Pray, Educate, Connect, and Act."

The full article can be found in the [Summer 2019 issue of \*Interchange\*](#).

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**Gathering 2020 | Phoenix, Arizona**  
**July 16-19, 2020**

Renew your spirit with thousands of faithful women just like you who are eager to grow, learn, pray, and party—together! Join us in Phoenix, and live your faith in love that leads to justice.

**Register online:** [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org)  
Opens Sept. 30, 2019



  
Early bird discount through Jan. 6, 2020!  
Registration materials are online only.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX  
WELCATG.ORG



### Mark Your Calendar

**December**, Share *Pacifica Partners* with members

**December**, Publicized/Promote March Event in Palm Desert

**December**, Register for the *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*

**January**, Publicized/Promote March Event in Palm Desert

**January**, Register for the *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*

**January 6, 2020**, Early Bird Registration, \$325, ends for *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*

**January 7, 2020**, Registration Rate, \$375, begins for *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*

**January 20, 2020**, *Pacifica Partners* Deadline

**March 7, 2020**, Pacifica SWO Event in Palm Desert

**July 14-16, 2020**, *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Convention*, Phoenix, AZ

**July 16-19, 2020**, *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*, Phoenix, AZ

Do you have events within your Congregational Unit that you want to invite other ladies to attend? That you want listed in this "Mark Your Calendar" section? If so, please e-mail them to [pacfiacipartnerswelca@gmail.com](mailto:pacfiacipartnerswelca@gmail.com).

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### **Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization 2019-2020 Officers and Board Members**

#### **Officers:**

President Eunice Hanson (2020)  
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Vice President Keala Simoes (2021)  
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Secretary Rosemarie Peterson (2020)  
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Treasurer Laura Ortiz (2021)  
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#### **Board Members:**

Melissa Anderson (2020)  
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Pastor Patrice Nordstrand (2020)  
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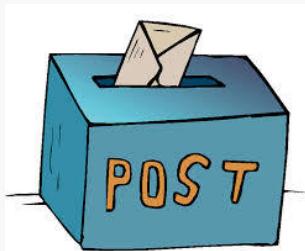
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**Submit a letter to the Editor**

We want to hear from you! Send us an email to [pacificapartnerswelca@gmail.com](mailto:pacificapartnerswelca@gmail.com) with suggestions, ideas for events, Bible studies, and events you would like to share with all Pacifica Women of the ELCA participants.

Thank you for subscribing to *Pacifica Partners* or giving us permission to add your email address to receive communication from the Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization. If you know other ladies who are not receiving our emails, please share this with them and encourage them to sign up.

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**De la Mesa de Nuestra Presidente**



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