



*The Missouri District
of the International
Lutheran Laymen's League*

*Seventy-five Years of Service
1942-2017*



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Introduction

The Missouri District of the Lutheran Laymen's League was organized in 1942. Over the next seventy-five years, countless Lutheran men and women in the Missouri District LLL have worked diligently to support this organization by participating in activities and volunteering to serve in leadership roles in local clubs, zones, and at the district level. Fellowship gatherings over the years have included dart ball tournaments, card parties, bowling, golf tournaments, and other activities. Local dinners, zone rallies, district conventions, and International LLL conventions and conferences have provided opportunities for fellowship and to hear speakers present information about the many ministries of the LLL and other Lutheran organizations such as the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Orphan Grain Train. Donations in support of student assistance have aided many students attending Lutheran high schools and universities who are planning to enter full time church work.

This booklet has been compiled in an effort to document some of the history of the Missouri District of the LLL and to recognize many of the people who have served in leadership roles in the District. Jack Johnson, Herbert Kramer and Brian Mitchell have provided much of the information contained in this document.

Undoubtedly we have left out the names of many people who have played important roles in our District. Certainly the wives of many of the men who have served in leadership roles in our zones and at the District level have assisted in ways too numerous to mention. Many pastors have been strong supporters of the LLL and have participated in zone rallies and other LLL functions. And many individuals in our clubs and zones have donated time, effort and financial resources to support the activities of the LLL.

It is hoped that more of our members over time will provide information that can allow us to expand the content of this document and make it a more complete historical account of the Missouri District LLL. Perhaps as you read through this document you may recall events and/or names of people you found to be memorable in your experiences with the Missouri District LLL. If you have any ideas about how we can improve this historical account, please feel free to share them with members of the District leadership team. If you have memories of your experiences with the District LLL that you would like to have included in a future version of this historical document, please send them to Brian Mitchell so they can be added to the section on "Memories of Past and Present Leaders."

We hope you enjoy this version of the history of our Missouri District LLL.

History of Missouri District LLL Organizational Meeting

Since the year 1917, the National Lutheran Laymen's League, an organization comprised of laymen of The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, had been in operation. Harboring the thought that greater interest on the part of individuals, as well as men's clubs within individual congregations, would be manifested if subdivisions of the national body be made, or groups be organized on a state-wide basis to act as auxiliary sections of the national or parent body, the initiative was taken by a small group of laymen to extend invitations to the then existing men's clubs to send delegates to a called meeting to discuss this further.

The initial meeting was held in the Parish Hall of Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Missouri, on February 15, 1942, with 42 delegates present.

The meeting was opened by the local Pastor, Rev. A. C. Schmalz; and Mr. Paul H. Kleinhammer, President of the local Men's Club, welcomed the delegates.

Mr. Gilbert P. Muchow, St. Louis, was chosen temporary Chairman; Mr. William Sippel, Jefferson City, was elected Secretary Pro Tem.

The Chairman then elaborated on the purpose of the meeting and encouraged full discussions. He was supported by remarks by Mr. Irving B. Kunz and Mr. T. G. Eggers, Executive Secretary of the National Lutheran Laymen's League. Mr. Eggers stressed the projects sponsored by the National LLL during the 25 years since organization, such as paying off Synod's indebtedness, The Lutheran Hour, Pension Fund, etc.

To the men who supported the work leading to this meeting much credit is due. They are the following:

Mr. Irving B. Kunz, Emmaus Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri
Mr. Paul Kleinhammer, Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Missouri
Mr. Arthur Groh, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri
Mr. O. J. Brachman, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri
Rev. R. Borth, Eisleben Lutheran Church, Illmo, Missouri
Mr. Gilbert Muchow, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri
Mr. T. G. Eggers, Executive Secretary of the LLL, St. Louis, Missouri

Following a fruitful meeting, a resolution was adopted to organize the then affiliated men's clubs and individual members into a state organization and that such organizational meeting be held Sunday, May 17, 1942, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, Missouri.

The Chairman then appointed a Constitutional and By-Laws Committee composed of Rev. R. Borth, Illmo, Missouri; Mr. E. C. Charle, St. Louis, Missouri; Mr. A. J. Blackman, Kansas City, Missouri; Mr. Otto Schmalfeldt, Boonville, Missouri; and Mr. Paul Kleinhammer, Jefferson City, Missouri.

The Chairman was instructed to appoint a committee of five to serve as a Program Committee. The following served on this Committee: Messrs. T. G. Eggers, G. P. Muchow, Irving Kunz, Arthur Groh, and Eskel Jones of Washington, Missouri.

The formal organizational meeting was called to order as planned on May 17, 1942, with 45 delegates present.

The first order of business was to hear reports of the committees appointed at the previous meeting. The rough draft of the constitution and by-laws was read and duly adopted, with the proviso that it be sent to all clubs in the state for their ratification. It was recommended that all members in Missouri be considered as charter members of the state organization. There being no proviso for state dues, it was decided that dues be paid on a voluntary basis.

An election of officers was then held, with the result showing the following as the first officers of the Missouri District LLL:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| President: | Martin Rau, Kansas City, Missouri |
| Vice President: | Irving B. Kunz, St. Louis, Missouri |
| Secretary: | William H. Sippel, Jefferson City, Missouri |
| Treasurer: | John H. Nolting, Wellston, Missouri |
| Board Member: | Paul Kleinhammer, Jefferson City, Missouri |
| Board Member: | Alvin A. Welp, Kirkwood, Missouri |
| Board Member: | T. P. Popp, Frohna, Missouri |

The Installation of Officers was conducted with Rev. R. Borth officiating.

Mr. T. G. Eggers then gave an address filled with “food for thought” on the subject “Twenty-five Years of Service.”

Note: This historical account of the organization of the Missouri District of the Lutheran Laymen’s League was compiled by Herbert Kramer, Past President of the Missouri District and long-time member of the Board of Governors. It originally appeared in the convention booklet for the 29th Missouri District LLL Convention held in St. Louis, MO on October 2-3, 1971.

People Growing the Missouri District

Note: The following information was compiled by Jack Johnson, Past President of the Missouri District LLL, and long-time Editor of the Show-Me News, a publication of the District.

Initial meeting (February 15, 1942)

Purpose: Consider organizing the Missouri District

Location Trinity Lutheran School, Jefferson City

Attending

Rev. Alfred C Schmalz, pastor Trinity, Jefferson City

Paul Kleinhammer, president Trinity Men's Club, JC

Gilbert P. Mucho, St. Louis, elected committee chairman

William Sippel, JC, elected secretary

Irving B. Kunz, St. Louis

T.G. Eggers, Executive Secretary National LLL

Rev. Reinholt Borth, pastor Eisleben, Illmo, Mo.

And 35 others (Total 42)

Meeting results

Definite need to form a district

Second meeting planned for May 17, 1942, Trinity School, JC

All local clubs invited

Constitution and Bylaws committee appointed

Paul Klienhammer, JC, chairman

Rev. Reinholt Borth, Illmo

E. C. Charle, St. Louis

A. J. Brackman, Kansas City

Otto Schmalfeldt, Boonville

Program Committee

T. G. Eggers, St. Louis

G. P Mucho, St. Louis

Irvin Kunz, St. Louis

Arthur Groh, Washington

Eskel Jones, Washington

Organizational meeting (May 17, 1942)

Draft of Constitution and Bylaws adopted

Sent to all 34 affiliated clubs

All clubs and individual members considered charter members

Elected officers

President, Martin Rau, Kansas City

Vice President, Irving Kunz, St. Louis

Secretary, William Sippel, JC

Treasurer, John H. Nolting, Wellston

Board Members

Paul H. Kleinhammer, JC (3 year term)

Alvin R. Welp, Kirkwood (2 year term)

T. P. Popp, Frohna (1 year term)

Installed by Rev. Reinholt Borth

First Convention (June 20, 1943) Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington
112 delegates and visitors
Existing officers reelected
Board member elected, Walter A. Eggers, Farrar (3 year term)

Second Convention (1944) was cancelled due to WWII
Board of Governors retained the existing officers and board members

Third Convention (October 14, 1945) Trinity Lutheran Church, JC
Following recommendations of the board were adopted

1. Divide the district into zones
2. Request zones to appoint a Zone Membership Supervisor to work under the district Membership Chairman
3. Complete #1 during current year
4. Develop a zone and district athletic program. (Never developed)
5. Coordinate district Boy Scout activities
6. Develop a camp site
7. Promote the Seminar Program
8. District Scholarship Program

Fourth Convention (October 13, 1946) St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sedalia
Board of Governors authorized to incorporate the district
Board membership amended to include Elected Officers, immediate past president, one member from each zone and the Pastoral Advisor

District Conventions

First five conventions were one-day starting Sunday afternoon
In 1948, two-day conventions started
1:00 p.m. Saturday to 3:00 p.m. Sunday
Worship at host congregation
In 1954, membership breakfasts were held before worship services
Discontinued after 33 years in 1987
In 1965 the convention started at 10:00 a.m.
Several workshops were held starting at 8:30 a.m.
Workshops discontinued in 1970, revived from 1988-1990
In 1966 Sunday worship was held at the beginning of the convention
Bible Class was held prior to the worship service
From 1967 Sunday worship was led by the Pastoral Advisor and the President of the Missouri District LCMS
Conventions adjourned at 11:00 a.m.
Starting in 1970 conventions opened with a 10:00 a.m. communion service. In 1978 the communion service started at 9:00 a.m.

District Officers

| President | | | Vice President | |
|------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1942-45 | Martin Rau | Kansas City | Irving B. Kunz | St. Louis |
| 1945-47 | Irving B. Kunz | St. Louis | Milton Wegner | Kansas City |
| 1947-49 | Milton Wegner | Kansas City | Paul H. Kleinhammer | Jefferson City |
| 1949-51 | Paul H. Kleinhammer | Jefferson City | Walter A. Eggers | Farrar |
| 1951-53 | Walter A. Eggers | Farrar | E. F. Tieman | Higginsville |
| 1953-54 | E. F. Tieman | Higginsville | Earl K. Moentmann | Norborne |
| 1954-57 | Earl K. Moentmann | Norborne | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1957-59 | John H. Nolting | Wellston | Anton Weber | Jefferson City |
| 1959-60 | Anton Weber | Jefferson City | Walter Burmeister | Kansas City |
| 1960-62 | Walter Burmeister | Kansas City | Gerd Tonges | Carthage |
| 1962-64 | Gerd Tonges | Carthage | Otto Michael | Jefferson City |
| 1964-66 | Wm. Clayton Hansel | Carrolton | Herbert Kramer | Lee's Summit |
| 1966-68 | Wm. Clayton Hansel | Carrolton | Harry Goldammer | Jefferson City |
| 1968-69 | Harry Goldammer | Jefferson City | Herbert F. Kramer | Lee's Summit |
| 1969-70 | Herbert F. Kramer | Lee's Summit | Gary Weber | St. Louis |
| 1970-71 | Herbert F. Kramer | Lee's Summit | Oscar A. Walther | Jefferson City |
| 1971-73 | Oscar A. Walther | Jefferson City | Raymond Behrens | Eldon |
| 1973-75 | Ray Kellerhals | St. Louis | Jack Johnson | Jefferson City |
| 1975-77 | Jack Johnson | Jefferson City | Larry Schmidt | St. Louis |
| 1977-80 | Larry Schmidt | St. Louis | Gerald Kruse | Brunswick |
| 1980-84 | Gerald Kruse | Brunswick | Donald Roth | Farrar |
| 1984-88 | Donald Roth | Farrar | Albert Haas | Rolla |
| 1988-92 | Albert Haas | Rolla | Elroy Heimsoth | Poplar Bluff |
| 1992-96 | Don Ohrenberg | Lee's Summit | Earl "Skip" Eno | Jefferson City |
| 1996-00 | Earl "Skip" Eno | Jefferson City | Earl Meyer | Lincoln |
| 2000-04 | W. W. Bill Hunt | Columbia | Richard Schmidt | Perryville |
| 2004-08 | Richard Schmidt | Perryville | Brian Mitchell | Lee's Summit |
| 2008-12 | Brian Mitchell | Lee's Summit | James Harms | Columbia |
| 2012-16 | James Harms | Columbia | Harvey Lonneke | Jackson |
| 2016- | Harvey Loenneke | Jackson | Alan Turley | Fenton |

Secretary**Treasurer**

| | | | | |
|---------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1942-45 | William H. Sippel | Jefferson City | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1945-47 | Paul H. Kleinhammer | Jefferson City | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1947-48 | W. A. Schuete | Washington | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1948-49 | Edwin F. Hollmann | Emma | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1949-50 | Edwin F. Hollmann | Emma | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1950-51 | Emil R. Lindermann | Alma | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1951-53 | Earl K. Moentmann | Norborne | John H. Nolting | Wellston |
| 1953-54 | John H. Nolting | Wellston | Gerd Tonges | Carthage |
| 1954-55 | Melvin W. Schroeder | St. Clair | Gerd Tonges | Carthage |
| 1955-56 | Melvin W. Schroede | St. Clair | Gerd Tonges | Springfield |
| 1956-57 | Anton Weber | Jefferson City | Gerd Tonges | Springfield |
| 1957-59 | Walter Burmeister | Kansas City | Gerd Tonges | Springfield |
| 1959-60 | Gerd Tonges | Springfield | Arthur J. Koenig | St. Louis |
| 1960-62 | Raymond Holsten | Concordia | Arthur J. Koenig | St. Louis |
| | | | 4/62 Arno Lehenbauer | St. Louis |
| 1962-64 | Herbert F. Kramer | Lee's Summit | Leland Meyer | Higginsville |
| 1964-66 | Gerald Kruse | Brunswick | Charles B. Schmidt | Farmington |
| 1966-67 | Harold Bohling | Columbia | Raymond Behrens | Eldon |
| 1967-69 | Walter Kramer | Alma | Raymond Behrens | Eldon |
| 1969-70 | Jack Johnson | Jefferson City | Raymond Behrens | Eldon |
| 1970-72 | Jack Johnson | Jefferson City | William Baumer | Paducah, KY |
| 1972-73 | Ray Kellerhals | St. Louis | William Baumer | Paducah, KY |
| 1973-74 | Dave Poertner | St. Charles | William Baumer | Paducah, KY |
| 1974-76 | Dave Poertner | St. Charles | Maurice Burger | Carrollton |
| 1976-78 | Elroy Heimsoth | Poplar Bluff | Maurice Burger | Carrollton |
| 1978-80 | Donald Roth | Farrar | Reinhart Fajen | Warsaw |
| 1980-82 | Roger Engelby | Jefferson City | Reinhart Fajen | Warsaw |
| 1982-84 | Roger Engelby | Jefferson City | Clemens Koch | Palmyra |
| 1984-88 | Don Ohrenberg | Warrendburg | Oliver Bachmann | Crosstown |
| 1988-92 | Earl Meyer | Lincoln | Don Ohrenberg | Lexington |
| 1992-96 | Ed Knoernschild | Cole Camp | James Harms | Columbia |
| 1996-00 | Richard Schmidt | Perryville | Darrel Voltmer | Craig |
| 2000-04 | Darrel Voltmer | Craig | James Harms | Columbia |
| 2004-08 | James Harms | Columbia | Markus Reinke | Concordia |
| 2008-12 | Kenneth Weber | Sweet Springs | Harvey Loenneke | Jackson |
| 2012-16 | Alan Turley | Fenton | Marc Nolte | Warsaw |
| 2016- | Darrell Voltmer | Craig | Brian Mitchell | Lee's Summit |

Pastoral Advisors

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1942-45 | Rev. Reinholt Borth | Illmo |
| 1946-49 | Rev. H. C. Harting | Emma |
| 1950-56 | Rev. Carl F. Schmidt | Pevely |
| 1957-60 | Rev. William J. Wollenburg | Jefferson City |
| 1961-65 | Rev. W. J. Boehne | Cole Camp |
| | Died 3/30/65 | |
| 4/65-7/67 | Rev. A. Herbert Muhl | St. Louis |
| | Accepted call | |
| 4/67-12/67 | Rev. Alfred Rodewald | Washington |
| 1/68-5/72 | Rev. Rolland Nothwehr | Lincoln |
| 6/72-1976 | Rev. Alvin Lange | Norborne |
| 1977-4/78 | Rev. Gary Clayton | Cole Camp |
| | Accepted call | |
| 4/78-8/80 | Rev. Lloyd Weiland | Higginsville |
| | Resigned | |
| 9/80-1/81 | Rev. E. M Priess | Columbia |
| | Resigned – Health | |
| 4/81-85 | Rev. Joseph Bragg | Marshfield |
| 1986-89 | Rev. Larry Hintz | Flat River/Springfield |
| 1990-93 | Rev. Erhard Wolf | Sedalia |
| 1994-97 | Rev. Gary R. Clayton | Concordia |
| 1998-98 | Rev. Peter Kurowski | California |
| | Resigned – Health | |
| 1999-02 | Rev. Warren Brandt | Lohman |
| 2003-06 | Rev. Douglas Dubisar | Marshall |
| 2007-10 | Rev. Kenneth Tatkenhorst | Sedalia |
| 2011-12 | Rev. Craig Otto | Lee's Summit |
| 2014- | Rev. Peter Lange | Eldon |

District Funding

- The first year was volunteer contributions from clubs
 - Proved ineffective
 - Clubs assessed dues of \$2.00
- Starting in 1943, 10% of roll call membership was returned to the district
 - This amount was insufficient to fund the district
 - Club assessment continued (many clubs ignored it)
- In 1954 the rebate amount was increased to 20%
 - Club assessments were dropped
 - In 1956, zones received 25% of the district rebate amount
- In 1985, rebates were discontinued and funds were requested based on needs

Funding Efforts

Estate Planning

- Estate Planning Workshops were held in cooperation with LCMS District
- Bequests were a large part of LLL income

Estate Planning Chairman

- 1980-1983 Jack Johnson, Jefferson City
- 1984 None
- 1985-1988 Albert Haas, Rolla
- 1989-1991 Wayne Engelbrecht, Jefferson City
- 1992 Reorganization eliminated position

Membership Chairman

- 1946-1947 William Sippel, Jefferson City
- 1948-1951 Hugo Winter, Uniontown
- 1952 Milton Wegner, Kansas City
- 1953 Marc Schweder, Norborne
- 1954-1957 Walter Eggers, Farrar
- 1958-1966 Harry Goldammer, Jefferson City
- 1967 Ken Gerdes, St. Louis
- 1967 Harry Goldammer, Jefferson City
- 1968-1972 Ray Kellerhals, St. Louis
- 1973-1976 Billy Korell, St. Joseph
- 1977-1978 Roger Engelby, Jefferson City

Renamed Development Chairman

- 1979-1980 Roger Engelby, Jefferson City
- 1981-1984 Albert Haas, Rolla
- 1985-1988 Elroy Heimsoth, Poplar Bluff
- 1989-1991 Jerry Ideker, Holt
- 1992 Reorganization

Renamed Outreach Chairman

- 1995-2007 Elroy Heimsoth, Jackson
- 2007-2008 Alan Turley, Fenton
- 2008- Richard Schmidt, Perry

Ambassador Coordinator (established 2008)

2008-2013 Alan Turley, Fenton

2013- Brian Mitchell, Lee's Summit

Lutheran Hour Chairman

1952-1954 Melvin Schroeder, Union

1955-1955 William Sippel, Jefferson City (resigned in Aug. health)

1956-1957 Norbert Meisler, Union

1958-1962 William Schoder, St. Louis (resigned in Apr. cannot attend meetings)

1962-1963 Ray Holtsen, Concordia, (resigned in Apr. job transfer)

1963-1971 Otis Korslund, Carrollton

1972-1973 Raymond Behrens, Eldon

1974-1978 Oscar Walther, Jefferson City

1979 Reorganization

Lutheran Television

In 1967 the LLL became cosponsor with synod for Lutheran Television.

To raise funds, the TITLE Guarantor Sponsor Plan was introduced.

Team Presentations were introduced in 1969 to assist in fundraising.

Television Chairman

1968-1969 Clayton Hansel, Carrollton

1970-1973 Harry Goldammer, Jefferson City

1974-1975 Charles Michael, Jefferson City

1976-1978 Ray Kellerhals, St. Louis

1979 Reorganization

Team Presentation Chairman

1978-1979 Charles Michael, Jefferson City

1980 Ray Bierman, St. Joseph

1981-1984 Vacant

1985-1991 Edwin Knoernschild, Cole Camp

1992 Reorganization

Media Programs Chairman

The 1979 reorganization combined Lutheran Hour and Lutheran Television under the Media Programs Chairman

1979-1985 Oscar Walther, Jefferson City

1986-1989 Delbert Holtzen, Cole Camp

1990-1991 Edwin Knoernschild, Cole Camp

1992 Reorganization

BCTN (Bringing Christ to the Nations) support plan was introduced in 1979. It started with a gift of at least \$100. The funds were divided with 20% going to Membership, 40% to Lutheran Hour and 40% to Lutheran Television.

BCTN Chairman

1980-1982 Harry Goldammer, Jefferson City
1983 Ray Kellerhals St. Louis
1984 William Blankenship, Hannibal
1985-1988 Earl Meyer, Lincoln
1989-1991 Hubert Kiehl, Malta Bend
1992 Reorganization

Local Groups

Formation of the district brought the need to encourage congregations to form local groups and to affiliate with the LLL. The first to assist was the Field Secretary.

Field Secretary

1942-1945 Rev. Reinholt Borth, Illmo
1946-1947 Vacant
1948-1949 Irving B. Kunz, St. Louis
1950-1951 Milton Wegner, Kansas City
1952-1955 Vacant
1956 E. F. Tieman, Higginsville

Club Services Chairman (renamed)

1957-4/59 Earl Moentmann, Norborne
4/59-1962 Otis Korslund, Carrollton
1963-1964 Wm. Clayton Hansel, Carrollton
1965-1966 Oscar Walther, Jefferson City

Extension Services (renamed)

1967-1971 Oscar Walther, Jefferson City
1972-1975 Larry Schmidt, St. Louis
1976-1978 Gerald Kruse, Brunswick

League Services (renamed)

1979-1982 Elroy Heimsoth, Poplar Bluff
1983-1984 Don Roth, Farrar
1985-1989 Robert Kassel, Freistatt
1990-1992 Earl "Skip" Eno, Jefferson City
1993-1997 W. W. "Bill" Hunt, Columbia
1998-1999 Bob Lehman, Concordia
2000- Arlie Ehlmann, St. Louis

District Publications

- 1943 Paul Klienhammer, Jefferson City, began publishing a district newsletter
It was discontinued in 1946 due to lack of interest
- 1950 The district asked Klienhammer to renew a publication. He reluctantly accepted with the understanding zones would support him.
- 1950-1953 Paul Klienhammer, Jefferson City
1953-5/56 Earl Moentmann, Norborne
5/56-1957 Donald Albinto, Springfield
1958-1961 Herbert Kramer, Lee's Summit
1962 Delano Siewert, Jefferson City
1963 Ted Sophie, St. Louis
1964 E. Ray Mueller, Springfield
1965 Walter Brumeister, Kansas City
1966-1967 Ray Holtsen, Alma
1968-1969 Richard Saunders, St. Louis
1970-1972 Ray Dankenbring, St. Louis
1973-1983 Herbert F. Kramer, Lee's Summit
1984-2015 Jack Johnson, Jefferson City
2015 Brian Mitchell, Lee's Summit

Achievement Awards

It began in 1944 with a trophy going to the group with most members attending the current convention. The trophy was discontinued in 1946 and group activity was not acknowledged till 1948. Over the years several changes were made to find the best way to recognize groups for their activity.

Chairmen

- 1943-1946 Convention Registration Committee
1947 No Award
1948-1949 Walter Eggers, Farrar
1950-1951 William Sippel, Jefferson City
1952-1956 Hugo Winter, Uniontown
1957-1959 Marc Schweder, Norborne
1960-1961 Hugo Winter, Uniontown
1962 Richard Gibeson, Higginsville
1963 E. F. Tieman, Higginsville
1964-1968 Carl Westmeyer, Farmington
1969-1970 Herbert F. Rolf, Shelbina
1971-1972 Maurice Burger, Carrollton
1973-1976 Harold Bohling, Columbia
1977-1983 E. F. Tieman, Higginsville
1984-1985 Robert Kassel, Freistatt
1986-1989 Herbert F. Kramer, Lee's Summit
1990-1996 Oliver Bachmann, Perryville
1997-2005 Earl Kullman, Sedalia
2005-2016 Darrel Voltmer, Craig
2017 March - Awards program discontinued

State Fair Booth Ministry

The ministry began in 1954 and the worship service was added in 1960. Since 1961 the LWML has cosponsored the booth. The district chairman is responsible for the booth and the worship service.

Chairmen

1954-1960 Gerd Tonjes, Carthage
1961-1962 Hubert Viets, Cole Camp
1963-1969 Albert Fajen, Stover
1970-1971 Art Bethke, Sedalia
1972-1975 Vincent Staudenraus, Versailles
No chairman shown till 1981
1981 Delbert Holtzen, Cole Camp
1982-1983 Lloyd Hesiterberg, Sedalia
1984 Donnie Schnackenberg, Higgensville
1985 Raymond Trautman, Sweet Springs
1986 Don Ohrenberg, Warrensburg
1987 Larry Btiker, Alma
1988 Herbert Kiehl, Blackburn
1989 Delmar Oetting, Concordia
1990 St. Matthew Men's Club, Concordia
1991 Eldred Schelp, Emma
1992 Immanuel, Higginsville

No chairman shown after 1992, although in recent years Earl Meyer of Lincoln, and Sharon Hutcheson of Sedalia took on the role of State Fair Booth Chairpersons.

Scholarship Program

A Scholarship Program was developed in 1947 to encourage young men to enter the ministry. One scholarship was given each year from 1947 to 1951. In 1952 one male teacher was added and in 1957 a female teacher was added for a total of three each year.

The Scholarship Program and Brother Can You Spare a Dime were combined in 1969 and renamed Student Assistance. Interest in the Scholarship Program waned and was discontinued in 1976.

Scholarship Committee Chairmen

1947-1953 Milton Wegner, Kansas City
1954-1958 Leonard Schnell, Cole Camp
1959 Earl Moentmann, Norborne
1960-8/62 John Nolting, Wellston
8/62-1966 Earl Moentmann, Norborne
1967-1969 Gerald Kruse, Brunswick

Student Assistant Chairmen (combined programs)

1970-1973 Gerald Kruse, Brunswick
1974-1976 Don Jungmeyer, California
1977-1983 Delmar Gerharter, Frohna
1984 Oliver Bachmann, Perryville

1985-4/86 Thomas L. Mueller, Jefferson City
4/86- 1991 Don Verseman, Perryville
1992-1996 Larry Schmidt, Springfield
1997-1999 Jerry Ideker, Monett
2000- Cleo Steffens, St. Louis

Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

BCYSAD began in 1960 as part of the Scholarship Program. The plan was to save 10 cents a day or 36.50 a year for support of the LLL. In 1964 funds went to the Grant-In-Aid fund. Grants were given based on financial need and were available for ministerial, teacher and deaconess training.

BCYSAD Chairmen

1961-4/62 John H. Nolting, Wellston
4/62-1964 Charles Schmidt, Cantwell
1965-1968 Leland Meyer, Higginsville
1969 Gary Weber, St. Louis

Seminars

International started the seminars in 1943. The purpose was to inform the laity of the workings of the LCMS. With moderate success, the program was discontinued in 1971.

Seminar Chairmen

1943-1951 No appointments
1952-1957 Carl Schulz, St. Louis
1958-1959 Hugo Winter, Uniontown
1960-1961 Paul Kleinhammer, Jefferson City
1962 Ted Sophie, St. Louis
1963 E. Ray Mueller, Springfield
1964-1971 George Rudolph, Marshfield
Discontinued 1971

Special Projects Chairman

1992-1995 Kenneth Werr, Shelbyville
1995-1997 Earl Meyer, Lincoln
1997-1998 Bob Lehman, Concordia
2001- Curtis Kassel, Frohna

Orphan Grain Train Coordinator

1996-2013 Rev. Alfred Rodewald, Concordia (Position discontinued)

Area Directors/Area Facilitators (Started 1991)

| | | |
|--------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Area 1 | 1991- | Elroy Heimsoth, Jackson |
| | 1992 | N/A |
| | 1993- | Dwayne Lorenz, Sikeston |
| Area 2 | 1991- | Don Roth, Perryville |
| Area 3 | 1991- | Jack Haas, Rolla |
| | 1992-93 | N/A |
| | 1994-99 | Vernon Allen, Waynesville |
| | 2000- | N/A |
| Area 4 | 1991- | Earl Eno, Jefferson City |
| | 1992-94 | Wayne Engelbrecht, Jefferson City |
| | 1995-96 | N/A |
| | 1997-00 | W. W. Hunt, Columbia |
| | 2001- | N/A |
| Area 5 | 1991- | Don Ohrenberg, Lees Summit |
| | 1992 | N/A |
| | 1993- | Hubert Kiehl, Malta Bend |
| | 1994-97 | Jin Heins, Concordia |
| | 1998-17 | Don Ohrenberg, Lees Summit |
| Area 6 | 1991- | Jerry Ideker, Holt |
| | 1992-08 | Herb Kramer, Lees Summit |
| | 2009- | N/A |
| Area 7 | 1991- | Ed Knoernschild, Cole Camp |
| | 1992- | N/A |
| | 1993-99 | Don Hutcheson, Sedalia |
| | 2000-04 | N/A |
| | 2005-10 | Earl Kullman, Sedalia |
| Area 8 | 2011- | Kevin Gibbs, |
| | 1991-95 | Mark Dunlop, St. Louis |
| | 1996- | N/A |

Other Programs

Several programs were introduced, but with minimal success and were discontinued.

Recruitment and Vocations (discontinued after ten years)

Youth Involvement (discontinued after six years)

Young Adults (discontinued after five years)

Missouri District LLL Convention Cities

| Date | Convention Number | Location |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| February 15, 1942 | Initial Meeting | Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson City |
| May 17, 1942 | Organizational | Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson City |
| June 20, 1943 | 1st Convention | Immanuel Lutheran, Washington |
| <i>1944</i> | <i>No Convention Due to World War II</i> | |
| October 14, 1945 | 3rd Convention | Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson City |
| October 13, 1946 | 4th Convention | St. Paul's Lutheran, Sedalia |
| October 5, 1947 | 5th Convention | Immanuel Lutheran, Booneville |
| October 9-10, 1948 | 6th convention | Trinity Lutheran, Cape Girardeau |
| November 5-6, 1949 | 7th Convention | Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson City |
| October 5-6, 1950 | 8th Convention | Immanuel Lutheran, Kansas City |
| October 10-11, 1951 | 9th Convention | Concordia Lutheran, Maplewood |
| November 8-9, 1952 | 10th Convention | Immanuel Lutheran, Perryville |
| November 7-8, 1953 | 11th Convention | Immanuel Lutheran, Joplin |
| November 12-13, 1954 | 12th Convention | St. John's Lutheran, Chillicothe |
| November 19-20, 1955 | 13th Convention | Ascension Lutheran, St. Louis |
| October 13-14, 1956 | 14th Convention | Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson City |
| September 21-22, 1957 | 15th Convention | Calvary Lutheran, Kansas City |
| October 18-19, 1958 | 16th Convention | St. Paul's Lutheran, Sedalia |
| October 24-25, 1959 | 17th Convention | Grace Lutheran, Pagedale |
| October 15-16, 1960 | 18th Convention | Trinity Lutheran, Springfield |
| October 21-22, 1961 | 19th Convention | Trinity Lutheran, Jefferson City |
| October 13-14, 1962 | 20th Convention | Immanuel Lutheran, Perryville |
| October 12-13, 1963 | 21st Convention | Concord Lutheran, Kirkwood |
| October 10-11, 1964 | 22nd Convention | St. Paul's Lutheran, St. Joseph |
| October 23-24, 1965 | 23rd Convention | St. Paul, Marshfield (at Springfield) |
| October 1-2, 1966 | 24th Convention | School of the Osage, Lake Ozark |
| October 21-22, 1967 | 25th Convention | Ramada Inn, Jefferson City |
| October 5-6, 1968 | 26th Convention | Hotel Continental, Kansas City |
| October 4-5, 1969 | 27th Convention | Holiday Inn, Kirksville |
| October 3-4, 1970 | 28th Convention | Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau |
| October 2-3, 1971 | 29th Convention | The Gateway Hotel, St. Louis |
| October 7-8, 1972 | 30th Convention | Holiday Inn, Hannibal |
| October 6-7, 1973 | 31st Convention | Central MO State U, Warrensburg |
| October 5-6, 1974 | 32nd Convention | Holiday Inn, West Plains |
| October 4-5, 1975 | 33rd Convention | Stadium Inn, Kansas City |
| October 2-3, 1976 | 34th Convention | Ramada Inn, Sedalia |
| October 1-2, 1977 | 35th Convention | Ramada Inn, Jefferson City |
| October 7-8, 1978 | 36th Convention | Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau |
| October 6-7, 1979 | 37th Convention | Howard Johnson Mtr. Ldg., Springfield |

Missouri District LLL Convention Cities

| Date | Convention Number | Location |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---|
| October 4-5, 1980 | 38th Convention | Ramada Inn, St. Joseph |
| October 3-4, 1981 | 39th Convention | Ramada Inn, Columbia |
| October 2-3, 1982 | 40th Convention | Holiday Inn, Hannibal |
| October 1-2, 1983 | 41st Convention | State Fair Motor Lodge, Sedalia |
| October 6-7, 1984 | 42nd Convention | Holiday Inn, Cape Girardeau |
| October 5-6, 1985 | 43rd Convention | Ramada Inn, Jefferson City |
| October 4-5, 1986 | 44th Convention | Sheraton St. Louis, St. Louis |
| October 3-4, 1987 | 45th Convention | Ramada Inn, Kansas City |
| October 1-2, 1988 | 46th Convention | Univ. Plaza Holiday Inn, Springfield |
| October 7-8, 1989 | 47th Convention | St. Paul's High School, Concordia |
| October 6-7, 1990 | 48th Convention | Noah's Ark Motor Inn, St. Charles |
| October 5-6, 1991 | 49th Convention | Holiday Inn, Festus |
| September 26-27, 1992 | 50th Convention | Ramada Inn, Jefferson City |
| October 2-3, 1993 | 51st Convention | Holiday Inn Executive, Columbia |
| October 1-2, 1994 | 52nd Convention | American Legion Hall, Perryville |
| October 7-8, 1995 | 53rd Convention | State Fair Best Western, Sedalia |
| October 5-6, 1996 | 54th Convention | Truman State University, Kirksville |
| October 4-5, 1997 | 55th Convention | Ramada Inn, St. Joseph |
| October 3-4, 1998 | 56th Convention | St. Paul's High School, Concordia |
| October 2-3, 1999 | 57th Convention | Zion Luth., Harvester/Hol. Inn, St.Peters |
| October 7-8, 2000 | 58th Convention | St. Matt./Summit Inn, Lee's Summit |
| October 6-7, 2001 | 59th Convention | Drury Lodge, Cape Girardeau |
| October 5-6, 2002 | 60th Convention | Ramada Inn, Jefferson City |
| October 4-5, 2003 | 61st Convention | Columbia Inn, Columbia |
| October 2-3, 2004 | 62nd Convention | State Fair Motor Inn, Sedalia |
| September 17-18, 2005 | 63rd Convention | Family Budget Inn, Ozora |
| September 23-24, 2006 | 64th Convention | Clarion Hotel, Springfield |
| October 13-14, 2007 | 65th Convention | Comfort Inn Hotel, Macon |
| September 27-28, 2008 | 66th Convention | Best Western Inn, Columbia |
| September 26-27, 2009 | 67th Convention | Sheraton Four Points Hotel, Kansas City |
| September 24-26, 2010 | 68th Convention | Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City |
| September 23-25, 2011 | 69th Convention | Port Arrowhead Resort, Lake Ozark |
| September 28-30, 2012 | 70th Convention | Howard Johnson Inn, Columbia |
| September 13-15, 2013 | 71st Convention | Howard Johnson Inn, Columbia |
| September 26-28, 2014 | 72nd Convention | Howard Johnson Inn, Columbia |
| October 2-4, 2015 | 73rd Convention | Inn at Grand Glaize, Osage Beach |
| October 21, 2016 | 74th Convention | Union Station, St. Louis |
| September 15-17, 2017 | 75th Convention | Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City |

Memories from Past and Present Leaders of the Missouri District LLL

Note: The former and the current Presidents of the Missouri District LLL were contacted in the Spring of 2017 and asked to provide some of their memories as members of the District and of their time as District Presidents.

Memories from Earl Moentmann (District President from 1955-1957)

In the fifties and later the District encouraged support for the Boy Scouts, 4-H, FFA, and the Walther League.

In 1958 the California Zone had visiting pastors provide the entertainment. Their names were ZTIRF from AHAMO, ROTCIV from NODLE, and MIJ NIWRI form OCIXEM.

Zones encouraged THE LORD'S ACRE especially in the rural areas. Crops harvested from these areas were donated to The Lutheran Hour.

“Brother Can You Spare a Dime” was a District Project for local and/or International LLL Programs.

The District initiated Sunday morning worship services at the Missouri State Fair.

The sixth District LLL display at the Fair in 1956 was indoors instead of in a 20 x 40 foot tent. Rudy Behrens and Chas. Bruns were in charge. The cost that year totaled \$361.27.

A District Family Camp was directed by Bill Krato for a number of years. A permanent camp was proposed and the information was sent out from year to year by a committee headed by E.F ‘Tubby’ Tiemann. The camp never was developed.

Members of interest for me were:

T.G Eggers, National Executive Director

Milton Wegner, early recruiter of LLL Cubs

Irving Kunz, one of the District Founders

Paul Kleinhammer, LLL Ambassador for years

Rev. Carl F. Schmidt, Pastoral Advisor

Rev. W.J. Boehne, Pastoral Advisor

Memories from Herb Kramer (District President from 1969-1971)

I joined the Men's Club at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Kansas City in the mid-1950's and within a year was elected President of the club. Within a year at the next District Convention held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Kansas City, I was chosen as District Secretary. This marked the beginning of over 50 years of service to the District LLL.

Some of the special activities that stand out in my mind were the “Brother Can You Spare a Dime” campaign (that later became the Student Assistance Program). Everyone was encouraged to set aside 10 cents each day during the year to be used to support students enrolled in Lutheran Colleges who were planning to enter into full-time church work.

In the early years the District sponsored a float in the American Royal Parade in Kansas City, and also a booth for several years at the American Royal arena.

One year during my tenure as President of the District I was asked to deliver the “sermon” at the State Fair when a Pastor was not able to preach at the Fair. That year a choir from Cole Camp provided music at the worship service in Sedalia.

We enjoyed a lot of the cooperative efforts of members in the Kansas City area when we participated in activities such as the International LLL Convention in 2001, and the “Now You’re Talking” telephone outreach campaigns that ran in the late 1990’s. It was a wonderful opportunity to work together with fellow Lutherans to meet a need in the community.

One of the most memorable conventions held was the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Missouri District LLL in 1992 in Jefferson City. Over 500 people joined in the celebration. One of the largest conventions in the Kansas City area was held at the Hotel Continental in 1968. That convention drew more than 425 people. Conventions in those days were very well attended and enjoyable experiences. It was a great opportunity to travel around the state to different communities to join in fellowship and in support of the ministries of the Lutheran Laymen’s League. International LLL Conventions were also wonderful travel opportunities and allowed us to travel as a family to many places we might not have otherwise enjoyed.

Memories from Jack Johnson (District President from 1975-77)

The 1961 district convention was my first real taste of the LLL. I was so happy that Bethel and I could share it together. From that time on our love of the LLL became a team effort.

We attended our first International convention in Milwaukee, 1967, for the fiftieth anniversary. This experience reinforced our desire to be a real part of the League. We found the LLL a big family; all focused on a Christ centered ministry.

Team presentations were a big item for many years. The teams were usually housed overnight in private homes to reduce expenses. Oscar Walther and I made a good team and did a number of presentations. One memorable weekend was in St. Louis, when Don Jungmeyer and I gathered 47 new sponsors. What a great experience!

As District President, I was surprised when I received word that Heitman had left his camp to the District. At first, this sounded good as we had worked with Camp Clover Point for many years. Then came the financial obligation. After talking with the board and Int'l it was felt best to decline the offer. Other Districts have maintained camps for many years and Heitman hoped our District could do the same.

Several board meetings were held in Jefferson City. The executive board met on Friday evenings at our house and pancake breakfasts were always the order.

We started the Zone President's meeting and prepared a booklet giving suggestion for an uplifting zone rally. The overall goal was to have a rally that was exciting enough to encourage people to return to the next rally. Forty years later, the annual meeting continues only now is a board of governors meeting.

There was a Lutheran Hour Rally held here (Jefferson City) at Lincoln University's Richardson Auditorium. The attendance was good. It was interesting that Hoffman left his Bible on the lectern and Bethel returned it to him. She looked through it and found it was in Greek. When he quoted scripture he translated it from it from the Greek Bible.

Bethel and I always enjoyed having meetings at our house. Harry Goldammer called our house the "Jefferson City LLL Headquarters".

Two "Living for Tomorrow" campaigns were held at our house. Two training sessions were held with a total of 86 volunteers present. After the first campaign, we were asked if we would host a second one next year. Bethel's response was, "Over my dead body!" The second campaign was held, and Bethel is still here.

After the term of President was over, I was appointed to publicity. The District news was called the "Torch". It was stitched in the Lutheran Witness. This began in 1984 and ran till 1993 till we were reduced to one page and expenses climbed. The Show-Me News began in 1993 and ran till 2009 when the hard copy was dropped and placed on the district website. Bethel and I did everything from writing to mailing. It was a real labor of love.

For the 2001 Kansas City convention we made over 1,000 plaster cast praying hands as table favors and the table center pieces. After safely moving everything to the convention hotel and placing them in a storeroom; a near disaster happened. As hotel staff was moving chairs they accidently knocked off a sprinkler head and set off the fire alarm. The hotel was evacuated and the fire department was on site to check it out. Thankfully, all the decorations survived.

Over the years, Bethel and I have made many memories and many LLL friends. I thank God that I was allowed to serve the district board for 49 years. As in the past, our home is always open to our LLL family.

Memories from Larry and Katie Schmidt (Larry was District President from 1977-1980, Katie is the daughter of E.F. Tieman, who was District President from 1953-1955)

My early LLL memories from the 1950's when my dad (E.F. "Tubby" Tieman) was District President: Going to International meetings in Minneapolis and Seattle. Then the theme song was getting 100,000 enrolled in the LLL, always played very rousingly by John Mueller, long time Membership Director of the Int'l LLL.

The card-playing and dartball tournaments really evolved into many hours of zone fellowship and competition—the rules for playing pitch had to be established first. BCYSAD (Brother Could You Spare Me a Dime) endeavor for scholarship funding.

Who can forget Dr. Hoffmann's booming voice interlaced with his wonderful sense of humor.

District Conventions: men attended while women toured the area. As District President, visiting zone rallies was always fun—each was unique.

Our summer vacations were to the Int'l Convention site beginning in Calgary in 1968 through the early 2000's, only missing in 1979 and 1981 when relocating was on our agenda. (Larry was sent as Zone VP in 1968 because the Zone President couldn't go. He got bit with the LLL bug!) The many friends in Christ we learned to know from all across the country will always be treasured.

Memories from Don Roth (District President from 1984-1988)

My memories of LLL begin from the fifties as my father belonged to a men's club that was chartered in 1942. I recall how he helped and was approached to continue as a roll call member of LLL. As I taught in Illinois, I was asked to lead 'topics' for men's club meetings. Living in Kansas and teaching in a congregation that had no men's club, I enrolled several people as members. Later I would meet one of those members at Int'l LLL conventions. In 1978, I was elected district secretary. That came after I assisted at several congregation that had team presentations (opportunities for members to become Lutheran Hour and/or Television Sponsors). I recall that Oscar Walther, DP, 1971-73, was present at those presentations.

During those years the Missouri District had a November Board meeting at Int'l Headquarters in St. Louis. (That gave us opportunity to tour the building). On Friday night before the Board meeting the executive board met at Larry Schmidt's home, DP, 1977-80. (Before Schmidt's move to Springfield).

The Altenburg Zone hosted seminars for many years. These seminars had speakers that were well known in their fields of expertise. That meant that there were at least three annual events LLL sponsored (2 rallies and one seminar annually). These happenings almost always ended with coffee cake, pie and coffee.

Lutheran Hour Rallies that opened Int'l LLL conventions were always inspiring. I especially recall speakers Rev. Hoffmann, Rev. Meyer, and Rev. Schulz. I also recall LH rallies in Perryville, MO, Topeka, KS, and Edwardsville. IL.

The Region 9 meetings with officers of Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri districts were an annual highlight. The sharing of ideas, notes, and accomplishments helped our region to be one of the leaders of Int'l LLL. Many years we met each other twice—once at Int'l convention and once during the winter. The initial meetings I attended only the officers met, but later wives were encouraged to attend. Much was learned and friendships developed.

A thought conveyed to me by Jerry Kruse, DP, 1980-84 (He and I both had farming connections) “The Lord provides a way to be involved with church work even for us and many time no time lost.” Rain, too wet to farm, neighbors, family, etc..

Memories from Don Ohrenberg (District President from 1992-1996)

After graduating from high school in Concordia, Mo. In 1959 I worked in home construction with Herb Klussman from Emma, Mo., for one summer before pursuing other work and college. When my wife and I lived in Warrensburg in the early 1970's, I became a member of the Bethlehem Men's Club in Warrensburg, and at some point Herb invited me to a Concordia Zone LLL meeting. I became active in LLL on the zone level, serving in several offices in the Concordia Zone, including Zone President.

I want to say also that I greatly admired my predecessor as Missouri District President, Mr. Jack Haas, who was truly a man of God, and was a shining example of his faith to all around him.

The one special activity that comes to mind for me was the Missouri District hosting the International LLL Convention in Kansas City in 2001. It took many hours of planning and hard work, but there were many great people who helped make it a success.

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Oswald Hoffmann during my term as District President when I visited with him in St. Louis about the possibility of him preaching at a worship service for the State Fair in Sedalia. Unfortunately, his busy schedule did not allow him to preach, but it was a great honor to visit with him.

A convention memory -

The first International Convention Peggy and I attended was in 1987 in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Opryland Hotel. The convention theme was “Sing to the Lord.” We thought it was absolutely wonderful and so inspirational.

One of the funniest memories we have of an international convention is what occurred after we had attended the convention in Denver, Colorado, in 1996. After the convention had ended, six of us, including Skip and Shirley Eno, Jack and Bethel Johnson, and Peggy and I had taken the “Coors” tour in Golden, Colorado. Much to our surprise in the next newsletter produced by Jack Johnson, Missouri District Editor, was a picture of the six of us enjoying the free beer and snacks at the end of the Coors tour. Later Jack confessed that the article didn’t go out to all who received the newsletter, we had just received a “special” copy.

Memories from Bill Hunt (District President from 2000-2004)

One of the most interesting events in my time of LLL was when I was District President and Pastor Gary Clayton asked me to write a hymn for the worship service for the Int’l Convention in Kansas City in 2001. I said, “I can’t write one for the Int’l Convention” and he said “Yes you can, you have written others and you can do it.” So after a time I came up with a hymn “Show Me Your Way.” This was sung by an audience of over 3900 people.

There were many other experiences of being a District President that I thoroughly enjoyed.

My wife and I enjoyed the many Int’l Conventions that we were able to attend.

Memories from Richard Schmidt (District President from 2004-2008)

There are so many interesting people we have met throughout the years. Especially some of the International Directors that were at the conventions. I also remember some of the International LLL Presidents and their wives.

One project that stands out for me is the Seminarian Banquet. It was a privilege getting to meet the new Pastors and talking to them about how excited they were to share the Word of Christ with others. Also another project was the Pastor’s desk name plates—the excitement that they had when we presented it to them.

Meeting with different Lutheran Hour Speakers and talking to them was always very interesting. One event that stands out is when we were at the LLL convention in Buffalo, New York. For Family Night we went to see Niagara Falls. While we were there, we rode on the Maid of the Mist with Speaker Wallace Schultz. As we were going under the mist, he said, “If we get to see such beauty here on earth, imagine what heaven will be like.”

I always enjoyed working with the different International Presidents, all the people at the District level and the Zone level as well. Working together to “Bring Christ to the Nations, and the Nations to the Church.”

Being District President was a great privilege and I thank everyone for the great opportunity.

Memories from Brian Mitchell (District President from 2008-2012)

As a transplant from Illinois (my father Bill Mitchell was a Northern Illinois District LLL President and later Region 8 Governor), I became active in the Missouri District LLL after moving to Lee's Summit and buying a home across the street from Herb and Gertrude Kramer. Only later did I find out that Herb was involved with the LLL and that he taught at the same Community College where I had been hired. Herb invited me to participate in the Kansas City Zone LLL where I met several other dedicated LLL folks, including Earl Kullman who was Zone President at the time.

I enjoyed the Region 9 Meetings in January with the members of the Nebraska and Kansas Districts. The meetings were informative and provided a great opportunity of fellowship with other members of our Region. Sadly these meetings came to an end with governance changes adopted by the Int'l LLL.

During my tenure as District President we implemented a number of changes in the District. At our conventions we tried to deemphasize the presentation of oral committee reports and rather include more video presentations to show the ministries of LHM and how they impacted the lives of God's people. As print and mailing costs rose, we decided to discontinue the printed *Show Me News* newsletter and placed a half-page article in the *Voice of Missouri* (published by the LCMS Missouri District). When that publication was discontinued, we later went solely to a district website on the Internet (www.missouridistrictLLL.org). A final change we made was to rotate our convention sites around several communities in central Missouri (Columbia, Jefferson City, and Lake of the Ozarks) to try to make travel more reasonable for our convention attendees.

One of my fondest memories was of the International Convention held in Kansas City in 2001. Don Ohrenberg was convention chairman and we later become good friends with both Don and Peggy, who also attend our church. This convention was a great opportunity to get to work with other dedicated lay people and pastors in the Missouri District. A few other notable figures I'll always remember were Earl 'Skip' Eno (a former District President, and who despite telling some of the most awful jokes, had a real heart for the LLL) and Jack Johnson, former District President longtime Editor of the "*Show Me News*," the District news publication. Many other District Board members have become great friends through the years.

The International LLL Conventions provided us the opportunity to travel to places we otherwise would have never visited: Billings, MT, Duluth, MN, Lexington, KY, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan! The messages shared by Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Ken Klaus were always inspirational and he always found a way to weave in meaningful stories of local interest. The fellowship we enjoyed with new and old friends was memorable. And we always looked forward to visiting with representatives from the international offices of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Memories from Jim Harms (District President from 2012-2016)

By the power of the Holy Spirit the seed will grow and bear fruit to the glory of God. My Dad planted the first seed to use my God given “Time-Talents-Treasures” in support of LHM when I was a young lad by taking me to the Sweet Springs LLL Men’s Club/Concordia LLL Zone pitch parties and dartball tournaments. I didn’t realize until later in life how important these Christian LLL fellowship events were.

When Deb and I were first married attending St John’s Lutheran in Mexico, MO, Ervin Hoffman initially got me involved on the zone level as a Columbia LLL Zone officer. The Columbia Zone LLL was where we first met Bill and Roberta Hunt establishing a lifetime Christian/LLL friendship.

God has called the Church to join Him in His mission. Chairing the Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia Int’l LLL “Go Tell a New Generation” 3-year \$9,000 commitment was quite an experience and learning process. This process taught our congregation that additional Christian giving can be accomplished without affecting the church’s financial budget.

Wow! What an experience it was for Deb and me to get involved in the two Columbia area “Living for Tomorrow” campaigns.

Lutheran Hour Ministries has gone through some organization changes through the years and became stronger through God’s Will. Most of us don’t like change and we know most things do not stay the same but Deb and I have truly missed the fellowship at the informative January yearly Region 9 (Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska) District Meetings.

Our first vacation without our children was to the 2001 Kansas City International LLL Convention. This inspiring and motivational event turned into an addiction. Where else could you travel to different parts of the United States and Canada to have a good time and meet new and renew friendships with so many good Christian LLL’rs.

As a District President responsibility, attending the Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri supported LHM seminary banquet was always a highlight of our year for us. The graduating seminary students/spouses were very appreciative for the night out. It was a joy to learn that about one half of the new pastors knew a lot about and already used LHM’s free resources, but disheartening to know that others virtually knew nothing about LHM.

As a member of the LLL we all have a passion to see that the Good News of Jesus Christ is known throughout the world and Lutheran Hour Ministries has the expertise and goes in places that we would never consider going ourselves. Deb and I are very thankful that LHM has been an active part of our life.

Memories from Harvey Loenneke (District President from 2016-present)

Janet and I attended our first District convention in 1989. The convention was held in Concordia, Missouri. The reason that we went was that I was ask by the ambassador at my church if I would like to go. Not having a good reason not to go and Janet and I having never attended a convention we went. I can't remember missing a convention since. I had no plans on getting involved any further in the LLL but my father then got me attending zone functions and I slowly got in deeper.

In 2001 the Cape Girardeau Zone decided to host the 2001 District convention in Cape Girardeau. They then made me chairman of the convention committee. In 2001 the International Convention was held in Kansas City. That was the first International Convention that we attended. We attended because it would be as close as one would ever be and it would be the only one we would ever get to attend. (We never missed another). My greatest memory of that convention was driving home with our car crammed full of palm trees and decorations from the convention that we used at the District Convention in Cape in October. Janet would say, we could use that, and Don Ohrenberg would say, take it along. I think that we may still have some of them.

As I think back over the many District Conventions that we have attended I think that we have enjoyed all of them. There are a couple of speaker address that I often recall. One was that the next generation would not be joining together as we did. It has come true and I wonder if we could have done something to change it. Another was an address by Dr. Dale Meyer on "what do you want from your pastor". A good question we need to ask ourselves.

My fondest memories are of the many brothers and sisters in Christ that I have had the joy and pleasure of getting to know. How much poorer my life would be had I not meet them.

Although I had no intention of being anything other than a zone member I now find myself at this 75th Missouri District Convention as president of the Missouri District. How did this happen? Because someone ask me! Thanks Gib. (I have gotten in very deep this time.)

