Arkansas Women’s Ministry Board (AWM)

Minutes Summary

**January 9, 2023**

Officer’s Present: Lisa Bowden, Jeannelle Nichols, Melissa Haralson, Sheila Harris, April Sullivan. Melissa opened the meeting in prayer.

The final financial statement for the Women Active for Christ was given. The general fund has a balance of $1,372.96, the speaker fund has a balance of $44.09.

Final decisions about the new FWB Women’s Ministry brochure were discussed. The new women’s ministry logo has been finalized. A motion & second, carried to accept logo #1.

The AWM budget letter to the State Free Will Baptist Executive Committee for approval. A few adjustments have been made. A motion & second, carried.

The Officer’s Luncheon was set for February 4 (10am), at First FWB Church, Conway.

Karen Dalgado has asked for time at “The Gathering” to share about her upcoming mission trip to Madrid, Spain.

Meeting adjourned.

**January 23, 2023**

Officer’s Present: Lisa Bowden, Jeannelle Nichols, Melissa Haralson, Janie Campbell, Sheila Harris

Motion & second, carried to give Caitlin Moncrief a $200 honorarium for making the new women’s ministry logo.

The agenda for the February 2nd officer’s luncheon was approved by all. Karen Delgado will also be in attendance.

The 2024 Women’s Ministry budget was revised. The board travel/meals were increased to $2,200.00. Motion & second, carried.

The March 11th “Gathering” event was discussed. Canned goods for the Arkansas Food Bank will be the event’s project. Discussion was also given about a speaker for the September State Women’s Retreat.

Meeting adjourned.

**February 2, 2023**

Due to inclement weather, a unanimous decision was made by the board via text to cancel the Officer’s Luncheon scheduled for February 4th. A rescheduled date has not been set. President Lisa Bowden will post the cancellation on social media.

Jeannelle Nichols

AWM Secretary

**February 6, 2023**

Board members present: Lisa Bowden, Jeannelle Nichols, Melissa Haralson, Janie Campbell, April Sullivan, and Sheila Harris. Opened in prayer by Lisa Bowden.

Melissa Haralson gave a financial report. The Unity District sent a check for $400 designated to missionaries, but no specific ones. A motion & second carried to give the donation to ACTS 1:8.

The Gathering event was discussed. Lisa Bowden will get an estimate from Staples for 300 brochures to be given out statewide. There will be a table set up for Village of Hope.

“Girl Friends” from Proverbs 17:17 and Luke 1:31-45 was chosen as the theme for the September 2023 retreat. Speakers and music leaders were discussed. Janie Campbell shared about a design for t-shirts for the retreat. Samples would be available at the March meeting. A t-shirt will be given to each woman who pre-registers for the event. Registration was set at $25.

The yearly planning meeting will be Friday and Saturday June 30-July 1, 2023, in Conway.

Meeting adjourned.

**March 6, 2023**

Officer’s Present: Lisa Bowden, Jeannelle Nichols, Melissa Haralson, and Sheila Harris.

Melissa Haralson gave the financial report with Simmon’s and Chamber’s bank balances. A motion & second carried to place $140 in the supplies expense line, bringing that total to $250.

Speakers for The Gathering declined any pay for speaking. A motion & second carried to give the music director a $75 honorarium. Janie Campbell received t-shirt samples from a shirt business. A motion & second carried to accept the first sample. The shirts are to presale for the fall retreat.

The Fall Retreat: a date will be discussed at our April meeting.

The Logo: discussion and a decision was made to keep both logos with the smaller name only being used on envelopes or in certain situations necessary for a smaller logo.

Next zoom meeting will be April 3. The May zoom meeting will be May 1st.

Meeting adjourned.

**April 3, 2023**

Officer’s Present: Lisa Bowden, Melissa Haralson, Janie Campbell, Jeannelle Nichols, April Sullivan, and Executive Director, David Taylor. Opened in prayer by Lisa Bowden

Melissa Harrelson gave the financial report: Simmons Bank balance is $5,087.82. Balance of noncommitted money $2,996.15. A motion was made by Janie Campbell to give Camp Beaverfork $100 for the use of the camp for “The Gathering” meeting on March 11, 2023. Motion carried.

Fall Retreat: a motion & second carried to contact Marissa Allen from North Little Rock FWB to lead the music. Decorations by the Fellowship District, youth crafts, and fun time (Little Missouri River District) were discussed.

Opening the pre-registration for the retreat was discussed. The cost of the retreat per person has been set at $25, that will include a t-shirt for those who pre-register. If you don’t pre-register, the cost is still $25.

Next zoom meeting May 1, 2023.

Meeting adjourned.

**May 1, 2023**

Officer’s Present: Lisa Bowden, Melissa Haralson, Jeannelle Nichols, Sheila Harris, Janie Campbell, and April Sullivan. Opened in prayer by Lisa Bowden.

Melissa Haralson gave the financial report with an available balance of $1,717.76.

Discussion about recognizing the board members who just went off the state board this past year. A motion was made by April Sullivan to give plaques and recognize Kim Landers, Debbie Stripling, and Belinda Adaire for their service to the women of Arkansas by serving on the state executive Women Active for Christ Board.

A decision was made to have the state project and service project January to December. We will not have a service project for 2024. The state project for 2024 will be Faith in Action Hispanic Ministry church in Star City, Arkansas.

Meeting Adjourned

**June 30-July 1, 2023**

Friday, June 30, 2023: Board members present: Lisa Bowden, Melissa Haralson, Jeannelle Nichols, Janie Campbell, Sheila Harris, April Sullivan, and Executive Director David Taylor. The meeting was opened in prayer by David Taylor.

Nominations for election of Chair, Lisa Bowden, for Vice-Chair, Janie Campbell, for Secretary, Jeannelle Nichols. Motion & second carried to accept these nominations.

Information: Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri will be sponsoring “Flourish Event” on October 14, 2023, to be held at Ozark Free Will Baptist in Ozark, Missouri. The Flourish event will take the place of a National Retreat. The speaker is Debe Taylor. The theme is “When Life Doesn’t Make Sense”. The cost is $12 each and will begin at 9am. Lunch is $12.00.

Financial Report: Melissa Haralson gave the financial report. She presented a balance sheet, a profit and loss sheet, with an account balance around $1,300.00. Our name on the Federal ID number has been changed to AR FWB Women’s Ministry. The budget was reviewed.

Discussion was made on how to build attendance in Women’s Ministries. Bible studies, personal development, life skills were suggested as ways to try to reach the young ladies so we can reach their children to keep the women’s ministry legacy going.

State Retreat: pre-registration form should have name, address, phone, email, district association, local church, do they hold an officer position? District or local, T-shirt size, pay $25.00 fee online (if possible), if not, the fee is to be sent to Janie Campbell. Honorariums were set: $100 to Marissa Allen, $100 to Debbie Stripling, $400 to Larissa Coleman (travel $150, speaking $250). AWM will pay her motel.

Janie Campbell presented a sample of the retreat t-shirt. Cost: $12 each. Ages 6 + will get receive a t-shirt with pre-registration. Ages 5-under are free (no t-shirt). A coloring book and crayons will be provided for ages five and under. Motion & second carried to accept. Motion & second carried to reimburse Janie Campbell $80 for the t-shirt project.

The retreat was discussed. Decorations: the Fellowship District. Door prizes: the Fellowship District if they approve. Fun Time: the Zion Hope District. FWB Women’s Ministry Board to provide coffee bar and snacks on Friday night, with the cost covered by the board. YWAC craft (picture frame) to be led by Jana Ray.

We will have a survey with possible questions: a regional conference and topics for conference, themes for future events, month to have retreat, suggested topics, speakers, musicians, Bible studies. Do they want other events besides The Gathering and The Retreat, project ideas, ways to communicate more effectively, suggested topics for YWAC, financial opportunities to support, location of future retreat, what month would be best for YWAC event, how can the board help or encourage your local?

Scholarships: the name on the application will be changed to AR FWB Women’s Ministry. The young lady applying must have at least one pastor or youth pastor recommendation of the three recommendations needed. All recommendations MUST be sent directly to the state office either by mail or email at ARFWB.org. A motion & second carried to add a scholarship line item to our balance sheet.

A motion & second carried to request all disbursements, to each department, be itemized as listed on the income side of the Profit and Loss Statement.

Discussion was given to hosting regional conferences throughout the state. These conferences would be on a Saturday. Possible dates in 2024: April 6, July 13, Aug 24, Sept 7, Oct 5, Oct 19, Nov 2, Nov 9. Tentative conference dates: Saline District on April 6, 2024, and Zion Hope #2 District on November 2, 2024. A discussion was made regarding a mission event.

**Saturday July 1, 2023**

The meeting was opened in prayer by Lisa Bowden.

The National Association of Free Will Baptist Convention was discussed. Possible date in Little Rock, AR is 2028. Estimated cost to the women of Arkansas is $30,000.00. Breaking it down between districts is $700 per district, per year, or $60 per month, per year, per district of funds to raise if we start this year. Ask districts to start collecting as soon as it’s voted on at the national meeting in July. We will announce it at the state retreat in September. The website, and the information it will contain, was discussed.

Potential means of communicating with ladies were discussed: e-blasts, Facebook, Website, Newsletter (periodically put out a newsletter and put on website), Instagram.

A motion & second carried to purchase a table skirt (8’, purple color, white letter, new logo and name). Communication ideas for promoting AWM events were discussed: pamphlets, magnets and postcards, notecards, and emails. Livestreaming events were discussed, as well as posting events on Facebook. A motion & second carried to look into purchasing carrying bags with the new AWM logo. Theme ideas were also discussed.

The decision was made that the Officer’s Luncheon would be changed to Friday, March 8th at 7pm. Meal to be provided by the officers. We will give notebook binders of information about the Arkansas Free Will Baptist Women’s Ministry to each district president who attends. We will possibly give some merchandise also. No theme for the officer’s luncheon. We will have a time and question and answer session.

The Gathering, March 9, 2023. Theme: “Chit Chat”. Scripture: 3 John 14. The music to be led by Susan Jones and Jaycee Sullivan. Break into groups to chat about discipleship: Where am I in my walk with God and discipling? Share time with each other in our groups. The speaker will be Kristi Johnson. Game time will be led by Kim Landers.

Questions or statement for small groups: How will you begin to implement discipleship in your life?

No ideas were given for a State Project in 2024.

Retreat details were set. Have three speakers to speak on three seasons of life. Theme: “The Better Me” Romans 12:1-2.

 1st speaker: Karen Delgado, Friday (via video) on Friday.

2nd speaker: Janie Campbell, Saturday, speaking on motherhood—having children, a job, and retirement.

 3rd speaker: Jessica Murphy, Saturday, speaking on, the “Mom Season.”

Decorations by Polk Bayou District. Fun Time by Social Band District. Music by Debbie Stripling and Sheila Harris.

Other: we will have monthly meetings by zoom the first Monday of each month at 8pm.

Upcoming Quarterly meetings in districts: August 5th at Polk Bayou, August 19th the Saline District at Harmony, August 26th: First FWB of Pocohontas.

Thank First Conway for the use of their facility for this meeting. Motion carried.

**September 11, 2023**

Board Members present for the zoom meeting: Lisa Bowden, Melissa Haralson, Sheila Harris, Jeannelle Nichols, Janie Campbell, April Sullivan, and Executive Director David Taylor. Opening prayer was given by Lisa Bowden.

The financial report was given by Melissa Haralson, with a balance in the account of $2,696.89.

Plans for setting up the Retreat at Camp Beaverfork were made. 169 ladies have preregistered. Board member responsibilities during the retreat were assigned.

Debe Taylor will be Arkansas’ speaker at the Flourish Retreat on October 14th.

The Oklahoma Shine Conference will be at Randall University, March 2, 2024. Melissa Haralson has volunteered to be the contact person with Ruth McDonald.

Meeting adjourned.

**October 9, 2023**

Board Members present for the zoom meeting: Lisa Bowden, Janie Campbell, Jeannelle Nichols, Melissa Haralson, Sheila Harris, April Sullivan, and Executive Director David Taylor. Lisa Bowden opened the meeting in prayer.

The upcoming WNAC Flourish Retreat (October 14) at Ozark, MO was discussed. The WNAC will cover the honorarium ($150), plus 55 cents per mile on mileage and hotel, for the Arkansas speaker, Debe Taylor. A motion & second carried to increase the honorarium to Debe Taylor to $100.00 more for speaking. Oklahoma’s lady’s ministry has graciously voted and sent $250 honorarium to go towards Amber Haskins for the music ministry. We will pay the mileage and hotel for Amber.

Arkansas has been asked to provide two gift baskets for the retreat door prizes. A motion & second carried to spend up to $200 for two gift baskets and items.

Lisa Bowden to send out surveys to the ladies of Arkansas concerning their opinion of the recent retreat.

The possibility of a credit card reader was discussion to make onsite payment of registration fees at retreats. April Sullivan and Melissa Haralson to research and bring info to the January meeting.

Lisa Bowden and one other board member will meet with the camp director about future meetings and retreats at Camp Beaverfork.

The 2025 AWM budget needs to be submitted by the end of January 2024.

Nominations for the AWM Board need to be submitted to the Nominating Chairman by March.

Dismissed in prayer by Sheila Harris

**October 18, 2023**

Text meeting. A $250.00 check was received from the Oklahoma Ladies Ministry. Since WNAC paid for April’s honorarium, it was suggested by Lisa that we return the check with a nice thank you note. A motion was made by Melissa Haralson to return the $250 check to Oklahoma Ladies Ministry since WNAC paid what we had voted to pay. Second, carried.

**November 6, 2023**

Zoom meeting. Board members present: Lisa Bowden, Jeannelle Nichols, Melissa Haralson, Sheila Harris, April Sullivan. Opening prayer was given by Lisa Bowden.

Melissa Haralson shared the financials. The October 31, 2023, account balance is $2,186.23. Designated of these monies are $96.25 to Harvest Childcare, $140.00 on the Visa Card for motel expenses from the Flourish event, leaving a spendable amount of $1,950.00.

Retreat income and expense: $5,527.45 income, $4,223.30 expense, $855.06 offering income, leaving $2,159.21 profit made from the September Retreat at Camp Beaverfork.

Lisa postponed ordering the logo tablecloth, discussed at the June meeting, until more income had come into the checking account. Melisa Haralson made a motion for Lisa Bowden to order the tablecloth now that more funds were available. Second, carried.

The Gathering—Pre-Registration: Lisa asked Janie to contact Devon Dundee, who works on the state webpage, about setting up a pre-registration on the website for The Gathering in the spring.

Promotion:

1. Promotion items include updated pamphlets, magnets, table cover with new logo, emailing president and officers about the meeting dates, business cards with logo and info, sending cards with a personal note to local officers, video missionaries at The Gathering to share on the website.
2. Which ones need to be done first?
3. Lisa is attaching a survey to the Facebook site for the ladies to give their feelings about the Retreat this past September.

The December meeting will be December 4th (8:30pm) due to other conflicting meetings.

Meeting adjourned

**December 4, 2023**

Zoom meeting. Board Members present: Lisa Bowden, April Sullivan, Melissa Haralson.

Financial report given by Melissa Haralson. Checking account balance of $1,952.71, receipts of $1,458.00 in November.

Lisa shared survey results, only 5 people responded so far.

The Gathering was discussed. On-line registration. Kristi Johnson cannot speak at the Gathering in March. Suggestion to ask Lea Edgmon. A text vote will be set at another time.

The mission conference will need to be added to the budget for 2025. Lisa will call Travis Alexander. Promotion will be postponed until the January meeting.

Discussion about the future meeting with Brian Kesterson about meetings at Camp Beaverfork will be cancelled due to his departure as camp director.

No actions were taken on any items due to lack of quorum.

Dismissed meeting.

**December 12, 2023**

A text vote to ask Lea Edgmon about speaking at the Gathering in March, motion, second, carried.

A text vote to cancel the meeting with Brian Kesterson, motion, second, carried.