

BYLAWS WORDS AND MEANINGS

In Fall 2009, the LWML Structure Committee chairman was privileged to be introduced to Marcia Gomulka, a former Structure Committee member in the 1990 era. She has shared material that she and other members of the Structure Committee produced at that time in a newsletter. The following is taken from one of the issues.

SOME WORDS AND MEANINGS USED IN BYLAWS

- **APPOINTED/APPOINTIVE:** In describing committee members or officers, use 'appointed'; it modifies nouns. In describing committees or offices, use 'appointive'; it modifies impersonal nouns.
- **DISBURSE/DISPERSE:** 'Disburse' means to make payment. 'Disperse' means to scatter. LWML moneys are 'disbursed'.
- **ELECTED/ELECTIVE:** In describing officers or committee members, use 'elected'; it modifies personal nouns. In describing offices or committees, use 'elective'; it modifies impersonal nouns.
- **NOMINEE/CANDIDATE:** A 'nominee' is a person whose name has been proposed for an office. A 'candidate' is a person who has agreed to serve, if elected, and is willing to have her name placed on the slate for election.
- **OBJECT/PURPOSE:** 'Object' (not 'objectives' or 'purpose') is the preferred term, in bylaws for stating an organization's reason for being.
- **PASTORAL COUNSELOR/COUNSELOR:** Use of 'Pastoral Counselor' provides a clear understanding of who the counselor is to be. Use of 'counselor' alone could be misconstrued with other advisors.
- **REALLOCATED/RETURNED:** 'Reallocated' is usually used when referring to funds concerning mission projects. Funds that have never left the treasury cannot be 'returned'. Funds not used are 'reallocated'.
- **SHALL/MAY:** 'Shall' is an auxiliary verb used to state a command and is, therefore, used with a statement that must be done. 'May' is an auxiliary verb used to express a wish or desire.
- **SLATE/BALLOT:** A 'slate' is a list of candidates presented for election. A 'ballot' is a piece of paper used to cast a vote.
- **STRIKE/DELETE:** The word 'strike' (not 'delete') is preferred parliamentary usage when referring to any form of amendment.