

## Our Activities: JELCW Board

Naoko Suzuki, President

This is the last issue of newsletter for our 22nd Board to publish. I see that the activity reports from the five districts are full of introduction of their new board members. I am sure they have started new actions in their own districts.

I would like to thank the officers of the 22nd Board for their hard work. They must have checked piles of documents repeatedly to find out how things had been done. I believe they felt as if they were running around and struggling to fulfill their roles over the past three years. Now that their work is done, they may finally feel relieved.

Year after year, no matter which district it is, I hear that choosing board members is getting difficult. There are many reasons: some need to take care of family members, others have work conflicts, and of all things, more women are taking greater responsibility in their church leadership, which leaves little spare time for the women's league. To be sure, I was surprised to find so many female delegates at the JELC National Church Assembly last year.

I understand the difficulty of choosing league officers in this situation. Nevertheless, considering how much the Internet has permeated our lives to help ease not only communication but also administrative work, I wish to see more members take leadership in JELCW.

The strength of JELCW is our ability to achieve what we, the members, have determined to do. In this way, JELCW has accomplished various tasks to date. Let us focus on our way forward and work together.



Preparing for the R&GM on the venue with Local Arrangement Committee

## Our Activities: Hokkaido Special District

Masako Kondo, District President

Our annual event, kelp packaging, took place in September and October. Thanks to your cooperation, all 2343 packs have been sold out. The profit is used for the children's Bible camp, for the district retreat, and for the next generation fund.

In Hokkaido, over the last 20 years, we have continued to support Philippine children through Child Fund Japan. From two years ago, when we began fostering a new child, Sunday schools and congregations have joined in.

Considering the transportation difficulties we may have in wintertime, we decided last year to shift our Assembly from February to November. Although we were busy in late August closing the books, we could carry out the gathering on Nov. 11 without any difficulties.

We have resolved to make some changes at the GM, including the title and term of the officers. I was reelected not as "representative" but as "district president" for the next three years instead of two years. Based on the past two year "trial period," I hope to find more concrete ways to overcome tough issues facing us in Hokkaido.



New Board (from left to right) Yuko Umehara, coordinator of kelp packing; Naoko Matsushima, LP for Child Fund Japan; Eiko Noguchi, treasurer; Masako Kondo, president; and Mikiko Oga, secretary

## Our Activities: East District

Seiko Asano, District President

The most notable event in the last year of our 22nd term, was co-hosting a seminar together with *Itsukushimi* during the April 2014 council meeting. Rev. Sayoko Oooka, chaplain of St. Agnes University in Kyoto, gave us a lecture titled, "Church seen from gender perspective." Listening to her, I felt she was suggesting that we not focus only on the gender gap, but also seek diversity in our life together.

The 23rd General Meeting of East District was held at Tokyo Church on Feb. 7. After the activity and finance reports, new officers were elected, the agenda was discussed, and the action plan and budget were approved for the next three-year term. Throughout the discussions, we heard of the need for greater access to the district CW's programs for members who are multitasked in the church, and of the need to reduce officer workload. The GM resolved to rename "Chair Meeting" to "East District Women's Meeting."

I am so thankful that our 22nd board is now able to pass the baton to the 23rd, thanks to all the members' prayer and powerful support. Above all, from the bottom of my heart, I praise the Lord, who has led us, carried us, and blessed us abundantly. Halleluiah!



New Board (left to right) Haruko Tuna, Chihoko Sarai, vice presidents; Kumi Yagi, president; Akiko Nemoto, rep. to JELCW; Takiko Kishida, treasurer; Noriko Hishida, secretary; and Kazuko Hosaka, Communications

## Our Activities: Tokai District

Kimiko Suzuki, District President

Tokai District CW's General Meeting was held at Nagoya-Megumi Church on Feb. 28th. Some 85 sisters including 35 delegates attended. The high attendance apparently showed the members' great interest in the upcoming triennial national meeting. Many ideas and remarks were made during the discussions. Lunchtime became a precious time of interaction among sisters. Here and there we could see them chatting over a cup of tea/coffee provided by the host church.



The 21st board was elected. They are; Kunie Sakurai, President (Eikoh; below far left), Kazuko Taguchi, Vice-president (Ogaki; second from right), Yumiko Kotani, Secretary (Fuji; center), Ikumi Hori, Treasurer (Nagoya-Kibo; far right), and Mie Haga, Representative to JELCW (Oshika; second from left).



Looking back, the Lord has guided us, used us, and nurtured us, who have not been skillful as officers. I pray that the new board will be given the same blessings and joy we had.

## Our Activities: West District

Rieko Saeki, District President

The West District 17th Board lacked a Representative to the National League. In addition, four out of the five officers had no previous experience. We were worried. Although the board convened repeatedly, the atmosphere became relaxed and warm. By the second year, we looked forward to seeing one another at the board meeting.

We have gained a lot by becoming the subcommittee on 'TNG,' and by taking part in efforts to review JELCW works. During board meetings and district chair meetings, we learned of the great work of 'TNG' in raising next-generation Christians. We realized that it is one of the main responsibilities of Church Women's outreach.

During the third year, we prepared for the general meeting in March to pass on our work to the new board. However, finding candidates turned out to be more difficult than we thought. Everyone worked hard to fill the candidacy list. When all efforts failed, we felt the need to understand what members thought about the women's league and conducted a questionnaire over the entire membership. That became a great opportunity for me to realize the strong faith our sisters hold. I was deeply touched by reading each response sheet of the questionnaire. I also realized the importance of the women's league to their faith.

A miracle happened just before the GM. We finally filled the candidate list to form the board. We felt that God worked for us beyond our thoughts. How grateful we are!

18th Board (left to right) Chieko Ikeda, auditor; Noriko Takahashi, secretary; Mari Ito, treasurer; Nami Matsumoto, president; and Etsuko Yanai, rep to JELCW



## Our Activities: Kyushu District

Akiyo Iwakiri, District President

The churchwomen in Chikugo sub-region met for the general meeting at Tanushimaru Church on Feb. 21 and resolved that they would again have a prayer for peace in August. On the same day, churchwomen in Kumamoto sub-region gathered at Oe Church for their GM. They have a fund to support those who attend national general meetings and rally. Listening to their lively discussion at the meeting, we felt their enthusiasm to send as many members as possible to the national GM.

Following the sub-regional meetings, the 19th Kyushu District CW's GM was held at Hakozaki Church on Feb. 28th. One of the major actions reported was the publication of "Beside Still Waters --- a guide for communion"; a booklet made by the Silver Project Committee for the elderly. We hope every church will use this booklet as a guide when they call on those who cannot attend church for various reasons, join in communion with them and offer prayer together.

Finally, I would like to say with gratitude that the past three years of our term have been supported by the guidance of the Lord and by the prayers of the members. In addition, we were greatly blessed by getting to know other officers from different regions through the national league. We give thanks for everything.



19th Board (left to right) Haruko Rakuman (Amagi), communications; Mari Hara (Kurume), president; Kyoko Tawara (Murozono), vice pres. & secretary; Fumiko Sato (Murozono), treasurer; and Noriko Sugimoto (Kumamoto), representative to JELCW