

BYLAWS
LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE
NEBRASKA SOUTH DISTRICT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

Amended September 15, 2018

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Article I—Name

The name of this organization shall be Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (Lutheran Women in Mission) Nebraska South District (hereinafter referred to as District) of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (hereinafter referred to as LWML) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (hereinafter referred to as LCMS).

Article II—Object

The object of this organization shall be:

- a. to develop and to maintain a greater mission consciousness among the women of the District through mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service;
- b. to gather funds for mission grants, especially those for which no adequate provision has been made in the LCMS budget.

Article III—Members

Section 1

- a. Women’s organizations within LCMS congregations, on campuses, in resident homes, or other settings within the geographical area of the District, shall be eligible for membership as societies.
- b. One (1) or more societies affiliated with the LWML within a congregation, on a campus, in a resident home, or in other single settings, shall be considered one (1) unit.
- c. A woman who is a communicant member of an LCMS congregation is eligible for membership.
- d. Women who hold membership in an LCMS congregation may form a society in a setting other than a congregation, a campus, a resident home, or other setting, upon ratification of the District Board of Directors. The central location of the society shall determine zone membership.
- e. Individual membership is available to a woman in an LCMS congregation with or without a society affiliated with the LWML. Individual membership is not considered a society or a unit. An individual member does not have voting privileges at the District or LWML levels.
- f. Membership Withdrawal:
 1. Individual member informs the District president by letter of her intent to withdraw her Individual membership.
 2. The District President notifies the member of its decision, then notifying the Membership Chairman.
 3. The Membership Chairman informs the District President, appropriate Zone President, Society President, if applicable, The *Quarterly Echo* Editor, and Vice-President of Communication for removal of name from their mailing list.

Article IV—Structure

Section 1

The membership of the District shall be divided into geographical groups known as Zones. The Zones shall:

Article XX—Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the District shall be from July 1 to June 30 inclusive. The financial officers shall adhere to these dates in closing their books.

Article XXI--Emergency Action

In the event of any great emergency or other prevailing conditions making the holding of District convention inadvisable, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to determine whether the convention shall or shall not be held; a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee shall decide, and the vote may be taken by surface mail, telephone, electronic mail, or fax.

In the event the convention is not held, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to plan the procedure for conducting the routine convention business. Such procedure shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

Article XXII—Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the proceedings of the District in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws or Christian principles.

Article XXIII—Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at the convention. The proposed amendments shall have been presented for approval to the Board of Directors and sent in a mailing to all societies prior to convention. By unanimous vote, a proposed amendment may be presented to the convention without prior notice. A three-fourths (3/4) vote shall be required for adoption.

These bylaws were updated at the LWML Nebraska South District Convention in Kearney, NE on September 15, 2018

- a. promote the object of the LWML – mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service;
- b. select delegates for the purpose of representation at the biennial LWML convention as prescribed by LWML bylaws;
- c. adopt their own bylaws, which shall be in conformity with the object and basic principles of the District and LWML. These zone bylaws and all amendments thereto shall be submitted to the District Structure Committee for approval before being presented to the membership for final adoption.

Section 2

The District shall write its own bylaws which conform to the object and basic principles of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the LWML. The bylaws and any subsequent proposed amendments shall be submitted with the required number of copies to the LWML Structure Committee Chairman for approval by the LWML Structure Committee before being presented to the District membership for adoption.

Section 3

The District shall be under the guidance of the Nebraska LCMS District.

Article V –Conventions and Representation

Section 1

- a. A convention for the purpose of transacting the business of the District shall be held biennially in the even-numbered years at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors.
- b. The official call to convention shall be published in the official District publication in the spring issue prior to convention.

Section 2

The voting body of the convention shall be:

- a. two (2) certified delegates from each society;
- b. elected District officers and zone presidents;
- c. past District Presidents who are currently members of the Nebraska South District LWML.

Section 3

A member of the voting assembly shall vote in one (1) capacity only. Proxy votes are prohibited.

Section 4

- a. Each certified delegate shall have a certified alternate;
- b. In the event neither the delegate nor the alternate is able to serve, a member of the society may be certified as the delegate by the society president in writing via surface mail electronic mail, fax, or by telephone, or in person to the convention registrar.
- c. Zone presidents may not serve as society delegates.

Section 5

The Credentials of the delegates shall be in the hands of the Recording Secretary at least two (2) weeks prior to convention.

Section 6

A majority of the registered voting body present shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI—Officers and Elections

Section 1

- a. The elected officers shall be President, Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Communication, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Vice President of Human Care, Vice President of Servant Resources, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer.
- b. All elected officers shall be voting members of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and the District conventions.

Section 2

- a. The elected officers shall be elected by ballot at the convention to serve for a term of four (4) years, or until their successors are elected, and no person shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms in the same office.
- b. The election of officers shall be as follows:
 - (1) The President, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Vice President of Servant Resources, Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at one (1) convention.
 - (2) The Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Communication, Vice President of Human Care, and Financial Secretary shall be elected at the following convention.
 - (3) A majority vote shall elect.
 - (4) In the event there are three (3) or more candidates for the office and a majority vote has not been reached after one (1) ballot has been cast, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be removed from each successive ballot.
- c. Officers shall be installed prior to adjournment of the convention and shall assume their duties at once.
- d. Retiring officers shall deliver all materials and funds pertaining to their office to their successors within forty-five (45) days following the close of the convention.

Article VII—Duties of Elected Officers

Section 1

The President shall:

- a. preside at all conventions of the District, and at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;
- b. be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee;
- c. be responsible for appointing standing committees, appointed officers, special

b. to provide information about the programs and activities of LWML, District officers and committees, zones and societies.

Section 3

The Publication Staff shall have editorial privileges.

Section 4

The Subscription rate shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 5

Societies shall order the desired number of copies of *The ECHO* at the same time and in the same manner as the LWML publication is ordered.

- a. Individual subscriptions shall be ordered directly from the publication staff.
- b. All funds for subscriptions to the LWML and/or District official publications shall be remitted to the Financial Secretary.

Article XVI—Mission Grants

Section 1

- a. Mission grant proposals may be submitted by LWML individual members, societies, zones, districts, and LCMS boards.
- b. Proposals for the mission grants shall be submitted to the Vice President of Gospel Outreach by December 31 in the odd-numbered years.
- c. The proposed mission grants selected to be voted on during convention shall be sent to the society presidents prior to convention.

Section 2

The Vice President of Gospel Outreach shall submit the mission grant proposals to the LCMS District President for evaluation. After approval from the LCMS District officers, the Mission Grants Committee shall select the mission grant proposals to appear on the convention ballot and submit them for approval by the Executive Committee.

Section 3

- a. Funds voted for a mission grant must be disbursed or put into use within two (2) fiscal biennia, the biennium in which the grant was approved and the following biennium. The convention may extend the time for one (1) biennium in case of extenuating circumstances.
- b. In the event that changes in the mission grant plans occur after the recipients have been selected in convention, the Board of Directors shall be authorized to take necessary action.

Article XVII--Resolutions

Section 1

Miscellaneous resolutions and appeals, other than for mission grants, may be presented