



# CONNECTIONS

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 No. 3

[www.eandsynodwelca.org](http://www.eandsynodwelca.org)

June-August 2018



## Change of Plans

Due to unforeseen circumstance, Bishop Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld will be unable to attend our SWO Convention in September; she will be attending a gathering of bishops.



Taking her place will be Freddie Jordan, Secretary of the CWO Executive Board. Freddie was elected at the 10th Triennial Convention and is serving on the programs and communication committee and the executive committee.

Freddie is a native of Mississippi, where she began her education in the sciences at Jackson State University. She received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in neuroscience.

Much of her professional career has been spent as a Buckeye at Ohio State University, Columbus, in both academic and professional settings. She has served as faculty and administrator at the oldest historically black college in the U.S., Wilberforce University, and currently serves as an adjunct faculty of chemistry at Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. She is the proud parent of three young adult children, the eldest of five siblings, and knows how to twirl a baton. She believes that the most valued investment one can make in self and community is education and family.

## "Here I am, Lord!" Isaiah 6:8

Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization's theme for the 31st annual convention reflects our commitment to use our time and talents in service to others and to the Glory of God. How many times have you answered the call to help out when someone needs a friend, needs a quilt, needs a meal, and the list goes on.

The convention speakers will share how they answered God's call. You will be surprised at some of the directions their lives took after answering "Here I am, Lord" when they heard God's call!

You, too, will have the opportunities to answer God's call by listening to God's Word in Bible Study, by sharing yarn for the Prison Yarn Project, by restocking Red Willow Bible Camp's paper products & art supplies, by bringing diapers (Pampers, Huggies, size 3, 4, & 5) for Dakota O'Yate's Spirit Lake Outreach Ministry, and other possibilities that will present themselves during our time together!



Pastor Larry Thiele will share how his congregation has begun a "Bridge Building" project within Spirit Lake Conference that seeks to bring youth of various congregations together and to develop understanding between cultures.

This year's convention will be a time of reflection, refreshment, and renewal. Please join us!!!!



## 6th Annual Women's Retreat

Saturday, August 18, 2018  
Maryvale, rural Valley City, ND  
Deadline extended to August 8

This year's theme is based on Micah 6:8, "Walk Humbly with Your God..." and will feature Keynote speaker, Pr. Tammy Jacobson, "Blessings in Recovery"—Abuse Resource Network of Lisbon, ND. "Abuse Resource Network (ARN) is committed to meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in a non-judgmental, empowering manner. We offer alternatives to them and support in following through on their own choices. Pr. Tammy will also bring Gudrun Wiklund from Sweden as a guest speaker.

"We strive through education to build healthier communities in which all children, women, and men can live with dignity. We challenge the attitudes in our society that foster unequal relationships and work to create a more just, safer society." ([www.abuseresourcenetwork.org](http://www.abuseresourcenetwork.org))

An in-kind gift collection will be taken for this program at the Retreat. A list follows:

+++Truly gift cards are our best gift! Tesoro gas cards so they can get to work or appointments when money is tight, Subway or Pizza Ranch cards because even when you are struggling you want to be normal like anyone else and be able to go out to eat once in a while and Visa gift cards so they can be used at Dollar General, Shopko or the thrift store if they are setting up a new residence. Beyond that, K-cups of all kinds; regular, cappuccino, hot cocoa, tea, anything since people like different things. Card games since they are small and can be easily stored. SMALL baby dolls or stuffed animals for kids, along with hot wheels cars or other small kinds toys. We have an over abundance of crayons right now... Think of the little things that makes each of you feel happy and special, the things that brighten your day... A small tube of special hand lotion, a small candle, a key chain. Also the children in your life, what things do they love? Those are the kinds of things we like to give to a victim and their kids, things that are helpful to them and something you make them feel good!+++

Guest speaker, Terese Rotenberger, "Humble and Blessed"—will share her testimony as she shares samples of Calligraphy. Registration will begin at 9:30 am with program beginning at 10:00 am-3:00 pm. A noon meal will be served so pre-registration will be encouraged because of limited space. Registration is \$40.00 before August 8 and \$45.00 after August 8 and at the door

Vendors will also be part of the day: Paparazzi (jewelry); Mary & Martha (gift items); Signature Home Styles (home décor); and Christ, Coffee, Calligraphy (assorted items).

Hope you will be able to join us at Maryvale on August 18th!!!!

**Please go to page 3  
for registration forms.**

## **2017-2018 EaND 3-B Synodical Women's**

### **Organization Board**

**Please keep this list for your future reference.**

#### **PRESIDENT**

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#### **CONNECTIONS**

Karen Retzlaff  
[retzlaff@polarcomm.com](mailto:retzlaff@polarcomm.com)

## **President's Message**

Have you ever felt as though God has plans for you that are so unusual that never in your wildest dreams would have been on your “radar”?

That's how I felt four years ago when I was nominated and then elected to the office of SWO President. I was content to edit the newsletter, minding my own business, working in a library, reaching the age of 67, and retiring from many years of working with young people aged 5-18. BUT...God had other plans for me.

Remember when we had as a theme, “To Give You a Future with Hope”, part of the Jeremiah 29:11-13 section that begins , “For I know the plans I have for you...” I suspect that God had been preparing me for this role, without my recognition of His plans until now when I look back on these past four years. All my experiences, which had seemed random, fell into place to give me the skills I needed. I only had to trust in His guidance as I “did my job”. It hasn't always been easy, but I knew the Holy Spirit was there to keep me on task!

I have worked with amazing women who have also been called to lead and guide our organization as we “seek to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.” We do this in our families, our communities, and wherever God leads us.

Now comes the pitch, Is God calling **you** to take a role as a Cluster Representative (Devils Lake, Grafton, Wahpeton), a President, a Vice President, a Secretary? Our Synodical Women's Organization is actively seeking nominees for these positions. We **must** fill these positions with new people.

Our constitution states that one can be elected for a two year term and may be re-elected for an additional two year term, but cannot be re-elected again. This is so that others are given an opportunity to serve. It also prevents a complacency and stagnation, i.e., “We have always done it this way.”

There is a VITA form on the back page, Please read it, copy it, and submit it to Pam Neumiller, our current secretary, before August 31, in order to be included in the convention program book.

Remember, God has a plan and He is calling, will you listen & answer His call?

Karen Retzlaff, EaND SWO President



Your Congregational Unit can help pay for Cluster Gathering expenses and Convention expenses with your sponsorship of \$80.00 or more to keep our events FREE, except for meal expenses.  
Please consider sending your sponsorship, today!  
Thank you!!!!

## 6th Annual Women's Retreat Registration Form

Saturday, August 18, 2018

Maryvale Center  
11550 River Road  
Valley City, ND 58072



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost (before August 8) \$40.00

Please copy this form for each person attending,

Cost (after August 8 & at the door) \$45.00

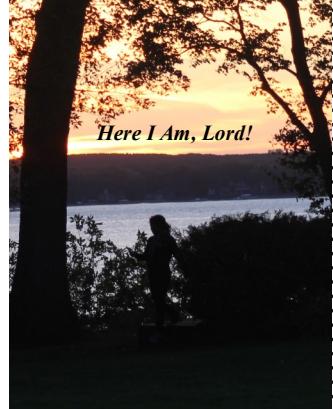
enclose a check for the amount; and send it to:

Connie Radcliffe, EaND SWO Treasurer  
PO Box 1022  
Lisbon, ND 58054

## Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization 31st Annual Convention Registration Form

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Red Willow Bible Camp 1651 Jacob Drive Binford, ND 58416



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

No Registration Fee—but reserve meal tickets (includes morning coffee & noon meal) at \$12.00 each. **In order to plan meals, pre-registration necessary by September 12, 2018!**

Thank you!

Please copy this form for each person attending, enclose a check for the amount; and send it to:

Connie Radcliffe, EaND SWO Treasurer  
PO Box 1022  
Lisbon, ND 58054

**Connections****11995 19th St. NE****Aneta, ND 58212**

*Please Note: Update your Unit Mailing Address. If you are no longer president, please pass this on to her. If you are a subscriber, your expiration date is coded with your name, e.g., Jane Doe JA/16 (expires January 2016).*

**Frequency of Publication Information**

**CONNECTIONS** is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Subscription rates are four (4) issues for \$3.00. Subscription requests and address changes should be sent to :

**Karen Retzlaff****11995 19th St. NE****Aneta, ND 58212-9271**

**Please share the information in this newsletter. Photocopy as needed for your unit members, your bulletin boards, and church newsletters. Don't file this away! It's your message about what is happening in the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization!**

**What's Inside?****Page 1 Updates****Page 2 Board info, President's Message****Page 3 Registration Forms****Page 4 Vita Form****PRSR STD****U.S. POSTAGE PAID****Fordville, ND 58231****Permit No. 8****Return Service Requested**

## **Unit Presidents, Please Note!**

**Vita Form 2018**

Position I am running for \_\_\_\_\_

Cluster \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Community involvement \_1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_

Church involvement \_1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
3) \_\_\_\_\_

Faith statement

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to: Pam Neumiller, EaND SWO Secretary 513 Santa Cruz Drive Fargo, ND 58103