

Candidates for LWML LA-MS District Office

President — Leslie Koenck

Service in the LWML:

National: Served on the 2021-2023 LWML Information Technology Committee, participating in the 2021 Interdepartmental Meeting and 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Participant in 2022 Assembly of Leaders (AOL) in St. Louis, Missouri. Volunteer at the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama.

District: Current Vice President of Communication, Webmaster, and interim *The Mission Voice* Editor. Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Zone: Southwest Zone Treasurer.

Society/Group: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Leesville, Louisiana, Southwest Zone.

Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher, Church Council Secretary and Outreach/Evangelism Committee Chairman, Music Coordinator.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired Curriculum Supervisor, math coach, and math teacher. Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), International Honorary Organization for Women Educators – Alpha Delta Kappa served on local and state boards as treasurer, president-elect, and president, regional officer, and International Committee. Multiple charitable organizations and projects – local food bank, Vernon Parish 4-H Backpack program, Cystic Fibrosis volunteer, Alzheimer’s Association volunteer, St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *The women of LWML will continue to grow in their relationship with the Triune God, fellowship with other women of faith, and serve others as we “Serve the Lord with Gladness.”*

President — Liz Slothower

Service in the LWML:

National: Served on the 2019 LWML Convention Host Committee in Mobile, Alabama, and the 1979 LWML Convention Host Committee in Omaha, Nebraska. Participant in 2022 Assembly of Leaders (AOL) in St. Louis, Missouri. Southern Zone delegate to the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

District: LA-MS District Meeting Manager, current Secretary, and 2022 convention Registrar/Treasurer. Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Nebraska North Bylaws Committee Chair and Parliamentarian.

Zone: Southern Zone Secretary, and current Gospel Outreach Committee Chair. Omaha Zone President and Secretary.

Society/Group: President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Southern Zone.

Strategic Planning Committee, Design Development Committee, Altar Guild, small group Bible Study leader, Vacation Bible School volunteer, substitute teacher at Trinity Lutheran School.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired Elementary teacher. Currently HOA Board member, Caring to Love Ministry volunteer. Previously a Scout leader and volunteer for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Assistant 4-H leader.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision for the LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District is to continue “serving the Lord with gladness” finding joy in our daily walk with Him as we focus on The Word, missions, service, and fellowship. My hope is to include women from all walks of life and to encourage them to grow in their relationship with Jesus, our Lord and Savior through Bible study and fellowship with one another. As a result we would reach out to our families, churches, communities, and world to share the love of Jesus, support mission grants through mites giving and personally witnessing and serving where ever God leads us.*

Vice President of Christian Life — Rita Salathe

Service in the LWML:

National: Southern Zone delegate to the 2015 LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

District: Vice President of Christian Life (2016-2018) and Christian Growth Committee. Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Zone: Southern Zone President, and Christian Life Chairman.

Society/Group: President, Treasurer, and Christian Life.

Congregation: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hammond, Louisiana, Southern Zone.

Preschool Vice Chair and Chair, Preschool Interim Director, Church Secretary, Bible Study leader, Sunday School teacher, and VBS Director.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired. Human Care involvement with church.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision is for each woman in the LA-MS District grow a stronger and closer relationship with God the Father, Christ, and the Holy Spirit so that Christ’s life that shines through us will shine brighter as we walk in His light. May all of us love each other as Christ loves each one of us, as we “Serve the Lord with Gladness.”*

Vice President of Communication — Melissa Meeks

Service in the LWML:

National: Young Woman Representative at the 2001 LWML Convention in San Jose, California. Northern Zone delegate to the 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 2011 LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois, 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2015 LWML Convention in Des Moines, Iowa, 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama, 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, and 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Hosted the district display table in the Exhibit Hall at the 2005 LWML Convention in Tampa, Florida, and 2007 LWML Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Served on the 2019 LWML Convention Host Committee in Mobile, Alabama.

District: Current Vice President of Christian Life and Public Relations Director (PRD). PRD since 2004. *The Mission Voice* newsletter Editor (2002-04). Webmaster (2005-10).

Zone: Northern Zone President, current Treasurer. Young Woman Representative (2001-02).

Society/Group: President and Secretary.

Congregation: Christ Lutheran Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, Northern Zone. Board of Stewardship (Our Savior, Shreveport, mid 2000's), Vice President (Our Savior, Shreveport, 2007-2008), Joint Consolidation Board of Our Savior & Redeemer, Shreveport (2008), Board of Lay Leaders, At Large Member 2008-2012, Treasurer 2012-2016, Worship Team Chair (Our Savior 2006-2008) 2008-present, Prepare PowerPoint screens for Worship Services 2010-present, Design & Create Worship Bulletins ready to be copied 2019-present, Altar Guild, and Chair of the Joint Reformation 500 Celebration Committee formed by Christ, Faith & Immanuel Lutheran Churches (2017).

Occupation and Community Involvement: Accounting Manager at Electric Supply Company, Inc. in Shreveport, LA (small business selling materials & supplies to electrical contractors).

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision for the LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District is for women of all ages and backgrounds to join together in Fellowship supporting one another on their faith walks. Through this connection we would work together to grow in God's Word and dedicate ourselves in service to the Lord by helping others and sharing the Good News near and far. In doing so, we would live our lives with our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus so that we may be a light to the world in all we do.*

Vice President of Communication — Elizabeth Smith

Service in the LWML:

National: Southwest Zone delegate to the 2009 LWML Convention in Portland, Oregon, and Southwest Zone delegate to the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama.

District: Treasurer (2010-2014 & 2019-2022) and Leader Development Committee. Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Zone: Southwest Zone President and Vice President. Attends Southern Zone Rallies.

Society/Group: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at Redeemer Lutheran LWML, DeRidder, Louisiana. Spearheading the reactivation of LWML group at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Congregation: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Southern Zone. President, Vice President, Sunday School teacher, and Organist.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired teacher. Council on Aging, volunteer in a sewing club, gardening/farming to feed the hungry.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision for the LA-MS District is that we can meet the needs of all ages, especially the younger women.*

Vice President of Gospel Outreach — Andrea Ferguson

Service in the LWML:

National: Served on the 2019 LWML Convention Host Committee as Secretary/Staff Services in Mobile, Alabama. Southwest Zone delegate to the 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, and Southwest Zone delegate to the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

District: Board of Directors as Southwest Zone President 2020-2021, 2023. Nominating Committee Chairman (2016-2018). Mission Grants Committee and Christian Life Committee member.

Zone: Southwest Zone President, Vice President, and Christian Growth Chair.
Society/Group: President, Vice President, and Christian Growth Chair.

Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church, DeRidder, Louisiana, Southwest Zone.
Treasurer for the past seven years.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Registered Nurse. Health Services Coordinator.
School Nurse. Board of Director for Lutherans in Medical Missions (LIMM) an RSO of the
LCMS.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision is for the LA-MS District to continually strengthen all women in God's Word, to help LWML women build and develop strong relationships, and encourage sharing His Word with people near and far through missions.*

Secretary — Rhonda Jackson

Service in the LWML:

National: Southern Zone delegate to the 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky.

District: 2022 convention Host Committee volunteer.

Zone: Current Southern Zone Vice President since 2021.

Society/Group: Current Holy Trinity Covington/New Life Folsom Group President since 2022.

Congregation: New Life Lutheran Church, Folsom, Louisiana, Southern Zone.
Current Pastoral Call Committee Chairperson, served as the School Board Chairperson at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School's Preschool in Covington, Louisiana, (2013-2019).

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired Lutheran educator with BS degree in Education from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska. Taught 1st grade for five years at St. Peter's Lutheran School, Belle Glade, Florida, and 2nd grade for 29 years at Atonement Lutheran School in Metairie, Louisiana. Volunteer one morning a week at Sewing & Crafting Servants for mission projects, one morning a week at an elementary school's SOAR Mentor reading enrichment program, and volunteer with my husband at Faith Lutheran School, Harahan, in the computer lab and technology training for staff. The King's Ringers Handbell Choir, Faith Presbyterian Church. Organized and participate in two Lutheran Churches' prayer shawl ministries.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision for the LA-MS District is to have a meaningful fellowship of women whose purpose is to serve the Lord in various activities that honor God and spread God's Word and His love to those around us in Churches, communities, zones, districts, nation, and to those in foreign countries. Growing in God's Word through Bible studies is an integral part of LWML. Reaching out to young women to get them interested and involved in the mission of LWML is a goal.*

Junior Pastoral Counselor — Reverend David Hartung

Service in the LWML:

National: Participated as LWML LA-MS District Jr. Pastoral Counselor in the 2017 LWML Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attended the 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

District: Pastoral Counselor (2016-2020).

Zone: Mississippi Zone Counselor.

Society/Group: Pastoral Counselor for dual parish of St. Luke Lutheran Church society in Starkville and Our Savior Lutheran Church society in Columbus, MS.

Congregation: Pastor at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Starkville, Mississippi, since 2012. Serves as Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Columbus, Mississippi since 2023;

Mississippi Zone

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *I strongly believe in the mission of the LWML and what the organization does to proclaim the Word of God throughout the states of Louisiana and Mississippi, not to mention the USA and the rest of the world.*

Junior Pastoral Counselor — Reverend Robert M. Portier

Service in the LWML:

District: 2024 convention Host Committee volunteer.

Zone: Current Northern Zone Pastoral Counselor.

Society/Group: Immanuel Lutheran Church LWML Society Pastoral Counselor.

Congregation: Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, Louisiana, since 2022; Northern Zone.

Occupation and Community Involvement: 2007-2022 Pastor at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Sevierville, Tennessee. 2013 Circuit Representative to the synodical convention. 2012 District Floor Committee. 2018 Floor Committee Chair. 2015-2021 Circuit Visitor. 2021-2022 LCMS Mid-South District Regional Vice President.

Committee member of Sevier County Right to Life (2006-2014), Woman's Care Center of Sevier County Board of Directors (2012-2018), Women's Care Center Board Chair in 2021.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District:

The LWML has a great history of;

Funding God's mission, (Mites)

Praying for God's mission, (Mission grants)

Growing in the faith. (Bible Studies, Service, and Fellowship)

My vision for the LWML is that it continues to faithfully Grow in, Pray for, and Fund God's mission.

Nominating Committee — Laretta Houston

Service in the LWML:

National: Southwest Zone delegate to the 2011 LWML Convention in Peoria, Illinois. Served on the 2019 LWML Convention Host Committee Convention Floor Committee as Vice Chairperson. Participant in 2022 Assembly of Leaders (AOL) in St. Louis, Missouri.

District: Current Financial Secretary. Served as Treasurer, 2018-2020 Nominating Committee, and 2023 District Christian Life Retreat Registration Committee. Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Zone: Southwest Zone President, Treasurer, and Christian Growth.

Society/Group: President, Vice President, and Christian Growth.

Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church, DeRidder, Louisiana, Southwest Zone.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired school counselor and teacher of math, chemistry, and physics. Currently, certified Irlen's screener.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *LWML LA-MS sisters would continue to grow in faith by studying God's Word and sharing His Word with others. LA-MS district would attract new sisters from all walks of life by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through mission grants and service projects. The district would help develop leaders who serve the Lord with gladness by using and improving their skills.*

Nominating Committee — Terry Kendrick

Service in the LWML:

National: Mississippi Zone delegate to the 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky.

District: Board of Directors as Mississippi Zone President 2002.

Zone: Mississippi Zone President and Vice President.

Society/Group: President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

Congregation: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Tupelo, Mississippi, Mississippi Zone.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Retired from Tupelo Hospital in Occupational Therapy.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision for the LA-MS District is that women of all ages and ethnic backgrounds come together to study God's Word, serve those near and far, and have fellowship with each other. We will do this with a humble servant heart because our motto will always be to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."*

Nominating Committee — Gerda Portier

Service in the LWML:

District: 2024 convention Host Committee volunteer.

Zone: Northern Zone Christian Life Chairman.

Society/Group: Participating member of Immanuel Lutheran Church LWML Society.
LWML member involvement since 1985.

Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, Louisiana, Northern Zone.
1992-2018 in charge of Vacation Bible School or took active part in it. 2002-2018 Altar Guild.

Occupation and Community Involvement: Organized a Feeding Program through our church to deliver a meal once a week, Women's Care Center in San Diego; Financial Secretary of the Seminary's Wife's Guild (2003-2006); Board Member of Thrivent Financial-holding office as Treasurer and/or Secretary (2007-2014); Women's Care Center of Sevier County Board of Directors Recording Secretary (2018-2021).

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision for the LWML is to continue with efforts to serve God by financing mission grants throughout the world and study His Word in fellowship with other women.*

Nominating Committee — Cindy Twardzik

Service in the LWML:

District: 2022 convention Host Committee volunteer.

Society/Group: Participating member of Redeemer Lutheran Church LWML Society. Served as delegate to the 2022 district convention.

Congregation: Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mandeville, Louisiana, Southern Zone.
Served on the 2018 Call Committee and the new Church building Interior Design Committee Chair. Prepare, revise, and print weekly Sunday bulletins. Maintain updates to bulletin board by posting current news.

Vision Statement for the LWML LA-MS District: *My vision (and hope) is to advance and continue the mission of the LWML of upholding and spreading the Gospel message to as many as can be reached and will receive it as the Lord has instructed us to do in the role of women of faith.*