

LWML SOCIETIES AND MEMBERS – DEFINITIONS

FROM THE NATIONAL LWML HANDBOOK, PAGE A-1 FF, *LWML SOCIETIES AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS*

Organization/Structure

The structure taken by an LWML society depends upon the needs of the women involved. A society may, but is not restricted to, adopt one of the following patterns as its framework:

- A separate group in a congregation formed especially for the purpose of supporting the object of the LWML and participating in LWML programs. Such groups ordinarily have officers (*elected and/or appointed*), bylaws, and regularly scheduled meetings.
- Part of a congregational women's group formed for another purpose (*such as Bible study, social/fellowship, exercise, mother's club, etc.*) but committed to the object of LWML. Such groups frequently devote at least one meeting each quarter to the study of missions and to LWML business.
- A women's ministry program organized according to a circle plan. A circle plan united the women of the congregation in one general LWML society, with smaller groups (*circles*) working separately in their areas of interest (*e.g. altar care, Bible study, missions, quilting, etc.*). Societies using a circle plan usually have quarterly LWML meetings which bring all the circles together for a special program
- Flexible in structure, with members participating in the object of LWML individually or as a group, but having none or some of the following: schedule of meetings, officers, and bylaws. However, members of such groups are invited and encouraged to attend zone, district and national events when possible.
- For other definitions, see page A-2 in the LWML Handbook.

LWML ALSO DEFINES MEMBERSHIP FOR A WOMAN NOT AFFILIATED WITH A SOCIETY.

Individual Members: Individual membership is available to a woman in a Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod congregation with or without a society affiliated with the LWML. Individual membership is not considered a society or a unit. Individual members have all the privileges of membership except vote at District and national conventions. She may serve on committees and hold elective office at the zone, district, and national levels.

Following this page is a form for individual membership for a woman to submit to the Montana District President.

THE MONTANA DISTRICT HAS ADDED THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES FOR OUR DISTRICT:

Active Society: This society has officers and bylaws, conducts meetings, receives *Quarterlies* and *Missives*, submits delegate fees to the District, hosts rallies, is eligible to send delegates to District convention, is on the delegate rotation for national LWML convention, submits mites to the District on a regular basis, and supports the objectives of LWML.

Inactive Society: this society is invited to attend all District and zone events; unless the District is given a contact name, all mailings will be addressed to the women of the congregation at the church address. This group may have officers or occasional meetings, does not host rallies, is not on the rotation for national LWML convention delegates, is invited to submit mites to the District, and may subscribe to the *Quarterly* and *Missive*. This society is "flexible in structure."