

My Road to Leadership

By Eden Keefe

I grew up in the wide-open spaces of the Midwest where moderate-to-long drives were routinely woven into the fabric of life. My LWML leadership journey has been something like that.

I started as a tag-along. Wherever mom went — Ladies' Aid or LWML meetings or events — there went my sister and I. We rolled bandages, ate lunch, cleaned up the dishes, sang, and listened to the business and Bible study. As we grew older and attended school instead of the meetings, we found ourselves being “voluntold” (being volunteered by Mom and then told about it afterward) into further involvement with those groups. No matter what the task, the ladies always appreciated it. (I still believe that LWML women are the best audiences and encouragers ever!)

When I was married and away from my home church, I joined an LWML Circle with a friend. Since our group was small, it wasn't a question of if you would serve in a position but which one? A pretty safe way to get your feet wet when everyone is in it together! The experience was a good one, with great mentors and peers.

Later, my husband and I became part of a mission congregation, and I suggested to our pastor that an LWML group be started. And, sure enough, I not only learned my way around structuring a new society and writing bylaws, but also learned about being the first president after receiving our charter.

As my mother served on the district level, our paths would cross as I found myself serving on the zone level and being introduced to her peers, who also became my mentors. They challenged me to grow not only within LWML but also in my daily walk with the Lord. Each time He provided opportunities for me to serve, He also generously blessed and equipped me for the journey.

Since then, I've had the opportunity to attend a national Assembly of Leaders, receive training as a Mission-Ministry Vision Consultant, and serve on two national LWML Committees. Throughout it all, the constant has been a loving and faithful Savior who provides spiritually mature role models committed to their prayer and study life. These gals not only talk the talk, they walk the walk (in step with their Savior!), willing to share their wisdom, insight, and encouragement.

I can tell you the lessons I've learned and how each opportunity has challenged and changed me. I can tell you that God certainly does equip those who answer His call. And I can tell you that while I don't know what roads lie ahead for me, I absolutely know Who is alongside me as we navigate the wide-open spaces.

Eden Keefe serves as the LWML Leader Development Committee Chairman.

