

**Pacific Southwest Dist  
LWML**



**WOW  
Spring 2019**

February 2019

There is so much planning within our ministry at this time, that it makes my head spin! I am grateful for the restful and inspirational retreat weekend last week. A heartfelt thanks to our Retreat Chairman, Morgan Shiller, and her committee for a weekend of fellowship, fun, food, worship, singing and games! My feet didn't touch the ground for three days. A special thanks to all who participated in the Mitey Bear Challenge and helped to raise \$300 for Mites! We all need a time to be in the Word, enjoy fellowship and have fun! We were blessed with this Retreat!

I look forward to seeing you at one of our WRAP Events. The first one has already been held in Ontario on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our committee consists of Pastor Jenks, Linda Moat, Morgan Shiller, Nancy Heredia and myself. We have so much information to share with you and are excited to SHARE. We have ideas to encourage growth in the LWML ministry, engage more women of all ages to join LWML, gain valuable information on writing grants and running meetings and so much more. All ladies and pastors are invited to attend at least one of these events. You are encouraged to invite people who are not members of LWML because this will be their opportunity to learn more about this ministry. Perhaps our Lord will tap them on the shoulder and use his still voice to encourage them. I promise you there will also be some fun and fellowship and even a craft or two.

Convention in Mobile, Alabama is just around the corner! It is time to register for convention, reserve your hotel room and make your travel arrangements. The dates are June 20-23, 2019 and the theme is, "In Praise to the Lord!". "Ya'll come to the 2019 LWML Convention . . . Ya'll drink in the experience . . . Ya'll drink in the opportunity . . . Ya'll drink in Mobile (sweet tea) and Ya'll drink in LWML!"

Our LWML District Convention 2020 will be held in Cathedral City, California! Mark your calendars . . . June 5-7, 2020. Our Bible Study leader will be Donna Pyle and our keynote speaker will be Jan Struck! Keep your eyes and ears open for more information to come. Keep Host Committee Chairman Carol Vigliotti and her committees in your prayers as they work and plan to make this a blessed event for all who attend.

As we continue the Lord's work in this ministry, I pray for you all! It's a pleasure to know you and work with you in this mission and I cherish the times we spend together and the joy from our efforts. My prayers are with each of you as you share your time and talents.

"Therefore, encourage one another and build another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 6:11.

Joyfully serving, Bonnie Karch

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV)

*<sup>11</sup>So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

The LWML has had a "vision" for over 75 years to equip people for works of service, through example and through financial support. God's "vision" and goal in this according to Ephesians 4:11-13 is to build up the body of Christ to reach unity in the faith and through maturity, attain the character of Christ.

Therefore, the Nominating Committee for 2018-2020 has chosen this passage as our Call for Nominations. ***Don't we all want these results?*** Then let's be the "visionaries" in stepping forward, speaking with others and encouraging others to use their gifts in the service of the LWML.

The Nominating Committee is looking for women and men to serve in the following offices of the LWML Pacific Southwest District: President, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Communications, Financial Secretary, Nominating Committee and Pastoral Counselor. Nomination forms and descriptions of the duties for each position are available on the LWML Pacific Southwest District web site: [www.psdlwml.com](http://www.psdlwml.com).

Please prayerfully consider becoming a Nominee for the elections to be held at the 2020 Pacific Southwest District LWML Convention! Forms are being accepted immediately but are due to the Nominating Committee Chairman no later than October 31, 2019. Your Nominating Committee is praying for you as you consider this "vision" of our Lord and will be happy to answer any questions you have about the positions.

Nila Rodriguez (Chairman)	213-268-0619	nirrod10@hotmail.com
Linda Merkle	760-983-5320	merklel65@hotmail.com
Carlise Parham	323-397-5844	carlise.parham@gmail.com
Carolyn Williams	951-927-7720 (home) or 951-925-9798 (work-mornings)	
Rev. Mike Scholz	702-743-0139	scholzm@lambogodlv.com



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Dear LWML Sisters in Ministry,

I am so excited to invite you to join the Pacific Southwest on Saturday, **April 27, or May 18th from 9 am - 2 pm**. This is your opportunity to learn even more about the LWML and the challenges and opportunities that lay before us. You are encouraged to bring any women from your Zones to attend this **free** training with you.

We do not have the funds to reimburse guests for travel or lodging. Lunch will be provided at the cost of \$15 per person, to be paid when you arrive. Please register guests (**name, email, phone#, and zone**) with Nancy Heredia, [nlhnlh4C@yahoo.com](mailto:nlhnlh4C@yahoo.com), by **April 17<sup>th</sup>** for the WRAP event in Phoenix and by **May 8th** for the Las Vegas event. This is important so we will have the necessary supplies available.

These will be our Breakout Sessions: (Presenters are: Pastor Tim Jenks, Morgan Shiller, Linda Moat, Nancy Heredia, and Bonnie Karch)

S.A.L.T. (Sharing Active Leadership Techniques)  
Mission Grant Selection & Distribution  
Engage and Retain Volunteers  
Reaching Different Cultures & Generations  
Basic Protocol & Structure  
Resources – We've Got Them!  
Encouraging Women in Mission (Pastors)

There are so many ideas to share with you and we are so excited to tell you what we learned at training in St. Louis! Mark your calendars, personally contact your ladies (and pastors) and join us at THE WRAP!

Joyfully serving,

Pacific Southwest District President Bonnie Karch



**W.R.A.P. Meeting in Ontario, CA**

**March 2, 2019**





## Mite Offering Update!

God is providing! Thank you faithful givers. Over the past two weeks here is what has happened with the mite offering totals.

Report for February 1-February 14, 2019

District Mites	\$53,959.71
Joyful Response	155.00
Thrivent	1,147.00
Christmas Appeal	95.00
Mites restricted donations (includes a single \$27,750 offering)	30,711.37
Mites Other (includes online \$5 member challenge)	7,821.46



At the end of January we needed \$305,436.81

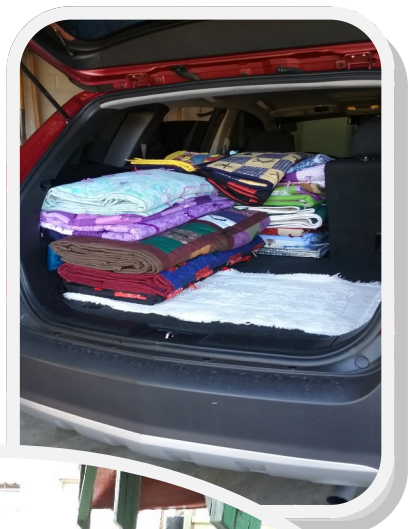
As of midnight 2/14, February mites total \$93,889.54 which leaves a total of \$211,547.20 left to meet the Mission Goal of \$2,075,000.



On January 18, 2019, Jean Weber, Kathy Baumhofer, and Judie Christensen, members of Epiphany Quilters, at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Chandler, AZ, drove to Grace Lutheran Church in El Centro, CA, to deliver 27 twin and lap quilts to Rev. Doug Griebenaw (Husband of Holly Griebenaw, LWML). Those quilts were then delivered to an orphanage in Mexicali, Mexico. Photos depict Judie Christensen presenting the quilts to Pastor Griebenaw and the orphans receiving their quilts at the orphanage.



Submitted by Kathy Baumhofer





Nicole (14) and Grace Steffens (14) were so moved by the work they are doing at Courage House that they decided to do something about it. They attended the LWML Christmas party at First Lutheran Church of Manhattan Beach and asked to speak to a fellowship hall full of women. The Holy Spirit was truly at work that night, for after their presentation the girls were given a check for \$1000 to donate to Courage Worldwide.

Below is a gratitude letter that speaks volumes about the work they are doing with these young ladies who are choosing life for their babies.

These girls, worlds apart from one another, are meshed together through these stories of hope: hope and love in Jesus. May we continue to encourage young ladies to "consecrate to our Savior our hands for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him."

Submitted by Anna Baker



January 28, 2019

CHANGING THE WORLD ONE INDIVIDUAL AT A TIME

Dear Mary,

In this envelope we have attached your year-end giving statement to Courage Worldwide. I could not let that envelope be sealed without personally thanking you for your generous giving this year. Without you, the vulnerable population we serve would not have received the life changing resources we were able to provide since we are 100% dependent upon donors just like you. As a donor myself, I want to know that my financial giving is making tangible, life changing differences. Therefore, along with your giving receipt I wanted to describe ways your giving made an impact this year here in the U.S. and in Tanzania, Africa.

"Because of you I have my baby back!" exclaimed one of our young residents at Courage House here in the U.S. After leaving Courage House as a teen, she fell prey to the promises of a man who only meant to exploit her. She became pregnant and after the baby was born he kidnapped the child after severely beating her. He was a drug dealer and a trafficker. She was frantic and feared for the safety of her baby. She called the police where they arranged a sting operation to rescue her child and arrest him.

Thankfully, this is exactly what happened but child protective services were called and a case opened saying she as a mom failed to protect her child. She vowed to do whatever it took to get her baby back and in doing that she knew she had to make better choices for herself and her child. One of those courageous choices was calling us. Because of you and your giving we could say YES when she called. Yes, we will have a home, a bed and a place for you and your son! Yes, we will equip, encourage and empower you on this journey as you are making healthy choices for you and your child (whom we have all fallen madly in love with!) Your giving has provided a home, groceries, transportation, childcare fees, therapy, mentoring as well as much love and support for this young mom. We are so thrilled to report that next week because of the incredible progress she has made, child protective services is closing her case. This young woman now has a full time job and is beginning the high school courses required for her to get a diploma, all the while being a full time single mom! We are so very proud of her and she is so grateful to you. We have the privilege of being a part of her daily life – seeing with our own eyes the progress she is making - but we wanted to pass along her gratitude to you for making it possible to get her son back. She has articulated repeatedly that she would have never been able to make the changes she needed in her own life without the resources "Courage" has provided – you have provided. I wish you could see the beautiful face of her now toddler when he sees his mom walk into the room! You gave this mom her son and this child his mom. Thank you!

That is just one life changing story that you have made possible with your giving ... there are so many more but another of my favorites this year came from our home in Tanzania where we received a call from child welfare regarding a 13 year old and her 7 month old son. We found out that "Jane" was 11 years old when her stepfather who raised her since she was a baby raped her. He was the only father she had ever known. He told her if she ever told, he would kill her and her mother. Young Jane was terrified, and even more so when she discovered she was pregnant. When Jane's mother found out what happened, she was distraught and ran away abandoning her pregnant daughter and her other child, a 6 year-old son. After her mom left, Jane moved into a mud hut with her elderly 90 year old grandparents. They were all sleeping in the same room on sticks, softened with some old clothes. This is where Jane gave birth. Afterwards, she had to drop out of school, as the Tanzania government does not allow girls who are pregnant or who have babies to go to school. Jane was so despondent-

not only did Jane have to deal with the trauma and shame of being raped and getting pregnant at 11 years old- she was now dealing with being abandoned by her own mother.

Immediately after the child welfare call, our team went to interview Jane and her grandmother where we discovered Jane had been suicidal and tried to hang herself; but her brother found her in time. The family also discovered rat poison she bought and confessed that she was going to poison herself and her baby boy.

It was so shocking to see such a young girl with a baby- a baby with a baby. One of our staff members said it was all she could do to keep from weeping over the tiny young girl whose eyes looked utterly hopeless as she held her son. The desperation of the elderly grandma caused her to sleep with the baby in fear that his young mama may try and end his life due to her hopelessness.

We didn't have much room at Courage House- with 16 girls and 3 other babies - but, we knew God picked Jane and her son to come to Courage House so we made room in our hearts and our home. Upon arrival, the other residents ran to the car to greet Jane. The girls scooped up her baby and hugged and laughed and argued about who got to hold him next. Jane had a big smile on her face – the first we had seen. And the baby! We learned his name is Emmanuel, which means "God with us."

Yes, God is with us. As we love and care for the most broken of children, we feel God's presence and His pleasure so powerfully at Courage House. Children, who would otherwise be dead, or living in the most desperate of situation, if they hadn't come to Courage, now have had their childhoods restored! We are convinced God handpicks each and every girl (and their children). He has incredible plans for them as they walk through their healing journey, getting a good education, excellent trauma therapy, job training and more to prepare them for that destiny. Jane learned to swim last week. She had a look of pure joy on her face as she splashed around in the water with her newfound sisters. She runs around holding hands with our other 13 year old as they giggle and laugh like girls who have been best friends for years. Jane goes to class now at Courage and can breastfeed her baby during class breaks. She is safe and she is loved. "She's at a place where there is no shame or judgment. Even though she is a young Mama, this child is regaining her childhood and it is the most beautiful thing to witness. She is choosing life. For herself and her child.

This is what your giving did this year ... it changed lives and it literally saved lives. Thank you ... thank you. We ask for your continued financial support in this New Year, as well as your prayers. With that support we will keep building them homes and calling them family.

Many blessings,

*Emmy Williamson*

Emmy Williamson, Founder/CEO Courage Worldwide, Inc.



## ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

**MERGERS:** We have received quite a few questions about the possibility of merging zones, as many are seeing smaller numbers in societies and in active members. Please remember that while you are free to plan activities and celebrations together, the actual merging of two or more zones is a formal action, and you will need to start with the approval of the district through our department. Then you will need to write new bylaws, elect new leaders, make appropriate changes at your banks and determine representation at district and national conventions. We are here to help: please contact me or any of our committee members if you have questions, need help with bylaws or leadership ideas, or want to share great success stories.

**WORKING TOGETHER:** Most of us in LWML know that teamwork is vital to accomplishing any of our goals, whether we are making a decision about an outreach activity, packing up ingathering items, planning a zone celebration, or even cleaning up in the kitchen. We are richly blessed by having access to the plans and suggestions of the Leadership Development Committee of LWML; I strongly recommend that you visit their page at LWML.org under the Service drop-down menu for great ideas like this one:

### PAPER-TEARING EXERCISE

**Learning Objectives** – communication, following instructions, individual and group purpose

**Suggested Group Size:** 1-500 participants

**Supplies:** Letter size piece of paper for each person

**Directions:**

1. Participants each hold a blank piece of paper in front of them. They are to close their eyes and follow your instructions without peeking. No questions allowed.
2. While speaking the directions below, carrying them out yourself with your own sheet of paper. Pause after each instruction to give the group time to comply.
  - a. *First, fold your sheet of paper in half.*
  - b. *Tear off the upper right-hand corner.*
  - c. *Fold it in half again and tear off the upper left-hand corner of the sheet.*
  - d. *Fold it in half again. Now tear off the lower right-hand corner of the sheet.*
3. After the tearing is complete, participants may open their eyes and unfold their paper.

**Discussion:**

Do any of the papers look exactly the same? Why or why not?

What would have been a good question to ask if you were allowed to speak?

Why is two-way communication important to achieving our goals?

Serving our Lord with gladness, wherever and whenever He has need of me,  
Linda Koch, VP Organizational Resources

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