

196th BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) MONTANA DISTRICT
Mountain Top Retreat, Bozeman, Montana
September 18-19, 2020

1. Call to Order – 3:00 p.m.

President Pam Kercher called the 196th meeting of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors (BOD) to order with the Invocation.

Bible Study - Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Blake Marshall

Following an opening prayer, Rev. Blake Marshall led the attendees in a Bible study. Due to the pandemic, the face to face 2020 District Fall Retreats were cancelled and went virtual. For that reason, all the devotions and Bible studies were recorded to put online as part of the virtual retreat programming.

2. Roll Call –Recording Secretary Sharon Murray

BOD members signed the attendance sheet and noted corrections on the BOD roster.

Elected Officers	8
Counselors	2
Zone Presidents	4
Appointed Officers	7
Guests	<u>1</u>
Total Attendance	19
Total Voting	16

Excused Absences: Central Zone President Valerie Martin

3. Adoption of Agenda – Pam Kercher

The distributed agenda will be used with any changes or additions as needed.

4. Appointment of Minutes Review Committee – Pam Kercher

Vice President of Human Care Susan Sweatman, Financial Secretary Barb Kohs,
Standing Committee Member: Nominating Committee Chairman Shari Miller

5. Minutes – Sharon Murray

The 195th BOD Meeting and 39th Biennial Convention minutes were approved by the Minutes Review Committee, filed with the Recording Secretary, posted to the LWML Montana District website, and emailed to the BOD members, LCMS Montana District President Terry Forke, and LWML President Debbie Larson.

6. Correspondence Requiring No Action – Barbara Nies

1. A thank you note was received from Venitta McGuire, Administrative Assistant at Skyview High School in Billings, in appreciation for the \$275 in gift cards that were donated to the homeless teens attending Skyview High School. The gift cards were part of the Gifts From the Heart donations at the LWML 2020 Montana District Convention.
2. A letter of thanks and a receipt were received from Rev. Ray S. Wilke of Orphan Grain Train for \$100 that was donated to them during the LWML 2020 Montana District Convention.

7. Reports of Elected Officers and Counselors

A. Recording Secretary – Sharon Murray

Full report on file. In addition to the filed report there is an additional page concerning Mission Grants and Scholarship Accounts which will be added to the Standing Policies and Procedures (SPPs).

B. Treasurer – Carol Holste

Full report on file.

C. Vice President of Christian Life – Brook Gerard

No report on file.

D. Vice President of Gospel Outreach – Marjorie O’Rourke

Full report on file.

E. Vice President of Human Care – Susan Sweatman

Full report on file.

F. Vice President of Servant Resources – Linda Reilly

Full report on file.

G. Nominating Committee Chairman - Shari Miller

Full report on file.

H. Senior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Blake Marshall

Full report on file.

I. Junior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Daniel Keinath

No report on file.

J. President – Pam Kercher

Full report on file.

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. Flathead Zone – Michal Delgado

Full report on file. The date of October 3, 2020, has been set for the Fall Gathering at Trinity Lutheran Camp.

D. SouthEastern Zone – Myrt White

Full report on file. SouthEastern Zone President White also sent out the “Tuesday to Remember” flyer to the various societies in the SouthEastern Zone.

E. Western Zone – Rosanne Larson

Full report on file.

9. Reports of Appointed Officers

A. Archivist-Historian – Grace Swift

Full report on file.

B. Corresponding Secretary – Barbara Nies

Full report on file.

C. Financial Secretary – Barb Kohs

Full report on file.

D. *Montana Missive* Editor – Brook Gerard

Full report on file. September 30, 2020, is the deadline for articles submitted for the *Montana Missive* fall issue, which will be published October 15, 2020.

E. Scholarship Chairman – Edee Anderson

Full report on file.

(m/s/c – I) that the LWML Montana District BOD award all applicants pursuing a career in fulltime church work scholarship(s) of \$1,000 for the 2020 year.

F. Structure Chairman – Myrt White

Full report on file.

The following proposed new Article is being presented for BOD Approval:

1. Proposed Article XV – Emergency Action

“In the event of any great emergency such as war, epidemic, disaster, or other prevailing conditions making the holding of a convention inadvisable, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to determine whether the convention shall or shall not be held; a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee shall decide, and the vote may be taken by mail or electronic messaging. In the event the convention is not held, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to plan procedures for conducting the routine convention business.”

(m/s/c - II) to send proposed Article XV to the LWML Structure Committee for their approval.

2. Proposed Article number change

If the above new Article XV is approved by the district delegates in 2022, the current Article XV – Amendment of Bylaws, would change from Article XV to Article XVI – Amendment of Bylaws.

(m/s/c – III) to change the Article numbers: Article XV Amendment of Bylaws becomes Article XVI.

3. Proposed addition to Article VIII – Executive Committee

If the above new Article XV is approved, then “in the event of an emergency” will be added to Article VIII – Executive Committee #3.

(m/s/c – IV) to add to the wording of #3 in Article VIII – Executive Committee as follows:

3. “The committee shall transact necessary business between Board of Directors meetings and in the event of an emergency.”

G. Young Woman Chairman – Emy Stueve

Full report on file.

10. Webmaster – Stephanie Edgar

Full report on file. President Kercher thanked Webmaster Edgar for the work she did for the District Convention.

11. Unfinished Business

A. 2020 District Convention Report – Pam Kercher, Myrt White, Co-Chairmen

Full report on file.

B. LWR Drive – Susan Sweatman

1. The July 11, 2020, Pickup Report was distributed. A corrected report was forwarded to the BOD after the meeting and is filed with the minutes.
2. The 2021 Proposed Pickup Date is May 8, 2021; pickup sites will remain the same.

C. 2020 District Retreat Report - Linda Reilly, Brook Gerard

Full report on file. The cost at Mountain Top Retreat is \$38.50 per person for one night. The cost of each night for a two-night stay is \$28.50 per person. It is \$200 for the additional meeting room per day. It was decided by general consensus that we will use Mountain Top Retreat for the Eastern Fall Retreat on September 17-19, 2021. Vice President of Servant Resources Reilly will make arrangements for the 2021 Eastern Fall Retreat.

D. Montana Manual Updates – Myrt White

Structure Chairman White has not received any new or updated Job Descriptions for the *Manual*.

E. Rezoning of Thompson Falls – Pam Kercher

The LWML at Thompson Falls has tabled the rezoning request.

12. New Business

A. District Convention Overage Allocation – Carol Holste

(m/s/c – V) that the 2020 LWML Montana District Convention overage of \$1,466.40 be applied as follows: \$1,099.80 to be put into the Administrative Expenses Account (AEA) and \$366.60 (25%) be sent to LWML, per the Accounting Practices and Procedures (APPs).

B. Lowell Young Annuity – Barb Kohs

(m/s/c – VI) that the Lowell Young Annual Endowment Distribution in the amount of \$340.98 be applied to the LWML Montana District Grants Account and not be subject to the 25% to LWML. The LWML already receives a designated distribution from the same donor.

C. Treasurer's Workshop – Pam Kercher/ Carol Holste

The LWML BOD will make a decision concerning the workshop. It may be held virtually in January 2021.

D. New *Montana Missive* Logo/Masthead - Brook Gerard, Shari Miller

There has been an ongoing discussion concerning the *Montana Missive* logo/masthead as it has been used for many years. Shari Miller is going to ask the gentleman who designed our convention logo to help with some ideas for a new masthead. General consensus is that we should offer to pay for his service.

E. Voucher Signature – Pam Kercher

(m/s/c- VII) that the Vice President of Servant Resources will sign the President's expense vouchers. This will be noted in the SPPs.

F. Other New Business

1. A "Lutheran Women's Missionary League Montana District Participant Information, Acknowledgment, Assumption of Risk and Release Participant Information" form was emailed to each member of the BOD which needs to be signed and returned to President Kercher. Once the individual signature is on file with LWML Montana District, then that BOD member does not need to sign a new form in the future until her term on the BOD has ended.
2. President Kercher asked if anyone receives informational emails from LWML, and again as a forward from herself, to let her know if they would like to be removed from President Kercher's email contact list.
3. Vice President of Christian Life Brook Gerard suggested that the BOD design an LWML Montana District T-shirt. The profits made from the sale of the T-shirt could be decided at a later BOD meeting. She will bring design ideas and costs to the next BOD meeting.

Closing Devotion – Junior Counselor Rev. Danial Keinath

Following the Closing Devotion, Vice President of Christian Life Brook Gerard led the BOD in an activity. The attendees were given a rock which they painted a solid color. The following day the participants wrote a Bible verse on their rock and then placed the rock somewhere on the grounds of Mountain Top Retreat. The activity was recorded and will be posted online as part of the virtual 2020 Fall District Retreat.

Opening Prayer and Bible Study – Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Blake Marshall

13. Conventions

A. 2021 LWML Convention – Lexington, Kentucky

June 23-27, 2021 "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus!"

1. **Delegates:** Delegate information is to be submitted to President Kercher by November 15, 2020. Due to the combining of the Southern and Eastern Zones, the now SouthEastern Zone qualifies for two paid delegates to the LWML Convention. A delegate responsibility sheet will be provided to each paid delegate to give them accountability.

2. **Financial Issues /Housing – Carol Holste**
Treasurer Holste will make the hotel reservations as soon as she is able.
3. **Transportation Options – Carol Holste**
Airline reservations need to be made no later than April 15, 2021. Treasurer Holste has checked airline schedules from five different Montana cities. When reservations are made, she advised delegates to watch that their flight does not include an overnight layover. Most flights to Lexington, Kentucky, are eight hours. There are no direct flights. If the airline reservation is made after April 15, and if the cost of the airline ticket has increased, the delegate will pay the difference.
4. **Counselor:** Junior Counselor Rev. Daniel Keinath will drive his own vehicle to the convention. We will reimburse him the amount of the air fare for his gas.
5. **Young Woman Representatives – Emy Stueve**
President Kercher will be receiving the Young Woman Representative form and will get it to Young Woman Committee Chairman Stueve. Young Woman Committee Chairman Stueve has started to compile a list of possible candidates.
6. **Banner – SouthEastern Zone** is in the rotation to make the banner for the LWML 2022 Convention. The SouthEastern Zone will provide ideas for the banner and the BOD will decide on the design at the February 2021 BOD meeting.
7. **Other –** No other business was brought forward concerning the upcoming LWML 2021 Convention.

B. 2022 LWML Montana District Convention

1. **Chairman –** The chairman for the 2022 LWML Montana District Convention is yet to be determined.
2. **Host Congregation and Zone –** The host zone will be the Divide Zone. The host congregation is yet to be determined.
3. **Proposed Date –** The proposed date is April 29-30 and May 1, 2022.
4. **Theme –** Ideas for a theme will be brought to the next BOD meeting.
5. **Logo –** Ideas will be discussed at the next BOD meeting that will connect to the theme.
6. **Other Items**
 1. There are a lot of unused table decorations from the LWML 2020 Montana District Convention in Billings that were not used due to the restricted timetable of the convention. These decorations will be given to the 2022 Convention Host Committee if they would like to make use of them.
 2. The banner standards usually used each district convention are currently being stored at Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings, Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell, and St. John's Lutheran Church in Deer Lodge. By general consensus it was decided that we will discontinue the banner parade in lieu of bringing quilts from each church represented. There will be a notice in the *Montana Missive* asking if any church has a use for some of the banner standards.

3. Barbara Schneidenbach and Marjorie O'Rourke of the Divide Zone gave an LWML 2022 Montana District Convention report. They handed out a list with possible convention locations in the Butte, Bozeman, Anaconda, and Helena areas. The BOD, in general consensus, suggested the First Lutheran Church in Helena, Bucks-T in Big Sky, outside of Bozeman, or Fairmont Hot Springs. A decision will be made at the Divide Zone Fall Rally.
4. Flathead Zone President Michel Delgado wrote in her Zone President report about a "Mystery Ingathering" project that the Zion Evangelical Lutheran LWML, St. Ignatius, was considering. She wondered if the Montana District would hold the funds that would be collected.

(m/s/c – VIII) to advise the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Society, St. Ignatius, that the Montana District Treasurer will not accept and hold funds from the Zion Society.

14. Update Calendar – Corresponding Secretary Barbara Nies

Corresponding Secretary Nies is working on an updated calendar and will send one out soon.

15. Next Meetings

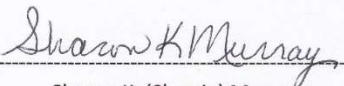
1. **February 19-20, 2021, Billings** (Alternate: February 26-27, 2021)

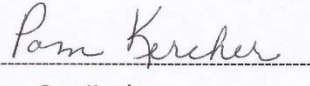
(m/s/c – IX) to have the February BOD meeting a combination of face to face and a virtual meeting using Zoom.

2. **October 15-16, 2021, Deer Lodge** (Alternate: October 22-23, 2021)

16. Adjournment - 11:55 a.m.

Closing Devotion – Junior Counselor Rev. Daniel Keinath


Sharon K. (Sherrie) Murray
Recording Secretary


Pam Kercher
President