



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

CONNECTIONS

Presbyterian Women of Wyoming

Winter 2017



The Moderator's Musings

Representing Wyoming as one of your co-Moderators for the State PW, Melinda Brazzale attended the PW Synod annual meeting in Denver from January 27-29. Margie George was unable to attend due to work commitments. The meeting was held at the Loretto Spirituality Center in Lakewood, Colorado and was attended by women from Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana and Wyoming. The other Wyomingite who attended was Cyndi Barski, who served as 2nd Vice Moderator in charge of Mission, Justice and Peace.

The annual meeting is a wonderful time to share ideas with other PWs, get to know one another and the projects that we're undertaking, affirm one another, learn more about our faith with worship, prayer and singing, and hear more about Presbyterian Women at the churchwide level.

Carol Day, the PW Synod's representative to the USAME (USA Mission Experience) to San Francisco, gave a presentation. On her trip this past Fall, Carol learned about the very heavy subject of sex trafficking and possible projects that we might get involved in to counter that. Our Presbyterian Women in Wyoming helped finance her trip (with your pledge money) and we look forward to hearing from her at the Spring Gathering in Cheyenne in April. You'll be moved.

We had election of officers. Marilyn Collins (Ogden, UT) will serve again as Moderator for the next three years; Sally Hoffelmeyer (Salt Lake City, UT) will serve again as Treasurer for the next three years. (These are both excellent officers!) Sharon Cely (Longmont, CO) continues as 1st Vice Moderator for another year; Merry Lee Hooks (Dillon, MT) continues as Secretary/Historian; Dorothy Peay (Denver, CO) continues as Racial/Ethnic Member-at-large; and Vicki Terry (Denver, CO) continues as Churchwide Coordinating Team Member.

We discussed the changing church structure and the difficulty of getting women to take offices (true in so many organizations!) and decided to combine the duties of 2nd Vice Moderator (Mission, Justice and Peace) with the Racial/Ethnic Member-at-large. So, Cyndi's job was eliminated (she had two more years of a three-year term to complete), but she was appointed with unanimous vote to work with Dorothy Peay for the next year.

Plans are being made as for location of next year's meeting due to the fact that the Loretto Center is being sold and will not be available. Plans are also being pursued for the next Synod Gathering which will be held in 2019 (the last one was in Cheyenne in 2016) and news will be coming out about that.

Thank you for your pledges to PW Synod! We are able to send people like Carol to the USAME who then comes back and educates us, and also send women on the Global Exchange in 2019 who also will educate us. We are lucky to have Kathy Lundberg of Sheridan chosen to attend this trip that goes to Indonesia. You'll get to meet her in April at the Gathering because she'll be sharing info about another mission trip she recently went on.

Melina Brazzale, Co-Moderator

SPRING GATHERING 2016 “PW FIRED UP”

We enjoyed a PWP Spring Gathering at 1st Presbyterian Church of Mt. View, WY, April 14-16, 2016. We had a small crowd but there was lots of energy, fellowship and sharing of ideas amongst the participants. We heard speakers Marilyn Collins, PW Synod of the Rocky Mtns. Moderator, Rev. Shayla Graham and Rev. Steve Shive. New members of the Coordinating Team were installed, and we supported the Bridger Valley Food Bank with our offering taken during the Friday evening worship. We also sorted toiletry articles for our outreach to the Mt. View area. Participants were also able to make prayer boxes under the direction of Margie George. The annual business meeting was held on Friday morning. The 2016-2017 budget was approved, new CT members were elected and other business was conducted.

The PW of Mt. View, did a wonderful job of hosting the weekend. We appreciated all of their little goodies, from the fun bags to the notebooks. We left Mt. View on Saturday “fired up” for our journeys home and the work ahead of us at PW members and Christians.



District V Meeting held September 7

Over the hills and across the rivers, our dedicated PWP co-moderators, Margie George and Melinda Brazzale traveled to Mountain View. There is only one PW group in this district. Invitations were sent to Evanston, Thayne, and Jackson, but unfortunately none could attend. It's too bad as the group enjoyed themselves. The meeting consisted of a devotion on Christian attitude smelling like the aroma of Christ. This was followed by the lighting of the Christ candle and Mission Yearbook of Prayer. Melinda and Margie discussed the PW organization using a cute, little flip chart. The evening concluded with a meal shared at the Crazy Ate restaurant. Mountain View always appreciates the interest and support of the PWP.

PWP Spring Gathering 2017 “Wyoming PW Connected to the World”

Our annual PWP Spring Gathering will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Cheyenne, WY, April 21-22, 2017. The Coordinating Team will meet on Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 pm at the church.

This event is for all women, so bring a friend from your church or community. We will hear inspiring mission speakers: Cyndi Barski, Carol Day and Kathy Lundberg. Rev. Steve Shive will present the new Horizons Bible Study for 2017-2018 “Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews”.

A registration form and information on lodging is available in this newsletter. Please share it with your friends and church family! See you all in Cheyenne April 21-22, 2017!

REPORTS ARE DUE!

Hopefully you have all sent your Annual Reports to PWP Historian Linda Learned, and your Together in Service reports to Cyndi Barski, Mission and Justice and Peace Coordinator. PWC Coordinating Team lists were also due to Co-Moderators Margie George and Melinda Brazzale by Feb. 1. Quarterly mission pledge payments and other giving is due to Mable Frederick, PWP Treasurer, by March 1, 2017.

Thanks to all who have sent these reports and if you haven't yet, it isn't too late!

Carol Day Retires to Go on A Misson Experience of a Lifetime



Carol Day retired from teaching in May of 2015 and allowed the seed of a PW mission experience to grow and mature in her life. The 2016 Mission Experience “Out of the Darkness into the Light” was started for the purpose of studying the challenges, as well as celebrating strengths of the Synod of the Pacific-San Francisco and San Jose Presbyteries and doing such in community with a participant from each synod from Main to Kansas Florida to Alaska. Carol thanks the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains for their generosity and support that sent her to the life changing experience. Her response will take the form of traveling through the synod to speak about the challenges and strengths of ministry that addresses the issues of immigration, trafficking, and domestic violence. She will be speaking at the Spring Gathering of the Presbytery of Wyoming. Teddy Bears and new friends.

Giving an Honorary Life Membership this fall or winter?

PW’s Honorary Life Membership program is more than a pin, it’s a program. Funds derived from Honorary Life Memberships support women’s leadership development. HLM recipients join a community of women and men who have demonstrated service to the church. Each honoree is recognized and remembered into perpetuity as they join the ever-growing HLM roster of those who faithfully serve.

If you have an HLM pin that is no longer worn and can be repurposed for another recipient, please complete the HLM order form and indicate that a pin is not needed. You will receive a certificate and the satisfaction of knowing that your \$95 will go further in providing leadership development opportunities. Do remember that recognition and memorial certificates area also available (amount at the discretion of the donor) and that they are a thoughtful way to recognize service or celebrate the life of a faithful servant. Email jung.winner@pcusa.org for additional information.

Newsletter Changes

HOW IS PWP CONNECTED?

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Wyoming (PWP of Wyoming) is a connected group, hence the name given to our newsletter, Connections. The purpose of our newsletter, of course, is to keep members and friends of PWP connected.

Our connections go beyond the boundaries of our presbytery, however. Both the PCUSA (Presbyterian Church, USA) and Presbyterian Women have similar connections as we are organized in the same fashion.

The organization of the church and PW is as follows:

PCUSA Congregations and Presbyterian Women in the Congregation (PWC) are the foundations of the church and PW. These are the local entities which follow the mission of both PCUSA and PW.

Presbytery of Wyoming and Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Wyoming-In our case, the state of Wyoming is a presbytery, but as you may know, this is not the situation across the church or PW. Presbytery of Wyoming has 28 churches and PWP has 9 PW groups (PWC). The Coordinating Team (CT) of PWP of Wyoming is elected every year at its annual Spring Gathering.

Synod of the Rocky Mountains and Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Rocky Mountains-8 presbyteries in Utah, Colorado, Montana, and Wyoming belong to the Synod of the Rocky Mountains. There are 16 synods across the PCUSA at this time. The PWS (PW in the Synod) of the Rocky Mountains Coordinating Team (CT) is elected yearly at

its annual meeting in January in Denver. The PWP moderators are a part of the PWS CT.

PCUSA General Assembly and Presbyterian Women Churchwide-This is the "national" level of the church and PW. The General Assembly of PCUSA meets every other year and presbyteries elect teaching and ruling elder commissioners, as well as Young Adult Advisory delegates. This group elects the church's moderator (or co-moderators) and stated clerk. The Churchwide Coordinating Team (leaders) of PW Churchwide is elected at the triennial gatherings. The voting delegates are selected by the presbyteries and synod. The next gathering is Aug. 2-5, 2018, in Louisville, KY. The offices of PCUSA and PW are located in Louisville.

Our church and Presbyterian Women are organized in this way to keep us connected. We have a common mission and purpose and we all have a voice at the congregational level and elect leaders at the other levels, who keep us connected. We have access to wonderful resources and leadership who is available to assist us in any way.

I know that if you are new to either PCUSA or PW, some of this may sound a little confusing, especially all of those letters! The most important thing to remember though, is that our connection with each other is what keeps PW at any level working efficiently and in accordance to the PW purpose. The human connection is important, but most important is our connection to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

It was voted at the Spring Gathering in April 2016 to have the PWP Connections newsletter be sent to its readers by email only. This action was taken due to the costs of printing and mailing newsletters. We realize that this may cause some burden to the local PW moderators and membership. Some of the readers have received their newsletter by US mail for some time. Many of you have been willing to receive it via email, for which we are grateful. We will send this issue out to all of the churches, moderators and others on our email address list by email. We ask that the moderators or churches make copies for those who do not have email. I am asking all moderators to please send me an updated list of names and email addresses of those who wish to receive the PWP Connections. The Connections will also be posted on the Presbytery of Wyoming website.

I apologize for the lack of newsletters in the last part of 2016. We moved and we are just now getting our office set up, so it has been a challenge to do this, but I hope we are back on track and you will receive a newsletter 2 more times this year. Thank you for your understanding and patience!

Gail Heimbuck
Connections Editor



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WOMEN**

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN THE PRESBYTERY OF
WYOMING
COORDINATING TEAM 2016-2017**

Co-Moderator:	Melinda Brazzale
Co-Moderator	Margie George
Vice-Moderator:	Vacant
Secretary:	Gail Heimbuck
Treasurer:	Mable Frederick
Search Committee Moderator:	Linda Luegge
Mission, Justice & Peace	Cyndi Barski
Coordinator:	
Historian:	Linda Learned
Newsletter Editor:	Gail Heimbuck
Horizons Representative:	Vacant
District I Leadership Coord.:	Kathy Beagle
District II Leadership Coord.:	Sally Sato
District III Leadership Coord.:	Karen Dibbern
District IV Leadership Coord.:	Cody & Powell
	Moderators
District V Leadership Coord.:	Jane Malone

