



LWML Eastern District NEWS RELEASE – June 12, 2022

On Friday, June 10, 2022, President Susan Bell opened the 39th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Eastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS). One hundred twenty eight (128) delegates and guests participated in the convention June 10-12, 2022 held at the East Syracuse, New York DoubleTree by Hilton. The theme for this convention was "We are more than Conquerors through Him" based on the Bible verse, *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us (Romans 8:35-37).*

Delegates voted to approve a 2022-2024 Mission Goal of \$132,100, a Mite Goal of \$61,000, and a Grant Goal of \$30,500. Seven (7) projects for a total of \$ 30,500 will be funded over the next two years. The projects to be funded include:

1. GRANT # A. Funds are requested to purchase medical supplies for ultrasounds and pregnancy testing, Bright Course educational video streaming, client instructional literature, Client Boutique supplies, bus tokens and other miscellaneous needs for The Heart of Tioga. \$5,000 requested by LWML Member Anita Getty, Central New York South Zone.
2. GRANT # G. Request by Friends of Pioneer/Pioneer on the Lake to purchase furnishings. \$5,000 requested by LWML Member Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone.
3. GRANT # B*. Request to purchase/install Acorn Stair lift to assist disabled/ elderly to the 2nd floor for worship and fellowship at Christ Assembly Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. \$5,000 requested by Member Roselyn Kamara, Philadelphia Zone.
4. GRANT # E*. Request to purchase food items for the Rose Cafe and the weekly outreach food pantry truck to the needy, through Lighthouse Women's and Children's Center in Niagara Falls, NY. \$5,000 requested by LWML Member Sharon Wolff, Buffalo Zone.
5. GRANT # H. Request by the Mid Atlantic Branch Orphan Grain Train to fund shipment of a 40 foot container overseas. \$5,000 requested by LWML Member Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone.
6. GRANT # M. Request to rebuild windows and doors then install to Good Shephard Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti that was destroyed by earthquake in 2021. \$4,500 requested by LWML Member Bonnie Sugrue, Buffalo Zone
7. GRANT # C. Request by Center 4 Hope Food Pantry to purchase hygiene products for guests who cannot access these using their SNAP benefits at the food pantry. \$1,000 requested by LWML Member Sharon Fuerch Genesee Zone.

*Grant #3 and #4 will be funded at the same time due to a tie in the voting.

Delegates also elected the following officers to four-year terms:

President: Dee Grzyb, Buffalo Zone

Vice President of Christian Life/Special Focus: Linda Bahr, Central New York –North Zone

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Organizational Resources: Susan Bell, Philadelphia Zone

Treasurer: Judy Morrison, Genesee Zone

Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Carl Emberger, Philadelphia Zone

The newly elected officers will serve with previously elected officers of the Executive Committee: Vice President of Communication Sharon Wolff and Pastoral Counselor Rev. Jeffrey Nickel.

On Friday, June 10, President Susan Bell opened the convention followed by a Worship Service led by LWML Eastern District Pastoral Counselors Rev. John Zimmerman and Rev. Jeffrey Nickel with the Proclaimer, LCMS Eastern District President Rev. Dr. Chris Wicher. Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler delivered the keynote address emphasizing *We are more than conquerors through him who loved us* (Roman 8:37).

Saturday morning, June 11, Donna Snow led a Bible study based on Romans 8 followed by an exciting and busy morning session. Delegates approved the Mission Goal, Mission Grant Goal, and selected the Mission Grants that will be supported for the 2022-2024 Biennium. Two additions to the Bylaws were approved and the delegates elected new officers. LWML Strategic Plan Facilitator Michelle Jenks brought greetings from the LWML Board of Directors and presented the LWML report to the districts. Prior to breaking for lunch, President Susan Bell presented her report.

Saturday afternoon included several “Mission Moment” speakers including: Rich Gruenhagen, Orphan Grain Train; Allison Young introduced the YWRs for 2022! Tomaline Harmon, 2021 YWR; Elaine Fallesen, Climbing for Christ; and Rev. Robert Marshall, Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Gifts from the Heart items for Vera House were dedicated and Linda Gage provided an overview of the LWML Gifts of Love Ministry. There were interest sessions led by Donna Snow, Michelle Jenks, Beth Quinn, and a Pastors Event led by Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler. The afternoon ended with a Mite Walk that raised funds to support the 2022-2024 Mite Goal.

Saturday evening activities included a Banquet with Mistress of Ceremony Martha McGynn and entertainment by Harmonic Collective.

On Sunday, June 12, Donna Snow led a second Bible study based on Romans 8 followed by a Worship Service with Holy Communion with Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. John Zimmerman delivering the sermon. Following the Worship Service, Rev. John Zimmerman installed the new officers. Newly elected President Dee Grzyb closed the 39th Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention.

Convention offerings supported the LWML Eastern District Treasury, The LWML Eastern District Memorial Fund that provides support for the Young Women Representative, and the Ministry to the Armed Forces to help Chaplain Wives attend Worker Wellness Retreat.

The 40th Biennial LWML Eastern District Convention will be held in June 2024 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, hosted by the Pittsburgh Zone.

The next national LWML Convention will be held June 22–25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The theme is "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" based on *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man;* (Hebrews 12:1–2).

To God be the Glory,
Kathy Pavelock
LWML Eastern District Public Relations Director