

***ELPNA Meeting September 20, 2017  
3:30 PM CST via Conference Call***

***Attendees: Carol DeSchepper, Chair  
Andy West, Secretary  
June Sand, Treasurer  
Cindy Harris, Karen Setzer, Region 2  
Phyllis Bruce, Region 3 and Membership  
Carolyn Crowe, Norma Anderson, Region 4  
Michelle Knap, Region 5  
Deloris Bills, Region 6  
Marilee Tollefson, Ruth Manchester, Region 8  
Marilyn Kranich, Region 9  
Sue Richards - guest***

<b><i>Topic/Agenda Item</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Person/Timeline</i></b>
1)Welcome and Introductions	The group was welcomed and introductions made as individuals joined the call. Carol welcomed Susan Richards, from Region 5, as a guest to the meeting. Susan Richards gave a short introduction of herself.		
2) Opening Prayer	Deloris Bills offered opening devotions.	None	
3)Approval/Addition to Agenda	Carol asked for additions to the Agenda.	None	
4)Approval of Minutes	Carol presented the August Minutes for approval. Moved and seconded to approve.	Motion passed.	
5)Treasurer's Report	June Sand presented the Treasurer's Report. National Funds: \$3,384.46 ; Regional Funds: \$7,834.96, Total: \$13,329.04. June has asked 3 people to audit financial accounts; the audit will be completed by next meeting. We are within \$41 of breaking even on the t-shirts. When this is accomplished, it was suggested that we discount the cost to \$10 and advertise on the web site.		
6)Membership Report	Phyllis reported that the total 2017 membership is133, which is the most members in the last 5 years. While Region 3 has the majority of members, the other regions had 59 members, which has increased over the years. For those who have just sent in		Phyllis will make the determination about membership.

	<p>their membership, the question was asked about allowing those memberships to begin in 2018. It was decided to allow Phyllis to make the determination as to whether it would be counted for this year or for 2018. 2018 Membership Form will be posted on the web site.</p>		
7) Communication Committee Report	<p>Phyllis reported on the last committee meeting. Changes have been made to the web site to including a “tab” for the blog at the top of the home page. Phyllis asked that we each review the blog and add our comments to encourage more participation in the blog. Phyllis suggested that our blog could be an interactive forum for Lutheran FCNs. More work is going to be done to update the web content.</p> <p>Phyllis reviewed the Google interactive report which was attached to the agenda. She has noticed that after an e-blast, the site visits have increased. People are using the web site which shows the importance of keeping it current. Carol was surprised at the number of countries represented. The question was asked about identifying those people that access the site. Current information is essential, each regional board member is asked to review the current information and delete outdated material.</p>		<p>Board members review their region’s content and delete outdated information.</p> <p>The committee will explore ways to connect with those through a survey monkey questionnaire.</p>
8) Update of ELPNA Brochure	<p>Carol commented on the changes made to the inside panels of the brochure by the board at last month’s meeting. The outside panel was examined. The question was asked about moving away from the “roles” taken from the old Foundations Course as outlined on the outside panel. Discussion focused on realigning the “roles” to be more in line with the current course. There is time to delay action on this decision since there are sufficient copies of the brochure on hand.</p>		<p>Andy will review the current Foundations course and make suggestions on updating this information.</p>
9) Board Retreat, November 3-5, 2017	<p>Carol and Tammy discussed the questions that we had for Scott Morris with staff from the CHC via telephone conference. At this time there will not be a representative from the CHC at our retreat. They recommended a video on their web site that might address our questions. Carol watched the video and did not think this would be beneficial to us. CHC also suggested that some of the questions could be answered in writing. Tammy has not talked with Carol about her opinion about the video. At this point we will follow the agenda originally developed. Currently 13-14 board members are planning to come. It was suggested that use of the Regional money to fund travel expenses involved in the retreat is appropriate.</p>		<p>Carol will send out the list of those planning to come, the link to Hampton Inn, and the agenda.</p>
10) Annual Membership Meeting, November 15, 2017	<p>Carol discussed the use of the November regular meeting as our annual membership meeting. We have received permission from Tammy to use the Portico phone conferencing system for this meeting. The By Laws call for an annual membership meeting; this would be an opportunity to have the members involved. In the past the annual meeting was held in conjunction with Region Three’s Fall Gathering.</p>		<p>Board members were asked to think about incentives to get members to attend. Carol and Phyllis will</p>

			develop ways to promote the meeting.
11) Handout for Display Table	Due to the hurricane in Florida, Nancy has not been able to work with Marilee on the handouts.		Place on October's agenda.
12) Election of Officers	Carol said that there was a need for a nominee for Vice-Chair. It was presented at the Region 3 board meeting and on the e-blast.		Board members were asked to consider serving in this position.
13) Program/Process for Membership Dues	<p>Carol addressed the process that was presented at past board meeting to assist unpaid FCNs who cannot afford the membership fee. All the Attachments to the Agenda were reviewed. Various options were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some felt that the fee is low enough and affordable;</li> <li>• one suggested to present questions on the web site survey about being a member (Y/N) and if N, asking if cost is the reason;</li> <li>• one suggested we place the letter to the pastor/congregation (Attachment C) on the web site as a way to heighten the awareness.</li> </ul> <p>Next step is to put letter on the web site as a resource and take no further action until more information is available. Continue to evaluate the issue via the web site.</p>		Phyllis will place Attachment C on the web site with announcement on the next e-blast.
14) ELCA Youth Gathering, June 27- July1, 2018	Tabled		
15) Regional Reports	Several regional continuing education programs include: "The Epidemic of Loneliness" and "The Journey of Prayer". Michelle reported on her first meeting of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod as a new board meeting. Region Three's Fall Gathering is titled: "Job: Through Suffering to Healing" – Carol highly recommended this program. The presentation will be live streamed. Check Region Three's web site for more information.		
16) Volunteer for devotion/prayer for October Meeting	Marilee Tollefson volunteered to present the devotion for the October meeting.		
17) Prayer and other concerns	Dickie Hooke, relative of Andy West; serious unrest in St. Louis following the latest incident with police; people who have suffered from the hurricane in FL and TX; our upcoming retreat; and the 500 anniversary of the Reformation.		
18) Closing prayer	Deloris closed with the prayer.		

Respectfully, Andrea M. West, Secretary