



General Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2022

9:45 a.m. Lower Hall

**Welcome:** Vernell Bowen, President

**Opening Prayer, Blessing of the Prayer Shawls and Pledge of Allegiance:** Fr. Bill Elser. He also asked the members to pray for him during his retreat this week and to keep parishioner, Joanne DeJanovich in our prayers.

**Invocation:** Dottie Asten provided a true story right out of Hollywood (including small roles by Rev. Billy Graham and John Wayne) that explained the history of the song “It is No Secret” by Stuart Hamblen.

**President:** Vernell Bowen

- Introduction of the LOSH theme for 2022-2023 – Micah 6:8 “We are called to act with justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.” Vernell said the goal is to delve deeper into this scripture and its relationship to our service as we meet throughout the year.
- LOSH Retreat has been scheduled at Subiaco (Coury House Retreat Center) February 7-9, 2023. Sister Deborah Troillett will serve as the Retreat Director and will develop the program around the LOSH theme, Micah 6:8. More information will be given in the future.
- Introduction of Executive Board: Sara Pilgrim, Vice-President, Jane Brandon, Secretary, Helen Haessly, Financial Reporter (absent) and Kim Claassen, Treasurer (absent).
- Introduction of New Members and Guests: Janet Runshang, Cathy Raney, Priscilla O’Malley, Patricia Schmidt, Alison Kordsmeier, Laura Duggan, Mary Koscielniak and Donna Mullaney.
- Vernell thanked Guild 1 for hosting the meeting and September birthdays were recognized.
- Fr. Bill made a special announcement regarding the upcoming movie to honor the life of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Tinseltown in Benton will be hosting the movie the evenings of October 3 -4, but arrangements have been made for a special matinee October 3 at 11:00 a.m., if advance ticket sales are sold out. A registration form will be in the Narthex. Fr. Bill is discussing this opportunity with St. John’s and St. Mary’s churches

which will also help with ticket sales. There is the possibility of bus transportation to the movie based on number of tickets sold.

- Vernell provided a brief overview of use of the LOSH website and encouraged members to visit there to get information about activities, minutes, financials, history and much more. (hsvlosh.com Login: User Name is **Member** and Password is **5674** – numbers for LOSH). If you need assistance getting in our website, please ask your Guild Captains to assist you.

**Vice-President:** Sara Pilgrim

- Members were asked to get their new LOSH Directory from their Guild Captain at the meeting today. Sara reviewed the Programs and “Something Extra” for each month which is now printed on the back of the Member Booklet for easy referencing. The speaker for October will be Robi Heffington from the Oaklawn Chaplaincy and the Something Extra will be paper goods for Ouachita Children, Youth and Family Services and paper plates and napkins for The Caring Place.
- LOSH Brochure – has been revised to include more basic/generic information so it can be easily updated each year. The format was also changed from a booklet to a brochure to assist with cost saving for LOSH and these can be printed in the church office. Sara reminded members to visit the LOSH website to see an overview of each Guild. She explained that the Directory of Members on the website also has a Google Map feature that will provide directions to a member’s home when you click on their address.

**Secretary:** Jane Brandon

- Minutes from the May general meeting have been posted on the website. Having asked for any corrections or additions and there being none, a motion was made by Gerry Tomlinson to accept the minutes and was seconded by Nancy Webster. Minutes accepted as written.

**Financial Reporter:** Sara Pilgrim reporting for Helen Haessly

- Guild Captains were provided May, June, and July financials before the General Meeting so they could be forwarded to members for review and questions answered at the General Meeting, if necessary. (All financials are on the website under the tab MEETINGS).
- Having asked for any questions and there being none, a motion was made by Nancy Webster to accept the May and June financial reports. Sheila Harrison seconded, and they were accepted.
- July financial reports/end of the year report – Having asked for any questions and there being none, a motion was made by Patricia Schmidt to accept the Year End Report and July financials, and this was seconded by Rose Harrigan. They were accepted.

- Sheila Harrison asked for clarification of when August financials would be sent to Guild Captains. Sara explained these would go out later this week. The financial reports are approved one month in arrears. The August financial report will be approved at the October meeting since they cannot be reconciled and finalized until after the September general meeting.
- Sara reported the LOSH financials for last year had been reviewed by Frank Edwards, CPA and were determined to be in good order with all checks, deposits and receipts accounted for in 2021-2022.

**Treasurer:** Sara Pilgrim reporting for Kim Claassen

- All Guild Reports have been reviewed and were in order. Processes that have been put in place are working.
- Kim wanted to thank the Budget Committee for their hard work this year: Co-chair Helen Haessly, Vernell Bowen, Kathy Clark, Sara Pilgrim, Susan Harrell, Darlene Martinek, Sandy Darnell and Marie Hylden.
- Copies of the 2022-2023 budget approved at the September 6 Board meeting were provided at each table. Members said they did not need a line-by-line explanation of the budget, but Sara Pilgrim did highlight: a deficit of \$1.00; Guilds will not be assessed this year for kitchen cleaning as funds were carried over from last year to cover this expense. Pat Widlowski asked for clarification on Blessing Baskets and Sara Pilgrim explained that 100% of funds will be used for charity as opposed to in the past when some of these funds helped with LOSH expenses. From the Blessing Basket Fund, 70% will go for LOSH specific charities as determined by the Funds Distribution Committee and 30% to Village Churches Mission Outreach for their shoe fund. Cathy Ament had a question about funeral flowers and Sara explained these are covered for the year based on a donation and some reserve dollars. Cathy Ament made a motion to accept the budget and Sheila Harrison seconded. The budget was accepted.

**Communications Committee:** Josie Hanschmann (absent), Kathy Clark (absent)

- No formal report but Vernell Bowen explained that Kathy Clark is LOSH's webmaster and she asks that Guilds send her pictures of their activities with people identified.
- Guild Captains were reminded to let Kathy Clark know when they have new members so they will receive important LOSH information.

**Fundraising Committee:** Sara Pilgrim

- Marty Schnoebelen, Chairperson provided information on the Fall Bake Sale October 22-23 to be held outside under the portico Saturday, October 22 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. until all items are sold through October 23. Event will also be held before and after all Masses. Please see the sign-up sheet at the meeting today to indicate your role in this event (baking goods, wrapping/packing, etc.). Remember no cupcakes with icing.

Cathy Ament suggested having baked goods delivered at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, October 21 so they would be fresher for the bake sale. Members agreed on this idea.

- Barb Sweeney, Chairperson – Fall Card Party in Memory of Carol Barrett to be held Monday, October 31, 2022. Barb explained this is one of two major fundraisers for LOSH so a much is expected from each Guild. Guild Captains will have a memo outlining all Guild responsibilities. Vernell Bowen will send donation letters to the Guild Captains that can be used when requesting donations from area businesses. For gift card/gift certificate donations, Sheila Harrison suggested buying one and then asking the business to donate one. Barb provided Guilds with specific information and a flyer.
- Christmas Cookie Sale will be held December 17-18 and chaired this year by Guild 2. All LOSH members are asked to provide baked goods for this event.
- Charity Golf Scramble – March 29, 2023. Liz Edwards and Sara Pilgrim, Co-Chairs.
- LOSH Jar Lid Openers – this easy fundraiser was suggested by Ann Bowman, Fundraising Committee. Heart-shaped jar openers engraved with the message “Open my heart to God,” will be sold for \$2.50 at our events, general meetings and/or before and after Masses.
- Projections for planned fundraising events based on our history: Fall Bake Sale - \$2,000, Card Party - \$3,800, Christmas Cookie Sale - \$1,000, Golf Tournament - \$7,000 for a total of \$13,800.

**Funeral Committee:** Liz Edwards reported Guild 7 is up for the next funeral reception with Guild 8 up next in the rotation. Vernell Bowen reported that Fr. Bill had attended the September Board meeting to suggest some changes to funeral receptions due to the increasing duties of our Guilds, rising cost of food, and large numbers of annual funerals. In support of some of these changes, he has changed daily Mass time to 8:30 to accommodate holding funerals at 10:00a.m. in order that light refreshments (muffins, cheese tray, fruit tray, deviled eggs, cookies, cake, etc.) be served rather than lunch. Group discussion followed with pros and cons to the suggested changes and Liz Edwards recommended the issue be tabled for a decision in October. Vernell asked Guild Captains to discuss this matter with their guilds and follow-up with Liz Edwards regarding their decision. This item will be on the October agenda. Fr. Bill is aware this will be a LOSH decision. It will still be his practice to discuss funeral receptions with the family and make recommendations based on extenuating circumstances and special needs of the family such as those requiring a larger meeting area like we have and out-of-town guests.

**Philanthropic Committee:** Vernell Bowen reported we are still in need of a Chairperson. Patty Doublin has resigned the position to take on the tutoring program at Mountain Pine School. Committee met in July and made the following recommendations to the Board:

- “Something Extra” 2022-2023 be scheduled as presented.
- LOSH assume the Angel Tree project which was originally a LOSH program under the Food Basket Program (Marie Hylden). Patty Doublin reported that after many years of

dedicated service, Ed and Claudia Kearns will no longer oversee the project. It was recommended each Guild could take on a function/duty of the project and members were referred to the handouts provided on their tables. Gerry Tomlinson recommended a detailed information sheet be provided to the Guild Captains so this could be discussed with members and then discuss at the October meeting. Vernell will provide this information to the Guild Captains and this item will be on the October agenda.

**Old Business:**

- Clarifications of donations from funerals – At the September 9, 2019 board meeting, a motion was made by Nancy Smith and seconded by Barb Sweeney if a check was made out to LOSH then, LOSH would receive half the amount and half would go to the hosting guild. If the donation was made to the Guild, then the Guild would retain the full amount. The motion passed. This was reviewed at the September 6, 2022, board meeting and the board recommended this stay as is at this time.
- Sara Pilgrim reminded members that she will be placing an order for LOSH tee shirts October 1 so get your information and payment to her ASAP. Short sleeve V-neck is \$15 and long sleeve round neck is \$18.

**New Business and Important Dates:**

- Vernell Bowen reminded the members a Chairperson is needed for the Philanthropic Committee.
- LOSH will be responsible for hosting REY dinners January 25 and April 26, 2023.
- Guild 2 will host the October General Meeting
- Morning mass schedule has changed to 8:30 a.m. LOSH October meeting will begin at 9:45.
- Suggestions: Vernell Bowen said Guilds may want to consider donating flowers for Mass to honor your Guild's Feast Day. Susan Harrell shared a Guild member had made an anonymous donation to LOSH in honor of her 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (\$10/year for a \$560 donation). This might be a good way to further increase LOSH revenue for our charities as this money did go to one of the Food Pantries.
- Sheila Harrison reminded members of the sign-up sheet in the Narthex for the Mother Teresa movie.
- Elsa Naeger: On October 15, she encouraged the members to meet at the Wal-Mart gas station in Hot Springs Village to say the rosary as part of an event that is being held throughout the country, America Needs Fatima. The rosary will be said to highlight the need for world peace and conversion.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Jane Brandon, LOSH Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Vernell Bowen, President September 13, 2022

