

ROCK Solid News

32nd Biennial LWML Convention ~ Sioux Falls, South Dakota

June 23, 2007

Issue 3



President says 'Rock on, LWML'

Supporting the new LWML tie, LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick addressed the convention body Friday and brought greetings. He shared this resolution to be voted on at next month's Synod convention: "The LCMS resolves to give thanks and commend the Lutheran Women's Missionary League for 65 years of service."

President Kieschnick's message focused on the LCMS being in **one mission with one message as one people**. "What a wonderful blessing to be in this place where the 'one people' concept is manifested so clearly and so strongly!" Kieschnick said. He ended by saying: "While you're resting on the Rock of Christ the King, be a-workin! Rock on, LWML!"

2005-07 goal exceeded!

The mission goal for the 2005-07 biennium was exceeded by **\$55,106!**
The total mites given for the biennium was \$1,680,106

Jesus is OUR Rock!

Mrs. Terry Kieschnick knows rocks and knows how to make women rock! The first lady of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, wife of LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick, inspired over 5,000 women and men in her keynote address Friday afternoon. "I'm inviting all of you to realize how important you are to this church body ... an army of ordinary women with an extraordinary God doing extraordinary things for the Lord.

"For 17 years I managed a jewelry showroom and I worked with rocks. The sparkling kind ... diamonds!"

Explaining that gemologists study the four Cs of diamonds: clarity, cut, color and cost, Terry compared women to diamonds, which share imperfections, unique cuts and colors. "Our 'cut' is no accident," she said. Most importantly, "We are gifted with a fifth C – Christ the King!"



Terry encouraged women, "God's diamonds," to use their gifts in mission and leave a legacy. "He brings clarity to our imperfections; He colors our lives with unique and special gifts. We are His most precious stones purchased with His blood. Christ our King has made us His most beautiful diamonds."

\$1.7 million mission goal adopted!

The 2007-09 mission goal — the "new song" — adopted by the convention body was an unprecedented **\$1.7 million!** Look on page 2 for the selected mission grants.

Every banner is a rockin' beauty



Cameras flash! Faces beam! Banners care lifted high! The banner procession stepped off with President Linda Reiser leading the way — carrying the official LWML banner — followed by each district president (with her district YWR at her side) lifting high one brilliantly designed banner after another! "What an awesome experience!" exclaimed the two YWRs who walked alongside their Montana district president.



Dina helps rock the hall

Did you learn the “Vanna White move”? Or did you sing the improvised final verse to “Alleluia”? *Is it working yet...is it working yet?* Then give thanks for Dina Vendetti, convention song leader, who won over convention attendees with her playful and contagious presence. Her quick-thinking transformed the microphone-glitch silence as she played the *Jeopardy* theme song and led the women in song.

Dina attended her first LWML convention as a Young Woman Representative in Fort Worth, Texas. As a principal in Dover, Delaware, most of her “song leader” time is devoted to strolling the school hallways with her guitar. “We don’t have a loudspeaker system in the school, so the students know that my guitar calls them to join me,” she said. As for leading LWML women? “I love being in a room full of women who like to sing!” And she probably appreciates how well we follow directions!

2007-09 grants selected

The following mission grants were chosen for the 2007-09 biennium:

1. Deaf Lay and Clergy Training – Concordia Seminary, St. Louis..... \$50,000
2. Portable Medical Clinics for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sudan..... \$70,000
3. Building Ten Churches in India \$100,000
4. Female Missionary to Muslim Maninka in Guinea..... \$100,000
5. Lutheran Bible Translators’ Transportation \$60,000
6. Eight New Lutheran Blind Mission Outreach Centers..... \$40,000
7. Muslim Outreach and Education – Bangladesh \$75,000
8. Circuit Rider for Rural Northwest South Dakota..... \$65,000
9. Inner-City Children’s Ministry – Minneapolis/St. Paul..... \$50,000
10. Female Missionary to Africa for Human Relief Development..... \$100,000
11. HOPE Christian Family Counseling Center – St. Petersburg, Russia \$36,000
12. Expand Mission Work in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and Ethiopia \$104,500
13. Lutheran Campus Ministry at Haskell Indian Nations University – Lawrence, Kansas..... \$95,000
14. KFYO Radio Internet Streaming..... \$50,000
15. Isaiah 49 Program – Preparing for Service Child Welfare – Concordia University, Texas..... \$80,000
16. Outreach Ministry to the Homeless and Addicted – Detroit..... \$49,000
17. St. Matthew’s “El Comedor Popular” Soup Kitchen – Chicago..... \$33,000
18. Reaching Across Cultures Through Urban Children – Ohio..... \$32,500

Chocolate + Coffee = Many Happy Women

Sample chocolate, sip coffee (or tea!) and learn how Lutheran World Relief — under the direction of Rev. John Nunes — is teaming up with Equal Exchange to help build up and support small farmers. “By ordering this Fair Trade coffee for your home, church coffee hour, or fund-

raiser, you help support small farmers so they can stay on their land, and educate and feed their families, and remain in their communities,” states Boston resident Hope Kolly. A percentage of all profits goes to LWR’s fund to support small farm development.

Young children send Gifts from the Heart

Among the many kits brought to this convention are six Children’s Health Kits, six Kids’ Sheet Sets, and six Kids’ Towel Sets given by the 3-, 4-, and 5-year old children from St. Paul Lutheran Preschool in Ames, Iowa.

Director Lori Jenks said these 25 little ones saved \$302 from their weekly chapel offering to buy these kits, and it took them about two

to three months. They were very excited about this venture and were active in choosing the Christian tracts for each kit. They were very happy to help less fortunate children.

Christian giving comes from the heart, and these children have big hearts and loving thoughts of giving. Small is not always less! This was a big contribution for these 25 children to give.

Evaluation Survey



Please complete your survey before you leave the convention; your opinion is vital for future planning and our evaluation process. Please do not fold or bend! Return completed forms to an usher at the door or place in the box marked “**Convention Evaluation Surveys**” in the arena lobby, the rear of the arena floor or the Convention Center Information Booth. Thank you for being a valuable part of the evaluation process.

Booth winners

- Friends Into Serving Him: Ms. E.O. Voelkers, IA; Kay Dager, IN
- Oregon District Booth: Carol Peterson, Brantwood, WI
- LWML Leadership Booth: Elaine Hankel, Fargo, ND and Carol Gale, Chippewa Falls, WI.
- Lutheran Braille Workers: Carol Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI
- Lutheran Deaconess Association: Jennifer Hanson
- LCMS World Mission: Joel Donner, MN; Judy Tschetter, SD; Ken Fischer, CT; Gaye Vogt, MI; Mary Zelt, IN
- LWML Structure Committee: Thurs. - Susan Donnelly, Forked River, NJ; Fri. - Sheila Bergeman, Lisbon, ND
- Lutheran Deaf Missions: Rev. Tim Rynearson, Brookings, SD; Janice Kitchenmaster, Hawarden, IA
- Lutheran Blind Mission: Karon Killion, Shenandoah, IA; Juel Donner, Mahemen, MN
- MOST Ministries: Ginny Wagner, Brenda Rasmussen, Don Soeken, Patty Peters, Linda Meyer, Marcene Santacrose, Wanda Schwartz, Diane, Falin, JoAnn Reinecke, Gaye Vogt.
- Christian Life Booth: Janice Johnston, Wapella, IA
- Rock Hound Passport: Karen Bruns, Iowa District West
- Gifts of Love: Sharon Dean, Santa Monica, CA
- Lutheran Bible Translators: Lynn Wachtel, Altmont, IN; Karen Doeden; Worthington, MN
- Christian Life Booth: Janice Johnston, Wapella, IA
- LWML Human Care Booth: Lois Gahler, MN South; Joanne VonWerder, Michigan; Christine Lee, Oklahoma; Elizabeth McTighe, MN North; Kathleen Sawidel, Carolinas; Dora Magaard; Sharon (no last name; come by)
- Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots U.S. Booth: Rev. Paul Scheunemann, Mountain WI
- Lutherans For Life: Lois Maass, Las Vegas, NV
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation: Mary Herzberg, Saginaw, MI
- LCMS World Relief and Human Care: Look on bulletin board

Missionaries stand on the ROCK



Jacqueline Green, left, encouraged us: "Let's get busy!" Attendees committed themselves to the Heart to Heart Sisters movement, saying, "If it is to be, it is up to me." At right, Rev. Khurram and Cynthia Kahn, People of the Book Lutheran Outreach, shared the story of their faith walk as Christians in Muslim countries where they faced persecution. Cynthia received her first *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* because a man smuggled it into the country.

The world before you with mission banners

This morning you have the opportunity to see flags representing 38 of 50 countries from around the world in which the LWML has supported a mission grant throughout our 65-year history. Our Young Woman Representatives are the carriers of these special flags, which are borrowed from Lutheran Hour Ministries and are being used for the first time at our convention.

Each YWR was given the opportunity to select the flag depicting the country that has special significance to her.

Since 1997, we have used mission banners from LCMS World Mission representing 60 countries in which LCMS has had a missionary presence. Over time, many of the countries' names have changed and the banners are no longer applicable.

Growing students, pastors and presidents!

With schools already in place to teach the love of Jesus to children in 16 countries, Children's Christian Concern Society awaits opening schools in four more countries. "Every dime we raise goes to the mission field," says Nancy West, director of development. She adds, "Did you know that the last three men who served as the president of the Lutheran Church of Guatemala all were recipients of CCCS scholarships as youngsters?" At present, an LWML grant enables CCCS to support schools in Sierra Leone.

Thank you LWML from the Sioux Falls Blood Bank. There were 148 donors registered and 124 pints of blood were collected.

'Waves' are a rockin'

What happened when the sound went down on Friday? Waves of joy broke out around the arena! As the sound came on, President Linda said this must mean the LWML is "really, really dangerous!"

ROCK Solid News†

ROCK Solid News is published during the convention by the LWML Communication Department. Bring news items to Room 6 by 3:00 p.m. each day.

Vice President of CommunicationSandy Hardies
 Public Relations Director.....Bev England
 Newspaper EditorRae Ann Spitzenberger
Quarterly Editor-in-Chief Nancy Graf Peters
Quarterly StaffPeggy Wunschel, Shari Miller,
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Rockin' On with Mary

Dr. Mary Manz Simon described the convention Bible study, "Rock On," as an "out of the ordinary Bible study." Based on Psalm 31:1-3, the study included a visual presentation customized for the LWML, as well as traditional and praise hymns and small group discussions. Dr. Manz Simon said we all yearn for physical and emotional safety. She encouraged us to "double listen" — that is to see both the implications and applications in our society today — and to recognize changeless truths of the Bible are our foundation in a changing world. Dr. Manz Simon says, "God is straining to hear us. He physically wants to hear our cries."

Suzy goes high tech

Now that you've met Suzy Structure in person, check out her new page on the LWML Web site at www.lwml.org under About Us > Bylaws. She has lots of tips on parliamentary procedure, bylaws and resources. You will be able to download and use her "Suzy Says" tips in your district, zone and society newsletters and programs. Suzy Says: "All those in favor of LWML say, 'Praise the Lord!'"



A Hello from Canada

Judith Grande, president of LWML-Canada, congratulated the LWML on its 65th Anniversary and brought greetings on behalf of the women in mission in Canada who celebrate their 14th anniversary this year. "I thank you for being the best big sister!"

Gifts from the Heart

As of Thursday at 4:00 p.m., 10,000 various kits had been packed and delivered! Way to go, LWML! We are blessed to be a blessing!

Shirts & souvenir aprons

A limited number of the South Dakota worker aprons are available for sale at the Convention Shirt Sales table for \$6.00 each. A limited number of the convention polo shirts are also available for sale.

Convention shirts

Did you order an official Sioux Falls 2007 shirt and forget? See if your name is on the list on the bulletin board and pick up your shirt at the Shirt Sales table next to the information booth.

Teen Hang Out today!



Teens! Today is the day! Meet other teens from across the country at 3:00 p.m. in Rooms 11 and 12 for the Teen Hang Out. There will be a craft, servant event, Bible trivia, snack and a chance to learn more about what type of leader you are. Don't be shy ... come on by!

Check out the LWML Store for the latest teen products, including Jam Pants only available at convention! These are the plaid pajama pants that have been converted into shorts for the summer. Don't forget about the Friends Into Serving Him toe ring, perfect for all ages.

Charms & tie tacs

Anyone who ordered convention charms and tie tacs when you sent in your registration, please pick them up between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. today in the registration area.

Lost & Found

Many items have been dropped off in the Lost and Found room. Stop by Room 2 if you have misplaced items.

Meet the past presidents

The PR Booth features Pat Bilow, LWML Director of Planned Giving, and our past LWML presidents at the times listed below.

———— Saturday ————

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

- Betty Duda
- Gloria Edwards
- Helen Gienapp
- Ida Mall
- Virginia Von Seggern

Des Moines, Iowa in 2015!

Des Moines, Iowa, was the chosen convention site for 2015!
Make plans now to attend in eight years!