

THE HARVESTER

TEXAS DISTRICT LWML 35TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

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ISSUE I

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JUNE 26-27, 2008

Welcome to the Bayou City!

Greetings and welcome to the city of Houston. The Bayou City, Mid Coast, Channel, Golden Harvest and White Oak zones have been working hard planning and preparing for the 35th Biennial Convention here in the Greater Houston Area. Thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to come and open your eyes to what God has in store for you and the LWML. I pray that you will find many exciting events that will fill your heart with the love of our Lord and Savior.

You will find information and tidbits within *The Harvester*, so please be sure to read each issue from cover to cover so you will not miss a minute of the convention happenings.

JOY IN JESUS!

Jennifer Klawitter

Chairman, 35th Biennial Convention
of the Texas District LWML

Welcome to Houston: a city with a tradition of being a place of firsts. It is the largest city in Texas. "Houston" was the first word spoken by Astronaut Neil Armstrong when he landed on the moon. It is home to the first major freeway and the first air-conditioned sports arena. Its namesake, Sam Houston, was the first president of the Texas Republic.

It may be the first time many of you are attending a district LWML convention! Our prayer is that everyone at this convention will have a joyful time ... one of spiritual enrichment, hugs and celebrations.

According to the city Web site, Houston is also the fourth largest city in America. This is the fourth time the Texas District LWML has held a convention here. We met in 1946 (4th), 1950 (6th) and 1992 (27th). The Texas District also hosted an International LWML Convention here in 1969.

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us in this big city for our 35th biennial convention. I know you have all brought your LWML TEAM spirit and are ready for an "eye-opening" experience.

May God bless our time together,

Dorothy Hunger

Texas District LWML President

Our Convention Logo

The focus of the convention logo is a simple yet strong cross which reminds us that it is only through faith in Jesus Christ that we can go out into, and be effective in, the harvest fields. The horizon and city skyline — on a sky-blue background that reminds us to share the love of Christ — symbolize that the harvest fields are everywhere, in both rural and urban areas. The wheat in the foreground ties in with the convention verse: "... open your eyes and look at the fields. They are ripe for harvest." Pulling all the elements together are the words, "Lord, Open My Eyes," bringing the focus back to Christ, who leads and guides us on our work in the harvest fields.



Come Mix and Mingle

A meet and greet reception will be held on Thursday, June 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church at 14200 Memorial Drive. Maps and transportation to Christ Memorial will be available at the information booth. The reception is a great opportunity to meet new sisters (and brothers) in Christ and reconnect with old friends. You don't want to miss it!

2008 Convention Goal

As a Lutheran woman in mission my eyes will be opened to God's vision for mission and His role for me.

Attn. Delegates!

Attend Your Zone Caucus

Delegates: You will receive valuable information from your zone president at your caucus. You have the opportunity to receive and share information regarding mission grants, candidates and convention procedure. This can be a good time for first-time delegates to feel informed, at ease and able to make intelligent choices.

Report Delegate Changes

Delegates, if there are changes or additions at the convention, you must present a signed form or written note from the society president to the Credentials Chairman.

Bushel Basket

Choir

Attention singers! Choir practice is at 2 p.m. on Thursday afternoon in the Grand Ballroom.

Attention Tellers!

Tellers meet at 1 p.m. Thursday in Briarpark 3.

A big thank you!!

We'd like to thank Lutheran High North and Lutheran High South for providing vans for our use.

We also want to thank Christ Memorial ladies for hosting the Board of Director's meal and the Meet and Greet at their church.

Have an Officer Change?

Report change of president and treasurer along with their addresses to the Vice President of Servant Resources.

No Walk/Run

There will not be a convention walk/run, but hotel guests are welcome to use the Health Club facilities.

Endowing Tomorrow

Campaign Participants

Be prepared to grab a purple hat and join the committee for their **convention presentation** on Friday morning probably around 10 a.m. Hats are available if you didn't bring yours from the Beaumont convention.

Jam Session

This committee is hosting a **"75th Anniversary Campaign Jam Session"** at noon on Friday in the Ballroom. **Please join us with your box lunch** to be informed of the particulars of this important effort! Ask questions, affirm the campaign, express concerns, hear testimonials of participants and beneficiaries of the endowments. **Hope to see YOU!**

Purple Hatters

See someone with a **purple hat sticker** on their name tag? **ASK** her why she is wearing it!

Exhibit Booth

Come by the committee's exhibit booth (right next to the Lutheran Foundation of Texas booth) and **register for a fantastic door**



prize! A beautiful 18"x20" framed watercolor painting entitled *Like the Lilies of the Field* will be given to some blessed registrant!

The painting is the fourth in a new watercolor collection of spring flower paintings created by **Janet Hurta** of McGregor especially for the LWML.

Presidents' Autographs

Set times for **Past District Presidents** to be giving **autographs** as published in the spring issue of *Linked by Love* have **NOT** been scheduled. However, if you wish one or all of them to autograph your convention manual or the Texas District LWML History Book, feel free to ask. Pat, Eloise and Peggy will be working the exhibit at varied times, and Peggy will also be working at the Lutheran Braille Workers booth. Health issues prevent Marcella Gaus Olivier and Pearl Biar from attending the convention — remember them in prayer.

Prayer Corner

Lord, we ask you to hold your hand of blessing over this meeting of your servants. Grant that all we do redound to your glory. Amen.

Come to Austin 2010!

Members of the Capitol Zone are eager for you to stop by the Austin 2010 exhibit booth. Sign up for gifts to be given away each day. Exciting and historical places to see abound in Austin. The Capitol Zone looks forward to your visit to Austin in 2010!



First Aid/Health Ministry Room

Where is it?

- Salon 2, off the main hallway, next to the Prayer Room.

What's available?

- First Aid
- Free Blood pressure screening
- Health and wellness information
- Texas District Parish Nurse information/display
- Health care professionals to help with concerns

When is it open?

Thursday.....12 p.m.–6 p.m.
 Friday8 a.m.–6 p.m.
 Saturday.....8 a.m.–6 p.m.
 Sunday8 a.m. until the worship service begins

Who would we call for emergencies?

For **major emergencies** within the hotel any time ... **CALL THE HOTEL OPERATOR** ... "0" for 911 response, first.

For other health concerns, or after hours, the following nurses are available via cell phones:

- Dottie Simon.....(832) 859-0863
- Pam Lawther.....(713) 256-4009
- Margaret Twinn...(936) 577-4945
- Louise Nuttall.....(281) 734-3577
- Audrey Werner....(469) 525-8694

*****PLEASE NOTE***** Dial "0" for a major emergency ... It is essential for emergency response teams to be able to locate the area of emergency within the hotel, so the hotel operator will dial 911 for you.

Health card in nametag

There is a card titled Health Information Form included in your packet. Please complete this form and place it behind your name badge. This will enable medical personnel to be aware of

Nearby places to eat

In the Marriott Westchase

- Republic Grill (a Texas Grill featuring specialty items as well as a full menu of tempting favorites)
- Starbucks Coffee (specialty coffee drinks, beverages and pastries)
- A hotel gift shop with snacks

- Godfather's Pizza (pizza)
- Subway (sandwich shop)
- Forno's of Italy (Italian food, piano bar, casual attire)
- Marble Slab Creamery (ice cream and frozen yogurt shop)
- Wolfgang Puck Express (soups, sandwiches, salads, pizza)
- Schlotzsky's (sandwich shop with fresh baked breads)
- Outback Steakhouse (Australian theme featuring steaks, ribs, chicken, etc., casual attire)
- Starbucks Coffee (specialty coffee drinks, beverages and pastries)

Nearby Eateries

Eateries in the nearby Carillon Shopping Complex on Westheimer:

- La Madeleine (French bakery and cafe)
- Chili's (restaurant/bar and grill)

Come shop LWML!

It's time to shop!!! Have you stopped by the LWML Store yet? There are several new LWML brand items (including the new LWML Lammie), teen items and much, much more! The LWML Store is located in the Richmond Rooms — so take time to stop by!

LWML Store Hours:

- Thursday: Noon–5 p.m.
- Friday: 7 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday: 7 a.m.–5 p.m.



Human Care Opportunities

Project C.U.R.E. and LINC Off-Site Events

Participants sign in at the Servant Event table in the registration area at the same time you register for the convention. Everyone must fill out and turn in a release form with emergency contact and medical insurance information.

9:45 a.m. Saturday: Project C.U.R.E. participants will assemble their car-pools, check in with the event hostess at the Servant Event table, and drive to the distribution center for a 10 a.m. video presentation followed by work at the center until noon. Please, remem-

ber to wear comfortable work clothes and closed shoes.

Morning (9:45) and afternoon (2:15) "Pray the City Bus Tour" participants check in with their hostess at the bus, which will be located near the Convention Entrance. Wear comfortable clothing.

The Project C.U.R.E. event is full, but there are openings on the bus tours. If you have a heart for the city, please sign up! An enrichment session schedule will be available so that you can avoid conflicts.



Where to bring your items:

Bring items to Briarpark 1&2 by lunchtime Friday. A Human Care person from each zone will carry an item to the service Friday night. Please, pick up an item and get last minute instructions by 7 p.m. Friday. Check the bulletin and be at the back of the Ballroom with your item in time for the dedication procession. Thanks!

Stamporee!

Visit the Stamporee table in the Human Care Room (Briarpark 1&2) and register to win 50 envelopes with 42-cent postage affixed on each (a \$21 value). Packages of 20 religious Christmas cards and 42-cent postage affixed on each are available for \$10. Plain white envelopes with 42-cent postage applied on each are \$5 per package of 20 (a value of \$8.40). **All proceeds go to LWR Project Comfort.**

Human Care/ Hands-On Room

Stop by Briarpark 1&2 whenever it's open! There will be lots of hands-on opportunities, including stamp trimming, quilt tying, Bible marking, postcard writing, bookmark and card making, and Ingathering sorting and distribution.

Come to the Hands-On Room any time during the Enrichment Session times on Saturday, and other times when you're looking for fellowship and something to do.

Baby Quilt Banners & Stands

Zones may bring baby banner quilts to Briarpark 1&2 to be labeled and prepared for hanging. If you have banner stands, they should probably go to the Ballroom. Be sure both are labeled before you leave them! Each banner will have a streamer with the zone name, and we need to label the stands so you will get them back! Please, arrange to retrieve them on Sunday!

News for The Harvester

Do you have some news to harvest? If so, drop it off in one of the labeled buckets placed around the convention center. We'd love to hear funny convention stories, family firsts and other items you'd like to share! The deadline is 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday.



GO ... let your light shine!!!!

God calls us to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." in Matthew 28:18-20. Look for the opportunities to do just that this weekend. Be prepared to let your light shine through your words and actions.

For help and encouragement stop by the Gospel Outreach booth. Pick up some free material, have a sweet treat and sign up for some door prizes.



Teen News!

Come hang out by the pool Friday night after the worship service. We'll begin 15 minutes after the close of worship to talk, play games, meet new friends and have a short devotion. Any Friends Into Serving Him members and all ladies 10-18 years are welcome to join us.



Be on the LOOKOUT for YWRs

Just in case you didn't know who your YWR is, we have designed a sure way you'll be able to identify them. If you thought the weather in Houston was hot ... just wait until you see what these ladies will be wearing! These young ladies are here and ready to learn some valuable strategies on how to get young women involved in the LWML. Be on the lookout for these ladies, and when you see one, tell her how happy you are that she is here.



NOTE to Zone YWRs

Ladies, don't forget to meet us in the Rose Garden room (not Briarpark #3 as previously mentioned) for all of our scheduled times together, including our 3:30 p.m. Saturday enrichment session. We will be providing you with some valuable resources to be used as you serve your term. We'll also be practicing for our Sunday devotion on Saturday afternoon as well.

Calling all Convention Young Women ...

The Committee on Young Women is inviting ALL the young women attending the convention to a special fellowship "picnic" Saturday during the convention lunchtime in the Rose Garden Room. If you are between the ages of 18-35, please bring your box lunch and join us. We look forward to sharing this fellowship time together.

Notes About Your Name Badge

Please wear your name badge at all times. The stars on your name badge are your tickets to extras that you ordered. If you have a yellow star, please pick up your T-shirt in the registration area. Orange stars are for your box lunch on Friday and pink stars are for Saturday lunches. Either a purple or red star is for the banquet on Saturday.

To make your stay at the convention

enjoyable and safe, please take a few minutes to complete the information on the back of your name badge. It will help first aid if they know someone you want them to contact both at home and a convention contact. Please make sure your convention contact knows where your insurance information is and also knows the medications you are taking.

Thanks from Our Registrar

Thank you for all your prayers, cards and messages following my diagnosis of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. Learning what could have happened and knowing because of answered prayers my body started fighting back quickly and healing began and continues. I still have weeks of physical therapy ahead of me, but God willing I will return to teaching in August. Our God is awesome! ~ Ann Schueler

Child Care Details

Child Care is being provided on Friday and Saturday from 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the convention hotel in Westchase 3 & 4 for children up through 12 years of age. On-site activities will include Bible study, games and crafts. Off-site activities include a day trip to the Children's Museum on Friday and lunch at Chuck-E-Cheese on Saturday.



For you a rose ...

... is waiting, at the Portland 2009 LWML convention exhibit.

Come and visit with Host Committee Chairman Julia Riess and native Texan and Host Committee Communications Coordinator Edie Norris.

You can also purchase your 2009 convention shirt, which you will certainly want to wear when you come to Portland - June 25-28, 2009.

Portland 2009