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New England WELCA Biennial Convention 2024



Greetings from the New England Women of the ELCA! It was a Spirit filled weekend at Camp Calumet October 24-26th. The joy of coming together as BOLD women in Jesus was evident at every hour of the day.

We had regular business to complete which includes voting anew board for the next two years and a budget to discuss and pass. We had visitors from the church wide organization – President Myrna Wells-Ulland and Joy Grace, president from Pennsylvania. They brought us news from the national level and information about Katie's Fund 2122.

Pastor Niki Harvell led the bible study which was grounded in the *Magnificat – Mary's Song*. How Mary sang aloud the justice and blessing God was giving her and future generations. We sang the hymn ELW #723 *the Canticle of Turning* and rejoiced in the promises of God.

Pastor Abby Johnson shared a wonderful presentation about Hope Academy in Antigua, Guatemala. This is a girl's school devoted to education, health and support for girls who are usually not attending school past 3rd grade. Part of our worship offering also went to support this mission.

various questions from the audience and helped to build a solid connection between New England WELCA and the ministry we share in the Synod.

Our convention ended with a joyous worship service on Saturday with Pastor Niki presiding with communion and Bishop Piphon preaching. The New England Board was also installed by Myrna Wells-Ulland.

The Mission Statement of WELCA – “to mobilize women to act BOLDLY on their faith in Jesus Christ”

submitted by Jeanne Minasian, President 2024-26 email: newenglandwelca@gmail.com



Get to know the leaders of the New England Synodical Women’s Organization

L to R Sandy Chichon, Lynn Zeltman, Valerie Holcomb, Marietta Meyer, Lindsa McIntyre, Fawn DeMello, Leslie Carson, Doris Norman and Jeanne Minasian. [absent Donna Mayo]

Fawn DeMello, treasurer 2025-2027

To be completely honest, I considered joining the board because Jeanne Minasian asked me to think about joining and to pray on it. I am several months into being an empty nester and still searching for my new purpose. Having identified foremost as Mom my whole life, I am in that in between stage of Mom and God willing, a grandmother. I have served on committees for Ascentria while my husband was Chairman of the Board and I thought why not put a little more focus and effort into my involvement with WELCA. It has been the women in my circle that are the core Faith leaders in their families. The more

Lynn Zeltman, board member 2024-2026

I would like to (re)introduce myself. Although I know some of you, there are many I don't. It's great to see many "new faces" at NE WELCA gatherings. I served on the NE WELCA Board in the early 2000s, when Paula Rosenbeck, Helen Uurtamo and Sarah Dorsch were presidents. Things have changed a lot since the early 2000s! I retired in September of 2021 and have been figuring out how to "do" retirement. It's important to retire to something, and I'm spending time doing Master Gardener projects in NH, participating in LWR quilting at my church, traveling, and entertaining my dog and 2 cats. However, I'm finding that need more interaction with my NE WELCA Sisters and WELCA. My terms on the Boards of several other organizations have ended and I now have time and energy to give to NE WELCA. I'm looking forward to serving on the Board!

Summary financial report from New England SWO Treasurer, Donna Hudson

While I was unable to attend in person the Biennial Gathering at Camp Calumet, October 24-26, 2024, I was fortunate to be able to join you via ZOOM. Many thanks to those involved in setting up Zoom. It was much appreciated!

Thanks very much to all who attended and gave so generously to our Worship Service offering, We donated 1/2 or \$493.00 to Tree4Hope/ Hope Academy Girls' School – (Pastor Abigail Johnson's endeavors). The remaining ½ will be divided between Churchwide Women of the ELCA (CW) and NE WELCA .

The fun Silent auction raised more than \$850.00 to help fund the 2026 Triennial Scholarship Fund. Active NE Women who attend the WELCA 2026 Triennial Gathering in De Moines, Iowa will receive scholarships to lower the cost of the Gathering. Thank you!

You gave \$200.00 in donations for *Katie's Fund – The 2122 Campaign*. Many thanks!

Thank you for your Congregational Unit contributions of \$995, [½ will go directly to CW and ½ will remain with NE WELCA]. These funds support our many missions and ministries.

And thanks for your in-kind gifts and monetary donations to the Camp Calumet's Pumpkin Fest. What a great collaboration with Camp Calumet and we honored "300" Bold Women.

Lastly, heartfelt appreciation for your support and participation in the New England WELCA synodical women's organization. (2019 - January 31, 2025).

Donna Hudson, treasurer, 2019 - to January 2025



Silent auction raises \$850+ for 2026 Triennial Gathering scholarships.



What a great turnout for the Silent Auction at the NE WELCA Biennial convention October 2024. Over twenty donated items were displayed in vessels of all types. Items ranged from beautiful floral arrangements, Lego's, homemade fudge, toys to a \$50 gift card...so many fun and beautiful items. Bidding continued Thursday and Friday with winning bids announced Friday evening. Over \$850 will be added to the Triennial Gathering_(July 2026)_scholarship fund. Thank you all who contributed by donating items and to those who shared in the excitement of bidding and then winning. Submitted by Marci Sharp

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We Want To Know You're Out There!

We wish you God's peace for the winter days and nights ahead. May you find rest in His glorious creation wherever you may roam in your travels. May He strengthen your body with good health for your work in your community or profession. Remember to rejoice for each day of His grace to you and yours.

Your siblings in Christ,

Zeltman. Board advisors— Liz Burgess and Paula Rosenbeck



OUR MISSION

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

“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.”

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