

KANSAS DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

“Serve the Lord with Gladness.” Psalm 100:2 Esther L. Ideker and Judy Carlson, Archivist/Historians

History of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League- Kansas District 2010-2012

Kansas District LWML Focus areas, 2010-2012 Biennium:

- Growing in the Lord—Through intentional study of the Word, women of today find guidance for their lives and are encouraged in their personal daily walk with the Lord.
- Embracing our Diversity—The Body of Christ grows and is strengthened when sisters of varied cultural, generational, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds are mentored and encouraged to participate in the mission of LWML.
- Sharing the Heart and Identity of LWML—the Kansas District LWML enables and equips its members and advocates to share with others the vision and mission of LWML locally and globally.

Membership in the 13 zones comprised 140 units, 147 societies and 3131 members.

Under the guidance of the **Kansas District LWML Executive Committee**, those serving during the biennium were:

President: Betty Kruse

Vice President for Caring Service: Jean Wellner

Vice President of Christian Life: Debbie Lehman

Vice President of Communications: Karen Morrison

Vice President of Member Resources: Becky Schotte

Vice President of Mission Outreach: Eden Keefe

Recording Secretary: Brenda Piester

Financial Secretary: Kim Burdett

Treasurer: Marj Aufemberge

Planner/Parliamentarian: Gloria Raab

Meeting Manager: Ella Westendorf

Pastoral Counselor: Pastor Dale Becker

Pastoral Counselor: Pastor Gaylen Burow

Committee Chairs and Appointed Personnel 2010-2012:

Care and Needs: Verna Linderman

Christian Growth: Cathi Temple

Member Development: Joylynn Harlow, Karen Eskew

Mission Projects: Elaine Engelman

Public Relations: Ramie Schulties

Publications: Shelly Keller (Sonshine Editor), Cathi Clark (Circulation), Nadine Stueve (Quarterly Distribution), Mark Fuchs (Webmaster)

Structure: Phyllis VonFange

Spring Tour: Janice Russell

Travel Chairman: Tammy Songer

Assistant to the President: Laura Hunter

Nominating Committee: N.E. Zone, Herington Zone, Hutchinson Zone, Lincoln Zone, Linn Zone: Carole Feek, Chairman, Ella Westendorf, Becky Modellmog, Beverly Wiese and Lynnette Scheele

Archivist/Historians: Esther L. Ideker and Judy Carlson

Nominating Committee: 2012 District Convention Chairman: Tammy Songer, Mary Ginkel, Barbara Regnier

LWML/LLL Family Retreat: Barb Hackbart, Mary Ginkel, Donna Burton (2011), Kathy Gehrke

Young Women Representatives to 2010 National LWML Convention: Joylynn Harlow, Allison Lehman

Lutheran Family Retreat was held on August 6-8, 2010 at Camp Webster, Salina, Ks. with something for everyone: hiking, swimming, canoeing, paddleboats, archery, Frisbee golf, game night, low and high challenge courses, rappelling, climbing wall, zip line, crafts, game room, great food, campfire, devotions, singing, Bible Study and making new friends. Eighty-six were in attendance. The retreat has been held for over 50 years, with Rock Springs 4-H Ranch the location for a number of years.

Assembly of Leaders was held at Ramada Inn, Salina, Ks., on August 27-28, 2010 with the theme: "Faith Talk" based on Philemon 6. The goals were that each woman will:

- Be compelled to share the Gospel, pray for and recognize opportunities to do so and then confidently live and speak her faith.
- Joyfully show and verbally share her love for Jesus and His saving gift of redemption.
- Better understand her role in zone/district LWML.
- Better understand the scope and purpose of LWML, District and Zone structure.

Care and Needs announced the 2010 KAOL Ingathering response as: 561 USO Returning Soldier Kits with 8 boxes of extra kit pieces, 30 items of coffee, tea, cups, 250 snack bags, and \$200.00 cash. The Lutheran World Relief Fall 2010 Pickup-schedule was announced for October 5-8, 2010. It was announced that as of July 31, 2010, \$15,629.75 has been contributed toward the goal of \$135,000.

LWML Sunday 2010 was celebrated on October 3, and carried the theme "People of God: In the Word."

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) pick up across Kansas October 5-8, 2010, Muriel and Ken Greene reported that a total of 58,684 pounds of quilts, kits, and soap were picked up in 2010 – over

2000 more pounds than in the year 2009. Collections were made from 160 churches. Cash donations for freight totaled \$756.98.

The 2011 Day of Prayer Service offering was designated for Guinea Women's Ministry with contributions totaling \$4,912.16. Almost \$2,330 of this amount was collected at the Spring Tour presentations given by Nina Borgstadter and President Betty. They, together with missionary Beth Heiney and other missionaries and women in Guinea, give praise and thanks to God for these gifts.

Spring Mission Tour speakers were our President, Betty Kruse and Nina Borgstadter who presented "Experience Guinea," sharing their experiences of the mission trip taken to the mission field as a part of a six member team from Kansas in March of 2010. Their three-week visit took them to the capitol city of Conakry and several other cities as well as the forest region of the country.

Past LWML Ks. District President, LaVada Traskowsky (1984-88) passed away in April, 2011. She served in many LWML capacities, and served our National LWML as recording secretary. LaVada was a skilled organist, a skilled seamstress, and could make almost anything bloom in her own personal greenhouse.

June 23 – 26, 2011, 128 Kansas District LWML members attended the 34th Biennial National LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois, with 50 travelling by bus with Travel Chairman, Tammy Songer. Barney, the purple Arrow bus and Chuck, our driver, got us all to Peoria safely and took us to and from the convention center every day! Young Women Reps, Allison Lehman and Joylynn Harlow were a delight to have with us. The bus group completed a survey of their experience and results were: Favorite part of convention: "the opening worship with communion." Best speaker: "Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus, Dr. Reed Lessing and Katie Stam." Four thousand six hundred LWML members, pastors and missionaries and guests gathered in Peoria under the theme "Being with Jesus, Living on the Edge," Acts 4:13b and 20. Dr. Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of the Lutheran Hour was the opening communion worship speaker. LCMS President, Matthew Harrison, addressed the group and Dr. Reed Lessing, Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, led the Bible study. A mission goal of \$1,825,000 was adopted and 19 mission projects were selected for the 2011-2013 biennium which included a \$50,000 grant for Haskell Indian Nation University Student Ministry expansion. The convention also featured processions with banners from all 40 LWML Districts and the flags from countries where the LCMS has missionaries, activities for children and youth, servant events, inspiration from speaker Katie Stam, Miss America 2009, presentations by missionaries and a performance by Sibling Harmony. Eden Keefe, Kansas District LWML, was named chair of the Leader Development Committee of National LWML.

Lutheran Family Retreat at Camp Webster, Salina, held August 5-7, 2011, with LWML representatives, Barb Hackbart, Donna Burton and Mary Ginkel, was attended by 111.

August 27, 2011, Kansas Assembly of Leaders met at Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina with the theme, “Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge Together,” Acts 4:13b and 20. Sections were: Studying on the Edge, Giving on the Edge, Growing on the Edge, Communicating on the Edge, Mentoring on the Edge, Serving on the Edge, Equipping on the Edge, and Sharing on the Edge. The ingathering was a baby shower for the Pregnancy Service Center of Salina. Received were 12 big boxes filled with diapers, wipes, and baby care products, 22 boxes and bags of baby clothes, two boxes of maternity clothing, three boxes of baby blankets and towels, two boxes of toys and equipment and \$90 cash donations. Also collected were used eyeglasses for MOST ministries.

Lutheran World Relief pick-ups in Kansas were from October 9 – 12, 2011 and resulted in 51,526 pounds of blankets and kits.

In her fall President’s report, Betty Kruse, reported that Projects 1 through 4 and all financial aid for three semesters has been paid.

LWML Sunday 2011 worship service was written by Dr. Ken Klaus, Speaker Emeritus of the Lutheran Hour and was based on the theme: “Being with Jesus – Living on the Edge.”

In October 2011, LWML National President Kay Kreklau announced that across the country the LWML is rejoicing at having reached the amazing amount of \$100 million for the support of the mission goal since the founding of the organization almost 70 years ago. LWML leaders who gathered for the Interdepartmental Meeting October 16-18, 2011, in St. Louis, Missouri, praised God for this extraordinary achievement. LWML President Kay Kreklau shared, “Today we look forward to the mission work of the Lord set at the 2011 LWML Convention with a mission goal for this biennium of \$1,825 million to support 19 grants. While the amount of funds raised has increased over the years, the mission today is the same – helping to reach out to share the joyful news of Christ around the world. Lutheran Women in Mission today share the same mission consciousness – mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service, as they continue just as early leaders did in joyfully serving the Lord.”

The 2011 Christian Growth Retreat was held at the Wichita Airport Hilton, on November 4 and 5 with guest Jan Struck leading the attendees in a study of “Life Cycle of a Christian Woman.”

Day of Prayer Service 2012 offering was designated for the Kansas District LCMS Disaster Fund. Rev. Barrie Henke was the author of the service entitled “P.R.A.Y.E.R.” The theme verse was “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV). **P**raise God for His goodness and blessings. **R**emember that I am a sinner and that I have a Savior. Ask of any and all things that are on my mind. **Y**ield these concerns to God’s wisdom and gracious working. **E**xcitement is the result of surrendering concerns to God. **R**ejoicing is the expression of our trust that God is in control. The offering announced June 30, 2012 totaled \$4,289.12.

President Betty Kruse, National LWML Recording Secretary, Judy Carlson, and Eden Keefe, National Leader Development Committee Chair, attended the National LWML Board of Directors in St. Louis on Feb. 3-5, 2012.

The Kansas District 34TH Biennial LWML Convention was held April 20-22, 2012, at Holiday Inn, at Lawrence, Kansas. Theme “Stand at the Crossroads...and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls...” Jeremiah 6:16 Three hundred sixty-two LWML members and guests from the state of Kansas were in attendance, including 42 “first timers,” and 14 Young Women Representatives.

Convention goals emphasized by President Betty Kruse were listed in the Convention manual and read together: When I “Stand at the Crossroads” in life, I will... 1) Stop and be in the Word, 2) Look for mission opportunities 3) Seek the Lord’s guidance with an open heart, 4) Walk faithfully with others, and..5) I will find rest.”

Sixteen organizations displayed information about their ministry or entity. All five departments plus the Archivist/Historians of the LWML Kansas District had displays with highlights of the past biennium. Concordia Publishing House and the LWML stores were open throughout the convention.

Betty Kruse, LWML President, opened the convention on Friday evening, followed by a processional featuring banners from each of the 13 zones in Kansas carried by Zone Presidents. . The communion worship service attended by 423 people included special music by handbell soloist, Kristine Stout, from Michigan, and the CrossRoads Zone Women’s choir The Rev. Bryan Drebes of Bethany Lutheran Church of Johnson County served as celebrant. Hannah Songer served as crucifer and Haley Peterson was the acolyte. Janice Russell carried the LWML motto Banner; the convention theme banner was designed by Tammy Songer and crafted by Libby Johnson. The banner was carried by Mary Ginkel.

Earlier on Friday, convention attendees participated in round-table Bible Studies, a mission walk, and servants events which included trimming and sorting stamps, making door knob hangers, tying quilts, and assembling final survival kits of snacks for the students at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, as well as gathering items for the food pantry for LUMA (Lutheran Urban Ministry Association) in Kansas City, under the leadership of Pastor Luke Kammrath and Pastor Scott Eberlien.

Presenters of the round-table Bible Study sessions were: “Fruit of the Spirit” by Karen Morrison, “Coffee with the Savior,” by Debbie Lehman and Eden Keefe, “Divine Design,” by Brenda Piester, “God is in the Laundry Room,” by Becky Schotte, and “Great Women of the Bible,” by Jean Wellner. The first session was attended by 135 people and the second session had 145 in attendance.

The Caring Service Department reported that 190 doorknob banners were made, 287 survival sacks were assembled, 840 food items were collected for LUMA, hundreds of postage stamps were sorted, and 26 quilts were tied. A special tour of Haskell Indian Nations University campus and cultural center and Haskell Light House was attended by 25 members. The "Mission in Motion," mission walk event recipient was missionary Josh Lange.

The Christian Life Breakfast was held on Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. with Ruth Koch, author, speaker and consultant as breakfast speaker.

Bible Study, based on the book of Jeremiah was led on Saturday and Sunday mornings by Katy Gifford, Falls City, NE. Mission speakers gave insight into all areas in which the LWML contributes mites (offerings) as their service to the Lord both locally and nationally. Convention speakers included Sarah Guldalian, manager of Evangelism Training for Lutheran Hour Ministries, and Ruth Koch, Counselor. Convention attendees also attended their choice of interest sessions on mission and ministry on Saturday afternoon. National LWML President, Kay Kreklau, special guest, addressed the convention and held an insight session. She announced that "Quenched by the Water," based on John 4:14, is the theme of the LWML Convention in Pittsburg, PA in 2013. With all glory to our Lord, our President, Kay, reiterated that since 1943, \$100,000,000 has been given in mites for mission grants. She shared her personal LWML story and these highlights:

- 1) Let us continue to learn from, and live for Jesus
- 2) Let us continue to take joy in being His voice, hands, and feet
- 3) Let us continue to focus on missions, not meetings.

President Kay also visited "Light House," an LWML mission project at Haskell Indian Nations University, where Pastor Will and Patricia Main are missionaries.

In attendance at the Convention were Past LWML Presidents, Velma Bass, 1996-2000; Lois Llewellyn, 2000-2004; and Judy Carlson, 2004-2008, who led the assembly in the pledges to the two flags at the opening session on Saturday morning. The Zone Presidents led the LWML League Pledge.

Convention offerings were designated for LWML Kansas District Mites (Offering #1) in the amount of \$3,949.90; KCK Outreach to Homeless, \$3,285.23 (Offering #2); and Mission Walk, LCMS World Mission Central for missionary Josh Lange, \$2803.00.

Nominees for Officers for the 2012-2014 biennium were:

President: Karen Morrison, Wichita

Vice President for Caring Service: Gloria Raab, Wichita

Vice President for Communication: Carol Lovell, Denison and Brenda Piester, Coats

Recording Secretary: Marilyn Riemer, Hillsboro and LaJean Rinker, Topeka

Financial Secretary: Kerri Lynne Brown, Aliceville and Laura Hunter, Overland Park
Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Jeff Duncan, Wichita, and Rev. Rick Hathaway, Winfield

Balloting for officers resulted in the following elections: President Karen Morrison, Wichita; VP of Caring Service Gloria Raab, Wichita; VP of Communication Brenda Piester, Coats; Recording Secretary LaJean Rinker, Topeka; Financial Secretary Kerri Lynn Brown, Aliceville; and Pastoral Counselor Rev. Jeff Duncan, Wichita.

Convention delegates also chose the following mission projects for the next biennium: Lutheran Bible Translators in West Africa; Puppet/Drama Theaters for Orphanages in Kyrgyzstan; Children's Christian Concern Society school roofs in Guinea, West Africa; Orphan Grain Train Kansas Division in Stuttgart, KS., LCMS World Mission Outreach in Macau, China; and LCMS World Mission: Missionary Family Care and Education. The total mission goal adopted in support of these projects as well as student financial aid and other expenses was \$150,150.00.

2012 God's Gracious Gift Fund Recipients chosen were: Grace Lutheran Board of Social Ministry, Grace Lutheran, Wichita; Kansas District LLL/LWML Lutheran Family Retreat Scholarships; Capstone Ministry of Kisumu, Kenya; St. John Lutheran School, Alma, KS; Orphanage playground equipment, Orlovka, Kyrgyzstan; Zion Lutheran Church, Offerle, Kansas. Allocated for these God's Gracious Gift Fund recipients was \$7000.00.

The Board of Directors approved the 2012-2014 Primary Targets:

- Growing in the Lord:
Women of today find guidance for their lives, encouragement for their walk, and inspiration for joyful service through intentional study of the Word.
- Valuing all women:
Women of all ages, stages of life, races, locations, and cultures are welcomed, mentored, and encouraged to be active partners in the shared mission of LWML.
- Living the mission:
As the "Face of LWML," women are engaged in opportunities to use their gifts to impact the world for Christ in their daily lives.

An invitation was extended by the Wichita and Southeast Zones to host the 35th Biennial Convention of the Kansas District LWML on March 28-30, 2014, Marriott Hotel, Wichita. The theme will be: "On Wings, Like Eagles." Isaiah 40:31

Kansas District LWML Executive Committee: 2012-2014

President: Karen Morrison

Vice President of Caring Service: Gloria Raab

Vice President of Christian Life: Debbie Lehman

Vice President of Communications/Parliamentarian: Brenda Piester

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries: Becky Schotte

Vice President of Gospel Outreach: Kim Burdett*

Recording Secretary: LaJean Rinker

Financial Secretary: Kerri Lynn Brown

Treasurer: Marj Aufdemberge

Meeting Manager: Elaine Engelman

Pastoral Counselor: Pastor Gaylen Burow

Pastoral Counselor: Pastor Jeff Duncan

*Appointed to unexpired term of Eden Keefe

Committee Chairs and Appointed Personnel: 2012-2014

Caring Service Committee Chair: Laura Hunter

Christian Life Committee Chair: Kris Osler

Special Focus Ministries Committee Chair: Joylynn Harlow

Gospel Outreach Committee Chair: Karen Eskew

Communication Committee Chair and Sonshine Editor: Shelly Keller

Distribution Manager/Sonshine and Quarterly: Cathi Clark

PR Coordinator: Sherri Rose

Store Manager: Tammy Songer

Web Master: Mark Fuchs

Facebook Chairman: Darla Abbott

Structure Committee: Kathryn Richard, Chairman

Archivist/Historian: Esther Ideker

Assistant to Archivist/Historian: Judy Carlson

Short-Term Mission Coordinator: Ann Jedele

2014 District Convention Chair (Wichita Zone): Jean Wellner

2014 District Convention (Wichita Zone): Carol Nix

2014 District Convention (SE Zone): Kathryn Richard

2014 District Convention (SE Zone): Elaine Engleman

Family Retreat Committee: 2012: Kathy Gehrke, Barb Hackbart, Karen Morrison, Marilyn Reimer, (2013) Kathy Gehrke, Sara Deepe

Nominating Committee Consultant: Betty Kruse

FUTURE DATES:

June 23, 2012 Interdepartmental meeting Holy Cross, Wichita

August 3-5, 2012 Lutheran Family Retreat, Camp Webster, Salina

August 24, 25, 2012 Board of Directors and Kansas Assembly of Leaders Holy Cross, Wichita

Oct 19-21, 2012 Inspiration 2012 Training Event, St. Louis. (all District LWML Presidents and two District LWML members will attend)

Theme: PING:

Prepare-items to use

Inspire-compelled by God's Word

Nourish-confident to share the LWML joy

Go-own the LWML mission!

June 27-30, 2013 LWML Convention, Pittsburg, PA."Quenched by the Water."

March 28-30, 2014 Kansas District Convention, Marriott Hotel, Wichita,
"On Wings, Like Eagles." Isaiah 40:31

In closing this biennium historical report for 2010-2012, our prayer is for our Lord's continued guidance on the Kansas District LWML in our mission "To serve the Lord with gladness." To God all praise and glory!

"I remember the days of old. I meditate on all that you have done." Psalm 143:5

Respectfully submitted,

Esther L. Ideker

Judy Carlson

Kansas District LWML Archivist/Historians

8-12-2012