

## **ONTARIO DISTRICT LWML-CANADA POST CONVENTION REPORT 2022**

Our Ontario District LWML-Canada 2022 Convention was a great success and I want to take this opportunity to thank our Convention Committee and Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Catharines for all the hard work they put forward, during trying times, to provide the ladies with a wonderful convention.

Since some of our ladies were unable to attend this convention, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide them with some of the Convention highlights and pertinent information with respect to our elected mission projects. Those ladies who did not attend were greatly missed and I hope that this short recap will make you feel that you were still a part of our convention.

The convention opened on June 9<sup>th</sup> with our opening worship service with holy communion. The service included Rev. Richard Juritsch from our host congregation, Rev. Mark Koehler our District Pastoral Counsellor and Rev. John Makey the Niagara Zone Counsellor. The guest preacher was Rev. Dr. James Keller from Historic St. Paul's Kitchener. The choirs were led by Carole Pink along with organist Mayumi Munoz.

Presentation of wrist corsages were given to our Past Presidents in attendance, Joyce Nauman, Ardith Pollex and Janice Buchner. The convention committee also presented wrist corsages to Linda Long and Diana Grant. The ladies then led those assembled in the League Pledge. LWML Canada National President, Linda Long presented anniversary certificates to 18 societies who had reached milestone charter date years.

On Friday morning Louise Gondosh and Barbara Jurgens started off the day by leading the ladies in singing prior to the actual business portion of the convention starting. The convention banner was carried in by Co-Chairs Fran Porteous and Ruth Coe followed by the members of the Ontario District Board. President Diana Grant declared the convention in session and Rev. Mark Koehler led the ladies in Bible Study.

A new highlight of this convention was the introduction and recognition of first-time attendees to the convention. God blessed us greatly with having 12 first time attendees to this convention and it is my sincere hope that these ladies will continue to attend many LWML functions not only in their zones but also attend the National Convention being hosted by Ontario in 2024.

Linda Long, our National President, brought the ladies an information PowerPoint presentation and updated the ladies on our organization's future. Greetings were brought by Linda Welke on behalf of Lutherans for Life and Aleta Abraham on behalf of the Lutheran Laymen's League and Lutheran Hour Ministries. These two organizations also had exhibits set up in the exhibit area for our ladies to visit during the convention, along with the LWMLC Resource Centre.

Friday's afternoon session opened with prayers and greetings by Rev. Tom Korcok on behalf of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. Our key note speaker, Jan Struck, spoke to us on our convention theme, inspiring us not only with the word but also with laughter. The ladies in attendance were blessed to hear Jan speak and were also looking forward to having her speak again on Saturday.

Ardith Pollex the Chairman of Medical Missions brought an update on all the work that this organization was carrying out. During COVID shipments had to be ceased for a while, however, a shipment had just been sent a couple of weeks prior to the convention and they will continue to ship to countries as they are once again open to receiving international shipments.

The business portion of the day ended around 3:30 p.m. allowing the ladies time to rest prior to the banquet which was held that evening. Carolyn McLeod was the Mistress of Ceremony for the evening and she called on Rev. Makey to say the grace prior to the meal. After a delicious meal, Carolyn called on President Diana Grant who made a special presentation to the three past presidents. Since this was our last District Convention, they received a keepsake as a special thank you for all the service they have given to the Ontario District. The entertainment for the evening was Eduardo Farias and Daniella Cruz who played and sang and included the ladies in many of the song. The ladies even had the opportunity to learn to sing in French, Spanish, German and Portuguese. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment which ended much to soon.

Saturday morning once again began with a Bible study led by Rev. Paul Zabel another of the District Pastoral Counsellors. Greetings were brought by Glenn Kahle from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Translators and a video from Rev. Ron Mohr was available to be sent to any of the ladies who were interested in viewing it since we ran into technical difficulties during the presentation. Mr. Alan Schmitt also brought greetings on behalf of the Lutheran Foundation and remained to have lunch with the ladies and answer any questions that the ladies might have.

The results of vote on the mission grants proposed for 2022-2024 were presented and praise God all 6 mission grants on the ballot received money. The mission grants in order of vote are as follows:

1. Spanish Hymnals for Lutheran Congregations in Nicaragua and Costa Rica - \$5,000.00
2. Funding for Sudanese Mission Work, Hamilton, Ontario - \$8,000.00
3. Outreach and Support to Recent Immigrants in Northern Ontario (Timmins, Sudbury) - \$3,000.00
4. New Bibles and Hymnals for First Lutheran Christian Academy, Windsor - \$3,500.00
5. Continued Broadcasting of the Christian Message to the South Asian Community in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) via the Radio and to the World over the Internet - \$5,000.00
6. Lutheran Outreach Windsor Essex County (WECLC) First Lutheran Outreach Initiative in Downtown Windsor, ON - \$5,500.00

The results of the vote for VP District Administration Ontario was presented and Diana Grant was elected to serve a two-year term 2022-2024. A letter of greeting from the newly elected VP District Administration Laurentian, Rena Detlefsen, was read to the ladies.

The ingathering was for Medical Missions and the tables were piled high with items for them. The Mission Walk which was carried out locally by societies was for Gillian's Place which is a home for abused women and children.

Our offerings for this convention were generously supported and are as follows:

1. Offering # 1 – Mites -- \$1,716.30
2. Offering # 2 – Concordia Seminary Food Pantry, St. Catharines -- \$1,429.00
3. Offering # 3 – The Refugee family being sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church -- \$1613.10
4. Mission Walk for Gillian's Place - \$4,611.00
5. Medical Missions - \$2,664.34. This is over an above the items received.

Rev. Mark Koehler led the ladies in the closing devotion and the installation of the newly elected VP District Administration, Ontario.

I want to thank all the ladies of the Ontario District for the tremendous support that you have given to the offerings and the organizations which we supported with our mission walk and ingathering. You ladies have shown the true Christian Faith and may God bless each and everyone of you in the years ahead.

One final note. I am still in need of two individuals to serve on either the National Finance Committee or the National Communication Committee for a period of 2 years. I ask that you prayerfully consider taking one of these positions so that Ontario District will have representation on these committees. Anyone who would like to serve or would like more information, could you please contact me at [dunroven@rogers.com](mailto:dunroven@rogers.com) or at 905-431-9826. May God guide you to put your name forward for one of these positions.

I ask that you continue to keep me in your prayers as I now move forward as your VP District Administration and represent you on the General Council. May God bless each and everyone of you in the years ahead.

Diana Grant  
VP District Administration Ontario