



# Views from the Rockies

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

pp. 2-7

Greetings from Rocky Mountain Synodical President

## President's Corner



As I write this I am in my kitchen with my back door open for the wonderful warm breeze coming in. It is November and I'm thinking how incredible God is to share this incredible gift. Our Fall Convention here in Cheyenne was

also blessed with great weather and sixty women from throughout the Synod.

As you will see throughout the newsletter those who attended enjoyed a thought provoking Bible Study by Pastor Brenda Frelsi; workshops on current topics such as Living Stones of the Holy Land, Stories of Hunger, Safe Zone Project, Human Trafficking, Wellness, Called to Give, Giving Through Thoughtful Consumerism, Card Making and our Quiet Time space.

Our keynote speaker was Bishop Jim Gonia who shared through stories and art the convention theme, "Called to Serve, Called to Give and Called to Love." What a special treat! A very special thanks to the Planning Committee and the three churches that helped host the Convention—Ascension, Christ and St. Paul's. Fabulous food, fellowship and spiritual growth!

What a joyous time of year as we join with family and friends to share a meal and time together over Thanksgiving and Christmas! This year make a special effort to remember those individuals who do not have family or friends to celebrate with such as the military, first responders

on duty, someone in assisted living/hospital or are homeless. Hand written cards mean so much but for many it is not the way we communicate any more (Email or texting) but share how you can the good news of Jesus and his love.

Think about giving yourself a Christmas gift, a trip to Minneapolis for the Triennial Gathering July 13-16, 2017. Registration is now open and it is definitely a trip you will be spiritually uplifted. Check it out at [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org). If you want to share in the experience, check out the website. You can make finger labryriths for the convention or a quilt for the quilt challenge. Check out the Coloring Devotions sheets.

Anna Thompson

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# Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization St. Paul's Lutheran, Cheyenne, WY, Sept. 16-18, 2016

## Impressions of 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

by Susan Mitchell

Dear Sisters in the RMSWO,

Yes, I attended the Cheyenne Convention, as a board member and as your outgoing treasurer, but also as a member of the Peace Lutheran Women of the ELCA Unit in Las Cruces, New Mexico. I want to share with you some of my impressions as a woman in our Rocky Mountain Synod, making the trek north to be among so many Christian women for three days.



Darlene Stout, registrar

From start to finish this was a time of love, sharing and faith renewal. My hope is that all who attended, about 60 strong, have returned to their home congregations and spread the word of what we experienced—and that even more women will come next time. And, next time will be at a Gathering in 2017. Be sure to read future issues of “Views from the Rockies” for details.

The theme said it all: “Called to Serve, Called



Pastor Brenda Frelsi

to Give, Called to Love.” I especially benefitted from our Convention Chaplain and Bible Study Leader, Pastor Brenda Frelsi’s three presentations in which she used scripture and our tri-

fold theme to ground us in ways God calls us to love Him and all those whom we encounter. Inspirational!



Participants enjoy the wonderful food.



Maren Felde

Our Convention Planning Report (CPR) is full of “Thanks ...” to everyone who worked together for many weeks to deliver a wonderful weekend event. President Anna Thompson had a *killer* Planning Committee! But: what would an event like this be without delicious, nutritious and

plentiful FOOD? I must put in a BIG THANK YOU to all who volunteered salads, cookies, breads and more—and most of all, thanks to Maren Felde who made it all work smoothly.

There were amazing items for sale, and I did a lot of early Christmas shopping. Regina Pacheco helped us purchase many fair trade (mostly African) bowls and animal figurines, and there was also a



Regina Pacheco

great selection of WELCA logo products available, like T-shirts and jewelry.

The Keynote Speaker at any Convention should have top billing, (well, after the Thank You's and food?) and having the Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop, the Rev. Jim Gonia, present to us was indeed special. He spoke to us with slides and words, making us aware of how we are Christ's Church—Better Together. He had dinner with us too, and I enjoyed watching him go from table to table, asking permission to take a smart phone group photo of each and every woman sharing a meal with him! (Wouldn't we like to see his scrapbook of pictures taken at every Synod event for the past 4 years??!!)



Bishop Jim Gonia, keynote speaker

**Other Special Guests:** we loved getting to know Lisa Pilorin, an Executive Board Member of the Women of the ELCA. She serves on the Churchwide Board and is from New Hope Lutheran Church in Upham, North Dakota. What a dynamic leader! She brought us a clear message of how great our WELCA really is!



Lisa Pilorin

And, who could resist Randi VenHuizen, a Triennial Gathering Promoter, who came to us from Mesa, Arizona, (where she is a member of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Gilbert, AZ), to

inform and excite us about registering and attending the July 2017 Triennial, which will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



Randi VenHuizen

Many workshops were offered — all so important. May I just mention my favorite? Pastor Alison George of St. Paul's Cheyenne, led us in discussion about our inclusive church, with a helpful handout of terms to clarify how our LGBTQ friends want to be defined and how all of us live our Christian lives together.

But, wow, what's a Lutheran Convention without



Convention Participants



Closing worship

music! We have so many songs in the ELW—Evangelical Lutheran Worship book—to bind us together and help us give glory to God. In worship and also in fellowship, we sang praises, especially using #720, “We are Called,”—our Convention Hymn. We were called! We sang praises indeed! Amen!

# Human Trafficking in Wyoming Workshop

While attending the RMSWO convention this September, one workshop that caught my attention was “Rural Realities - Human Trafficking in Wyoming.” Really? You’d think that wouldn’t happen very often in this part of the country. It only happens in big cities. Right? Unfortunately it happens everywhere, including Wyoming.

Our speaker for this workshop was Cara Boyle Chambers. She is the Director of Victim Services for the Office of the Attorney General. She gave a very informative and interesting presentation and her passion on the subject was clearly evident.

She told us about the prevalence of human trafficking in all types of areas. She gave us exam-

ples of when and how it has been detected and stopped. One situation she described was a recent sting operation during Frontier Days in Cheyenne. Events such as these tend to attract predators and traffickers. Her presentation included photos of 12 people arrested for prostitution, soliciting prostitution or trafficking. Seeing that so many were arrested was bad enough, but a young lady in attendance at this convention told us that one of the men arrested for solicitation had been her favorite teacher in high school! Yes, it can and does happen in Wyoming and everywhere.

Please pray for those trapped in the world of human trafficking and for those working so hard to eradicate it from our cities, states and country.

Tammi Clawson, RMSWO Secretary



Cara Boyle Chambers

## Some of the Women Called to 12th Biennial Convention



Registration



Cheri Lovas, pianist



Barbara MacKenzie, Parliamentarian



Jan Miller, presenter of Living Stone of Palestine



Opening Session

**“Called to Serve,  
Called to Give,  
Called to Love”**



Hunger Workshop, Carol McDivitt

# *“Called to Serve, Called to Give, Called to Love”*

## Twelfth Biennial Convention Bible Study



RMSWO President Anna Thompson with Rev. Brenda Frelsi

Rev. Brenda Frelsi served as our Bible Study leader. She is the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Casper, Wyoming.

Before becoming a pastor, she was a Youth Director in Portland, Oregon at St. Luke Lutheran and St. Matthew’s Lutheran. Her goals for ministry are to demonstrate not taking oneself too seriously while, at the same time, worshipping with intensity and also to demonstrate kindness constantly. Rev. Brenda is a natural storyteller, weaving in stories as a youth director, pastor and parent.

Rev. Brenda started with “The Call to Give”, reading Matthew 6:11 – “God is always the

giver, never the taker.” She told us that we need to learn to balance our lives. Healthy relationships are built on give and take.

In the second bible study, “Called to Serve”, she learned the lesson of serving from her daughter. She taught Rev. Brenda that it doesn’t matter what job you have or your station in life, we should be appreciative of those around us who serve. This could be someone in your family, a waitress, a store clerk, etc. We should feel free to express our appreciation for the service that we have received.

In the third and final bible study, the theme came from 1 John 4:11-12, “Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.” This bible study spoke to the fact that we need to practice kindness and love, even if it is one small act of love or kindness a day.

Thank you Rev. Brenda!



## Report for the convention — In Kind Offerings:

***Thank you for making the backpacks for the school kits, providing the supplies for both the blessing bags and the school kits. The women at the convention had a fun time assembling both for distribution.***

**Blessing Bags for the Homeless:** (All items must fit into a gallon size freezer bag.)

Items needed: gallon size freezer bags, toothbrush & paste, Tylenol (individual packet of 2), bar of soap, tissues, small comb, antibacterial wipes (individual packets), band-aids, razor, juice box, snack size bags of peanuts; granola bars, crackers & cheese. (Adult size

hats & gloves, hand warmers and socks can also be included.)

One hundred four Blessing Bags were assembled from all the donations brought. Members of St. Paul's have been sharing them with the homeless as they travel around the city and elsewhere. St. Paul's members will continue to gather and distribute the Blessing Bags for the homeless and plans are in the works to start a Blessing Pantry outside near our parking lot. An article about the Blessing Pantry can be found in *The Living Lutheran* November edition.

**Lutheran World Relief School Kits:** Four 70-sheet notebooks approx. 8" x 10 1/2"; One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other; one pencil sharpener; one pair of blunt scissors; five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); one box of 16 or 24 crayons; one 2 1/2" eraser; one sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approx. 14" x 17". (Note: For an easy-sew backpack visit [www.lwr.org/schoolkits](http://www.lwr.org/schoolkits) or call 800.597.5972 for pattern and tips for purchasing pre-made bags.

Seventeen School kits were partially assembled and will be completed and sent to Lutheran World Relief for use around the world.



Blessing bag assembly

# Convention Offerings – A Blessing to Many

By Susan Mitchell, RMSWO Treasurer

The Women of the ELCA has a beautiful Purpose Statement, and when we gathered at the 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization, our three offerings certainly reflected our purpose: “...we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness...”

As I studied the spreadsheet that was created after receiving the checks and cash, I realized our stewardship also demonstrates Our Mission: “Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.” Our Bible Study presenter, Pastor Brenda Frelsi of Grace Lutheran in Casper, WY, pointed out in her lively sessions that giving generously is the ministry and action part of our work together!

Here’s the Good News! Thank you for your gifts which will be used for many kinds of ministry:

DONORS	To RMSWO	To Sarah’s Home	To RMSWO Scholarships	TOTALS
Units:	\$ 409.00	\$ 457.00	\$ 434.00	\$ 1,300.00
Individuals:	<u>\$ 904.00</u>	<u>\$ 815.00</u>	<u>\$ 852.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,571.00</u>
Grand Totals:	\$1,313.00*	\$1,272.00	\$ 1,286.00	\$ 3,871.00

\*In keeping with the board’s desire to forward 50% of all undesignated RMSWO offerings to WELCA Churchwide, a check for \$656.50 (50% of \$1,313.00) will be sent to Churchwide from our Convention offering.

## More Glimpses from the Convention



Card making with Pat Tye



Vicki Proffit, Sarah’s Home



Pastor Alison George



Lisa Pilorin with Triennial Voting Delegates: Anna Thompson, Jan Young, Tammi Clawson, and Lila Moore (alternate), plus Debra Haar (not in photo)

# Rocky Mountain Synod

## WELCA Budget

### Biennial Convention Year – 2016

#### 2/1/2016 – 1/31/2017

#### INCOME

##### *Convention*

Offerings	1,000.00
Registrations (55 @ \$75)	4,125.00

**Interest Earned** 5.00

##### *Offerings & Donations*

Board Offerings	800.00
Cluster Offerings	1,100.00
Designated Offerings	1,000.00
Travel Equalization	400.00
Unit/Congregational Offerings	9,500.00

Other Income 25.00

**TOTAL INCOME** \$ 17,955.00

#### EXPENSE

Advertising & Publicity 75.00

Audit 0.00

Bank Charges 0.00

Contract Labor 180.00

Designated Offering - Disbursed 2,000.00

Facility Use 0.00

Honorarium 400.00

Meals & Entertainment 200.00

Mileage 200.00

Miscellaneous 50.00

Offering - Disbursed 8,000.00

Postage & Shipping (Views) 1,400.00

Printing & Publishing (Views) 1,300.00

Other Postage 50.00

Scholarship Award 250.00

Supplies 25.00

Travel/Board Meetings/Conferences 3,825.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE** \$ 17,955.00

# Rocky Mountain Synod

## WELCA Budget

### Gathering Year – 2017

#### 2/1/2017–1/31/2018

#### INCOME

##### *Gathering*

Offerings 500.00

Registrations (55 @ \$60) 3,300.00

**Interest Earned** 5.00

##### *Offerings & Donations*

Board Offerings 600.00

Cluster Offerings 1,000.00

Designated Offerings 800.00

Travel Equalization 400.00

Unit/Congregational Offerings 9,000.00

Other Income 50.00

**TOTAL INCOME** 15,655.00

#### EXPENSE

Advertising & Publicity 80.00

Audit 0.00

Bank Charges 0.00

Contract Labor 100.00

Designated Offering - Disbursed 1,800.00

Facility Use 0.00

Honorarium 350.00

Meals & Entertainment 350.00

Mileage 200.00

Miscellaneous 100.00

Offering - Disbursed 5,000.00

Postage & Shipping (Views) Digital Only 0.00

Printing & Publishing (Views) Digital Only 0.00

Other Postage 75.00

Scholarship Award 1,500.00

Supplies 100.00

Travel/Board Meetings/Conferences 6,000.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE** 15,655.00



# Meet Your New RMSWO Board



**Anna Thompson** continues as your president for the next two years. She is an active member at St. Paul's as chairperson of the Social Ministry Team, on the Fellowship and Property Committees, Worship Assistant, Greeter, Coffee Host and Offering Counter. Anna serves as treasurer for the Women's Ministry Team (WELCA). She is a Child Passenger Safety Instructor for Wyoming, volunteer at the Cheyenne Frontier Days Old West Museum and an assistant on the Ticket Committee. Anna is retired and loving it. She enjoys travel, meeting new people and taking pictures.



**Sharon Hamilton** is our new vice president. She has served on the Board before and was willing to try it again. She has served on her Church Council as secretary, Altar Committee, open church, volunteer at front desk and is the prayer shawl chairperson. Sharon organizes "Cakes for Las Vegas, NM Mental Health Center" by making and distributing them and also volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. She brings organizational skills to the board and a willingness to take on finding more board members.



**Tammi Clawson** is the new secretary. She served as a board member on the 2014-2016 RMSWO Board. Tammi is an active member at Grace Lutheran as member of the Church Council, President of WELCA and volunteer as opportunities arise such as for Family Promise and God's Work, Our Hands. She has helped plan the last RMSWO Fall Gathering and Convention. Tammi retired from banking after 33 years and has become a new grandma this past year which filled some of the spare time outside of her two part-time jobs. She will bring creativity and fun to all work done with the board.



**Jan Young** is the new treasurer and also served on the 2014-2016 RMSWO Board as a board member. She has filled the positions as President, Vice President, Secretary and currently Treasurer in her church group. Jan serves on the Governing Board (Church Council) in the merged Episcopal and Lutheran church. She is the church organist, choir director and treasurer for her church. In her community, Jan organizes the Community Christmas Concert each year, volunteers on Price's Day of Caring and is a City Commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Committee for Price City. She brings her financial and computer skills to the Board as well as her musical talents.



**Debra Haar** is new on the Board as one of the Board members. She has been active in her congregation and was born and raised in the ELCA. Debra has helped with God's Work Our Hands and with youth ministry. She has volunteered as a Girl Scout Leader for 17 years. She has taught "Hands on Science" and "Art in the School." Debra brings her experience with youth to the board which will help the Board encourage young women to check out the Women of the ELCA - Rocky Mountain.



**Lila Moore** made a prayerful decision to run for the Board again. She is a member of Altar Guild, serves in many positions in her church and has served as a delegate for the Synod Assembly for three years and attends even when not a delegate. Lila is a quilter and shares the quilts made by many of the women at Peace Lutheran with Lutheran World Relief, The Crossing Homeless Shelter in Denver, S.A.R.A. House, Logan County Sheriff's Office, the Sterling Police Department and to the Fire Department. Lila is an organizer and will bring this skill to the Board.

# Why I Said “Yes”

When I was asked to be on the RMSWO Board at the end of the convention two years ago, my initial answer was “no.” No time, nothing to give, not enough knowledge. Sound familiar? And...I had no idea what I would do? Well, the good thing was that I had already said “no” and that was the end of it. Or was it?

A few weeks later when Betty Ann Arner, the Vice-President of the RMSWO at that time called me I thought, “really?” Hadn’t I already said “no”? But, instead of using that two letter word again, I listened to her tell me about what the board does and how much of a time commitment it would be if I joined the board. She patiently answered my questions even though I really wasn’t sure what to ask. She asked me just to think about it, pray about it, and let her know what I decided. We set up a time to talk again, in a couple of weeks.

So, I did just that. I prayed. I talked to my pastor who responded with “why not?” I talked to friends who mostly confirmed my position on over-committing and being too busy. I talked to my sister who listened and knew that no matter what I said and what advice I received, I would still do whatever I felt like doing. I prayed some more. I thought about what Ina Anders (a friend from church and a former RMSWO president) had shared with me just before I attended that convention. She told me about the amazing women of faith that she had met during her journey in this organization and how much each of them still

meant to her. I prayed some more. I avoided talking to my husband because I just knew he would tell me “you’re crazy” and “you’re doing it again” (over committing). He also knew that no matter what, I’d do whatever I wanted to do. And then I prayed some more.

When the phone rang at our scheduled call time, I was still prepared to say “no.” But you know what? God had other plans. The word “yes” came out of my mouth and I am so blessed that it did.

So. What do we do on RMSWO board? We meet by phone on conference calls 3 or 4 times a year. We meet in person 3 or 4 times a year. We plan conventions and gatherings. We write articles for the *Views from the Rockies*. We pray. We offer our gifts (and yes, we all have them whether we think so or not). We have fun. We are part of the bigger picture of the ELCA as the Women of the ELCA. We gain new sisters in Christ. We work together with other women of faith. We thank God for the opportunity to serve HIM.

If I had based my answer on the number of entries in my planner, my answer would still be “no.” But I have found that God has given me the gifts of time that I have needed. As always, he gives each of us just what we need just when we need it.

Please prayerfully consider joining the current board. You will be amazed at what God will do through you.

What will your answer be?

Tammi Clawson  
RMSWO Secretary, newly elected

## Basket raffle winners: Scholarship fund-raiser at the convention



## Decommissioning of 2014–2016 RMSWO Board by Lisa Pilorin



## Installation of 2016–2018 RMSWO Board by Lisa Pilorin



## Message From The Vice President

I want to say thank you to all of you for voting me in as Vice President at the convention in September. I think!? I will probably know more about the office after our first board meeting and, whatever the tasks are, I assure all of you that I will do my best to fulfill my duties. One of my first priorities is to recruit more board members. Our board should have four officers and nine elected board members. We have the four officers but only two board members. I know there are many

women out there who could fill those positions and if you are one of them, please e-mail me at [sharonh0223@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonh0223@yahoo.com) and I will send you a nomination form and a copy of the constitution. It would be wonderful if we had a full board when we get together for the Fall Gathering.

Think about it. Pray about it. Talk to your family about it. And then say yes.

Sharon Hamilton

# Women of Peace Lutheran Church Celebrate Oktoberfest, 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Women of Peace Lutheran Church in Sterling, Colorado, hosted an Oktoberfest Dinner on October 30. This special day was to celebrate Reformation Sunday, as well as the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peace Lutheran.

The day began with a Polka Church Service at 10am. Marcia Davis, pianist, and her grandson, Adam Davis, accordionist, played the selected hymns to polka tunes. The new interim Pastor Ron Powers con-



ducted the service. Pastors Kline and Goetz, previous pastors at Peace, were in attendance and read the lessons. After church, approximately eighty-five members and guests shared a German dinner. The menu included German Sausage, Sauerkraut, Rye Bread, Hot German Potato Salad, Creamed Cucumbers, Red Cabbage, Pickled Beets, Rival Kugen, German Apple Cake, and German Chocolate Cake.

Since many Germans from Russia came to the Sterling area to work in the sugar beet fields, a video created by the American Association of Germans from Russia was shown. Tables were decorated with framed pictures of current members at their

confirmation time, and some deceased family members who were charter members of Peace Lutheran. Memories were shared by Pastors Kline and Goetz, as well as by several members.

A goodwill offering was taken at the dinner and the proceeds will go to Lutheran Development Services to support our member, Jessica Roit, who is serving Senegal, South Africa. Jessica is working with teenage girls and preschool children.

by Dorothy Dietz, Peace Lutheran, Sterling.

## Quiet time at the convention



## Co-Chairs 2017 Fall Gathering

# Notes from the Women of the ELCA Board Meeting

Offerings to Women of the ELCA continue to dwindle in a time when the organization needs nearly \$900,000 to fund a constitutionally required triennial convention in 2017, the church-wide executive board learned at its fall meeting. At the same time, interest in the organization

\$1,000,000 below budgeted projections.

“To support the 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention each congregational unit is being challenged to send at least \$50 to the churchwide organization. The financial impact by the women will be recognized as a powerful force for good and as a ministry in the name of Jesus. Give your support!”

– RMSWO President Anna Thompson

## Save the Dates:

**North New Mexico Cluster Event:** Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 from 9am-2pm, Women’s Prayer

& Meditation Event – “Listening for God”, In Albuquerque at All Saints Lutheran Church.

Contact: Rhonda Bentz at (505)301-6662.

**Southeast Colorado Cluster Event:** Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, “Baptized, We Live” by Pastor Julie Britsch at Grace Lutheran in Colorado Springs. Contact: Helen Peterson at (719)596-7868 for more information and to register.

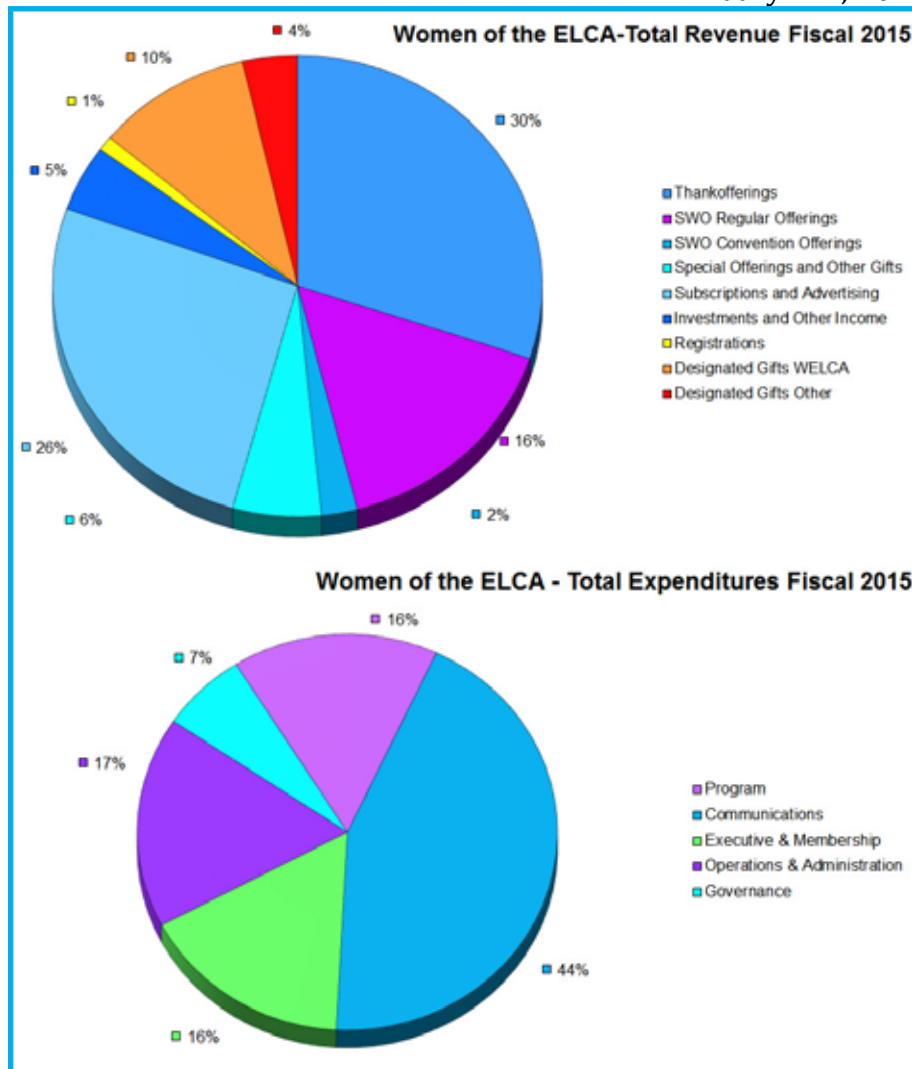
**MetroEast Colorado Cluster Event:** Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, CO (Date TBD. Watch for more information in the next Views.)

**Triennial Gathering** in Minneapolis, MN on July 13-16, 2017. Read more about attending on [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org).

**Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly:** May 5-7, 2017 in Colorado Springs at the Antler Hilton. Come visit the RMSWO

table for information about programs and events.

**RMSWO Fall Gathering:** October 6-8, 2017, “Woman of Faith-Past and Present” at Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, CO. Contact: Anna Thompson at (307)221-3218. Watch *The Views* for more information.



and the 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention has increased, said Linda Post Bushkofsky, Women of the ELCA executive director. With 66 percent of the fiscal year 2016 complete, regular offerings, Thankofferings, designated gifts, special offerings and SWO convention offerings have fallen almost

# “All Anew”: Starting Now

Engage the Tenth Triennial Gathering theme “All Anew” in new and different ways before you even leave home. Working alone or in groups, you can make a quilt, create a finger labyrinth, color the All Anew coloring sheet, worship with the free downloadable online devotionals or gather in-kind gifts.

## Finger Labyrinths

For the Tenth Triennial Gathering, we’re making and collecting finger labyrinths. There are patterns for those who sew, knit and crochet. The patterns can easily be adapted for embroidery or felting, so it’s a project for every fiber artist, new or experienced. The finger labyrinths will be given to the voting members at our Tenth Triennial Convention(2017), and every participant at the triennial gathering will receive one too. If the goal of 5,000 finger labyrinths is met, the extra labyrinths will be donated to chaplains in schools, hospitals, hospices and nursing homes. The patterns can be downloaded from [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org).

## Always Thankful, All Anew

The opening worship service of the Tenth Triennial Gathering on Thursday evening, July 13, 2017, will be a Thankoffering service. Bring your congregation’s Thankoffering, bring your circle’s Thankoffering, bring your family’s Thankoffering, bring your own Thankoffering. Or you may give Thankofferings online at [welca.org/give](http://welca.org/give). Click on “Where Needed Most,” and choose Thankofferings or make a check out to: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. The closing worship service of the Triennial Gathering will include a joyful offering to be divided as: 25% PV for Phebe, 25% Cherish All Children and 50% Women of the ELCA. Phebe Hospital in rural Liberia was founded in 1921 by the Lutheran church in partnership with Methodist and Episcopal churches. The hospital is without reliable power and needs \$624,000 to install solar power, which would replace outdated generators. The idea for the project grew out the Women of the ELCA’s 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Liberia, and the Northeastern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization has led the way. Cherish All Children is a social ministry organization affiliated with the ELCA whose purpose is to equip congregations to

prevent sexual exploitation of children.

## Quilt Challenge

Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the gathering theme in a black and white challenge where you can use just one other color. Entries will be judged by women from the Minnesota Quilters Guild. For complete instructions, visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org).

## Give to the community: In-kind gifts

Giving in-kind gifts at the gathering is a tradition that positively impacts the host city. Visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) for a list of the in-kind gifts and ways you can



start encouraging your unit to begin collecting them early such as: gift cards and toiletry items.

## Friends of the Triennial Gathering

Friends of the Triennial Gathering who give \$500 or more may have the name of their circle, congregational unit, cluster/conference or synodical women’s organization posted on the wall of fame at the triennial. Learn more at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) under the News tab at the top of the page.

# 2016-2018 RMSWO Board Members

## President, Anna Thompson

5015 W. Villa Circle  
Cheyenne, WY 82009  
307.221.3218

[anna498.at@gmail.com](mailto:anna498.at@gmail.com)

St. Paul's Lutheran, Cheyenne

## Vice President, Sharon Hamilton

7401 San Pedro NE #93  
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St. Paul Lutheran, Albuquerque

## Secretary, Tammi Clawson

318 N. Foote Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80909

[tbclawson58@msn.com](mailto:tbclawson58@msn.com)

Grace Lutheran, Colorado Springs

## Treasurer, Susan Mitchell (until 2/1/2017)

**Treasurer, Jan Young (starting 2/1/2017)**  
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Price, Utah 84501

[ajyoung@sisna.com](mailto:ajyoung@sisna.com)

Ascension St. Matthew's, Price

## Board Member, Debra Haar

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[haardap@hotmail.com](mailto:haardap@hotmail.com)

Prince of Peace, Colorado Springs

## Board Member, Lila Moore

305 Platte  
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[oggram@KCI.net](mailto:oggram@KCI.net)

Peace Lutheran, Sterling

## A Special Thank You:

As President of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization I want to express my thanks to the women who served on the Board from 2014-2016. In the picture on the left are those members who were able to attend the Fall Convention.



In the first row left to right are: Lila Moore-Board member, Betty Ann Arner-Vice President and Susan Mitchell-treasurer; in the second row from left to right are: Tammi Clawson-Board member, myself and Jan Young-Board member.

Each woman served with boldness, faith, love and concern for others, and used their skills to assist the Synodical Women's Organization. Those unable to attend were all Board members: Tami Talbot, Carol Blomquist, Carolee Smith, Sue Yerdan and Lynette Schurdevin. The talents and time were given by each of these women and I appreciate each one of them.

**Board Member, Vacant (7):** If interested is serving please contact Vice President Sharon Hamilton. Your time, talents and skills are something that can be used on the RMSWO Board.

## In Memory...Darlene Ann Foster

The Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization has lost a dear friend. Darlene Ann



Foster passed away on October 9, 2016 after a long illness. She was a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, and the treasurer of the North New Mexico Cluster. She also served as a board member of the RMSWO. Darlene was a widow; she

and her husband Joe enjoyed photography and their family. A daughter pre-deceased Darlene. She is mourned by a son Joe, his wife Tracy of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a brother and sister-in-law in Cincinnati, Ohio, three granddaughters and many other family members and friends.

# Easy Instructions To Sign Up For The RMS E-Connection Email

*By Susan Mitchell, Board Member*

We encourage every woman in the Rocky Mountain Synod to sign up to receive the weekly Synod Newsletter called e-Connection. It is sent out every Wednesday to your e-mail address, and it contains articles and pictures about many things in our lives together as Lutherans living in the states that make up the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Once a quarter, e-Connection will have an article about the current issue of our “Views from the Rockies”—the newsletter of the RMS Women’s Organization. You will be directed to the Synod website, which is where “Views” issues will be available. You may read them online, and you may also print a copy for your personal use. Ask your church office to print the Views for you if you do not have access to the website.

Please sign up as follows:

1. On your computer, go to the Rocky Mountain

Synod website by putting this URL into your browser: [www.rmselfca.org](http://www.rmselfca.org)

2. On the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and in the middle of the page you will see: Subscribe to Email Newsletter. Below that line is a yellow rectangle that says Email List. Simply click on the yellow rectangle! This takes you to a page that asks for your Email Address, your first & last name, and to check a box stating if you are a Pastor, Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Minister, or Deaconess. Below this you should check the box that states: “I wish to receive e-Connection each week.”
3. Finally, click on the bottom bar that says “Sign Up.” That’s it! Remember, this is a free subscription to the synod Email weekly newsletter. You will receive notice of new issues of our Views from the Rockies newsletters from the synod’s e-Connection Email.

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## About Views from the Rockies



The “Views” is written/circulated by the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization, Women of the ELCA, and provides information about programs and projects.

**NOTE:** Articles for the Views are to be sent to [anna498.at@gmail.com](mailto:anna498.at@gmail.com) by the 12th of January, 12th of April, 12th of July, 12th of August and 12th of November.

There are no longer printed copies of “Views from the Rockies.” Each church and all individuals may now download and/or print FREE COPIES from the Rocky Mountain Synod website. To access the website and get the newsletter, go to [www.rmselfca.org/Ministries/Women](http://www.rmselfca.org/Ministries/Women).

We encourage all women to sign up to receive the Rocky Mountain Synod’s weekly e-Connection e-mail, which will be another way for you to receive notice of the quarterly digital issues of “Views from the Rockies.” See the article at the top of this page 15 for information.

The website of the Rocky Mountain Synodical

Women’s Organization has not only this newsletter but more information about what is going on now, what has happened in the past, and what to look to in the future. Kent Mueller at the synod office has kindly kept the site updated. We will keep new, interesting information highlighted on the web.

Mission:  
To mobilize  
women to act  
boldly on  
their faith in  
Jesus Christ

**RMSWO Website:**

[www.rmselfca.org/Ministries/Women](http://www.rmselfca.org/Ministries/Women)

*Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck*

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**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD**

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