

CONVENTIONS

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District convenes for business and spiritual enrichment every two years, in the even-numbered years. So that plans can be made in a timely manner, the District has been divided into regions (regions and proposed year for that region are listed below) and will rotate the convention around the District. Five years prior to convention year the zones in that region will be contacted by the Convention Coordinator and encouraged to host the convention.

The program will include a three-day convention beginning with a divine worship service on Thursday evening and concluding with the installation of officers and a closing devotion on Saturday. Pre-convention activities on Thursday may include opening the prayer room, servant events, mission service activities on site, exhibits, YWR activities, meet the officers and candidates, choir rehearsal and many more activities.

To help with the planning process, the LWML Texas District has prepared the document *Guidelines for Hosting a District Convention for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District*. These guidelines are reviewed and updated as needed after each convention. In this document is a suggested timeline the Host Committee can use as a guide to carry out its duties. The policies also include general and specific guidelines for the personnel of the Host Committee (HC) and LWML Texas District Executive Committee (EC). Specific procedures for every aspect of convention planning are covered in this document, and every effort is made by the HC and EC to adhere to these policies.

Guidelines for Hosting a District Convention for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District can be obtained by contacting the LWML Texas District Convention Coordinator or the LWML Texas District President.

Zones in a region interested in hosting a district convention should send a note to the LWML Texas District President five years prior November 1 of odd-numbered year.

The Convention Coordinator and District President will work closely with an outside negotiator to locate several possible convention sites that provide a reasonably priced location and make recommendations to the EC. The Board of Directors will select the convention site at the pre-convention Board of Directors meeting four years prior to the convention. The District President will negotiate and sign the contract with the venue after the selection has been approved. The convention location (city or general location) will be announced to the convention attendees four years prior to the convention. The exact site cannot be announced until after a contract has been signed in order to ensure the best possible contract is obtained.

Other questions regarding hosting a convention can be directed to the LWML

Texas District Convention Coordinator.

Regions for LWML Texas District Convention according to current zones:

1. (2026) Capitol
2. (2028) Dal-North, Texas Star, Northeast Texas, East Texas, Trinity
3. (2030) Heart of Texas, Panhandle, West Texas, South Plains, Red River
4. (2032) Sunshine, Central Texas, Post Oak, Bluebonnet
5. (2034) Golden Triangle, Golden Harvest, New Horizon, Gulf Coast, Bayou City, White Oak
6. (2036) North Alamo, Mid Coast, Coastal Bend, Rio Grande Valley

District Convention Responsibilities

A. Dates

1. June is the customary month of the convention.
2. Date will depend on site availability.

B. Theme

The zone(s) chosen to host the convention forms the Host Committee (HC) as outlined in the *Guidelines for Hosting a District Convention for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District*. The HC suggests theme(s), goal(s) and objectives for the convention to the District Executive Committee (EC) by their fall meeting, even-numbered year, two years prior to convention. The EC makes the final decision.

C. Logo

At their regularly scheduled fall meeting of even-numbered years two years prior to the convention, the EC forms a committee to develop logo(s) and/or solicit ideas. The District Vice President of Communication is to serve as chairman of the Logo Design Committee and should be totally responsible for contact with the graphic designer. At least one member of the HC is to be included in Logo Design Committee and is responsible for obtaining approval of the HC on designs to be presented to EC. Logo colors should be limited to two. It is suggested that no more than two logo designs be presented to the EC. The EC approves the convention logo at their regularly scheduled spring EC meeting, odd-numbered year.

D. Executive Committee (EC)

The role of the LWML Texas District EC includes all decisions requiring doctrinal review (such as theme, logo, Bible verse chosen), programming (such as speakers, agenda, exhibitors), registration, publicity, and financial (setting a budget, registration fees, meal cost limits, entertainment).

E. Host Committee (HC)

The role of the HC is to provide the workers, facilities, equipment, decorations and items needed at the location to ensure convention participants' needs are met. The HC may add a local perspective to the convention experience through input on the

theme, the decorations, convention attire, food, suggestions for speakers and entertainment, musicians, and suggestions for local opportunities for mission service, Gifts from the Heart, offering recipients, servant events and tours or local points of interest. Many decisions of the HC require EC approval. The HC Chairman works closely with the Convention Coordinator to determine when EC approval is needed.

Directives for Convention Delegates

- Be present at all sessions of the convention; do not leave an alternate to serve except for serious reason.
- If necessary, for a delegate to vacate her seat, it is compulsory for the elected alternate to be officially registered as a delegate through the convention Credentials Chairman (District Vice President of Organizational Resources).
- Be seated, ready to give attention to proceedings by the time session begins.
- If a group, zone or individual delegate wishes to present an item of business before the assembly, the motion should be written in resolution form and presented to the Resolutions Committee Chairman for presentation to the floor.
- Review the convention standing rules printed in the convention manual and follow all directives.
- A delegate wishing to speak to a motion before the assembly may do so in the following manner:
 1. Go to a floor microphone.
 2. Face the chair and say “Madam President” or “Madam Chairman”.
 3. Be recognized by the Chair.
 4. The delegate announces her name and zone or office she represents.
 5. The delegate remains standing and speaks in debate no longer than two (2) minutes.
 6. The delegate yields the floor by being seated.
 7. No one may speak a second time on the same motion on the same day as long as any other member who has not spoken on this motion desires the floor.
 8. No one may speak more than twice on a subject unless consent is given by the voting body.
 9. As far as possible, debate shall be alternated between those favoring and those opposing the measure.
- A delegate is free to vote as she sees fit on questions at the convention, except as her group or zone may have instructed her in regard to particular matters scheduled for consideration.
- A delegate should be prepared, on returning from the convention, to present to her group or zone an information report of what transpired.

LWML Texas District Standing Rule #7

Campaigning, demonstrations, and politicking regarding mission grants and programs shall be limited to outside the convention floor. (AC 1975; amended EC 2002)

Nine Ways to Get More Out of a Convention

Be prepared! If you are prepared, you are less likely to fail in the task given to you. If you have been selected to serve as a delegate, you have also been given the privilege and responsibility to vote for mission grants, new officers, and to enrich your own spiritual growth.

To build up your confidence in your role as a delegate, here are nine suggestions to help you over the hurdles.

1. Evaluate the program in advance. Study each session, speaker and social function. You may not be able to attend everything, so decide and underline the “must” sessions.
2. Study the mission grant proposals. Watch the mission grant video if available. Share the information given to you with your group or zone members; you are representing them. You should know their feelings on the issues. Pray together so that the Lord may show you where help is needed most.
3. Carefully read information provided on the slate of officers, presented in the convention manual. There is a good chance that you will not know any of the candidates personally. Weigh their experience and backgrounds and ask the Lord for guidance. Your decisions will be vital. You will help to decide who will govern the affairs of our LWML for the next biennium.
4. The convention is a perfect opportunity to share ideas which have worked in your area or concerns and problems with which you are faced. Have a booklet or note pad to enable you to write down anything you might want to discuss or bring to the attention of fellow leaguers. Use this booklet to make notes all through the convention on anything you feel might be helpful later on. Don't trust your memory. If you don't know who can assist you with a given problem, consult an officer or an LWML pastoral counselor. Either will be happy to steer you in the right direction.
5. Circulate, introduce yourself. Approach new people. Eat with someone different at each meal. But do not dominate all conversations...listen. The most useful information is usually obtained this way.
6. Do not leave the convention at any time to pursue some “pleasures” of your own. Your constituents selected you because they thought you were the best woman for the job, so live up to that confidence. You might also keep in mind the amount of money invested in you and in the convention.
7. Spend some time in prayer every morning before you get into the busy schedule of the day. This brings your day into the right perspective. You will emerge with gladness and courage in your heart. God is within you, and you cannot help but share and spread this joy with all the people around you.
8. As the convention draws to a close and you begin to wonder how you can ever begin to bring back to your group and zone what you have learned and experienced – don't despair! Read your convention manual again and the “little book,” which should be filled with notes by now, and many things will fall into place. Make every effort to pass on whatever material you received that may help your group, zone or district officers. If you were fortunate to have another leaguer with you, you can compare notes and give joint reports. You will bring the convention alive once more as you relive those exciting days for your listeners.
9. Give thanks and glory to God for He enabled you to be an ambassador for Him and the LWML. Renew your vows and “Serve the LORD with Gladness.”

Adapted from work of Elsa Neuner
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