

Midwest Women's Fellowship President's Report 2022

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all of us these past two years. Our country and world are experiencing economic woes, a war in Ukraine, strained relationships among many. As Christians, we have the LORD to lead us through troubling times. I am so looking forward to the 2022 gathering of women in our presbytery at the annual retreat which we haven't had since 2019. I am looking forward to talks and discussion about what we know to be true and solid: God's Word.

I accepted the nomination of president in February of this year, so I have been trying to become knowledgeable of my duties. I am thankful for many who have helped me in this role. This seems to me to be a time of transition. I haven't been involved as an officer for many years, and much has changed. There is no longer a national women's missionary fellowship, and there are few missionary fellowships in our presbytery. However, I do believe we enjoy gathering for fellowship, teaching, discussion, and fun, and want these retreats to continue.

On February 26, I posted information about the retreat to the Midwest Net at mw-net@groups.io. On February 28, the notice of the retreat was posted on the RPCNA website which can be viewed at: <https://rpcna.org/trunk/page/events>. Due to lateness, I did not send information to the *R.P. Witness*.

I communicated with the ladies of Winchester who are hosting this retreat, Laura Wallace, vice president, technology officers, Mary Lou Patterson and Lori Hemphill, and historian Mitzie VanHorn about the many pieces that come together to have the yearly retreat. I sent email messages to treasurer Bessie VanKirk and nominating committee chair Adrienne Haney that they should send their reports to Lori Hemphill (lorihemp@gmail.com) for publication on the website of our fellowship: mwfellowship.org. I sent my president's bio and this report to Lori Hemphill in early March.

I culled out some documents in the president's book that no longer apply to the Midwest Women's Fellowship, and plan to hand them to our historian for record keeping. I am in the process of retyping a couple of the documents in the president's book. I contacted a reservations manager at Rock Springs Ranch about the possibility of having a retreat there sometime in the future. I plan to prepare an agenda for the executive and business meetings to be held on April 1. Kathy Stegall has graciously accepted the position of parliamentarian for this retreat. The women of Sterling have graciously agreed to host next year's retreat in Sterling, Kansas.

Pray for the retreat – for the ladies of Winchester as they host us, for Miriam Mead who is our main speaker, for Laura Wallace who has prepared an excellent program, for Bridgette Carroll who will be speaking to us from Africa, for the officers and coordinators, and for all who come.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:10-11

In Him,
Jean Stewart, Manhattan Reformed Presbyterian Church

March 9, 2022