

189TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) MONTANA DISTRICT
First Lutheran Church, Missoula, Montana
February 23-24, 2018

1. Call to Order – 6:45 p.m.

President Shari Miller called the 189th meeting of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors (BOD) to order with the Invocation.

Bible Study – Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley

Following opening prayer, Rev. Whaley led the retreat Bible study on forgiveness. He focused on *Forgiveness* and *Forgiveness as Removing Sin*.

President Miller appointed Archivist-Historian Marjorie O'Rourke as Acting Recording Secretary for this meeting.

2. Roll Call – Acting Recording Secretary Marjorie O'Rourke

BOD members signed the attendance sheet and noted corrections on the BOD roster. Acting Recording Secretary O'Rourke called roll.

Elected Officers	5
Counselors	1
Zone Presidents	4
Appointed Officers	6
Guests	<u>1</u>
Total Voting	14
Total Attendance	16

Excused Absences: Vice President of Gospel Outreach and Flathead Zone President Kathleen Scott, Recording Secretary Bridget Michel, Treasurer Ruth Denning, Senior Counselor Rev. Rolf Preus, Central Zone President Valerie Martin, *Montana Missive* Editor Brook Gerard, and Web Coordinator Stephanie Edgar. Nominating Committee Chairman Christine Wallace excused Friday, present Saturday.

Note: Divide Zone President Marjorie O'Rourke has one vote and that was as Archivist-Historian for this meeting. Young Woman Co-Chairmen have one vote. One of the two co-chairmen is considered a guest. Billye Roseleip voted as Young Woman Chairman.

3. Adoption of Agenda – Shari Miller

By consensus, the agenda was approved with changes as needed.

4. Appointment of Minutes Review Committee – Shari Miller

Vice President of Human Care Knudsen and Scholarship Chairman Anderson
Standing Committee Member: Corresponding Secretary Witt

5. Minutes – Bridget Michel

Following a new procedure introduced by President Miller on the advice of the LWML Parliamentarian, the 188th Minutes were reviewed and approved by the Minutes Review Committee, filed with the Recording Secretary, posted to the LWML Montana District website, and emailed to BOD members, LCMS Montana District President Terry Forke, and LWML President Patti Ross.

6. Correspondence Requiring No Action – Janice Witt

Corresponding Secretary Witt presented thank you notes for scholarships from Vicar Carl Wendorff and seminary student Jared Cooksey. She read a letter from President Miller to the LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Kaye Wolff and LWML Committee on Young Women Chairman Carrie Brumbaugh regarding the childcare policy for Young Woman Representatives at the national convention. Replies from both women to President Miller indicate that the committee is working on the issue.

7. Reports of Elected Officers and Counselors

A. Recording Secretary – Bridget Michel

Full report on file. Recording Secretary Michel thanked BOD members who served on the Minutes Review Committee and provided input after the last BOD meeting. She received a Thrivent Action Grant to defray printing costs of the convention manual. She is working on the manual that President Miller started. Corresponding Secretary Witt will proof the manual.

B. Treasurer – Ruth Denning

Full report on file. She thanked BOD members for noting items needing correction.

C. Vice President of Christian Life – Sonja Reeves

Full report on file.

D. Vice President of Gospel Outreach – Kathleen Scott

Full report on file. Nominating Committee Chairman Christine Wallace led the grant selection meeting due to the absence of Vice President of Gospel Outreach Scott.

E. Vice President of Human Care – Deborah Knudsen

Full report on file.

F. Vice President of Servant Resources – Pam Kercher

Full report on file.

G. Nominating Committee Chairman – Christine Wallace

Full report on file. Nominations for election at the 2018 LWML Montana District Convention are as follows: Junior Counselor, Rev. Blake Marshall; Vice President of Human Care, Susan Sweatman; Vice President of Servant Resources, Linda Reilly; Recording Secretary, Sharon Murray; Treasurer, Carol Holste; Nominating Committee Chairman, Pam Kercher.

H. Senior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Rolf Preus

No report on file. In an email to President Miller, he indicated that he could not attend the meeting due to road conditions. In a phone voice mail message to President Miller, he shared that he also regrets that he cannot attend the district convention, as he has a previous speaking engagement in Minnesota that weekend.

I. Junior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Kyle Whaley

Full report on file. He will attend the Continuing Education class for pastors at Trinity Camp in the summer. President Miller thanked Rev. Whaley for his resiliency and flexibility.

J. President – Shari Miller

Full report on file. She will share many things from the LWML Board of Directors meeting held January 24-27, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri, throughout the meeting. She was also able to bring

LWML Store materials back for the district convention in her luggage at the request of Vice President of Servant Resources Kercher.

8. Reports of Zone Presidents

A. Central Zone – Valerie Martin

Full report on file.

B. Divide Zone – Marjorie O'Rourke

Full report on file.

C. Eastern Zone – Claudia Kransky

Full report on file.

D. Flathead Zone – Kathleen Scott

Full report on file.

E. Southern Zone – Shirley Zeller

Full report on file.

F. Western Zone – Dorothy Rummel

Full report on file. There was no zone fall rally due to fires and smoky conditions. Zone President Rummel distributed a sample of a letter she planned to send to the women of her zone to encourage them to make a mites offering in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the LWML Montana District (8.F. Addendum).

9. Reports of Appointed Officers

A. Archivist-Historian – Marjorie O'Rourke

Full report on file. President Miller thanked her for researching the archives for an ongoing project in preparation for the 75th Anniversary celebration.

B. Corresponding Secretary – Janice Witt

Full report on file. President Miller reviewed the calendar produced by Corresponding Secretary Witt. Vice President of Servant Resources Kercher invited the BOD to meet at Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings for the October meeting. The dates set were October 12-13, 2018, with October 26-27, 2018, as an alternate date.

C. Financial Secretary – Barb Kohs

Full report on file. Financial Secretary Kohs has made tentative changes to the Society Annual Report due to the ability of society members to now receive the *Montana Missive* by email. A copy of the report change was available at the BOD meeting (Item 9.C. Addendum). Financial Secretary Kohs' changes were accepted by consensus.

D. *Montana Missive* Editor – Brook Gerard

Full report on file.

E. Scholarship Chairman – Edee Anderson

Full report on file. She stated that we need to get the word out that scholarships are available.

F. Structure Chairman – Myrt White

Full report on file.

G. Web Coordinator – Stephanie Edgar

Full report on file. She reported that although the *Montana Manual* may look different on the website than in print, the information is the same.

H. Young Woman Co-Chairmen – Rosanne Larson and Billye Roseleip

Full reports on file. Young Woman Co-Chairman Larson verified that it is acceptable for teenagers to attend the convention as Young Woman Representatives. They should have an adult with them.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Drive – Deborah Knudsen

Date for 2018 LWR Pickup is May 12, 2018. Times and pickup locations are in item 7.E. Vice President of Human Care Knudsen requested a truck with a drop-down box when she spoke with Midnight Express. Volunteers are needed to load the trucks.

B. District Retreat Report – Pam Kercher, Sonja Reeves

1. Western Retreat

September 21-22, 2018, at Camp Utmost

Theme: “As Far as the East is from the West”

Vice President of Christian Life Reeves stated that although the date has been saved, no new contract has been signed with Camp Utmost. LWML Montana District lost its deposit in 2017 when it canceled due to fire conditions. The deposit at Camp Utmost has been increased from \$500 to \$1,000.

The BOD directed Vice President of Christian Life Reeves to negotiate with Camp Utmost for a \$500 deposit and report to the BOD at the next meeting. She has also been directed to contact Trinity Lutheran Camp for availability and contract terms before the next BOD meeting.

2. Eastern Retreat

The Lion’s Camp at Mikoshika State Park is being researched.

Theme: “As Far as the East is from the West”

Vice President of Servant Resources Kercher will make contact with and visit the camp. She will provide details at the April 2018 BOD meeting. A volunteer is needed to handle the retreat.

Closing Devotion – Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley

Luke 11:32 Lent and Repentance

Bible Study – Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley

Rev. Whaley continued the Bible study on *Forgiveness as Removing Sin* and finished with *Forgiveness as Reconciled Relationship*.

C. Short-Term Mission Trip – Sonja Reeves

Report attached. Due to lack of interest, Vice President of Christian Life Reeves had recommended using the designated portion of the Jo Young annuity in other ways. Offering scholarships from the District was suggested. She was instructed to continue to plan a domestic mission trip around spring break 2019 and continue to promote it within the district.

D. Mileage Reimbursement Review

As per BOD Minutes from October 2014, p. 4, the mileage rate is reviewed at February BOD meetings. Corresponding Secretary Witt stated that the IRS rate for 2018 is \$0.545 per mile.
(m/s/c – I) to raise the LWML Montana District rate for mileage reimbursement from \$0.35 per mile to \$0.40 per mile to be effective May 1, 2018.

11. New Business

A. Grants Disbursement – Ruth Denning

Standing Policies and Procedures: *At the February meeting prior to the District Convention, the BOD will determine disbursement of excess funds in the Grants Account. (02-2012, p. 5)*

President Miller and Corresponding Secretary Witt reviewed the budget which shows \$23,532.89 committed to grants and scholarships (Item 11.A.). That includes total grant mites income, overage payment from the 2017 LWML Host Committee, the 2017 Lowell Young Annual IRA Distribution, and interest income which may be used to fully fund the final two mission grants for biennium 2016-2018. Voters at the 2016 LWML Montana District Convention funded the Sharing Jesus in the Dominican Republic grant at \$1,417.56 and the Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations grant at \$945.04. The grant requests were \$3,000 and \$2,000, respectively.

(m/s/c – II) to pay in full the mission grants Sharing Jesus in the Dominican Republic (\$1,582.44 remaining) and Operation Barnabas for Comfort Dog Congregations (\$1,054.96 remaining).

President Miller stated that through January 31, 2018, the district mites offerings are \$9,260.36 lower than needed to meet the mission goal. BOD members proposed ideas to encourage giving prior to the end of this biennium: writing society treasurers, zone presidents writing to societies (example 8.F. Addendum), and posting a message on the district website. President Miller declared March 11, 2018, as the date of a special Mite Box Thankoffering in the Montana District. A flyer and promotional material will be distributed to the societies and churches in the district. Corresponding Secretary Witt volunteered for this publicity.

B. 2018-2020 BOD Appointments – Shari Miller

President Miller presented her appointments for the next biennium: Archivist-Historian – Marjorie O'Rourke; Corresponding Secretary – Janice Witt; Financial Secretary – Barb Kohs; *Montana Missive* Editor – Brook Gerard; Scholarship Chairman – Edee Anderson; Structure Chairman – Myrt White; and Web Coordinator – Stephanie Edgar. Young Woman Chairman will be announced at the April 20, 2018, BOD meeting.

(m/s/c – III) to ratify the appointments as presented.

C. LWML Board of Directors News – Shari Miller

1. Assembly of Leaders (AOL) – November 7-10, 2018

LWML Montana District may send four people to the AOL (Item 11.C). President Miller and the Junior Pastoral Counselor are scheduled to attend. Two others may be nominated by the District President to go. LWML Montana District will cover transportation costs. The search is for “a woman interested or involved in leadership development or communication, and a young woman with a heart for this organization that is interested in encouraging the women of the LCMS to participate in LWML.” Names for consideration should be forwarded to President Miller by April 2018.

2. National Restructure of LWML

A handout was distributed that outlines the proposed restructuring of LWML to place it in alignment with Missouri law. Voting will occur at the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile,

Alabama. A PowerPoint presentation at the LWML Montana District BOD meeting in October 2018 will further explain the changes.

3. Districts Promoted on Social Media

President Miller shared that Montana will be highlighted on the LWML Facebook page and other social media on March 16, 2018, in a program called #LWMLFocusFriday and #LWMLFacesFriday, proposed by the LWML Information Technology Committee (ITC). Our Focus will be our upcoming district convention using the LWML Montana District logo, and our Faces will be a group of women taken at the BOD meeting in February 2017 decked out in their 75th Anniversary Celebration attire. The ITC also asked for historic pictures for #LWMLThrowbackThursdays. The LWML Montana District submitted three photos. All submissions have been filed with these minutes.

4. 2019 Convention in Mobile, Alabama – June 20-23, 2019

The theme is “In Praise to the Lord!” Handouts about the convention were shared, including a poster and a “Save the Date” postcard. Montana will not sponsor a bus to the convention. The LWML Montana District will have preferred seating because it was a host district for the previous convention.

12. 2018 LWML Montana District Convention

April 20-22, 2018 “Every Tongue Confess” (Philippians 2:11)

A tour of convention facilities was conducted by Convention Co-Chairmen Sonja Reeves and Christine Wallace.

A. Draft Agenda – Shari Miller

President Miller assigned duties for the convention. A tentative list of committees and other convention responsibilities was shared. President Miller asked that those doing introductions contact their assigned speaker and give some additional information or a quote not found on the biography that is in the convention manual. She also asked those assigned a prayer to send it to Rev. Whaley before the convention for doctrinal review.

B. Convention Goals/Objectives

See item 12.B.

C. Co-Chairmen – Sonja Reeves, Christine Wallace

1. Registration

The registration forms went out in the *Missive* and in letters to the active societies. BOD members brought their completed registrations forms. These were collected by Corresponding Secretary Witt and sent to Treasurer Denning for payment.

2. Budget

With an estimated registration of 125 at \$85/per person, total income projected is \$10,625. The budget was approved by general consensus.

3. Meals and Banquet

A dinner for the BOD and registrants is planned for Friday evening with sack lunches for Saturday. Jane Johnson and Mary Carlson are overseeing meals. The Saturday evening banquet will be catered, and individual tickets cost \$20.

4. Gifts from the Heart (GFTH)

Mountain Home Montana, Orphan Grain Train

5. Banners

The banner stands are in Missoula and all societies are asked to bring a banner of their choice.

6. Housing

Housing will be at the Fair Bridge Inn & Suites in Missoula, unless otherwise indicated. Corresponding Secretary Witt passed around a housing list for BOD members to sign up for roommates.

7. Servant Activities

Tying fleece pillows for Mountain Home Montana

8. Public Relations

Nennette Loftsgaarden is handling publicity. President Miller directed Nennette to contact the LCMS District Office regarding convention publicity.

9. Displays

Susan Sweatman has been granted permission to display, but not sell, a copy of her book. Lutheran Heritage Foundation is a selected grant for the ballot and will not be allowed to display.

10. Other Information

None.

D. Young Women/Teens – Rosanne Larson, Billye Roseleip

The Young Woman Representative (YWR) breakfast is open to anyone. Young Woman Co-Chairman Larson requested YWR information from the registration forms. The YWRs from the 2017 LWML Convention will serve as the Legacy Players.

(m/s/c – IV) that the Administrative Expense Account of the district budget pay for registration fee, 50% of a motel room, and travel expense for each of the two YWRs representing the LWML Montana District at the 2017 LWML Convention in lieu of an honorarium for doing four historical vignettes (Legacy Players) throughout the convention.

E. Speakers – Shari Miller

Keynote Speakers: Rev. Dr. Robert/Kristi Roegner; Mites in Action: Rev. Doug/Angela Thompson and Rev. David/Shelee Warner; Bible Studies: Past LWML Counselor Rev. Larry Miller; Banquet: Past LWML Montana District Presidents; LWML Representative: Vice President of Communication Char Kroemer

(m/s/c – V) that the Administrative Expense Account of the district budget pay for registration fee, 50% of a motel room, and travel expense for each of the two past LWML Montana District Presidents attending the convention.

Archivist-Historian and 75th Anniversary Committee Chairman O'Rourke was appointed to be the contact person for the past District Presidents during the convention.

F. Worship Services/Bible Studies – Rev. Kyle Whaley

Rev. Whaley is planning the Friday evening worship service with Rev. Johnson at First Lutheran Church. In addition, Rev. Whaley will write a litany for our Gifts from the Heart and will install officers. Both of these activities will be done during our Sunday morning convention meeting.

G. Grant Selection Report – Kathleen Scott

See item 12.G. for a listing of approved grant proposals. The Scholarship Grant total for the 2018-2020 biennium is \$3,000. It would take \$24,000 to totally fund the proposed grants.
(m/s/c – VI) to approve the Grant Selection Committee’s ballot of proposed mission projects.

The mission goal for 2018-2020 was discussed in conjunction with the whole LWML Montana District budget. The percentages of how the budget will be designated remain the same: Administrative Expenses (includes Christian Growth, Leadership, BOD Expenses, and Literature) 35%, Grants 40%, and LWML Mites 25%.

(m/s/c – VII) to increase the 2018-2020 biennium budget by 1% over the 2016-2018 biennium budget.

For the next biennium, the total amount budgeted for Grants is \$22,280; Administrative Expenses, \$19,495; and LWML Mites, \$13,925 for a rounded total of \$55,700.

H. Offerings – Kathleen Scott, Ruth Denning

There will be three offering opportunities at the convention:

1. Friday Evening Worship Service Offering – LWML Montana District 2018-2020 Mite Goal
2. Saturday Afternoon 75th Anniversary Thankoffering – LWML Montana District Grants Account
3. Sunday Morning Worship Service Offering – First and Messiah Lutheran Pre-Schools, Missoula

(m/s/c – VIII) to schedule the proposed giving opportunities, as listed above, during the 2018 LWML Montana District Convention.

I. LWML Montana District BOD Job Descriptions – Shari Miller

President Miller is working on the BOD introductions which will take place on Friday evening.

J. Convention News – Brook Gerard

The daily convention paper will be titled *The Declaration*. The printer at First Lutheran in Missoula will be used for printing.

K. Bylaws – Myrt White

The proposed bylaws changes are approved by the LWML Structure Committee and have been formatted for the convention manual.

L. Manual – Shari Miller

Recording Secretary Michel and Corresponding Secretary Witt are assisting President Miller with the convention manual. Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for an Action Grant to help defray the printing costs of the manual.

M. 75th Anniversary Committee Report – Marjorie O’Rourke

Plans are under way for the 75th Anniversary Banquet. Committee Chairman Archivist-Historian O’Rourke and committee members Structure Chairman White and Financial Secretary Kohs have taken on the task of decorations and publicity. The entertainment for the evening is an LWML sketch entitled *From Generation to Generation* and Vice President Reeves is getting Western Zone actors for the sketch. The Committee is also looking for props for the Legacy Players. Committee Chairman O’Rourke was thanked for the research she has done in preparation for the convention. The convention manual will include many historical items of interest. A keepsake songbook of 75th Anniversary Songs (songs sung at conventions during the past 75 years) has been compiled.

N. Other District Convention Items

Jeff Snyder of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) will donate the tote bags. They will be purple and have an LWML Montana District logo because the resolution of the convention's logo was too low for proper printing. It might be possible to use it for some other convention souvenir like a luggage tag or pin. President Miller itemized LWML handouts to be included in the bags.

13. Other Items

Montana Missive Editor Brook Gerard would like to order The Newsletter Newsletter clip art and template service which would cost \$17.95 per quarter. Others in the district would be able to use it also. Editor Gerard would give the password to BOD members to enter the site. It is intended for district LWML use only.

(m/s/c – IX) to authorize Editor Gerard to subscribe to the newsletter service.

Upcoming Meetings

1. **April 20, 2018 @ First Lutheran, Missoula, 1 p.m.**
2. **April 20-22, 2018 District Convention, @ First Lutheran, Missoula**
3. **April 22, 2018 @ First Lutheran, Missoula, Post-Convention**
4. **October 12-13, 2018 @ Trinity Lutheran, Billings**
Alternate date: October 26-27, 2018

Adjournment 1:52 p.m.

Closing Prayer – Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Kyle Whaley



Marjorie O'Rourke, Acting Recording Secretary



Sharon J. (Shari) Miller, President