

**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
Minutes
38th Biennial Convention
June 20-23, 2019
Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center
Mobile, Alabama**

The 38th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League was held at the Mobile Convention Center, Mobile, Alabama, on June 20-23, 2019. The theme for the convention was “In Praise to the LORD!” based on 1 Chronicles 16:23-24: *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations.* The convention was broadcast over the internet via livestream for those unable to attend.

CONVENTION GOAL STATEMENT

Led by God’s power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations.

CONVENTION OBJECTIVES:

Each convention attendee will:

- Sing and rejoice in celebration of His Word.
- Tell of His salvation for all.
- Declare His glory among the nations.
- Go forth in His joy!

PRE-CONVENTION ACTIVITIES

Pre-convention activities began on Wednesday evening, June 19, 2019.

- Onsite registration occurred at the Mobile Convention Center.
- Servant Activities conducted at the convention center beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019, included:
 - Assembling Braille books of the Bible for Lutheran Braille Workers;
 - Creating greeting cards of encouragement for cancer patients through Phil’s Friends;
 - Packing quilts and tying fleece blankets for Lutheran World Relief (LWR);
 - Assembling Personal Care and School Kits for LWR;
 - Cutting and coloring bookmarks for LWR, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), local assisted living facilities, nursing homes, day care centers, and Phil’s Friends;
 - Sending Gospel note cards to the world for LHM; and
 - Giving a blood donation with American Red Cross.
- Jubilee Junction Exhibit Hall was open beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019.
- Thursday morning seminars conducted at the convention center beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019, included:
 - Treasurer / Financial Secretary
 - Structure / Parliamentary Procedure
 - Mission Grants
 - How to Write a Bible Study Seminar
 - Leadership Development: Become a Leader You Would Follow
 - Webmaster/Social Media
 - Gifts of Love
- Gifts from the Heart gathered included:
 - 1,161 Health Kits
 - 262 sheet sets
 - 8,436 Arch Books
 - 926 Bibles
 - 214 quilts
 - 37 boxes of miscellaneous school supplies
 - 3 boxes of baby supplies
 - 3 boxes of health supplies
 - Gift cards totaling \$33,630
- Delegates to the convention met on Thursday afternoon, June 20, 2019 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. for delegate orientation.

- Following delegate orientation, district photos were taken and district caucuses were held.

GRACE PLACE CHAPEL

A chapel dedication and prayer service was held on Thursday, June 20, at 7:30 a.m. The chapel was open throughout the convention for quiet reflection and prayers.

Convention Opening and First Meeting Thursday, June 20, 2019

7 p.m.

OPENING OF THE CONVENTION

During the lighting of the candle by Adelaide Ross, granddaughter of the president, President Patricia Ross opened the convention in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

CELEBRATION SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

The celebration service began with David Ross, son of the president, who carried the LWML processional cross, followed by the ecclesiastical procession of LCMS clergy participating in the service. The celebrant was the Rev. Wayne J Miller and the proclaimer for the worship service was the Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall. His theme was from the convention verse, *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day* (1 Chronicles 16:23). Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall reminded everyone that we want everyone in the world and the devil to know that “praise is what we do!” He also told everyone that if anyone were to ask what Pastor Marshall preached about just tell them, “In Praise to the LORD!”

CONVENTION OFFERING # 1
2019-2021 LWML Mission Goal
The offering totaled \$45,183.42 (final).

Second Meeting
Friday, June 21, 2019
8:15 a.m.

CHILD CARE/YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Child care/youth activities at Camp Insta Friends began at 8 a.m. at the Mobile Convention Center.

SONG LEADER

The Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor was the song leader for the convention and led the convention body in singing before meetings and throughout the convention.

HUMOROUS INTERRUPTIONS

Throughout the convention, Humorous Interrupter Jan Struck provided a joyful interruption as southern convention host committee greeter, Glory May, who eventually became Glory Will.

WAKE UP WITH THE WORD BIBLE STUDIES

The “Wake Up with the Word Bible Studies,” held on Friday and Saturday morning were open to all convention attendees.

OPENING OF SECOND CONVENTION MEETING

Vice President of Christian Life Jennifer Huecker occupied the Vice President’s chair during the second meeting.

BANNER PROCESSION

The new LWML logo banner was carried by President Patricia Ross, preceded by the Executive Committee members. Banners of the LWML Host Districts were carried by District Presidents: Patricia Aamoth, Florida-Georgia District; Gwen Marshall, Gulf States District; and Anita Granger, Louisiana-Mississippi District. Banners from each district were carried by each LWML District President accompanied by her Young Woman Representatives and Heart to Heart Sisters District Leaders.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE and AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

LWML District Presidents serving from 2016 – 2020, led the *Pledge of Allegiance* and singing of *America the Beautiful*:
Sheila Lutz, Central Illinois Trish Aamoth, Florida-Georgia
Brenda Piester, Kansas Anita Granger, Louisiana-Mississippi (LA-MS)
Susan Gruber, Michigan Diane Reimold, Mid South
Marilyn Hiltel, Minnesota North Shari Miller, Montana
Katy Gifford, Nebraska South Barbara Lis, New England
Valerie Biberdorf, North Dakota Jeanne Schimmelmann, Ohio
Dianna Just, Oklahoma Carmen Nagel, Oregon
Bonnie Karch, Pacific Southwest Milly Kwiatkowski, SELC
Lisa Asmus, South Dakota Barbara Kaun, South Wisconsin
Debbie Curry, Texas

OPENING PRAYER

LWML Convention Manager Marguerite Christman led the opening prayer for the second meeting.

WELCOME

Host District Presidents, Gwen Marshall, Gulf States District; Tricia Aamoth, Florida-Georgia District, and Anita Granger, LA-MS District welcomed everyone to Mobile, Alabama.
President Patricia Ross welcomed remarks from LCMS Southern District President Rev. Eric Johnson and LCMS Florida-Georgia District President Rev. Gregory Walton. She also welcomed all other LCMS District Presidents in attendance.

BIBLE STUDY #1

Vice President of Christian Life Jennifer Huecker introduced Donna Pyle who presented the Bible study “Tell the Story of His Glory.” The Bible study was based on the convention Scripture, 1 Chronicles 16:23-24.

INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIAN LIFE DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Christian Life Jennifer Huecker introduced the committees in her department. Christian Life: Chairman Mary Marten, Ruth Badciong, and Diana Schnack. Christian Resources Editors: Chairman Diane Grebing, Linda Koeller, and Tina Landskroener. Rev. Mitchel Schuessler served as pastoral counselor for the department.

ELECTRONIC BALLOTING REVIEW

Parliamentarian Barbara Volk led a review of the use of the wireless voting devices.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Recording Secretary Ginger Starrett gave the Credentials report.

VOTING BODY

Board of Directors	51
Past LWML Presidents	6
Committee Chairman	10
Delegates	<u>477</u>
Total Eligible to Vote	544

NON-VOTING

LWML Appointed Personnel and Committee Members	54
Other Registrants	<u>2,499</u>
Total Non-Voting	2,553

Total Registration 3,097

The credentials report as of 10:07 a.m. on June 20, 2019, was **ADOPTED** by a vote of 464 to 5.

READING OF THE PROPOSED CONVENTION RULES

The convention rules, read by Parliamentarian Barbara Volk, were **ADOPTED** by a vote of 481 to 0.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED AGENDA

The proposed agenda was presented by Recording Secretary Ginger Starrett, as printed in the convention manual with necessary changes to be made at the discretion of the chair, was **ADOPTED** by a vote of 498 to 3.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Minutes Review:

Shari Miller, Chairman, President, Montana District
Lisa Asmus, President, South Dakota District
Valerie Biberdorf, President, North Dakota District

Tellers:

Diana Just, Chairman, Oklahoma District
Barbara Lis, President, New England District
Lois Anderson, President, Utah-Idaho District

LCMS PRESIDENT

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, brought greetings and thanked the LWML for raising mites for LCMS missions. He presented a video highlighting LWML mission support over the last biennium. The video included grateful acknowledgement from missionaries across the world.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Structure Committee Chairman Arlene Naasz presented the proposed amendments (Addendum 1) to the LWML Bylaws and **MOVED**, by direction of the Board of Directors, their adoption. Structure Committee member Mary Smith, led the convention body in prayer before the vote. The following proposed amendments were presented by Chairman Naasz:

Article I, proposed Amendment 1, Structure;
Article IV, proposed Amendment 2, Conventions and Representations;
Article VI, proposed Amendment 3, and Duties of Officers;
Article IX, proposed Amendment 4 and 5, Special Appointed Personnel;
Article XVI, proposed Amendment 6, and LWML Office; and
Article XIII, proposed Amendment 7, Departments and Standing Committees.

All amendments were **ADOPTED** by a vote of 508 to 10.

Structure Committee Chairman Arlene Naasz, presented the proposed amendment (Addendum 1) to the LWML Bylaws and **MOVED**, by direction of the Board of Directors, their adoption. Article X, Board of Directors, and Article XI, Executive Committee, Amendment 7 were **ADOPTED** by a vote of 510 to 9.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Treasurer Marilyn Schroeder reported the 2017-2019 mission goal of \$2,075,000 was surpassed by the close of the biennium. She also reported that all 2017-2019 LWML Mission Grants have been paid.

FINANCIAL REPORT

LWML Business Manager Vanessa Johnson presented and reviewed the final financial report (Addendum 2) for the 2017-2019 biennium that was audited by Anders CPAs + Advisors of St. Louis, Missouri. Business Manager Johnson reported that the audit was deemed a clean audit, however there was a misstatement that occurred in the previous biennium that was due to error and not due to fraudulent activities. Gifts that were previously considered revocable were determined to be irrevocable and there was beneficial interest and assets held by others which were not recorded, these amounts were restated and adjustments have been made to the financial statements that were presented. The effect of the adjustments was an increase of \$4,100,000.

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICE STAFF

LWML Business Manager Vanessa Johnson introduced the staff of the LWML Office: Karen Andersen, Carol Iannelli, Eva Koeller, and Shannon Sow. President Patricia Ross presented 20-year service gifts to Carol Iannelli and Karen Andersen.

MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER

Mission Grants Chairman Susan Donnelly introduced the first Mites in Action speaker, Jaclyn Rychel, from Ministry in Mission, who spoke about the eldercare home in Haiti supported by Mission Grant #10, Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti.

ADOPTION OF THE MISSION GOAL FOR 2019–2021 BIENNIUM

Meeting Manager Leslie Jaseph, led the assembly in prayer before the voting on the 2019–2021 LWML Mission Goal. By direction of the Board of Directors, Treasurer Marilyn Schroeder **MOVED** the adoption of a mission goal of \$2,100,000 for the 2019-2021 biennium. The motion was **ADOPTED** 490 to 3. In praise and thanksgiving to our God, the assembly sang, *I Love to Tell the Story*.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convention Manager Marguerite Christman and Mobile 2019 Host Committee Chairman Bunnie Koelsch gave announcements.

CLOSING PRAYER

Christian Life Chairman Mary Martin led the closing prayer for the morning meeting.

Lunch Recess

Info Gatherings

First Timers with the President, Gifts of Love Ministry, Heart to Heart(H2H) Sisters Reunion, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Lunch with My Friends, Clergy Connection, YWRs and YWR Alums, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Staff, Thrivent Financial, MOST Ministries, NOLA 4H – Outreach in New Orleans, Lutheran Hour Ministries - THRED.

THIRD MEETING Friday, June 21, 2019 2:15 p.m.

OPENING OF THE THIRD MEETING

Vice President of Organizational Resources Debbie Larson occupied the Vice President's chair during the third meeting. The third meeting of the convention began with prayer by Carolyn Blum, author of the LWML history book, *Dedicated*.

INTRODUCTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

VP Debbie Larson introduced her three committees under the Organizational Resources Department. Growth and Development Committee: Chairman Crystal Miller, Ann Marie Bollas, Deaconess Rachel Jaseph, and Deaconess Betty Knapp. Leadership Development Committee: Chairman Susan Brunkow, Cheryl Killham, and Deb Vinkemeier. Structure Committee: Chairman Arlene Naasz, Mary Smith, LaDonna Stanosheck, advisor Barbara Volk, and Pastoral Counselor Robert Mundahl.

FIRST TIMERS

President Patricia Ross announced that over 753 "First Timers" were attending convention.

ARMED FORCES RECOGNITION

President Patricia Ross recognized those women and men who served in the Armed Forces. Those who have served received a special pin from the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces.

INTRODUCTION OF CONVENTION SONG LEADER

Editor-in-Chief Nancy Graf Peters of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* introduced the Convention Song Leader Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor,

INTRODUCTION OF LWML-CANADA

President Patricia Ross introduced a video of President Linda Long, LWML-Canada. President Long could not be in attendance due to convention commitments in Canada. President Long brought greetings on behalf of LWML-Canada. She introduced their new logo, and talked about what their various committees have been introducing to their women.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Kaye Wolff introduced the keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Brent Smith. LCMS Mission Development Counselor of Mission Central. He told the attendees that at the end of his message he didn't want people to remember his name, but to just remember the Lord Jesus. With inspiration from Scripture, he shared the various ministries that

have been touched by the LWML.

THANKS AND GREETINGS

Greetings were brought on behalf of the LCEF by Rev. William Bath. He first gave thanks to everyone who helped him through seminary. LCEF provided the convention bags and hosted the breakfast for District Treasurers on Saturday, June 22, 2019.

MISSION GRANTS PRESENTATION

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Angelina Jauregui introduced the video presentation of the 31 Mission Grants proposals and led the convention body in prayer.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Recording Secretary Ginger Starrett gave the report of the Credentials Committee as of Friday, June 21, 2019.

VOTING BODY

Board of Directors	51
Past LWML Presidents	6
Chairman	10
Delegates	<u>477</u>
Total Eligible to Vote	544

NON-VOTING

LWML Appointed Personnel and Committee Members	54
Other Registrants	<u>2,506</u>
Total Non-Voting	2,560

Total Registration 3,104

BALLOTING FOR MISSION GRANTS

The vote for mission grants proceeded with electronic balloting (delegates could vote for eight). Results were tallied and reported at the opening of the fourth meeting on Saturday afternoon.

MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER

Lutheran's Woman's Quarterly Mission Editor Cheri Fish introduced the second Mites in Action speakers, Lynne Corker and Jean Jaskierney from *Opportunities in Uganda* and the *Tanzanian Sewing Center*.

CONVENTION OFFERING #2

Disability Ministry in the Dominican Republic and Medical Mission Teams, Florida.

The offering totaled \$30,925.10 (final).

MITE BOX REVEAL

LWML Graphic Designer Amy Gill and Data Specialist Eva Koeller presented the newly designed Mite Box, aided by a video. The Mite Box was designed by Amy Gill and the video was done by Eva Koeller.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convention Manager Marguerite Christman and Mobile 2019 Host Committee Chairman Bunnie Koelsch gave announcements.

CLOSING PRAYER

Gospel Outreach Committee Chairman Nancy Heredia led the closing prayer for the afternoon meeting.

Dinner Recess

FOURTH MEETING

Joe Castillo, Sand Artist

June 20-23, 2019 (draft 3)

Friday, June 21, 2019
7:30 - 9 p.m.
FIFTH MEETING
Mission Pledge Walk
6:30 – 7:30 a.m.
Saturday June 22, 2019
9 a.m.

OPENING OF THE FIFTH MEETING

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Kaye Wolff occupied the Vice President's chair during the fifth meeting. Archivist-Historian Caroline Honeycutt led the opening prayer.

PROCESSION

A procession of past LWML Presidents opened the fifth meeting, led by the LWML Banner carried by the President's page, Alicia Starrett-Seidel, from the New Jersey District. They were followed by the Young Woman Representatives and the Heart to Heart District Leaders carrying 76 World Mission flags. A new flag was introduced at this convention to represent grants for the Native American nations. The flag was designed and made by Lutheran Indian Ministries. The procession also included the Camp Insta Friends children, and the child care volunteers.

PLEDGE TO THE CROSS AND LWML PLEDGE

The Pledge to the Cross and the League Pledge were led by past LWML Presidents Ida Mall, Gloria Edwards, Virginia Von Seggern, Linda Reiser, Janice Wendorf, and Kay Kreklau.

The assembly joined in singing "*Lutheran Women, One and All.*"

SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS

President Patricia Ross recognized and thanked the 81 Young Woman Representatives for their attendance at the convention.

BIBLE STUDY #2

Donna Pyle continued with the Bible study on "Tell the Story of His Glory." The Bible study was based on the convention Scripture, 1 Chronicles 16:23-24.

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Kurt Buchholz, President and CEO of the International Lutheran Layman's League / Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), brought greetings and talked about the partnership between the LWML and LHM. He presented a video about their initiative called "Sent." President Patricia Ross noted that the communion ware for the opening worship service for this convention was gifted to the LWML by LHM.

MITES IN ACTION SPEAKER

VP of Communication Char Kroemer, introduced the third Mites in Action speaker, Laura Hemminger, Director of Lutherans for Life. President Patricia Ross presented a check of \$25,000 to Laura Hemminger for Mission Grant #4, Equipping Youth to Witness for Life – Y4Life.

NIGERIAN LWML SISTERS

Director of LCMS Deaconess Ministry Deaconess Grace Rao introduced those who brought greetings from Nigeria: Mrs. Offiong Ekong, wife of the president of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and Mrs. Udhuak Essien, Secretary of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria's National Women's Fellowship, which is equal to the LWML

CONVENTION OFFERING #3
James Storehouse Louisiana and Spiritual Care for
Unaccompanied Refugee Children
The offering totaled \$31,095.40 (final).

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Kaye Wolff introduced the committee members of the Special Focus Ministries Department. Committee on Young Women: Chairman Carrie Brumbaugh, Abby Faske, Kimberlea Lessman, and Brianne Stahlecker. Heart to Heart Sisters Committee: Chairman Melissa Salomón, Anita Beyersdorf, Oluwatoyin Fakuajo, and Mai Thao.

GIFTS OF LOVE MINISTRY

Gift Planning Counselors Linda Gage and Carol von Soosten brought greetings and spoke about the growth of the Gifts of Love ministry, which led to add the Gifts of Love Legacy Circle. The Legacy Circle will give glory to God for donors who have been inspired to create visionary charitable estate gifts.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee Chairman Joy Anderson introduced the members of the Nominating Committee: JoNette Brogaard, Linda Fees, Karen Morrison, Sherri Smith, and Pastoral Counselor Rev. Mundahl. Chairman Anderson presented the slate of candidates for election at this convention:

Nominating Committee	Sylvia Bean Ann Marie Bollas Carrie Brumbaugh Lynnette Campbell Leslie Colligan Mary Harrington Whitney Lee Crystal Miller Brianna Stahlecker
Pastoral Counselor	Rev. Donald P. Beaumont Rev. Brian B. Noack
President	Linda Arnold Debbie Larson
Vice President of Organizational Resources	Marie Chow Lois Teinert
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries	Susan Brunkow Deaconess Betty Knapp
Treasurer	Karla Koehler Bunnie Koelsch

INTRODUCTION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEES

Treasurer Marilyn Schroeder introduced the committee members of the Finance and Operations Committee: Kaye Wolff, Anita Werner, Jill Pierce, Karla Koehler, Vanessa Johnson, Rev. Robert Mundahl, and President Patricia Ross. Committee members of the Investment Committee: Mary Kay Mages, Wayne Price, Sandy Thompson, Angelina Jauregui, Vanessa Johnson, Rev. Robert Mundahl, and President Patricia Ross. Treasurer Schroeder serves as Chairman of both committees.

TEE UP 4 MITES

Convention Host Committee Activities Director Victoria Southern presented a check for \$9,346.60 from the fifth biennial Tee Up 4 Mites golf outing.

MISSION IN MOTION (MISSION PLEDGE WALK)

Convention attendees (848) participated in a mission walk Saturday morning. Mission Walk Chairman Catherine Mason announced the activity raised \$59,612.79 in pledges for mites.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convention Manager Marguerite Christman and Mobile 2019 Host Committee Chairman Bunnie Koelsch gave announcements.

CLOSING PRAYER

Graphics Team member and Mobile Convention logo designer Stephanie Kollbaum led the closing prayer for the morning meeting.

**Lunch Recess
Special Luncheons**

Janice Wendorf and Melanie Gibbons – Lutheran World Relief; Lynn Corker and Jean Jaskierny, African ministries; Rev. Kirby – LHM; Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray – LCMS Black Ministry; Chaplain Rev. Craig Muehler and Mrs. Susan Knowles – Operation Barnabus; Jaclyn Rychel – Haitian Ministries; Rev. Dr. Brent Smith – Mission Central; Jan Struck – Humorous Interrupter; Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez – Hispanic ministries; Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor – Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, The Bronx, New York; Rev. Kevin Robson – LCMS Chief Mission Officer plus missionaries from West Africa Rev. Gary and Stephanie Schulte, Lauren Awe, and Lutherans for Life Director Laura Hemminger.

**SIXTH MEETING
Saturday, June 22, 2019
2:15 p.m.**

OPENING OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Angelina Jauregui, occupied the Vice President’s chair during the sixth meeting. Chairman of the Information Technology Committee Kathy Pavelock gave the opening prayer.

SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS

President Patricia Ross introduced Vice President (VP) of Special Focus Ministries Kaye Wolff. VP Wolff gave an overview of the H2H program and talked about the youth involved at this convention. She also highlighted the deaf ministry and the need to reach out to our deaf sisters in our congregations. President Ross recognized and thanked the participants in the H2H Leader program for their attendance.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOSPEL OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Angelina Jauregui introduced the committee members of her department. Mission Grants Committee: Chairman Susan Donnelly, Sylvia Bean, Leslie Colligan, Jane McKinstry, and Jan Simmons. Gospel Outreach Committee: Chairman Nancy Heredia, Candy Habich, and Mary Scharenbrock.

MITES IN ACTION

Public Relations Director Michelle Zollinger introduced Rev. Gregory Manning who talked about grant recipient, NOLA 4H, hearts for the hungry, hurting, and homeless. Rev. Manning is the pastor of Broadmoor Community Lutheran Church in New Orleans. Rev. Manning brought greetings from the church where no perfect people are allowed and how do they know that? Because they have a banner 20 feet by 30 feet outside of his church that tells him that every day when he walks in, and they are so happy to be missionaries along with the LWML. The LWML has allowed them by gifting them with a grant, as a grant recipient, to be the church. He stated, “That is what we’re doing, we’re being the church! No more no less, we’re doing what God has called us to do!”

PRAYERS OF REMEMBRANCE

President Patricia Ross called on Senior Counselor Rev. Robert Mundahl to say a prayer of remembrance for those LWML sisters who have received their Crown of Glory in the past biennium. Prayers were also lifted for the submissions left in the prayer chapel. This was followed by the Lord’s Prayer and the singing of *Gathering of Daughters*.

REPORT OF VOTING FOR MISSION GRANTS

President Patricia Ross reported the results of the voting for mission grants:

1. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa	220
2. Lutheran Secondary Education for Hispanics.....	64
3. Lights for Christ Scholarships.....	159
4. Music Outreach, Classes, & Resources on the Border.....	100
5. Teach Me Too – Preschoolers with Learning Needs	227
6. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families	162
7. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction	106
8. Rooted, Celebrating, Growing	52

9. Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln	116
10. God's Grace for This Generation	199
11. God's Word Changes Everything	195
12. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala.....	176
13. Touching the Living Word.....	134
14. Teaching the Faith through Music	55
15. Mission Outreach Among the Oromo.....	71
16. Making Jesus Known in United States Ethnic Communities.....	105
17. Expanding Broadcast of Worship Anew.....	62
18. Expanding Congolese & Arabic Refugee Work	53
19. Water and Word for Rural Schools.....	229
20. Women's Witness and Mercy Asia.....	129
21. Digital Media Development.....	119
22. Holy Cross Lutheran Mission Plant	51
23. Ministry in Motion.....	156
24. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation	157
25. Sharing the Good News	23
26. Equipping Missionaries to be Reconcilers.....	41
27. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow.....	110
28. LCMS Deaconess Ministry.....	98
29. Christ's Mercy in Russia.....	90
30. Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere.....	110
31. Pre- & Post-Seminary Training.....	115

President Ross declared the following 21 mission grants selected for the 2019–2021 biennium:

1. Water and Word for Rural School in Kenya.....	\$80,000
2. Teach Me Too – Preschoolers with Learning Needs	\$100,000
3. Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa.....	\$100,000
4. God's Grace for This Generation.....	\$100,000
5. God's Word Changes Everything.....	\$95,000
6. Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala	\$100,000
7. Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families.....	\$100,000
8. Lights for Christ Scholarships	\$95,000
9. Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation.....	\$40,000
10. Ministry in Motion.....	\$58,000
11. Touching the Living Word	\$100,000
12. Women's Witness and Mercy Asia	\$100,000
13. Digital Media Development.....	\$30,000
14. Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln.....	\$50,000
15. Pre- & Post-Seminary Training	\$62,650
16. Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow	\$80,000
Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere	\$60,000
17. Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction.....	\$50,000
18. Making Jesus Known in United States Ethnic Communities.....	\$100,000
19. Music Outreach, Classes, & Resources on the Border.....	\$98,400
20. LCMS Deaconess Ministry.....	\$39,523

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Recording Secretary Ginger Starrett gave the report of the Credentials Committee as of Saturday, June 22, 2019.

VOTING BODY

Board of Directors	51
Past LWML Presidents	6
Chairman	10
Delegates	<u>477</u>

Total Eligible to Vote	544
<u>NON-VOTING</u>	
LWML Appointed Personnel and Committee Members	54
Other Registrants	<u>2,507</u>
Total Non-Voting	2,561
Total Registration	3,105

PRAYER BEFORE ELECTIONS

Product Developer of the Public Relations Team Beverly England led the prayer before the balloting for officers.

BALLOTING FOR OFFICERS

The balloting for officers proceeded with electronic balloting.

REPORT OF THE ELECTION FOR OFFICERS

President Patricia Ross gave the Report of Election of Officers:

Nominating Committee

Number of ballots cast	542
Necessary for election.....	Plurality
Sylvia Bean received	240
Ann Marie Bollas received	190
Carrie Brumbaugh received	239
Lynnette Campbell received	183
Leslie Colligan received	195
Mary Harrington received.....	226
Whitney Lee received	197
Crystal Miller received	268
Brianne Stahlecker received	299

Pastoral Counselor

Number of ballots cast	536
The Rev. Donald E. Beaumont received.....	154
The Rev. Brian B. Noack received	382

President

Number of ballots cast	530
Linda Arnold received	181
Debbie Larson received	349

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Number of ballots cast	519
Marie Chow received.....	396
Lois Teinert received	123

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Number of ballots cast	521
Susan Brunkow received.....	234
Deaconess Betty Knapp received.....	287

Treasurer

Number of ballots cast	527
Karla Koehler received	370
Bunnie Koelsch received	157

President Ross announced that the following were elected:

Nominating Committee

Pastoral Counselor

President

Vice President of Organizational Resources

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Treasurer

Brianne Stahlecker, Chairman

Sylvia Bean

Carrie Brumbaugh

Mary Harrington

Crystal Miller

Rev. Brian Noack

Debbie Larson

Marie Chow

Deaconess Betty Knapp

Karla Koehler

INSTALLATION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

LWML Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Mitchel Schuessler installed the Nominating Committee for 2019–2021.

INVITATION TO 2021 CONVENTION, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

2021 Convention Chairman Ruth Thomas, and the presidents of the host districts, Marge Gruber of Indiana, Susan Gruber of Michigan, and Jeanne Schimmelmänn of Ohio District, issued the official invitation to the 2021 convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Vice President of Gospel Outreach Angelina Jauregui assumed the chair. President Patricia Ross was introduced by Vice President of Gospel Outreach Jauregui.

The President began her report with her theme over her four years in office: Engage, Encourage, Equip, and Enjoy. She talked about how she likes butterflies and used an analogy comparing them to God's grace. She said, "There is nothing you can do to get a butterfly to come to you; you are gifted to see them fly by or even have them land on you. Much like God's grace to us is freely given, and there is nothing we can do to earn it." She has used the butterfly along with Ephesians 2:8, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, beforehand, that we should walk in them.* It serves as a reminder that God's grace is over everything we do. Each of us has God given gifts to perform those works.

President Ross gave an overview and highlighted the kingdom work that was accomplished over the past two years. She ended with, "I thank God for the opportunity I have had to serve Him through the LWML. It has been an honor. The future will hold challenges and change, possibilities and puzzlements, so we as LWML women must keep our focus and keep working together. We must continue to reach out to all women in the church, women of all ages, ethnicities, and personalities, making available the opportunities for them to discover and to use their God given gifts in ministry. Spreading the Gospel will never end until Christ returns. Until that day the LWML has work to do, and we must ask ourselves every day, "What does God want me to do today?" She then asked the attendees to recite the League Pledge. She thanked all for the privilege of being their president.

President Ross resumed the chair.

CONVENTION PROGRAMING COMMITTEE THANK YOU

President Patricia Ross thanked those who work behind the scenes to make the convention a success: Exhibits Coordinator Vivian Ernst and Convention Manager Marguerite Christman. The LWML Convention Managers Team: Travel and Tours Claire Carlson; Food Services Vicki Ozburn; Housing Ruth Weckworth; and Assistant to the Convention Manager Maureen Consiglio. The LWML Convention Registrar Carol Iannelli, and her family, who assists Carol in the registration process at convention. The camera operators; those involved in the live-streaming; Audio-Visual Director Rev. Bill Engefehr; deaf interpreters Heidi Thomas, Linda Nix, and Reverend David Bush. The Lutheran Friends of the Deaf for their grant to support the services of the deaf interpreters at the convention. The LWML Deaf Ministry under the Special Focus Ministries Department will enable us to reach out to our deaf sisters and help them to attend the next convention in Lexington.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL APPOINTED PERSONNEL AND SPECIAL TASK FORCE MEMBERS

President Patricia Ross introduced these women and men and thanked them for their service. Appointed Officers: Meeting Manager Leslie Jaseph, Public Relations Director Michelle Zollinger, and Strategic Plan Facilitator and new Gifts of Love Gift Planning Counselor Carol von Soosten. Special Appointed Personnel: Archivist-Historian Caroline Honeycutt, and Parliamentarian Barb Volk. LWML Marketing Team: Chairman Michelle Zollinger, member Beth Weber, Product Developer Beverly England, and Counselor Rev. Mitchel Schuessler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convention Manager Marguerite Christman and Mobile 2019 Host Committee Chairman Bunnie Koelsch gave announcements.

CLOSING PRAYER

Information Technology Committee member Tina Bentley led the closing prayer for the afternoon meeting.

Dinner Recess

SEVENTH MEETING
Saturday, June 22, 2019
7:30 p.m.

VOICES OF MOBILE
University of Mobile Choir

EIGHTH MEETING
Sunday, June 23, 2019

OPENING OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

Vice President of Communication Char Kroemer occupied the Vice President’s chair during the eighth meeting. Committee on Young Women Chairman Carrie Brumbaugh led the opening prayer.

RECOGNITION OF THE CONVENTION PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

President Patricia Ross recognized all the committee members who worked to make the convention a success. Marilyn Schroeder, Chairman, Char Kroemer, Michelle Zollinger, Marguerite Christman, Vivian Ernst, Rev. Robert Mundahl and President Ross.

President Ross recognized the servants who worked diligently on the *Praise Express*, the convention newspaper, and the convention photographer, Brad Puckett, from Mobile, Alabama.

FINAL REGISTRATION REPORT

The final Registration Report as of 9:10 a.m. Sunday, June 23, 2019:

VOTING BODY

Board of Directors	51
Past LWML Presidents	6
Chairman	10
Delegates	<u>477</u>
Total Eligible to Vote	544

NON-VOTING

LWML Appointed Personnel and Committee Members	54
Other Registrants	<u>2,507</u>
Total Non-Voting	2,561

Total Registration 3,105

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Char Kroemer, Vice President of Communication, introduced the committee members of the committees in her department. Information Technology Committee: Chairman Kathy Pavelock, Tina Bentley, and Dawn Zerkel. Official Publication Committee/*Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*: Editor-in-Chief Nancy Graf Peters, Graphic Artist Amy Gill, Mission Editor Cheri Fish, Bible Study Editor Sharon Rapp, Christian Living Editor Sheila Lutz, Features Editor Becky Wehrspann, and News Editor Linda Guteres. Graphics Team members: Chairman Stephanie Kollbaum, Diane Frauendienst, Judy Newell, Cheryl Rackoff, and Dana Peick. The two Pastoral Counselors on these committees who served as doctrinal reviewer were, Rev. Mitchel Schuessler and Rev. Kendall Wendorf.

CHOIR

President Patricia Ross acknowledged and thanked the LWML Convention Choir and the Convention Choir Director Beth Lafrenz, Music Director, Trinity Lutheran Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

MITES IN ACTION

Heart to Heart Sisters Committee Chairman Melissa Salomón introduced Stephanie Schulte, who serves with her husband as missionaries with Mercy Medical Teams in Central Africa. She spoke about the work of Mercy Medical Teams in Sierra Leone and the surrounding areas and how the Lord placed them to make a difference after the brutal civil unrest and the Ebola outbreak in the area. President Patricia Ross asked the convention body to use the Mission Grant bookmark to get to know each grant and to pray for and show encouragement for those doing the Lord's work.

CONVENTION OFFERING #4
LCMS Disaster Relief Program
The offering totaled \$35,394.08 (final).

RECOGNITION OF MOBILE HOST COMMITTEE

President Patricia Ross acknowledged and thanked the Mobile Host Committee from Florida-Georgia, Gulf States, and Louisiana-Mississippi. 2019 Host Committee Chairman Bunnie Koelsch thanked the Host Committee leaders: Communications Coordinator Joan Koch, Creative Enhancements Linda Dorman, Facilities Management Coordinator Jackie Morris, Guest Services Coordinator Linda Peters, Personnel Resources Coordinator Lois Ford, Convention Host Treasurer Nancy Hughes, 73 Host Committee members, and the many 500 numerous workers. Special thanks went to Convention Manager Marguerite Christman and Assistant to the Convention Manager Maureen Consiglio.

INTRODUCTION OF HUMOROUS INTERRUPTER

President Patricia Ross introduced and thanked Jan Struck, the humorous interrupter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Convention Manager Marguerite Christman and Mobile 2019 Host Committee Chairman Bunnie Koelsch gave announcements.

CLOSING REMARKS

President Patricia Ross thanked everyone and encouraged all attendees to go home and relay their enthusiasm to their congregations and LWML members. She also asked the attendees to support the missionaries and the Mission Grants that the delegates chose at convention and to nominate officers as they work with the Nominating Committee. She asked for support and encouragement of the newly elected officers and closed with "In Praise to the Lord!"

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

The Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, LWML Sr. Pastoral Counselor, installed the new officers.

REMARKS FROM THE 2019-2023 PRESIDENT

Newly elected President Debbie Larson, first thanked her husband, Scott Larson, daughter Mandy Redfield, and daughter-in-law Eileen Larson for supporting her. She shared a prayer with all the attendees. She commented that what she loves about the LWML is who she shares it with: her family, her Savior, and all of His missionaries. She went on to say she really does thank God for each of the women. She commented that there are Christian women's organizations that you may choose to be a part of, but she knows of no other organization with the solid foundation of Scripture. No other women's group focuses on giving to others and serving others with Christ at their center. The women of the LWML, joyfully give to missions, are prayer warriors, are in the Word, and know that we are God's children, and because our hope is in the Lord we can be bold. 2 Corinthians 3:12 says, *Since we have hope, we are very bold.* God is using this organization to make an eternal difference. She ended with, "This is a celebration and it doesn't end when you walk out the door. This celebration is for all of God's people, all the time, and that is what the LWML does so well."

ADJOURNMENT

President Debbie Larson adjourned the 38th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 23, 2019.

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ENDING SERVICE

The Rev. Dr. Gregory Walton, LCMS Florida-Georgia District President, was the proclaimer for the Sunday morning sending service and he preached on the sermon text, Matthew 28:16-20. The liturgists were Rev. Robert Mundahl and Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, LWML Pastoral Counselors. Newly installed LWML Junior Counselor, Rev. Brian Noak participated in the worship service. The Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel readings were read in three different languages. The Rev. Steve Cohen read in the Hebrew language, Rev. Gary Schulte read in the Moba language, and Rev. Peter Kirby read in the Turkish language. The service included the Dedication of Gifts from the Heart.

Patricia Ross, President

Ginger Starrett, Recording Secretary