



LWML ACCENT

English District

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

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CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS FROM A NEW DELEGATE

Although I have attended several LWML Conventions, this was my first experience as a voting delegate. The experience provided a more intense and effective connection to an amazing organization known from childhood. In a way, it was also a connection to my mother, who was a member almost from its beginning.

From the opening worship service, involving 3,000 women plus pastors and guests singing and praising the Lord to the concluding service, those in attendance connected with the Lord and with each other.

Inspiring elements came together; early morning prayer, Bible studies, mission projects to vote on, new officers and by-law changes, special interest sessions, music and yes, even a little dancing to that music brought joy and the opportunity to stretch and connect with praise. Ministry leaders and grant recipients shared their stories of what the Lord was doing through them, made possible through the small but mighty mite box gifts.

Over-arching each of the days was the increasing sense of connection; this is my church, these are my sisters in Christ, and together, we are accomplishing amazing things for our Lord. What would be impossible for one person has been magnified greatly to spill out and touch countless lives, through outreach projects in many countries, including our own. What a connection the LWML has provided for so many!

Judy Wiedenkiller
LWML English District
Milwaukee Zone Co-chair

This newsletter is devoted to the LWML Convention held June 20-23, 2019 in Mobile, AL. You will read about the convention from different view points including our President, Darlene Keca, a first time delegate, a Young Woman Representative (YWR), from our Junior Counselor and from a couple of life-long LWMLers. All of them were singing Praise to the Lord throughout the convention.



Gifts From The Heart Count as of 6/23/19

- 228 Baby kits
- 262 Sheet sets
- 1,161 Hygiene kits
- 926 Bibles
- 214 Quilts
- 43 Boxes of Miscellaneous supplies
- \$33,630 in Gift card donations

LWML English District President

Darlene Keca

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“In Praise to the Lord!” *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.* 1 Chronicles 16:23-24

What a privilege it was to represent the LWML English District as your president at this convention. Our delegation was seated to the left of the stage in the front two rows. I’m not sure how that happened but it was a nice place to be. For some, this was the first time serving as a delegate for their zone. Please remember to thank your representative for serving in this capacity; it takes more than just being present. Each one came prepared to vote on the bylaw amendments, plus casting their vote for 8 of the 31 mission grants proposed and the officers presented for election. There were a total of 544 eligible voters.

We were blessed to have two awesome Young Women Representatives (YWR’s) from our district, pictured with Darlene in the banner procession. They were Emily Terry from the Arizona Zone and Stephanie Arndt (in blue dress) from the Western Michigan Zone. I didn’t see their full schedule but I know they were busy; however, they were seated with our delegates whenever the convention was in session. This was a wonderful opportunity for all first timers to get a better understanding of what the LWML is about. What a blessing it was to have had 81 YWR’s at Mobile. I was honored to have Stephanie and Emily next to me in the procession of the district banners.

Speaking of banners, as some of you are already aware, Georgiana (Georgie) Jackson has been crafting marvelous banners for our district for many years. She had agreed to create the banner for the Mobile convention but, unfortunately, she fell two days before Christmas and fractured her arm. Not knowing how long the healing process would take she needed to relinquish the task and pass the torch, so to speak. God had a plan. The word went out; we needed an experienced banner maker who could meet the deadline. Bernardine (Bernie) Postlewaite from the Chicago Zone came to the rescue. Great job Bernie!

Fourteen Heart To Heart Sisters were commissioned on Thursday morning representing the countries of India, Italy, Columbia, Liberia, Jordan, Jamaica, and Germany – six of the women live in the United States. H2H Sisters is an intentional effort to ensure multicultural women participate in the life and work of the LWML.

Sunday morning’s Worship Service caused a time to reflect as the Bible verses were read in four different languages: Hebrew, Moba (from North of Togo), Turkish and English. Thinking back to the Mission Flags Procession of 76 countries being represented, we had just heard three languages spoken fluently. The many hours our missionaries have to study, in order to share God’s word, in the language that can be understood in all of those countries should be an inspiration to us all. “Praise God!”

This publication isn’t large enough to share everything I’d like to; however, visit our LWML English District website, englishdistrict-lwml.weebly.com to see more. As the saying goes, pictures are worth a thousand words, and our site has convention pictures, pictures and more pictures, or log onto lwml.org select Convention Central and read the daily convention publications “Praise Express”.

Sincerely your sister in Christ,
Darlene Keca



Detroit Zone Representative

Janet Stechholz

I felt honored and blessed to be the delegate from the Greater Detroit Zone at the 38th Biennial Convention of the LWML in Mobile, Alabama. My husband, Rev. David Stechholz, and I arrived on Wednesday.

We got to the Convention Center by noon and the first thing we did was drop off 37 Health Kits in the “Gifts From the Heart” room. At our Greater Detroit Zone Spring Rally, our ladies put together 37 Health Care Kits. The kits were packed into 4 huge bags that filled the whole back of our car! It was really wonderful to be able to contribute those 37 kits at the convention.

On Thursday, before the convention officially began, my husband and I were scheduled to work on the servant events from 9:00-11:00 A.M. Since I had a pre-convention workshop to attend, I couldn't do the servant events for the entire time. I got there early, at 8:30, and I was able to put together school kits for children who need them. I worked there until about 9:15 and then I went to a pre-convention seminar on Mission Grants. Since I am on our District Mission Grants Committee, I took lots of notes and learned so much about what to look for in mission grants. Right after that seminar, I had two hours of convention choir rehearsal. It was really an awesome experience to sing in a mass choir. We sang at both the Opening Service and at the Sending (Ending) Service. Then we had an hour of Delegate Orientation which was extremely helpful to all of us delegates. Right after that we had our District Caucus (Meeting) and our District Picture. We did have time to finally eat after that. The highlight of the day was the Opening Service. The theme of the convention was “In Praise to the Lord”. It was a Joyful Celebration.

I won't go into detail about everything that went on at the convention, but I'll mention two things that meant a lot to me.

The main highlight for me was voting for the Mission Grants. All of the grants were important and we could only vote for eight grants. The eight mission grants I voted for were the top eight mission grants that the ladies voted for at the Greater Detroit Zone Spring Rally. And all of those grants were among the twenty one mission grants that were granted!

Another highlight for me was walking in the Mission in Motion Pledge Walk on Saturday morning from 6:30 - 7:30. Hundreds of us in our golden yellow shirts walked behind the band with joyful spirits! Then the band serenaded us as we walked. It was a great way to begin the day.

It was a rewarding experience voting for new officers in the LWML. Debbie Larson is now our new president. The Bible studies and the Christian entertainment were outstanding. The Lord blessed the convention. I pray that more of you can come to the next convention in Lexington, Kentucky in 2021. Before that, I hope to see you all at our English District LWML Convention in Pittsburgh on April 24-26, 2020.

Pictures—Janet delivering the Gifts of the Heart. With President Patti Ross and her husband on the walk.



Young Woman Representative

Emily Terry

I had the opportunity to represent the English District as a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the LWML Convention in Mobile, AL this year. A fellow LWML lady encouraged me to apply for the opportunity, as she knew it would be an amazing adventure I would never forget, and it was my last chance (I'll be turning 36 this year). I applied thinking it would be fun to see what LWML was all about. I felt honored when I found out I would be representing our district at the LWML convention! I must admit, the emotions were a little overwhelming as the time came closer to be packing and prepping for the convention. I'd be leaving my two young children (ages 5 & 3) with my husband for the first time and traveling by myself, how would I function without having to reign in my kids! My nerves and anxiousness tried to get the best of me, but with God by my side those feelings turned into excitement as I packed everything that was on the checklist.

Even with flight cancelations in Dallas, God worked his magic, and me along with 3 others, who were veteran convention goers, made it to Pensacola where we rented a car and drove to Mobile. I woke my roommate at 2:30 am as I was trying to quietly unzip my luggage, of course we stayed up talking for about an hour!

I started the convention by assisting with Gifts from the Heart. What an amazing experience! In the short time I was there, multiple baby and hygiene packets came in along with sheets and gift cards. The recipients were overwhelmed with all the heartfelt gifts!

As a YWR, my schedule was busy from sun up to sun down, however, this included a couple meals and Bible studies with some amazing speakers including Donna Pyle, President Patti, Jan Struck and others. It was interesting how everyone had a very different story about being a part of the LWML and their current role; however, they also had one important thing in common; you could see how God challenged each one and led them to their particular position!

The thing that made the biggest impression on me would be the "mites". Being new to LWML, I did not fully understand the importance nor the impact these little mite boxes have. Hearing the "Mites in Action" speakers was amazing and still warms my heart when I tell others the

stories of lives that have been changed, not only physically, but also spiritually. I have always believed that we are here to help others and this proves that even a small donation (monetary or helping hand) can go a long way when everyone works together. It was very uplifting to see all the various missions around the world that will receive funds with the new 'mites' goal for 2019-2021. One of my favorite parts was being involved with the flag procession. It was incredible seeing the flags of all the countries that the mite money has helped all in one room. That really brought together visually, how much of an impact LWML makes around the world introducing people to our Lord.

Another highlight was making new friends with young women from all over the US. Our YWR leaders were very welcoming and made the entire experience unforgettable with their caring and fun personalities. The convention had many highlights including keynote speakers, a sand artist, musical group, humorous interrupters, important business agenda and speakers throughout the meetings.

Every aspect of the convention focused on our abilities and how each of us is here to Praise and Serve the Lord in so many ways.

In Praise to the Lord.

Emily Terry



New Mite Box 2019



Heart to Heart Sisters

Marilyn McClure

Garry and I arrived in Mobile on Thursday about noon. We were fortunate to stay at the convention hotel with a beautiful view of the harbor and a walkway to the convention center, so it was very convenient

When we arrived at the convention center to check in, we immediately saw friends. In my opinion that is one of the greatest blessings about going to any LWML convention. I have worked on many LWML committees and on the Executive Committee and have made so many friends throughout the process. Although many of us keep in touch through email and Christmas letters, it is still an uplifting feeling to give each other those LWML hugs in person.

Thursday afternoon Garry and I spent about an hour in the Heart to Heart Sisters District Leader training session that was going on at the hotel. Eighteen years ago I was a member of the Gospel Outreach Committee, and we came up with the plan for Heart to Heart Sisters, as a way to involve more women in the LWML from ethnic congregations. It is amazing to see how it has grown and how delighted women from all over the world are to be able to participate in the mission of LWML and to get to know their sisters from the church-at-large. The training session they were doing was about being culturally aware, being aware that we all have cultural expectations and practices, and to be willing to be sensitive to those and learn from each other.

The opening service Thursday evening was so inspiring, as Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall, served as the proclaimer. His voice and sermon delivery reminded many of us of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He set the stage for our weekend under the theme, "In Praise to the Lord."

Friday morning started out early for me as I attended the 6:45 AM Spanish Bible study presented by Deaconess Marta Luna. Marta is originally from the congregation where Garry and I served as missionaries in Guatemala. Marta has lived in the US for many years. Also at that study was another Guatemalan woman Sandra Greenidge who was a teen and participated in our Guatemalan congregation in our early days as missionaries. I can't tell you how joyful it makes us to see both of these women who now serve their Spanish-speaking churches here in the US.

Friday's LWML sessions were filled with Mission Speak-

ers, a Donna Pyle Bible study, voting for the new mission goal of \$2,100,000 – the most ambitious goal in our history. We attended a special luncheon with Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sánchez who is the Director of the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

Friday evening, I was invited to share a message at dinner with the H2H Sister District Leaders and their District Presidents. The theme of my talk was Christian Mentoring and how in today's age that means two people working together, each learning from each other.

The entertainment Friday evening was provided by Joe Castillo who is the world's premier Sand Animation artist. He has appeared on America's Most Talented, and during his career he has mastered the art of telling stories, particularly Bible Sand Stories that are constantly moving and changing into figures that depict scenes and people from the stories he is sharing. The images are projected onto a large screen and are accompanied by music that helps to create a powerful message. Before he began, we were having a hard time imagining what type of presentation this would be. I think everyone came away feeling so inspired by his performance.

Saturday morning I was able to see the women from our hotel window as they walked down by the pier. Although I did not walk, I helped contribute to the \$59,612.79 that was raised by the walk. As I was walking into the convention hall for the beginning of the morning session, Marguerite Christman grabbed me and asked me to help with the flag procession. I was privileged to carry the sign for Thailand and walk in front of my good friend Vice President Kay Wolff who was in a beautiful dress from that region.



Marilyn McClure continued:

Our song leader for the convention was Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, who performed at our last English District convention in Grand Rapids. Together with the convention choir, the instrumentalists, and Dr. Harrison on his banjo, we were singing "In Praise to the Lord!" the whole weekend.

Saturday afternoon was the election of officers and Nominating Committee, and we praise God that we have many new faces eager to serve LWML for the next biennium.

Saturday evening's entertainment was by the Voices of Mobile, once again an inspiring presentation by this ensemble from the University of Mobile, and their director Dr. Breland.

After their performance, I briefly attended a gathering of past members of the LWML Executive Committee and gave some final hugs to people I have worked with during the years.

Sunday morning was the final programming and the Service of Sending with the Rev. Dr. Gregory S. Walton as the proclaimer. His message was "Now What?" He pointed out that God is less interested in our ability than in our availability. With the US as the third largest mission field, behind China and India, he said that we need to invest in forming relationships with non-believers so that we can share the love of Jesus. May God grant that for each of us!



Convention Highlights

Did you miss something at convention? Or maybe there was an event that stood out to you and you would just love to watch over and over again? You can go to lwml.org and click on **Go to Livestream** as shown below.

Couldn't attend convention?
 Watch from home at
livestream.com/TheLWML
 All sessions are archived for you to view at your convenience!



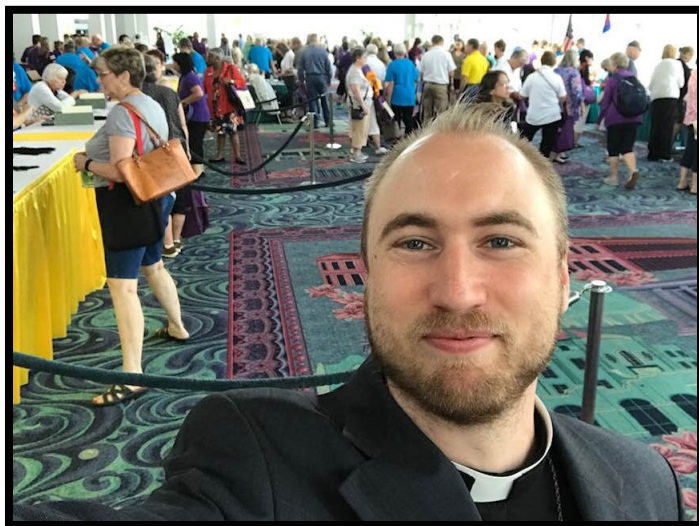
[Go to Livestream](#)

You can also share your favorite sessions with your friends!

Junior Counselor Rev. Gordon Naumann

It was a privilege to be among so many faithful women at this last LWML Convention. What an example of service to our Lord through mission! To know that twenty missions are being adopted with a budget of over \$2 million is awe-inspiring. This in itself testifies to the years of well organized charitable giving this blessed institution has been equipped to raise in years passed and the ongoing faith that we hold as a collective. What a blessing! The verse on our banner for this year's convention was almost a euphemism for what was really experienced and expressed: "O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare Your praise" (Psalm 51:15). But the power of such simple words can also not be underestimated! And they were truly realized; with all of our being; our voices, our actions, our clear care for one another, and the stories we shared. We have all lived in the love of Christ; and so, though we all have a unique story to tell, at the same time we all have the same story; we are touched by the love of God and are encouraged to share His love with our neighbor. And to be in the same room with 3000 faithful, there is nothing like it. It will be a picture forever etched in my memory and will continue to inspire me for years to come! Enjoy the pictures! But they will only ever give you a glimpse into the truth that will forever testify to the greatness of our Lord, by Whom, alone, can such great feats be accomplished!

Faithfully submitted,
Pastor G. Naumann
ED LWML Jr. Counselor



Our banner is based on our District Convention theme “Open My Lips” from Psalm 51:15. *O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.* The red heart represents Jesus’s love for us, red representing that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by His blood and the cross, His suffering and resurrection resulting in our salvation. Through His love and gift of salvation, our lips [represented by the singing choir], will be used by the power of the Holy Spirit, [represented by the gold glow in the cross], to proclaim Christ.



Endowment Seminar

Vicki Harding & Barbara Olsen

At the LWML National convention in Mobile, Alabama, a morning seminar was offered June 20, 2019 by Linda Gage, East and West Coast Gift Planning Counselor, Carol von Soosten, Mid-America Gift Planning Counselor, and Mary Kay Mages, estate planning attorney from Minnesota South.

The purpose of the seminar was to provide attendees with Gift of Love packets and training to assist in the understanding of the function and purpose of the Endowment Fund, encouraging LWML members to periodically arrange opportunities for members to meet with LWML Gift Planning counselors.

An endowment fund is defined as gifted money (often testamentary gifts from one or more donors) which is invested so that the investment income provides financial support to the gift recipient while the gift principal is preserved so that the gift will continue to generate income perpetually into the future.

In 2001, the Endowment Fund for Lutheran Women's Missionary League was established. Additional funding has continued through many generous and ongoing gifts. Gifts and memorials may be added to this endowment at any time. Donate online to the Endowment Fund at www.lwml.org/endowment-fund. Or donate by mail to LWML at 801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010, St Louis, MO 63105. Make checks payable to LWML and write LWML Endowment in the memo line.

Through the earnings of the Endowment Fund the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will be able to continue to:

- Encourage mission education, inspiration and service.
- Help in mission-ministries worldwide.
- Train and equip LWML leaders.
- Provide programming, and
- Carry out the LWML mission into the future.

Joseph stored up grain during seven years of plenty to prepare for the future seven years of famine. Genesis 41:46-49. David built a temple to the Lord in Jerusalem, giving out of his personal wealth which inspired generosity in others. 1 Chronicles 29: 2-13, 17. The Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25: 14-30 speaks of growing gifts with stewardship opportunities.

Seminar attendees were encouraged to establish a committee in the district they serve to review their district's current gift acceptance policy, special fund gift policy, endowment fund agreement, or other documents they have. If you do not have these documents, or if they need to be updated you may contact your LWML Gifts of Love Advocate or contact LWML Gift Planning counselors.

By promoting and growing your district Endowment, donors are more likely to contribute to it. They must know about it. Invite Linda Gage or Carol von Soosten from LWML Gifts of Love to come to speak at your Zone or District event to generate awareness and promote large testamentary gifts – endowment fund gifts. These gift planning advocates can generate awareness of and promote the district endowment. Seeing that your district has a biblically based, well-structured endowment fund will assure potential donors that your district is prepared to receive large gifts to further the LWML foundation laid by the dear women of earlier generations. District endowments afford us the opportunity in this generation to continue building on that foundation and secure LWML's future for our daughters, granddaughters, and future generations.

For more information see www.LWMLgiftplan.org



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