

ESA OKLAHOMA STATE COUNCIL OF ESA
New Covenant United Methodist Church
Edmond, OK
Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2015

President, Dr. Billye Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and led the members in the Opening Ritual. Chaplain, Peggy Hughes gave the devotional and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hostesses for the day were members of Gamma Zeta.

Dr. Peterson recognized her elected and appointed board. Dr. Peterson then introduced Robyn Ryan, Hope for Heroes Chair, who introduced guest speaker, Karen Stark, Executive Director of The Hugs Project. Ms. Stark reported this is a nationwide ongoing project begun in 2004 in Edmond, OK by Karen and Ray Stark. Each week CARE packages are sent with items that are difficult for troops to get. She reported 3,000 special Christmas boxes were sent in December 2014 and between June 2004 and the present over 1.9 million "Hugs" (cooling neck ties), approximately 225,000 books and more than 800 tons of care packages were sent to Americans serving in harm's way. No one in the organization takes a salary and all donations are used wisely to help our troops.

Ms. Stark also talked about the Patriot Clinics that focus on biologically effective treatment for brain injury (TBI) and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She explained how treatments repair injury, instead of masking symptoms and how it is possible to rebuild an injured brain with hyperbaric oxygen therapy in 150 days. She also gave an example of her own head injury and her experience she went through with the treatment of hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Staff Sgt. Terry Anderson, grandson of Doris Cook, also spoke about his experience serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and suffering from PTSD upon his return to the U.S. Still serving in the military, he hopes to retire in a few years.

Peggie Sprinkle, 2nd VP and Educational Director, presented her educational "Oklahoma's Greatest Athletes of the Century." Peggie used membership participation in recognizing many of these outstanding athletes. Peggie then introduced Jim Riley, a former Miami Dolphins football player. Jim gave a very inspirational story of his life playing college football at OU, and drafted by the NFL Miami Dolphins. He talked about how he began and overcame his addiction to drugs and alcohol. He and his wife Robin are the Founders of the Jim Riley Outreach Inc. that provides help to other adults suffering from addiction and codependency.

MEETING CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS PORTION OF THE DAY

Committee assigned to read the minutes were: Lora Thompson, Chair, with members Darla Barton and Judy Cravens.

Roll Call will be taken from Registration. Four guests were in attendance.

The Committee to read the minutes of the June State Council meeting was Linda Voss, Chair, with members Linda Coniglio and Brenda Beed. Linda reported the minutes were correct as printed.

The 72nd Oklahoma State Convention minutes were never approved at the June meeting because they were incomplete. Rosalie Griffith, chair, reported the minutes were now complete and were correct as printed.

Corresponding Secretary Tietje German announced regrets from Mary Adams, Tawanna Cathey, Mary Ann Jones, Charlene Law, Jenny Lizama, Tina McKamie, June Miller, Nadine Moyer, Janette Murray, Catherine Poe, Anna Rinehart, Carrie Willingham, Paula Willingham and Judi York. Tietje also read correspondence from IC President, Rickie Brown announcing that Sherry Day will be our IC Representative to the Oklahoma State Convention in April. She also read a letter from Award Chair Jennifer Stewart having to resign her position for family obligations. Billye announced that Dana Terrell, Theta Tau, Kingfisher, had graciously agreed to take over this position.

State Treasurer, Synovia Lemmings reported a beginning balance of \$3,035.44. Total income was \$3,747.00 with total expenses of \$1,660.37 for a balance as of November 14, 2015 of \$5,894.66. Treasurer's report will be placed on file as presented.

Synovia reported that the registration fee for the IC Leadership was increased to \$625.00. When the budget was approved in June the budgeted amount was based on \$610.00 for the 1st Vice President and \$305.00 partial registration for the 2nd Vice President. Synovia made a motion to increase the amount to \$625 and \$312.50 respectively. Coming from a committee, no second is necessary. Motion carried.

Synovia reported that the 2016 IC Convention registration has increased from the budgeted amount of \$225.00 to \$250.00. Synovia made a motion to increase the budgeted amount for the 2016 IC Convention registration to \$250.00. Coming from a committee, no second is necessary. Motion carried.

Rosalie Griffith, MARC Rep reported seven Oklahoma members attended the conference held in Omaha on October 9 & 10. Rosalie also showed the table decoration, an alarm clock "Train" that will be used for the banquet at the 2017 IC Convention. The committee approved the decoration and the theme will be "ESA on the Right Track." The Oklahoma basket was well received.

After a short lunch break the meeting reconvened.

Nancy Baucom, 1st VP reported the nominating committee was continuing to seek members to serve as a state officer and encouraged members to think about serving as an officer or an appointed position.

Robbin Brown, Convention chair and her committee for the 2016 Oklahoma State Convention encouraged members to get registered. She reported only 167 days until convention but only 139 days to register. She gave the Ten Top reasons to attend the 2016 "America the Beautiful" Oklahoma State Convention scheduled for April 29, 30, and May 1, 2016 at the Sheridan Hotel & Reed Center in Midwest City. Robbin also reminded everyone that now is the time to send in Ads for the Program.

Darla Barton, Philanthropic chair reported that we can count hours for philanthropic service if time is spent working on a chapter or state project, but we cannot count hours for just sitting in a meeting. She also reported that manufacturer coupons can be counted if you clip them for a charity, vets, children, etc. They are counted at face value for monetary value (example, .25, .50 cents) and you can count hours spent clipping and sorting them. If you buy gifts or decorations for meetings, you can count time and monies spent doing it.

Jo Rott, Association of the Arts Chair, encouraged members to get creative and submit their crafts and show their talent in the areas of paint, music and composition. Jo reminded members that this year there will be a "Best of Show" and this is a participation event. Jo also reminded members to check the website for information on contests.

Darlene Cushenberry, St. Jude Chair, reported that ESA has surpassed their fundraising goal of \$200 million to \$208 million. The Oklahoma Walks raised a total of \$139,000. Oklahoma City's Walk held at the OKC Zoo raised \$50,000 and Tulsa Walk held at Stone Canyon in Owasso raised \$89,000. Donations are open until December 1st. Darlene also reported the 2016 Dream Home Groundbreaking Ceremony was recently held in Stone Canyon in Owasso.

Linda Leveridge, read a "Thank You" from Sue Cole sent to ESA members. Ms. Cole recently retired from the Oklahoma School for the Deaf.

Wanda Lucas thanked members for their many thoughts and prayers during her husband's illness and passing.

Dr. Billye Peterson introduced Tammy Bowman, State Auditor. Tammy has suffered numerous bodily injuries from a car accident and has incurred mounting medical bills. Tammy was qualified to receive funds from the IC Disaster fund to help her with expenses. The Disaster Fund was established to help ESA members through rough times due to unforeseen disasters that members experience and is a way of giving back to our own.

Dr. Billye Peterson announced that a Jewel Pin Ceremony will be held at Redlands Community College in the Culture Center on Monday, November 30 at 3:00 p.m.

During part of this meeting members had a fun time making kitchen towel bunnies that they can use as a secret sister gift or make for a ways and means fundraiser. It was a fun day!

No further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalie Griffith
Acting Secretary for Margaret Kramer