

**197th BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML) MONTANA DISTRICT
Trinity Lutheran Church, Billings, Montana**

February 19-20, 2021

1. Call to Order – 3:00 p.m.

President Pam Kercher called the 197th meeting of the LWML Montana District Board of Directors (BOD) to order with the Invocation. President Kercher asked and received permission from the BOD and the Pastoral Counselors to record the meeting. The recording will be deleted after it is used for minutes review.

Bible Study - Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Daniel Keinath

2. Roll Call – Recording Secretary Sharon Murray

BOD members present signed the attendance sheet and noted corrections on the BOD roster. The nine members attending by Zoom were noted as present.

Elected Officers	8
Counselors	2
Zone Presidents	5
Appointed Officers	7
Guests	<u>0</u>
Total Attendance	20
Total Voting	16

Excused Absences: None. Vice President of Gospel Outreach Marjorie O'Rourke attended by Zoom on Saturday morning.

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 Servant Resources Linda Reilly, Scholarship Chairman Edee Anderson, and Standing Committee Member: Nominating Committee Chairman Shari Miller

5. Minutes – Sharon Murray

The 196th BOD Meeting 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

The following newsletters and magazines have been received: *Faith in Action* from Lutheran World Relief; a special issue of *The Voice of the Martyrs*; the Annual Report 2020 from the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; and *The Gracious Giver*, the official LWML Donor Newsletter.

7. Reports of Elected Officers and Counselors

- A. Recording Secretary – Sharon Murray**
Full report on file.
 - B. Treasurer – Carol Holste**
Full report on file.
 - C. Vice President of Christian Life – Brook Gerard**
Full 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. Lutheran World Relief is still requesting that fleece blankets and loose bar soap not be included in the offerings. New bar soap can be in the individual kits.
 - F. Vice President of Servant Resources – Linda Reilly**
Full report on file.
 - G. Nominating Committee Chairman - Shari Miller**
Full report on file. Nominating Committee Chairman Miller has been invited to lead one of the breakfast Bible studies at the Lexington LWML Convention.
 - H. Senior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Blake Marshall**
No report on file. Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Marshall wrote a *Montana Missive* article.
 - I. Junior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Daniel Keinath**
No report on file. Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Keinath wrote a *Montana Missive* article and the Bible study for our meeting.
 - J. President – Pam Kercher**
Full report on file.
- 8. Reports of Zone Presidents**
- A. Central Zone – Lynette Nussbaum**
Full report on file.
 - B. Divide Zone – Cheryl Stensrud**
Full report on file.
 - C. Flathead Zone – Michal Delgado**
Full report on file.
 - D. SouthEastern Zone – Myrt White**
Full report on file. Karen Weamer, former Eastern Zone Vice President of Human Care, has agreed to make the calls for the 2021 Lutheran World Relief collections to the contacts she has from the former Eastern Zone (now a part of the SouthEastern Zone) .

E. Western Zone – Rosanne Larson

Full report on file. Vice President Larson's society has made over 100 comfort bears.

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. The deadline for articles submitted for the spring *Montana Missive* is March 30, 2021.

E. Scholarship Chairman – Edee Anderson

Full report on file.

F. Structure Chairman – Myrt White

Full report on file. The new updated District Bylaws have been posted on our District website.

G. Young Woman Chairman – Emy Stueve

Full report on file.

10. Webmaster – Stephanie Edgar

No report on file. President Kercher has been in contact with Webmaster Edgar. She has been keeping the website updated as needed.

11. Unfinished Business

A. Lutheran World Relief Drive – Susan Sweatman

The 2021 Lutheran World Relief Drive is May 8, 2021. (See report 7.E.)

B. T-Shirts – Brook Gerard (See report 7.C.)

The sale of the T-shirts could be used as a fund raiser. The design showing the outline of the state of Montana has stars that each represent an LWML Montana District society. The colors to be used would be gold, purple, and black, using the proper RGB LWML colors. Vice President of Christian Life Gerard will look into the cost of making changes in the logo colors and if that would add too much to the cost of the shirt. She will also put together an order form.

(m/s/c I) to offer the light grey T shirt with the Montana map on the back and the logo on the front.

C. 2021 District Retreat Report - Linda Reilly, Brook Gerard

Full report on file. The retreats are to be held simultaneously at Mountain Top Retreat Center in Bozeman and Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork on September 17-19, 2021. A registration fee of \$90 for both retreats was approved by general consensus. The attendance at Mountain Top Retreat Center will be limited to 20-25 people due to the

number of beds available. Thrivent cards were requested to offset the cost of the food and crafts.

(m/s/c - II) to approve the recommended theme “God’s Quilt of Comfort - Wrapping up in the Psalms” for the 2021 retreats.

D. New Header for *Missive* – Brook Gerard, Shari Miller

Full report on file. They are in the process of fine tuning the header. David Goodson, owner of Goodson Designs, has not charged for the work he has done.

(m/s/c – III) that President Kercher will send a letter of thanks to graphic artist David Goodson for the artwork done for the LWML Montana District Convention and the *Montana Missive* masthead, along with a \$100 Amazon gift card.

E. Calendar – Pam Kercher, Barb Nies

Full report on file. President Kercher and Corresponding Secretary Barb Nies are working on a new format for the LWML Montana District Calendar. The Presidents Assembly will meet on March 19, 2021, to decide if there will be a national LWML face-to-face or virtual convention. The following items were requested to be included on the calendar:

- April 24, 2021, Flathead Zone Spring Rally, Trinity Lutheran Church, Kalispell
- April 24, 2021, Central Zone Spring Rally, Zion Lutheran Church, Chinook
- April 24 or May 1, 2021, Western Zone Spring Rally, location to be determined.
- SouthEastern Zone Spring Rally. cancelled

To date, the Divide Zone has made no decision concerning its Spring Rally.

F. Society Change from Western Zone to Flathead Zone – Pam Kercher

President Kercher met virtually with Western Zone President Rosanne Larson, Flathead Zone President Michal Delgado, and Susan Sweatman, a representative of the society at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Thompson Falls. The society at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church is requesting a transfer from the Western Zone to the Flathead Zone. The agenda and the minutes of the February 9, 2021, Shepherd of the Valley LWML meeting are filed with these BOD meeting minutes.

(m/s/c – IV) that upon their request the Thompson Falls Society at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran church may move from the Western Zone to the Flathead Zone effective February 19, 2021.

12. New Business

A. Zoom Chat Task Force – Pam Kercher

President Kercher has received information from a fellow District President about setting up an LWML Montana District Zoom Chat Task Force. Nominating Committee Chairman Shari Miller has consented to help with content of the chats. Items that could be discussed could be a Bible study; a daily devotion; and introducing different pastors in our district. The LWML Rocky Mountain District is currently doing a Bible Class; they rotate the leader between the various District Vice Presidents. The LWML Utah-Idaho District website has posted for access previous Zoom Evenings that their district has

sponsored. Vice President of Christian Life Brook Gerard was hoping to reach out to young women, with the hope of getting them involved in LWML.

General consensus of the discussion is to have two Zoom groups for now. Young Woman Chairman Emy Stueve and Vice President of Christian Life Gerard will devote their time toward involving young active and inactive women and previous Young Woman district representatives; President Kercher will look into a group consisting of Zone Presidents.

B. *Standing Policy and Procedures (SPPs) Changes – Carol Holste, Sharon Murray*

The current SPP under Finances reads: “The excess funds from District Convention Host Committees, Zone Rallies, and other District events (excluding Retreats) will be added to the Delegate Fund until directed otherwise by the BOD. They will be subject to the 25% national LWML provision as determined by the BOD. (02-2019, p. 5)

Treasurer Holste proposed *not* designating the excess funds currently listed in the SPPs under Finances as Mites, and thus, 25% of that income would not be designated for national LWML.

(m/s/c – V) that the excess funds from District Convention Host Committees, Zone Rallies, and other District events (excluding Retreats) will be added to the Delegate Fund until directed otherwise by the BOD. They will not be subject to the 25% national LWML provision as determined by the BOD.

Treasurer Holste brought to the BOD’s attention a review of the mites contributions made by direct deposit and the Accounting Policies and Procedure changes voted on at the 194th BOD meeting (February 21-22, 2020). Treasurer Holste reported that there have been no mite donations made through direct deposits which includes Amazon Smiles, Thrivent Choice Dollars, Good Search, etc. Donations of \$50 or less were to be credited to the Grants Account. No donations have been received through these accounts in the past year.

Treasurer Holste noted her appreciation of the work done on the Accountants Compilation Report done by Everit Sliter, CPA, of Jordahl & Sliter. He did a review of the financial records of the District for the past biennium (2018-2020), and this was then reviewed again by another accountant in his firm. Carol personally thanked him and gave him a gift of thanks. President Kercher will also send a letter of thanks.

Recording Secretary Sharon Murray presented additions to the LWML Montana District SPPs. (See report 12.B.) The additions are taken from minutes of previous BOD meetings and therefore, do not require a vote. The changes will be included in the SPPs.

C. *LCEF CD Matures – Carol Holste*

Full report on file.

(m/s/c – VI) that the interest of \$437.51 be withdrawn from the Partner Plus 2-Year account XXXXXXXX5989 and deposited into the AEA account. This will not be subject to the 25% national LWML provision.

D. *New Mission Statement – Pam Kercher*

President Kercher shared a slide presentation of the new LWML Mission Statement.

The new LWML mission statement is: “As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.”

E. Prayer Service – Pam Kercher

The theme of the 2021 LWML Prayer Service is “He Prayed with Them” and is based on Acts 23:36b. It can be downloaded from *lwml.org*.

F. I Am the Heart of LWML – Pam Kercher

President Kercher gave a video presentation of the new LWML program entitled “I Am the Heart of LWML.” Members can go online to the LWML website, under the service tab, and this presentation can be found to share with zones societies, and groups.

G. LWML Deaf Ministry Liaison – Pam Kercher

A new special ministry from LWML is a district Deaf Ministry Liaison. President Kercher contacted previous LWML Montana District President Nnette Loftsgaarden who has agreed to be the Montana liaison.

Closing Devotion – Rev. Blake Marshall

Bible Study – Rev. Blake Marshall

13. Conventions

A. 2021 LWML Convention – Lexington, Kentucky

June 24-27, 2021 Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus!”

1. Montana Delegation

The following delegates to the LWML Convention, along with a Heart-to-Heart (H2H) leader if one is designated, were approved by general consensus of the BOD.

Central Zone: Lynette Nussbaum

Divide Zone: Barb Schneidenbach

Flathead Zone: Sandie Blevins

SouthEastern Zone: Sherrie Murray

Western Zone: Nnette Loftsgaarden

Junior Counselor: Rev. Daniel Keinath

YWR: Rebecca Harding and Grace Paulson

District President: Pam Kercher

2. Counselor – Junior Counselor Rev. Daniel Keinath

3. Young Woman Representatives – Emy Stueve

Rebecca Harding, Trinity, Billings and Grace Paulson, Shepherd of the Hills, Ennis

4. Housing – Carol Holste

Reservations have been made at the Hilton Lexington Downtown. This hotel is across from the convention center and has a sky bridge. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the BOD has allowed each delegate to have their own room. If a family member or friend shares a room with a delegate, the family member or friend will pay for half of the room cost.

5. Transportation – Pam Kercher

President Kercher has asked the delegates not to make their airline reservations until after March 19, since that is the date that LWML will confirm if the convention will occur face-to-face or virtually. Reservations are to be made no later than April 15, 2021

6. Banner – SouthEastern Zone President Myrt White

(m/s/c – VII) to accept the submitted design with modifications. SouthEastern Zone President White will discuss the suggestions with the banner designers.

7. Pre-Convention Seminars – Pam Kercher

The following Pre-Convention Seminars are being offered on Thursday, June 24, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at a cost of \$20 each. Lunch and all seminar materials are included. President Kercher will decide who will attend each seminar.

1. Archivist Historian Seminar
2. District Gifts, Endowment Funds, and Gift Planning Seminar
3. Mission Grants Seminar
4. Structure/Bylaws Seminar
5. Website/Social Media Seminar
6. Writer's Workshop

(m/s/c – VIII) that the BOD will pay the seminar fee for those attending a Pre-Convention Seminar.

8. Convention Offerings – Pam Kercher

1. Connecting Kids to Christ Center in Rochester Hills, Michigan
2. King's Community Outreach in Fort Wayne, Indiana
3. POBLO International Ministries in Clinton Township, Michigan

9. Voting Information – Pam Kercher

Information about the bylaws, officers, grants, and mission goal will be distributed after the March 19 Presidents Assembly meeting by email and online. The voting delegates will be voting on the Mission Goal and the Mission Grant Proposals by email prior to the convention. Officer election and bylaw changes will be voted on at the convention.

10. Heart to Heart (H2H) Leader – Pam Kercher

Current LWML Montana District H2H Leader Bridget Michel has resigned from her duties. President Kercher visited with several people who are attending the convention about being an LWML Montana District H2H Leader, but she did not get anyone to volunteer to go through the pre-convention training. President Kercher was given some additional names of people to contact. She noted that the volunteer has to be willing to fulfill their obligations upon their return.

(m/s/c – IX) that President Kercher will contact various names that were presented to her to be a H2H Leader, and if they accept the position and finances allow, the BOD will pay the expenses out of the Steward Account.

B. 2022 LWML Montana District Convention – Divide Zone

April 29-May 1, 2022

1. **Chairman:** Divide Zone President Cheryl Stensrud
2. **Host Zone and Society:** The Host Zone is the Divide Zone. The Host Society is Holy Trinity LWML, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Belgrade.
3. **Location and Host Congregation:** First Lutheran Church, Helena

(m/s/c – X) that the location of the 2022 LWML Montana District Convention will be First Lutheran Church in Helena, with the Belgrade society as the hosting society.

First Lutheran Church will be the host congregation for all worship. The District Pastoral Counselors will be in contact with the First Lutheran Church pastor.

4. **Bible Passage and Theme:**

(m/s/c – XI) that the theme of the 2022 LWML Montana District Convention will be “Only Jesus” based upon Mark 9:8, *And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only (ESV).*

A suggestion was noted by the Pastoral Counselors that the convention Bible study might focus on all the Transfiguration verses.

5. **Speaker Suggestions:** President Kercher will contact Donna Snow to be a possible keynote speaker. Second choice would be Jan Struck.
6. **Logo:** Nominating Committee Chairman Shari Miller will ask David Goodson, owner of Goodson Designs, to work up a logo to be used for the manual and the bags.
7. **Registration fee:**

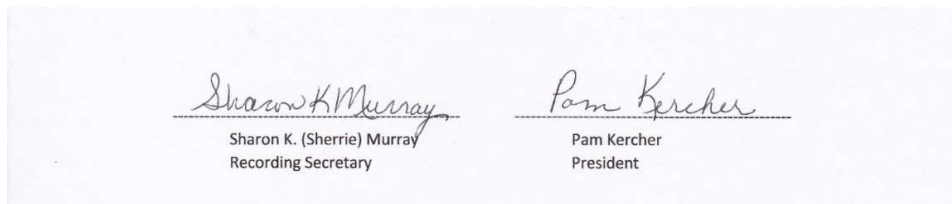
(m/s/c – XII) to set the registration fee at \$90 with the possibility of a lower amount if warranted.

14. Next Meetings

1. **October 15-16, 2021, Deer Lodge.** (Alternate date: October 22-23, 2021)
2. **February 18-19, 2022, Helena (pre-convention site).** (Alternate date: February 25-26, 2022).

15. Adjournment - 11:20 a.m.

Closing Devotion – Junior Counselor Rev. Daniel Keinath



Sharon K. (Sherrie) Murray
Recording Secretary

Pam Kercher
President