



Lutheran Women's
Missionary Society
United to Serve Jesus

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society
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March 2020

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Dear Reporter,

The enclosed ballot will enable your congregation to vote for the Board of Directors and the mission projects of the Lutheran Women's Mission Society. This is the way your congregation helps select the future leaders of this organization. We want your vote to count! Please follow these steps to assure it will be counted. See the sample ballot on the Attention Reporters page.

In order for your ballot to be considered valid, these are the steps to follow:

1. Make certain that your membership dues are paid for 2020. The membership dues form was sent to each reporter in October. It was to be postmarked by January 1, so if you haven't mailed it, do so as soon as possible.
2. Only one ballot should be returned from a congregation. Individual votes by the congregation's members should be totaled and only one ballot returned in the envelope provided. In congregations with more than one reporter, please discard extra ballots.
3. Use an "X" to mark one choice in each category. Cast one vote for a candidate for each office. Cast one vote for a home mission project and one (1) vote for a world mission project. Remember, return only one ballot in the enclosed envelope.
4. Please do not mail anything else in this envelope.
5. Use only the enclosed ballot envelope for mailing your ballots. It is very important to write the name and address of your congregation and the name of your circuit in the spaces provided on the back of this envelope. The Central Office cannot open the ballots when they receive them. They will check the information on the back of the envelope to determine whether or not your congregation has active membership status. Your LWMS circuit name is directly under your name on the mailing label.
6. Ballots must be postmarked by May 25, 2020. Ballots postmarked after May 25 will be considered invalid. Please mail your ballot early.
7. Ballots will be counted and tallied just prior to the annual convention in June.

Our committee looks forward to seeing many of you in Athens, Georgia, at the 57th Annual LWMS Convention in June. We pray God grants you safe travels!

United to serve Jesus,

Patsy Kramer

Patsy Kramer, president-elect
LWMS Board of Directors
Nomination Committee Chair

57th Annual LWMS Convention • June 25-28, 2020 • Athens, Georgia

ATTENTION REPORTERS!

Please use the checklist below before mailing your ballots to ensure that your congregation's vote will be counted. **Your congregation's vote is important to us and your attention to these instructions is greatly appreciated.**

- ___ Pay congregation's membership dues for 2020.
- ___ Return only one (1) Board of Director election ballot for your congregation.
- ___ Use an "X" to mark only one choice for each office or mission.
Any other marks will make the ballot invalid.

___ Use only the enclosed ballot envelope for mailing your ballot. If the envelope is lost or damaged, contact Central Office for further instructions.

___ **Do not mail anything else in this envelope.** Doing so makes the ballot invalid.

___ Postmark by May 25, 2020.

___ **Be sure to complete all information asked for on the back of the envelope.** This includes your congregation's name, city, state, and your circuit name. If you are unsure of your circuit name, check the LWMS website (About Us, Membership) or contact the Central Office at centraloffice@lwms.org or 414-321-6212.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Candidates for Board of Directors 2020-2022

Use an "X" to mark one choice or per the LWMS Bylaws Article VI C 2, you may write in a candidate.

President-elect

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Ima Goodwin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | U. R. Better |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ |

No marks should appear on the ballot except an "X" showing your congregation's choice, for each office or mission unless you write in a name for an office.

You should have six (6) "X" marks on the ballot.

We want your congregation's vote to count and we thank you for your time and effort in completing the ballot accurately.

The Nomination Committee

SECRETARY

Mary Jo Barnes

Golden West Circuit; Zion, Torrance, California

LWMS: Mary Jo has attended all but two LWMS conventions since 1995. She has served almost constantly as the circuit trainer, publicity coordinator, and secretary for the Golden West circuit since that time. She co-chaired the 2002 Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Church: She has held many positions in the church and currently serves as a greeter, choir member, Evangelism Committee member, Mary-Martha vice president, and teen Bible class leader. She received her evangelism certificate from Martin Luther College in 2018. She is the administrator and designer for a daily Bible verse of the day picture that is posted on social media on six different sites, such as the Only the Word page, the WELS Women's Ministry page, Hearts for Saving Souls on Facebook, the Tell Network, Reddit, and Instagram.

Other: Mary Jo has been working full time in a hospital since 1974 (until last year when she switched to part-time) as an imaging specialist. She is one of few specialists in the United States that is registered in nearly all forms of ultrasound and is highly respected for her expertise. Mary Jo loves to read mystery books, does various sewing projects, crafts, handiwork, and doing crossword puzzles, especially the *New York Times* crossword puzzle.

Dee Shepherd

Rocky Mountain Circuit; Christ Our Redeemer, Aurora, Colorado

LWMS: Dee has served three terms as circuit secretary.

Church: She has served several terms in the past as secretary, vice president, and president for her church's women's group. She has also enjoyed being a Sunday school teacher for the past 20 years.

Other: Dee is a veteran of the U.S. Army and works in the aerospace industry as a systems engineer. She and her husband, Brian, met while serving in the military. They have been married for 32 years and have two adult sons, one daughter-in-law, and one granddaughter. Dee enjoys hiking the mountains of Colorado, playing board games, and traveling.

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Patty Hirthe

Paperland Circuit; St. John, Kaukauna, Wisconsin

LWMS: Patty currently serves on the Communications Committee, producing and distributing the LWMS monthly e-newsletter *Notes*. She is a reporter and former circuit secretary; she was co-chair of the publicity committee for the 2018 convention in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Church: She is a member of the altar guild and Sonshine Committee and a former Sunday school teacher. She also served on the 150th Anniversary Committee for St. John.

Other: Patty works as an executive administrative assistant for Guardian Life Insurance, utilizing her extensive computer skills every day. She has been married to Christian for 16 years and has two children: Merrick, a sophomore at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, and Aiden, an 8th grader at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School.

Ardis Tobison

Crow River Circuit; Grace, Hutchinson, Minnesota, and St. Peter's, Ellsworth Township, Minnesota

LWMS: Ardis is a former circuit president, former circuit vice president, and an organizer of many rallies. She is a frequent Annual Conventions attendee.

Church: She is a Sunday school teacher, Pioneer leader (both girls and boys), and choir member. She is the treasurer for Women's Circle and Ladies Aid, and the music and PowerPoint coordinator for children's Christmas services. She has also made PowerPoint presentations for mission Sundays.

Other: Ardis graduated summa cum laude from Marion University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in 1999 with a degree in Business Administration. She has good computer skills. Her past employment at a local newspaper included editing and proofreading, set up, and printing. She is married and has three children and three grandchildren. She is retired, and her hobbies include gardening, camping, volunteering, and knitting stocking caps to donate to charities for the homeless. (She has made almost 700 hats!)

VICE PRESIDENT

Ginger Olson

Alpha Circuit; Crown of Life, Warren, Michigan

LWMS: Ginger is a reporter. She has served several terms as spiritual growth laywoman, one term as vice president and off and on as president in the Alpha Circuit. She was co-chair of the 44th Annual Convention in Detroit.

Church: She serves on the altar committee as well as chair of her church's women's organization. She helps where needed for many church events.

Other: Ginger retired almost four years ago from the Rochester Hills Public Library, where she worked for over 30 years as manager of the circulation department. She and her husband, Eugene, have been truly blessed by God with the gift of three daughters, their wonderful husbands, and 12 grandchildren.

Kris Olson

Wild Rose Circuit; Lincoln Heights, Des Moines, Iowa

LWMS: Kris has served as president and vice president for LWMS circuits in Iowa and in Ohio. In 2019, she was a co-chair for the Annual Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

Church: Kris has served as president, treasurer, and secretary of church women's groups. While living in Ohio, she was the church secretary at Immanuel Lutheran in Findlay. She has taught Sunday school for many years and is an organist at Lincoln Heights Lutheran in Des Moines. She also helps with the children's Sunday school music. She is presently serving as secretary on the stateside committee for the WELS Central Africa Medical Mission. This past summer, Kris and her husband visited Malawi as part of a CAMM public relations tour and subsequently gave a presentation about the trip at her circuit's fall rally.

Other: Kris lives in Ames, Iowa, with her husband of 49 years, Dale. They have two sons, Chad and Cory. Both sons are married with families, making them grandparents of seven. She worked for Edward Jones as an on-call office assistant before retiring at the end of 2014. She has also worked as an administrative assistant for a printing company, a financial secretary for a church, and a bank teller.

PASTORAL ADVISOR

Pastor Jeffrey Schmidt

Flint Area Circuit; Emanuel, Flint, Michigan

LWMS: Pastor Schmidt has served his circuit as spiritual growth pastor and pastoral advisor.

Church: He grew up in a mission congregation where his father was pastor.

Other: Pastor Schmidt graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1995. He married Jennifer in Merrill, Wisconsin, in November of 2019. He and his wife enjoy traveling, attending sporting events and concerts, reading, listening to music, and watching Hulu.

Pastor Paul Schulz

Grand Canyon West Circuit; Grace, Safford, Arizona

LWMS: Pastor Schulz currently serves as pastoral advisor on the Board of Directors. He was a missionary on the Apache reservation for 12 years, cared for by circuits assigned to him as their BAM missionary.

Church: He served on the Arizona/California District Nominating Committee and has been a speaker in Milwaukee, Southern Michigan, and in Martinez, Georgia, about mission work on the Apache reservation.

Other: Pastor Schulz has good computer skills. He is president of the local Rotary Club, a docent/tour guide for the Mt. Graham International Observatories in Safford, and president of Desert Skygazers, a local astronomy club. He is married to Ella, and they have four children.

• Missions Offering Projects •

June 2019-June 2020

Project descriptions are found in the 2018-2019 Home and World Missions Projects booklet.

Home Mission Projects

Project #HM-2018-16: Hmong Evangelist Training

God has opened many doors into the Hmong community. As the Lord gathers people in Christ, he is raising up leaders who want to be equipped to serve as evangelists and perhaps continue their studies to become pastors. Your gifts will support the ongoing expense for study materials, instructors, and assistance to the students.

Project #HM-2018-23: Hispanic Outreach (general)

By God's grace, WELS Hispanic ministry is growing. There are many locations offering weekly Spanish worship services. A number of other congregations offer Hispanic Bible studies. Even more congregations are exploring their communities to see if they might offer Hispanic ministry. While these outreach costs usually aren't substantial, having some financial assistance available may give congregations the encouragement to take the needed steps to begin Hispanic ministry. There may be opportunities for those churches already involved in Hispanic outreach to enhance their current ministry of reaching out with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Your gifts will assist congregations in enhancing or establishing Hispanic ministry.

World Mission Projects

Project #WM-2018-11: Philippine Project

In a country where 81 percent of the population is nominally Roman Catholic and the majority of the people speak English, God is opening doors for the proclamation of the gospel. The national pastor shepherds a confessional Lutheran mission congregation in Novaliches, a suburb of Manila. Working part-time as a translator for WELS Multi-Language Publications, the pastor reaches out into his community with worship services and Bible classes for all ages. Gifts will subsidize the outreach of Law and Gospel Evangelical Lutheran Church until the congregation can achieve self-supporting status.

Project #WM-2018-24: Mexico Projects

The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) in Mexico has been a beacon of the pure gospel of Jesus. The church body consists of 10 congregations scattered from one end of the country to the other. Recently, CELC took a significant step as its leaders adopted a plan to support their own ministry and outreach within five years. As our Latin America missions team seeks new opportunities throughout all of Latin America, the congregations in Mexico are training their members in biblical stewardship of time, talents, and treasures so that they can continue to be beacons of the gospel in Mexico into the future.

Your gifts to the Mexico Projects will help our missionaries during this transitional period as they support the national pastors who reach out with the gospel. This includes travel so that they can meet annually with one another and also organize gatherings of Mexican leaders as they spur one another on toward full support of their own ministries. Your gifts will also provide scholarships for Mexican seminary students so that they can support themselves and their families while they study and assist in local congregations.

2020 LWMS ORGANIZATION ELECTION BALLOT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

USE AN "X" TO MARK ONE CHOICE IN EACH CATEGORY

<p>Vice President</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ginger Olson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kris Olson</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Vote for one</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mary Jo Barnes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dee Shepherd</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Vote for one</p>
<p>Communications Coordinator</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Patty Hirthe</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ardis Tobison</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Vote for one</p>	<p>Pastoral Advisor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Jeffrey Schmidt</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rev. Paul Schulz</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p>Vote for one</p>

MISSION OFFERING PROJECTS

(2018-2019 LWMS Home & World Missions Projects booklet)

<p>World Missions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Philippines Projects #WM-2018-11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mexico Project Project #WM-2018-24</p> <p>Vote for one</p>	<p>Home Missions</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hmong Evangelist Training #HM-2018-16</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic Outreach (general) #HM-2018-23</p> <p>Vote for one</p>
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