

Reflection on Serving as Vice President of Gospel Outreach for the 2023-2025 Term of Service

To be made available on the website and changed every biennium one year before elections of those candidates at convention.

This is an opportunity for the outgoing officer/nominating committee to share a reflection on the highlights of serving and the time required to carry out the duties of this office.

Karen Morrison

Name

1 What was the most rewarding part of your service/work with LWML in this position?

The opportunity to work with and serve alongside so many talented Lutheran Women in Mission from across the country on the Board and the Committees. The dedication of the Pastors who work together with us. Plus, the thrill of seeing how God works in selecting mission grants for the convention ballot and then the ones selected by the delegates. Arranging the mission grant payments with local LWML representatives and the gratitude of each recipient when they receive the funding. The opportunity to present mission grant payments in-person, myself, or with other Board members is an amazing experience. God is truly at work in so many ministries across the globe.

2. What regular and special committee assignments did you have in your department?

The Gospel Outreach Committee works on resources for groups to use: like the Mite Calendars, Mission Service Activities, plus the I Love to Tell the Story articles for the website. Their largest job is the Gifts from the Heart collection at each Convention.

The Mission Grants Committee writes all the resource materials for each mission grant selected by the delegates. They also serve on the Mission Grants Selection Committee, reviewing every proposal application that is submitted, and preparing for the Mission Grants Selection meeting in January of each convention year. Following selection of the grant proposals for the convention ballot, the committee members write the synopsis paragraphs for the convention manual and website. These paragraphs are used to help write the mission grants ballot proposal video for convention.

As VP, I work with the LWML Office to have the updated Mission Grant Proposal Application ready for posting by April 1st (even years). The deadline for submitting all proposals is September 1st (even years). From April – Sept. the VPGO receives every grant proposal via email. They are logged into a spreadsheet by date/time received. After the Sept. 1 deadline, the VPGO works with the LWML Office to assemble a notebook of all grant proposals created and sent to the members of the Mission Grants Selection Committee for review. The VPGO also works with the Meeting Manager to set up the Mission Grants Selection Committee meeting in January of the convention year. VPGO also coordinates with the LCMS Office for the half-day combined review meeting.

3. Approximately how many hours a week did you devote to your LWML work?

An average of 30 hours a week.

4. Approximately how many days away were necessary for your position?

An average of one week each quarter. Plus, four convention trips to district conventions in even years, usually two-four days each.

5 What else would you like the next woman serving in this position to know?

The Gospel Outreach Department is a high-profile department in LWML. Mission Grants are the heartbeat of what LWML is all about. It is what we were founded on. It is a privilege to serve in this position, but it also holds a lot of responsibility. The rewards are great, but there is a lot of time involved in this position. Computer knowledge and skill are an absolute necessity for this position.

6. Were special assignments burdensome beyond your expectations?

I wouldn't say they were burdensome, but occasionally timing of special assignments created the need for creative planning for work/life balance.

7. Would you be willing to discuss your role with a nominee or potential nominee?

Yes, I am glad to speak with anyone considering the position of Vice President of Gospel Outreach. Feel free to contact me at depgo@lwml.org.