

NOMINEES FOR 2020-2022 BIENNIUM

Biographies



Treasurer – LaDonna Schrank, Roanoke, VA (4bigsis@cox.net)

LaDonna is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Roanoke, VA, in the Blue Ridge Zone. She has been the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Christian Growth Chairperson for her LWML Group; at the Zone level, she has held the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer. LaDonna has had the pleasure of being a member of four different LWML Districts: Washington-Alaska, California, Oregon, and Chesapeake. In her church, LaDonna has served as a Sunday school teacher, Youth Leader, Chairman - Board of Christian Education, Chairman – Stewardship Committee, and Treasurer. In her community, she has served as PTA President. Most of her work history has been in small businesses which involved all the skills required to run a small business. LaDonna would like to thank her husband of 55 years, Dennis Schrank, for all the help and support he has given her over the years they have been married.

VP of Organizational Resources – Claire Carlson, Powhatan, VA
(patchtroop546@aol.com)

Claire is a member of Trinity, Henrico, VA, in the Old Dominion Zone. She has held positions at all levels in LWML. At the national LWML level, Claire is currently the LWML Convention Transportation and Tours Manager. She has also served on the Nominating Committee, Christian Resources Editor Committee, and the 2013 Host Committee Communications Department Coordinator. At the District Level, Claire has served as the Eastern District President and was a member of LWML Board of Directors, Mission-Ministry Vision Consultant. Claire also served as First Vice President, Structure Committee Chairman, Nominating Committee, Editor, Mission Projects Chairman and Public Relations Director. At Zone Level, Claire was the Buffalo Zone Secretary, the Treasurer, PR Chairman, District Convention Host Committee Co-Chairman and the Zone delegate to LWML conventions. At the Society level, Claire is President of the Trinity Women's group at Trinity, Henrico, VA. She has also served as president, secretary and treasurer for the Salem, Buffalo, NY Society. At her home church, Claire is currently serving on the Trinity Communications Board. Claire is a retired preschool teacher's aide and a retired church newsletter editor. She earned her BS in Biology and Chemistry at Valparaiso University. She has also served as a Girl Scout Leader. Claire is married to David and they have two daughters, Stephanie and Jennifer. Stephanie is married to Rev. Nycholas Greig, who are parents to Riley and Henry.



Vice President of Mission Outreach and Grants – Portia Tomlinson, Roanoke, VA
(pstomlinson@cox.net)

Portia is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Roanoke, VA, in the Blue Ridge Zone. She served as Registrar for the 2018 District Convention. She is currently the President of the LWML group at Good Shepherd. In her home congregation she is Choir Director and has served as Sunday School Superintendent and Director of Christian Education. In her community Portia is an active member and leader for several Physician Assistant's organizations, including serving as President of the Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants and Continuing Medical Education Chair, as well as with the American Academy of Physician Assistants as Delegate for Virginia and a Distinguished Fellow. She has coordinated large conferences with over 300 attendees, dozens of speakers, multiple workshops, and up to 60 exhibitors, this year preparing a Virtual Conference. Portia continues in her full-time career as a Physician Assistant at Salem VAMC, and as the Coordinator of Hospice and Palliative Care, PA for Psychiatry Cross Cover. Portia has three adult children, and three grandchildren.

VP of Christian Life – Christine Dennis-Johnson, Ft. Washington, MD

(gzd0519@yahoo.com)



Christine is a member of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Washington, DC, in the DCMARVA Zone. She is a member of the Chesapeake District Christian Life Committee and has been a presenter at the District Leadership Retreat. She attended the National Assembly of Leaders (AOL) in 2018 in St. Louis, MO. In her church, she established a Mite Collection Sunday every fifth Sunday, in addition to LWML Sunday, organized and recruited members for hosting LWML rally. In her home congregation, Christine has served in many positions – Altar Guild Chair, Boards of Elders & Trustees, Financial Secretary, Nominating Committee, Candace Ladies Group, and as Co-Chair of the Youth Group. Christine and women of her church partnered with women from Peace Lutheran Church (DC) to provide meals and a Bible study for women of N Street Village. Christine has

served in the U.S. Army, has worked in healthcare and as a jewelry stylist. She is married to Rev. Dr. John F. Johnson and has a daughter, Tabitha.

Corresponding Secretary – Leslie Jaseph, Crownsville, MD (jaseph@aol.com)

Leslie is a member of St. Paul Lutheran, Annapolis, MD, in the Baltimore Zone. She has held positions at all levels for LWML. From the National level as most recently as Meeting Manager and Convention Site Committee Chair. Serving the District as VP of Communication, on the Nominating Committee, Mission Grants Committee. In the Zone as Chairman, Co-Chairman, Retreat Planner, and Retreat Leader. In her church group she has served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer. In her home congregation she has served on many committees and positions. She is a former Director of Community Ministry for LMS Compassion Place and taught Lower School Science. Leslie and her husband Jamie have two grown sons, Phil (married to Rachel), and Rob.



Junior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Michael Thress, (revthress@gmail.com)

Faith Lutheran Church, Bear, DE, in the DELMARVA Zone.

Rev. Michael Thress is a graduate of Valparaiso University and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He has served as the pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Bear, Delaware, for almost 20 years. During that time, he has supported his congregation's Priscilla Circle LWML group and has participated in many Zone Rallies of the DelMarVa Zone as a host pastor, program presenter, Bible Study leader, and musician. Pastor Thress has also served in the community on the Board of Trustees of Lutheran Community Services in Wilmington, Delaware for six years. His parents, the late Rev. Ed Thress and wife Ellen Thress, were active supporters of the LWML in Delaware. He has four children: Raychel (21), Luke (19), Allison (16), and Leah (13).



Junior Pastoral Counselor – Rev. Gary R. Pomrenke (pastorgary.pomrenke@gmail.com)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mechanicsville, MD, in the DCMARVA Zone. He is a native of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and served for 25 years in the US Air Force, ending with assignments at Andrews Air Force Base. After working for more than fifteen years as a pastoral assistant for several congregations in southern Maryland, he completed a BA Religious Studies and entered the colloquy program of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained as a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) in January 2019 and placed into ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mechanicsville, MD. He is involved in the community as well, including as the Pastoral Coordinator for the Sunday services at the Charlotte Hall, MD, Veterans Home; on the Pastoral Board of Directors for the Catherine Foundation in Waldorf, MD; and as Pastoral Advisor for the Capitol District of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Rev. Pomrenke is married to Tracie (6 years) and they have 5 children together: Jacob (Erin), Jordan (Holly), Erika, Jordan, and Jillian (Larenzo). They welcomed their first grandchild, Alice, in September 2019.



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Nominating Committee: Linda Nau, Chair, Paulette Gaines, Leslie Jaseph, Christine Machonachy, and Deb Poesse