

MATTHEW 5:14-16

THE CANDLESTICK

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

ATLANTIC DISTRICT

CONVENTION 2007

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Will the people of Sioux Falls know that we were there for the 32nd Biennial LWML Convention? You can bet they did. Registration for the convention was closed by the end of May as a result of 5,000 women and their families registering. This was the number that the convention center could hold!

Gifts from the Heart were received from those that attended. Some of the items collected included 1,887 hand towel sets, 457 health kits with towel, 2,548 health kits without towel, 1,340 sheet sets, and 970 quilts. Items were distributed locally as well as to Orphan Grain Train. Many volunteers helped to package these items into boxes for delivery.

The delegates adopted a \$1.7 million for the 2007-2009 biennium mission goal. Of that amount, \$1,190,000 will be used for mission grants.

Officers elected for 2007-2011 were Janice (Jan) Wendorf, President; Deaconess Sylvia Johnson, Vice President of Human Care; Eloise Kuhlmann, Vice President of Service Resources; Helen Miller, Treasurer; Rev. Michael J. Mattil, Pastoral Counselor; and Linda Arnold, Chairman, Martha Burke, Claire Carlson, Judy Lessmann, and Marilyn McClure, Nominating Committee.

There are so many other items to report on that it would encompass a few newsletters. You can check the LWML website at www.lwml.org for copies of the daily "ROCK Solid News" to find out more about the convention.

In the last newsletter I listed some items to do while attending the convention.

- **Did you speak to people?** I know everyone I passed received a cheery "hello", and I received one in return.
- **Did you smile at people?** It takes more muscles to have a frown on your face than it does a smile. Smiling is contagious as well as laughter. I think anyone who was there would agree that we laughed and smiled a lot!

- **Did you call those you met by name?** Thank God that He gave the convention committee the wisdom to give us all name tags.
- **Were you cordial?** With so many people in the exhibit hall, dining hall and the arena, it could have been very easy to lose one's temper, but I did not see that happen once.
- **Were you genuinely interested in those you met?** We certainly did meet many women (and men) from other parts of this great United States of America and other parts of the world. Many were able to chat with President Linda, LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick and his wife Terry, missionaries from around the world, the song leader Dina Vendetti, as well as countless others.
- **Were you alert to give service?** This is the first convention that I attended that only the delegates were able to be on the first level of the arena. Everyone else had to climb the stairs or take the only elevator to the bleacher seats. We helped each other with patience and cheerfulness.

Have you gotten the idea that this was a great convention? Are you curious to find out what else went on? Does it make you want to attend the next one? Start planning now for the 33rd Biennial LWML Convention which will take place June 25-28, 2009 in Portland, Oregon. Hope to see you there.

Your sister in Christ,
Maureen Consiglio
President

(Philippians 4:13)



I asked...and you delivered!

A great big THANK YOU to all who shared their convention experiences.



Kind regards,
Kathy LaPorte, Editor

GETTING ACQUAINTED

The convention was great. I did not know what to expect in Sioux Falls, S.D. I had not planned to attend, but when Flora Holmes was asked to be a delegate, I agreed to go to support her.

My richest experience at the convention was meeting so many women, some were from large cities like me and others were from very small towns. I was seated next to a different woman in the arena at each meeting. We would always begin with our name and then ask where are you from. One of the women told me she was from a small town in Nebraska with a population of about four hundred people. There are more people in my community than that. I asked if they have a school. She went on to tell me that they have a grade school, a Post Office and a gas station connected to a convenience store. What a vision that was for me. I live in Queens, New York.

At lunch on Friday I met a young woman who serves on the LWML Board of Directors. She was asking me about my experiences at the convention. One of things that I told her was about meeting women from small towns. She said to me, "You should see where I live." She told me a little of what it is like living in a small town. She said that sometimes the neighbors could be a little nosey. They want to know what you are doing and where you are going.

Most of the women attending seemed so patient while waiting in line, unlike their big city sister. They were friendly and as happy to meet someone from New York, as I was to meet them.

I am happy that I went to Sioux Falls. It made me remember that we come from so many different places. However our common thread is that we all "Rest On Christ the King".

*Anita Friday
Queens Zone*



Front Row: Clara Wert, Honey Pabst, Maureen Consiglio, Ginny Wirsing, Jenn Partlow
Middle Row: Emma Edwards, Lillian Biddle, LuJuana Butts, Anita Friday, Carol Wong, Joni Mazer
Back Row (l to r): Nancy Graf Peters, Florence Holmes, Pastor Wrede, Elsa Webb, Pam Kennard



LINES, LINES, EVERYWHERE LINES

Everywhere you wanted to go, there were lines. Lines to check in, lines to go to the bathroom, lines to get your food, lines to pay for items at the LWML and CPH store, lines to get into the arena where the convention was held. At any other gathering, this would have been an aggravating and a "spiking blood pressure, immediate tension headache" situation. AT ANY OTHER GATHERING being the key phrase. But it wasn't any other gathering, it was an LWML gathering - where lines take on a new meaning. Lines become an opportunity to meet someone new, like one woman who was from South Dakota. She warned me of the "traffic" outside the convention center and to be careful crossing the street. I laughed and said "I'm from New York - we eat that type of traffic for breakfast". She and I laughed so hard and spent time on line talking while waiting to get our lunch.

Whether it was a bathroom line, meal line, or cash register line I met women from all parts of the country. We all had one thing in common and that was the joy of knowing Jesus Christ and coming to share that joy with each other. I really didn't notice anyone unhappy about the lines, just talking and laughing and glad to be with 5,000 Christian women.

I just have one question: "Do we New Yorkers really have an accent?" I heard a lot of accents in those four days, but so many said "I knew you were from New York because of your accent". So I guess you can say you can take the girl out of New York, but can't take New York out of the girl - and Praise God for that! Rock on Atlantic District!!!!

*Ginny Wirsing
Suffolk Zone President*

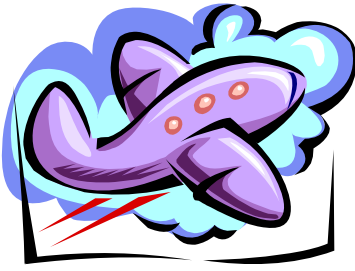


*Esther Mahnken
Mid-South District*



*Sarah Willig
Florida/Georgia District*

Ah, those airlines....



Up early with great anticipation for a special day. I was picked up at 5:30 a.m. We get to LGA by 5:50 a.m. Checked in and got to the gate. I should be okay. First flight got out on time! Announcement.

“Flight is overbooked. If someone will give up their seat, we will get them out on the next flight and give them a \$200 voucher.” I thought about it. I could help someone out. No! I might be cutting it too close. I board the plane. Time to settle in and relax. First announcement: “Lights out in cockpit...needs to change bulbs.” Second announcement: “We are having trouble with circuit breaker – delay.” Third announcement: “Have to change battery. We need to deboard the plane.” I grab my carryon. Talk to agent. They will not hold plane in Atlanta. Try to find another way. Pilot tells her things are a go. We should leave at 9 a.m. Okay. I should make it. Board. Wait! We don’t take off until after 10 a.m. If I had given up my seat, I might be in the air and near Atlanta. Why did I go with my instincts? We land at 11:55 a.m. The plane for Sioux Falls leaves at 12:04 p.m. No holds? Help! Go to agent. Next direct flight to South Dakota is tomorrow at 12:04 p.m. Now I will have to fly to Ohio and then to South Dakota. Why Lord? Call convention. I will miss photo and I will not be able to assist with communion. This is not fun. What about my luggage? It’s time to chill out! God is in control! Fly to Ohio. Get in a few conversations. Will God use them? Reach South Dakota at 10 p.m. CST. Praise the Lord, my luggage made it. In van and arrived at hotel. Thank you Lord!

*Pastor Demera
Senior Pastoral Counselor*

I finally made it! A major airline carrier had computer problems of global proportions on Wednesday. I finally made it to Chicago but missed my flight to Sioux Falls by 10 minutes. The monitor said to use the Easy Check-in Kiosk to rebook my flight. Next flight? Sunday! After making a phone call to the carrier and waiting in line for over two hours, I was rebooked but I first had to fly to Minneapolis and then to Sioux Falls . . . arriving at midnight! Total time since leaving home? Eighteen hours! It did help meeting a group of LWML ladies in the airport in Minneapolis and being greeted by Marguerite Christman (Vice-President of Servant Resources) who gave me and my luggage a ride straight to the hotel. Best moments? The opening service and the mission grant voting made all the travel hassles seem inconsequential.

*Pastor Wrede
Junior Pastoral Counselor*

I was so excited about going to the LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, SD on Thursday, June 21st that I forgot what airport I was leaving from. On Thursday, when my car service man came, and without looking at my e-ticket, I told him to take me to JFK. When I arrived at the airport, it was about 5:30 am. Then I called Elsa who was flying with me that I was at the airport. I tried to check in on the machines several times, but for some reason I couldn't. Then I went to the reservation counter and ask the agent to help me. I told him that I wanted to go to Sioux Falls, SD, but couldn't get the machines to work, He said to me that we don't fly there, and wanted to look at my ticket. Then he told me that I was at the wrong airport, and go downstairs to get a cab to LaGuardia. By that time, it was 6 am, and my flight was leaving at 7:00 am. I got a cab and asked the driver to take me to LaGuardia. Then I got a call from Elsa, wondering where I was and I told her that I went to the wrong airport and was in a cab driving to LaGuardia. I was so nervous that I would miss my flight that I told Elsa to go ahead if I don't make it. The driver was driving so slow that after a while I asked him to please drive a little faster, since I had to catch a plane. I did get to the airport with 30 minutes to spare. I thank the Lord for getting me through all this.

Carol Wong

Thank you to D.W. Duhachek for his South Dakota hospitality. On the last day of the convention, Mr. Duhachek overheard me talking to the driver of the red bus about a ride to the airport. He volunteered to give me a ride. He also helped two women from New Jersey who had missed their bus back to their hotel. On the way to the airport, we stopped at the Falls for a mini tour. His wife Nancy and granddaughter went home in their other car. Thank you, D.W. and Nancy, for your hospitality.

Emma Edwards

Thank you to the lady from Fargo who found my purse that I dropped at my breakfast buffet. It was the last day of the convention.

Also, thank you to the members of the bus that drove in from Fargo for giving me a ride to the Convention Center from our hotel.

I will never forget these acts of love and friendliness

Emma Edwards

Check out www.adlwml.org for more pictures from Convention.

If you have digital pictures you would like added to the web site, please send them to thecandlestick@adlwml.org.

HEART TO HEART

IMPRESSIONS FROM A YWR....

Please pray for our Heart To Heart sister, Debora Barnett. She is recovering from ovarian cancer and has completed chemotherapy. Her body is cancer free. She left the hospital in Orlando, Florida, on Monday, June 18 with one thought in mind... *to get to the convention and to meet and fellowship with her H2H sisters.* The hospital released her on the condition that she administer her medication three times a day. Well, I was sitting beside her at the H2H luncheon. Have you ever seen someone set up an IV for themselves? I noticed that she was taking out and setting up needles and small tubes and placing them on the table. Yes, I turned my head. Debora set-up a mini IV rack that contained 30 minutes of medication.

Debra Barnett and I are from the first H2H group which met in 2003. She was and still is a high spirited sister who makes a joyful noise in everything she says and does. Her faith in the Lord has given her the ability to survive the hospital visits, and to inspire the hospital staff and everyone else that crosses her path. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to keep her body and mind strong.

*Emma Edwards
Triune Zone*



Atlantic District Delegates

(l to r): Joni Mazer, Ginny Wirsing, Alice Schuman, LuJuana Butts, Pastor Demera, Elsa Webb, Flora Holmes

What I'm about to say is not meant to sound mean in any way: *being at the LWML National Convention was like hanging out with lots of grandmas who were excited to see their grandchildren.* It was great! Many women I talked with expressed their gratitude, hope and joy at having us "young women" involved with the LWML. I felt valued and appreciated!

I wasn't sure what to expect when I was asked to attend the convention as a Young Woman Representative, but I immediately could tell that the Holy Spirit was alive and present in Sioux Falls, SD. As we gathered for each meeting session, the name of Christ was lifted high -- all glory, honor and praise truly belonged to Him. The fruit of the Spirit was evident in the 5000 women, men and children in attendance:

* *Faithfulness*, as the women adopted their highest monetary goal to date;

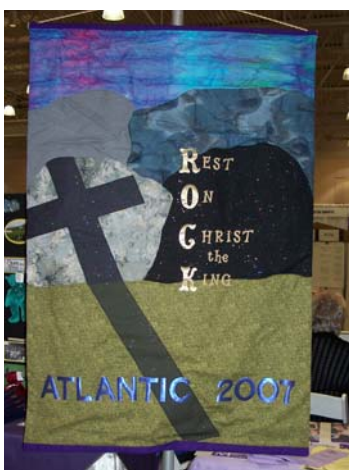
* *Joy*, at the countless stories and reports of how God is using the LWML and their efforts to bring Christ to all nations;

* *Gentleness*, towards even the littlest of attendees, knowing that these precious children are the future of the LWML and the church;

* *Patience*, expressed through songs of praise and "the wave" when the audio power went out for 20 minutes one morning!

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to represent the Atlantic District at this convention as a "YWR." I left on Sunday morning feeling inspired and energized by the very apparent love that these women, grandmas and granddaughters alike, have for our Lord and Savior! *May we here in the Atlantic District also continue to step forth boldly in Christ, living lives of genuine love and service - all in His name.*

Jenn Partlow



Pictured (l to r): Twila Evanson (YWR), Maureen Consiglio (president), Jenn Partlow (YWR)

IMPORTANT DATES

Albany Zone

9/15/07 Fall Event, 11:30am—3:30pm, Good Shepherd, Glens Falls

Queens Zone

10/27/07 Fall Rally, time TBA, Immanuel, Whitestone

Suffolk Zone

10/20/07 One Day Mini-Retreat, 9:00am—3:00pm, St. James Lutheran Church, St. James

11/3/07 “Ladies Holiday Extravaganza”, 10:00am—3:00pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip

Board of Directors’ Meetings

7/27-29/07 EC & Convention Chairmen, Convention Planning Meeting, Schenectady

9/8/07 Our Savior, Fishkill

11/10/07 Concordia College, Bronxville

1/12/08 Concordia College, Bronxville

1/19/08 Snow date for 1/12 Meeting

3/1/08 Concordia College, Bronxville

4/12/08 Pre-convention Meeting, Concordia College, Bronxville

4/25/08 EC Meeting, Courtyard by Marriott, Ronkonkoma

5/17/08 Transition Meeting, Concordia College, Bronxville

District Events

10/12-14/07 Annual Retreat, Tuscarora Inn, Mt. Bethel, PA
Retreat Leader: Rev. Dien Ashley Taylor, Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bronx, NY

4/26-27/08 ADLWML Convention, Courtyard by Marriott, Ronkonkoma



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Submission deadline for the next issue is **August 1, 2007**

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