

Lutheran Women's Missionary League
Northern Illinois District Convention
Take Heart
September 23-24, 2022
Holiday Inn & Suites, Carol Stream, IL

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION

OPENING HYMN – Song Leader Lana Gibbons asked everyone to rise for the opening hymn, “Lutheran Women One and All”. Assembling on stage during the hymn were Janice Gerzevske, President; Loretta Platter, Parliamentarian; Diana Ladislav, Vice President of Gospel Outreach; Sharon Friesner, Recording Secretary; Donna Simundic, Treasurer; and Pastor Jeffrey Howell, Senior Pastoral Counselor.

CALL TO ORDER, LIGHTING OF CONVENTION CANDLE – President Janice Gerzevske opened the 76th Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League – Northern Illinois District with the Invocation at 9:07 a.m. The convention candle was lit by Hannah Solyom, the President's Page.

OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME – President Janice welcomed everyone to the convention, especially our first-time attendees. She led us in the opening prayer.

BIBLE STUDY – Deb Burma, well-known throughout LCMS as an author, Bible study leader, and retreat leader, led us in a Bible Study based on our theme “Take Heart,” using various passages of Scripture to remind us that we can “Take Heart” because Jesus has overcome the world.

HISTORICAL INTERRUPTION – Kris Blackwell, Archivist-Historian, as Helena.

CREDENTIALS REPORT – LeeAnn Himley, Corresponding Secretary – As of 9:21 a.m., the official roll of the convention is:
45 Delegates
21 NID BOD Voting Members
3 LWML-NID Past Presidents
Total: 69 members of the voting assembly

LeeAnn Himley moved that the roll of the voting assembly of the BOD, past district presidents, and delegates registered up to 9:21 a.m. be the official roll of the voting assembly of the Convention. President Janice Gerzevske asked the delegates to vote on the motion to accept the official roll; **the motion carried.**

ADOPTION – CONVENTION RULES AND AGENDA – **Sharon Friesner, Recording Secretary, first moved, by direction of the Executive Committee, to adopt the Convention rules as printed on page 6 of the Convention manual; motion carried. She then moved, by direction of the Executive Committee, to adopt the agenda as printed on pages 2 and 3 of the Convention manual, with permission to change at the discretion of President Janice Gerzevske. This motion also carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT – Donna Simundic moved, by recommendation of the Executive Committee, to adopt the Treasurer's report printed on page 7 of the Convention Manual. The financial review was completed by Cheryl Rolfs & Associates Ltd. The motion carried.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2024 MITE GOAL – Donna Simundic, by recommendation of the Executive Committee, in recognition of the blessings of the Lord, moved the adoption of the 2022-2024 mission goal of \$160,000. This will include \$40,000 for National LWML, \$22,000 for district in-reach and \$98,000 for LWML NID Mission Grants. The motion carried.

DOXOLOGY – President Janice Gerzevske asked the assembly to rise as able and join together in singing the Doxology, giving glory to God for his blessings.

LWML REPORT – Debbie Larson, President of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, shared her power point presentation and video regarding the work of the LWML during her term as President. President Debbie spoke about her vision for LWML, "His In Christ" and the "What's Your 80?" initiative to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the LWML. Debbie noted that 90% of the National Mission Goal will go towards Mission Grants! She reminded us of the LWML Core Values – We are Christian women, we are in God's Word, and we are mission focused. Getting involved in LWML is contagious! She thanked President Jan for serving as the NID LWML District President from 2018 to 2022 and presented her with a gift for her service. President Debbie also thanked the NID for inviting her to be with us today.

HISTORICAL INTERRUPTION – Kris Blackwell, Archivist-Historian, as Helena

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS – Kathy Harringer, Structure Chairman, was called to the podium to present a resolution for adoption prior to discussion of the Bylaws. On behalf of the Bylaws/Structure Committee, Kathy Harringer moved that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, there are often corrections in the article and section designation, punctuation, grammar, and cross-references to be made upon amendment of the bylaws, be it RESOLVED, that the Bylaws/Structure Committee be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the membership in connection with these proposed bylaw amendments. The resolution was adopted.

Kathy Harringer, by direction of the Board of Directors, moved the adoption of the bylaw amendments as printed on pages 9-13 of the Convention manual. President Janice Gerzevske went page by page through the bylaw amendments and asked if there were any questions. There being no questions, the motion was put to a vote. **There being a unanimous vote in favor of the motion, the amendments were adopted.**

CONVENTION THEME SONG – Lana Gibbons led us in singing "Take Heart", which she specifically composed as the theme song for this Convention.

PROPOSED MISSION GRANTS PRESENTATION – Diana Ladislas, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, presented a video of the mission grant requests listed on pages 16 and 17 of the Convention Manual.

President Janice Gerzevske thanked Diana and her committee – Nancy Bundley and Joanna Small – for the outstanding job reviewing the possible grants. The presentation will be placed on the website to share at your group meetings.

CONVENTION OFFERING & SINGING – The YWR’s collected the convention offering while Lana Gibbons led us in singing.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS – President Janice recognized the following: Our Keynote Speaker and Bible Study Leader, Deb Burma; LWML President, Debbie Larson; LCMS NID President, Rev. Dr. Allan Buss; Gifts of Love, LWML Gift Planning Counselor, Carol Von Soosten; LWML NID Past Presidents, Linda Arnold, Sherrie Smith and Barbara Belanski; our Song Leader, Lana Gibbons; and the President’s Page, Hannah Solyom. President Janice asked our LWML NID Young Women to stand and be recognized. She also asked the Zone Pastoral Counselors and all other Pastors who are in attendance today to stand and be recognized.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Gayle Thanepohn, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the slate of candidates for office: For Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Thomas Eaves, Rev. Charles Johnson, and Rev. Steven Warren; for LWML NID President, Gayle Thanepohn; for Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Nancy Bundley; for Vice President of Organizational Resources, Diana Ladislas; for Corresponding Secretary, Janice Gerzevske; for Treasurer, Emelia Waugh; for Nominating Committee West and Chair of the Nominating Committee, Elvera Ruff. There were no further nominations from the floor.

PRAYER BEFORE BALLOTING – Donna Gutzler, Public Relations Director, led us in prayer for the election of officers for the 2022-2024 biennium.

CREDENTIALS REPORT – LeeAnn Himley, Corresponding Secretary, reported that the 11:11 a.m. official roll of registered voters is the same as at 9:21 a.m.

ELECTION BY VOICE VOTE – President Janice moved for a voice vote for the following offices: Gayle Thanepohn for President, Nancy Bundley for Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Diana Ladislas for Vice President of Organizational Resources, Janice Gerzevske for Corresponding Secretary, Emelia Waugh for Treasurer, and Elvera Ruff for Nominating Committee West and Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The motion carried.

ELECTION BUDDY VOTING – JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR – LeeAnn Himley explained the election buddy voting procedures and announced that the pastor receiving the highest number of votes would be elected. There were technical problems with the election buddy voting. The vote will take place after the lunch break.

HISTORICAL INTERRUPTION – Kris Blackwell as Helena. Helena noted that at the first convention, paper ballots were used for voting and the lunch cost 75 cents and 2 cents tax.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Marilyn Hess, Convention Co-Chair, announced that the hotel staff will need 30 minutes to set up for lunch. The assembly was invited to visit the CPH Store, the Historical Archives and the LWML Store in the room across the hall from the convention room. The convention will be in recess until 1:30 p.m., with singing starting at 1:15 p.m.

LUNCH PRAYER – Kirsten Smith, Vice President of Christian Life, led us in the luncheon prayer.

LUNCH

VOTING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF PASTORAL COUNSELOR RESULTS – LeeAnn Himley returned to the podium to begin the election buddy voting for Pastoral Counselor. Voting delegates cast their ballots. President Janice declared the polls closed. Lee Ann then announced the results of the election. There were a total of 70 votes cast. Pastor Eaves received 25 votes, Pastor Johnson received 14 votes and Pastor Warren received 31 votes. **Pastor Warren was chosen to be our Junior Pastoral Counselor.**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

GATHERING MUSIC AND SINGING

OPENING PRAYER – Hannah Schauer, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, led us in the opening prayer.

LWML PLEDGE – The NID Past Presidents – Linda Arnold, Sherrie Smith, and Barbara Belanski – led us in the LWML Pledge. President Jan noted that becoming a district president begins with attending your first convention. She asked all of the first-time attendees to stand and be recognized.

KEYNOTE MESSAGE – Wendy Johnson introduced our keynote speaker, Deb Burma. Deb reminded us to TAKE HEART, look to Jesus, and lean on Jesus because God has overcome the world. He is our help in times of trouble and will never leave us. We can trust God to hold us steady for He is in control.

HISTORICAL INTERRUPTION – Kris Blackwell as Helena

YWR REPORT – Sherrie Smith, Chairman of the Young Women Committee, introduced two of the Young Women Representatives who attended the national Convention last summer in Lexington, Kentucky: Hannah Russell Schauer and Emelia Waugh. They shared their memories of the convention activities and how they participated. They noted how inspiring it was to see what the LWML had done in past years and what they will continue to do in the future.

MISSION GRANT SPEAKER VIDEO – Diana Ladislas introduced the mission grant speaker's video from two grant recipients of the past biennium.

CONVENTION OFFERING REPORT – Joanne Unrath, Financial Secretary, reported on the convention offerings. The offering receipts from the Friday Worship Service totaled \$1,062.09 and today's offering receipts for district expenses totaled \$1,719.00 for a total offering of \$2,781.09.

FAMILY IN FAITH FOOD PANTRY/DONATION PRAYER – Marilyn Hess, Convention Co-Chair, gave a report on the Family in Faith Food Pantry ingathering. There were 40 boxes of food collected on Friday and 25 boxes collected on Saturday. She extended a big thank you to the YWR's for packing all of the food into boxes. A representative from the Food Pantry was in attendance to extend his thanks for the much needed donations. Marilyn then led the assembly in prayer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Janice Gerzevske said that 2020 seems only a distant memory. Following the virtual convention in 2020, we began to Take Heart. Hopes of Covid ending were on the horizon but many meetings and events were still being held via Zoom. In June of 2021, we were able to meet in person at the National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. This year we are celebrating the 80th birthday of LWML and here in the NID we are also celebrating 85 years in mission. Local LWML groups, zones and districts have been collecting various items for "What's Your 80?" projects. LWML sisters keep taking heart and serving their neighbors. Looking to the future, we need to stay in God's Word, support missions, serve others, and equip the women of our groups and zones for roles of leadership. In 2023 we have the joyful task of being one of the three hosting districts for the National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Many hands and feet will be needed to make the convention a success. Please plan to join us in Milwaukee as we "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations."

HISTORICAL INTERRUPTION – Kris Blackwell as Helena

2023 MILWAUKEE CONVENTION POWER POINT – Sherrie Smith presented a power point which shared highlights of the 2023 Milwaukee Convention. Rev. Gregory Seltz will be the keynote speaker and Kaye Wolff will lead the Bible Study. Speakers from our Mission Grant recipients will also be in attendance to tell us how our mites are being used to share the good news of Christ. Many volunteers will be needed to make this convention a success.

REGISTRATION REPORT – LeeAnn Himley presented the total registration report. There were 109 in attendance which included 70 voting members and 39 others, including 3 past district presidents, 7 non-voting BOD, 7 guests, 4 pastors, 9 YWR's and 5 invited special guests.

MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS – LeeAnn Himley, Corresponding Secretary, moved that the electronic ballots be destroyed. The motion carried.

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE – Kris Blackwell thanked all who attended the convention and gave special thanks to Jan Bersano and her volunteers for helping with the historical presentation. She also thanked Judy Milde for preparing the list of grants from 1937 to 2022. Kris asked that everyone leave their lanyards and completed evaluation forms on the tables and they will be collected after the convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS – Rev. Jeffrey Howell asked all of the newly elected officers to come forward. Those finishing or continuing their service were thanked and asked to come forward also. Pastor Howell installed the new officers, reaffirmed those who were continuing in service, and asked

God's blessing on the outgoing officers in whatever way God leads them. President Janice also thanked the outgoing officers.

CONVENTION CLOSING PRAYER – Barbara Himley

EXTINGUISHING OF CONVENTION CANDLE & ADJORNMENT – After receiving the President's pin from Janice Gerzevske, Gayle Thanepohn, LWML NID President 2022-2026, adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m. Hannah Solyom extinguished the Convention candle.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon Friesner, Recording Secretary (2021-2024)



Janice Gerzevske, President (2018-2022)

MINUTES REVIEW COMMITTEE

Janice Gerzevske, President
Rev. Jeffrey Howell, Pastoral Counselor
Kris Blackwell, Convention Committee Co-Chair
Sharon Friesner, Recording Secretary
Barbara Belanski, Past President
Donna Gutzler, Public Relations Director