

2009 Board Skit

Characters:

Earnestlee – Martha Weld
The WELCAettes
President – Susan Drane
Mission Action - Sue Bye

Mission Growth – Kristin Broksas
Canyon Echoes Editor n- Lee Weller
Triennial – Barbara Stenberg
VP/Convention Chair- Laura Krueger

Props: *(Laura K will get all the props)*

Cardboard pennants naming each conference
Phones

Earnestlee: A gracious good morning to all! I'm Earnestlee Tomlin coming at you from the Grand Canyon Telephone Company (*Snort/Snort*). Perhaps you recall my cousin Earnestine who appeared on the Laugh-in Television show in the 70's or perhaps not (*snort/snort*) but I'm here today with the magnificent WELCAettes....

WELCAettes: *(stand up all together, loud, smiling, waving your pennants)* WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – Purpose – As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship, in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Earnestlee: Wow! (*Snort/Snort*) They're great aren't they? Community, empowered, committed (I was committed once but I don't think they mean that kind – snort), supporting, engaging and promoting those are great words WELCAettes....

WELCAettes: *(stand up all together, loud, smiling, waving pennants)* WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America *(sit down)*

Earnestlee: Yeehaw! (*Snort/Snort*) Let the switchboard begin! (Ring) One ringie dingie, (*snort/snort*), Oh this is so much fun, I love my job (Ring) Two ringie dingie, Can You Hear His Call – a gracious good morning to you – Is this the party to whom I am speaking?

President: This is Susan Drane, President of your SWO....

WELCAettes: *(Stand up all together, loud, smiling, waving pennants)* SWO – Synodical Women's Organization

President: For many years I have listened and watched the women in all the congregations that have blessed my faith journey thus far. It would have been a long trek in the desert without the women of my congregations who teach me, sustain me, lift me up, straighten me out, make me laugh, let me cry and keep me excited as we continue to take time to Listen for God's call. Beyond the safety of my congregation the

experience is the same with the women I've met at conference and synod gatherings. As Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, what we do is awesome and immeasurable, even when done quietly.

Earnestlee: Is that so Susan. That's beautiful! Thanks for sharing your observations with us.

President: The Women of the ELCA synodical board recognizes that the annual convention is our most important opportunity for growth and development as an organization and as sisters in Christ. Your board strives to keep the cost of attending the convention affordable to all who wish to attend. In doing so Scholarships are available for women to attend who may not be able to attend a WELCA event

WELCAettes: WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Earnestlee: sounds like a great idea – I also heard you sisters in Christ provided a scholarship for a friend of mine. She went to her first Grand Canyon convention back in the 90's as a scholarship recipient and that's when she got all hippped up about WELCA....

WELCAettes: WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Earnestlee: after that convention. She kept talking about the great women she met, the new friends she made and how moving the worship was and how the music was incredible – she couldn't stop talking about how spiritually uplifted she was after that convention –so what are scholarships and who qualifies?

President: Scholarships are awarded each year to allow women who have never attended a synod convention before to come to one. Two of the scholarships cover the registration fee and hotel cost of the recipient. These are for young women, one for those under 30 yrs old and the other for young women under age 40. There are also scholarships for women from the 9 conferences. One is given from each conference to a woman of any age who has not attended a synod convention and the other is for a Woman of color and/or whose primary language is other than English. These scholarships are a great way for us to hear God's call and support the WELCA purpose statement...

WELCAettes: Purpose – As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Earnestlee: Oh Susan, it was so nice chatting with you, gotta go, another call's coming in.... One Ringie Dingie..... Two Ringie Dingie.... This is Earnestlee Tomlin with the Grand Canyon Telephone Company with a gracious good morning to you.... Is this the party to whom I am speaking? (*snort*)

Mission Action: Hello Earnestlee, this is Susan Bye, from the SWO's...

WELCAettes: SWO – Synodical Women's Organization

Mission Action: Mission: Action Committee. Our committee encourages women to put their faith into action. Women are encouraged to show their discipleship through stewardship of time, talent and resources; showing acts of faith and justice; by supporting other women as they articulate and act upon their faith; by staying informed about local, national and international issues related to human needs, peace with justice and the environment; by communicating support for the oppressed through advocacy and partnerships; and promoting education on justice issues.

Earnestlee: Wow, your committee seems like they have a lot to do.

Mission: Action: During this last year, we encouraged women and their families to get involved in the Cell phone project. Did you know that Americans change their cell phones about once a year totaling about half a billion a year. That means about 11 million cell phones head to the landfills every year. By collecting old cell phones, we were able to impact positively the environment. In addition, the money collected as reusable materials in the donated cell phones was used to benefit women and children living in poverty. Other projects included providing awareness about the Stand with Africa Water Project, and Lutheran Campus Ministry programs here in the Grand Canyon Synod.

Earnestlee: Who knew one little old dead cell phone could do so much damage and also so much good! I'm never going to throw out my cell phones again. Your committee deserves major kudos for a job well done!

Mission: Action: Well, Earnestlee. We also encourage women and their congregational units to get involved with Fair Trade Products. By purchasing these products we are helping people around the world move from poverty to prosperity. Have you tried the great coffee and that chocolate is to die for!

Earnestlee: Now you're talking girl!

Mission: Action: Our work is not yet done. I'm not sure it will ever be done. As WELCA....

WELCAettes: WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mission: Action: women, we need to be advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves. We need to listen to God's Call..... and put our Faith into Action.

Earnestlee: Thanks Sue. Oh! Listen, another call coming in. Gotta Go. One Ringie Dingie (I just love this) Two Ringie Dingie. A gracious good morning to you! Earnestlee Tomlin coming at you from the Grand Canyon Telephone Company. Is this the party to whom I am speaking?

Canyon Echoes: Hi! This is the editor of Canyon Echoes, the SWO

WELCAettes: SWO – Synodical Women's Organization

Canyon Echoes: newsletter. It's a publication that comes out 4-5 times a year. Each issue is filled with information about upcoming events and news about all our sisters in Christ are doing around the Grand Canyon Synod.

Earnestlee: A friend of mine gets that newsletter. She looks forward to getting it in her mailbox. How can I get a subscription?

Canyon Echoes: Well, all you have to do is send in a note or a form that's included in most issues with your name, address, phone number and congregation along with a check for \$5.00 and you will start receiving your subscription via US Mail. A subscription is for one year. You can sign up for more than one year at a time. Just do the math and send a check that equals \$5.00 for each year. We have also moved the Canyon Echoes into the electronic age.

Earnestlee: How did you do that? Is Scotty going to beam it into our mailboxes?

Canyon Echoes: Not exactly Earnestlee. For our sisters who prefer to receive an electronic copy, they can send me their email address and a check for \$2.00 and they will start receiving Canyon Echoes in the inbox of their email accounts. In a way, Canyon Echoes has gone green. By not sending out paper copies to these sisters, we may be saving a few trees. I want to encourage our sisters in Christ to submit articles for publication. I know there are women out there who have gifts to share by writing a short devotional or inspiration. Congregational units should be bragging about the great work they are doing as they act upon their faith. I'd love to hear from all of them!

Earnestlee: Thanks Editor. Oh! Listen, another call. One Ringie Dingie (I just love this) Two Ringie Dingie. A gracious good morning to you! Earnestlee coming at you from the Grand Canyon Telephone Company. Is this the party to whom I am speaking?

Mission Growth: Hi Earnestlee, Kristin here from the Mission Growth Committee.

Earnestlee: Howdy Doody Kristin, what news do you have to share?

Mission Growth: Just wanted everyone to know how many opportunities for growth WELCA has.

WELCAettes: WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Mission Growth: Growing in mission together is a wonderful experience. You've already heard from Susan about scholarships. And you heard from the editor of Canyon Echoes newsletter. Submit your success stories to your SWO....

WELCAettes: SWO – Synodical Women's Organization

Mission Growth: and we will share them in Canyon Echoes. We all love new ideas to bring to our women's groups to help us grow spiritually. I also want our sisters in Christ to know that there are a lot of recourses available. One of these resources is LWT

WELCAettes: LWT – Lutheran Woman Today

Mission Growth: This magazine offers many inspirational articles, bible studies and many program ideas, Plus, the CWO

WELCAettes: CWO – Churchwide Women's Organization

Mission Growth: publishes countless materials with program ideas and more. Our goal is for all congregations to have healthy, active women's groups. In 2009, the CWO

WELCAettes: CWO – Churchwide Women's Organization

Mission Growth: added _____ new programs on their website. Everything from retreats to leadership, litanies and prayers. All are adaptable, with suggestions on making them work for your group. Oh, and they are free! So check out the website.

WELCAettes: CWO website – www.womenoftheelca.org

Earnestlee: Oh boy, here comes another call. Bye Bye. One Ringie Dingie..... ohhhhhh. I do so love my job. Two Ringie Dingie.... A gracious Good morning to you! Is this the party to whom I am speaking?

Triennial Promoter: Hi Earnestlee! This is Barbara and I'm the 2011 Triennial Promoter for Grand Canyon Synod.

Earnestlee: oooh! That sounds pretty impressive! But just what is a Triennial that needs to be promoted?

Triennial Promoter: A Triennial is what churchwide calls their business convention. The convention takes place every 3 years, thus the name Triennial.

Earnestlee: So Barbara, you said it's in 2011, but when and where?

Triennial Promoter: Well Earnestlee, can you help me spread the word? It will be in Spokane, Washington in July of 2011. A lot more information will be coming in the next few months. I'd like to see as a large group of women from your Grand Canyon Telephone area attending. Besides a meeting to conduct the business of the organization, there will be some great workshops... and if the past Triennials are any indication, the worship services and guest speakers will be awesome! So, what do you say, Earnestlee, will you help me get the news out?

Earnestlee: You bet! I'll even get my friends the WELCAettes involved.....

WELCAettes: WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Triennial Promoter: Thanks Earnestlee. That would be great. I'll be in touch with you as I get more information. For now, spread the word that everyone should start saving and for those who might need some assistance to attend, there will be scholarships available to help cover the expenses.

Earnestlee: Another call. Gotta go! Bye Bye. One Ringie Dingie..... ohhhhhh. I do so love my job. Two Ringie Dingie.... A gracious Good morning to you! Is this the party to whom I am speaking?

Convention Chair: Hi Earnestlee! This is Laura with one last call about THIS CONVENTION!

Earnestlee: Fire Away Laura!

Conv Chair: I'm calling from the 22nd annual convention being held right now in beautiful Laughlin, NV. We were inspired last night by great music and a great keynote speaker. We had some fun in the hospitality room and closed the evening in prayer. And we have even more to look forward to today. Evening prayer, a banquet with some interesting entertainment, and the return of the Hospitality Suite and prayer service. And everyone will be able to choose to attend two workshops from a list of 7.

WELCAettes: A Craft—Cardmaking, Learn about Walking a Sacred Path: Labyrinth; Hospitality: More than Warm & Friendly; Spiritual Gifts—Gifted for His Call; Hear His Call, Using your Investments; Helping the Hands that Heal with Global Health Ministries and Looking for Program???

Conv Chair: and everyone is encouraged to experience the labyrinth at any time during the weekend and Hear how God is calling you. We can all continue to listen to ways God is calling as we share this year's convention with one another.... We can continue to share our time, talent and resources with our Churchwide sisters, our sisters in the Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Grand Canyon Synod.... And we can continue to grow in Christ as we live the WELCA purpose statement...

WELCAettes: WELCA – Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Purpose – As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Earnestlee: Wow! I can understand why Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Grand Canyon Synod get so hipped up about everything they stand for. This is Earnestlee signing off now for the Grand Canyon Telephone Company but before I leave this switchboard I'd like to try a little new-age-global Spiritual connection experiment with all my Grand Canyon sisters in Laughlin....

OKAY Sisters... if you can hear me – stand up --- get out the purpose statement card someone gave you earlier and with me and the WELCAettes... Let's all recite together the WELCA purpose.....

Everyone: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

That was beautiful and this is Earnestlee pulling the plug – but always remember to listen.....Hear His Call..... for God is calling you!