

**Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana**

**Synodical Women’s Organization**

**ATTENTION ALL WOMEN OF THE NORTHERN TEXAS-NORTHERN LOUISIANA SYNOD:**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a personal invitation to each and every one of you to attend our upcoming Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Convention which will be held on October 13-14 at Grace Lutheran Church in Carrollton, TX. This convention is open to **ALL** women in the NT-NL Synod even if you don’t currently have an active WELCA unit in your congregation. As a matter of fact, if you have a Non-Lutheran friend who would like to come with you, they are welcome as well. Our Convention Planning Committee has been working hard and has lots of fun and educational activities planned so there should be something for everyone.

Below are the items which will help in publicizing and planning your convention trip.

1. A **Save The Date Flyer:** This flyer contains basic information about our upcoming convention and can be printed and posted around your church. You can also personally hand out this information to women who might be interested in attending the Convention. In addition, you might also consider putting an announcement about the Convention in your weekly church bulletin as well as in your church newsletter.
2. A **Convention Registration Form**: If you plan to attend the Convention you will need to complete this registration form and return it to our Convention Registrar, Pam Grosze, by no later than Sept. 30, 2023 along with your $100 registration fee ($80 if you plan on attending on Saturday only). Pam Grosze’s mailing address is included on the form.
3. A **Scholarship Form:** If you or one of the ladies at your church would like to attend the Convention and finances are a little tight, the NT-NL Synodical Women’s Organization (SWO) Board is offering 10 Scholarships of $150.00 each. If you are interested in applying for one of these Scholarships you need to complete this form and return it to Linda Heyde (address & contact information is on the form) by no later than Sept. 15, 2023
4. A **Texas Hotel Occupancy Tax Exemption Certificate:** If you plan to attend the Convention on both Friday & Saturday and reserve a hotel room, this form can be completed (indicating that you are a member of a religious organization) and given to the hotel. This will exempt you from paying the Hotel Tax which is charged in addition to your room occupancy charge.
5. A **Nomination Form:** As part of our activities on Friday afternoon we will be holding our Biennial Business Meeting where, among other things, we will be electing new Officers & Board Members to our SWO Board. These new Officers & Board Members will be responsible for making decisions and directing the activities of our SWO over the next two years. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving on the NT-NL SWO Board please fill out a nomination form and send it to Leslie Jenkins by no later than Sept. 15, 2023. Also, **please note**, the Churchwide organization changed the Constitution on 2021 and now **any woman who is an active, voting member of their local congregation can now serve on their local SWO Board**. If you have any questions, you can contact Leslie Jenkins or any of the other Nomination Committee Members who are listed on the Nomination Form. We desperately need women who are willing to step out in faith and step into some of these leadership positions. No prior experience is needed and it is a great growing experience.

You will notice that there are actually two nomination forms attached. One form is a fillable form which you can download, fill it out, save to your computer, and then return it to the Nomination Committee as an email attachment. By using this form, the Nomination Committee will be able to get this information in a more timely manner and save you postage.

However, if you prefer, there is also a regular nomination form which you can print, fill out by hand, and mail it back to the Nomination Committee.

One last reminder, nominations for the SWO Board President are only taken from the floor on the day of the meeting. This means that between now and the day of our meeting in October you need to be thinking and praying about who you would like to serve as your new SWO Board President. (Note: I am not eligible for re-election)

With all of this information about nominations & elections I feel like I should remind you that each congregational unit who currently has an active WELCA unit in their local church needs to select a delegate to represent them at this meeting and vote on all items presented in the Business meeting. However, if your congregation does not currently have an active WELCA unit the Constitution does still allow you to send a representative to the meeting who can voice their opinions but is not allowed to vote. Personally, I think it would be fantastic if we could get a delegate or representative from every congregation in the NT-NL.

I’m really sorry that this note is so long but this upcoming Convention in October will be the first In- Person Convention we have had since 2018 (Note: We did have an In-Person retreat in October 2022). I am so excited to be able to see all of you again and I hope to give each and every one of you a hug sometime during the weekend. All of our Board meetings over the past four years have been done via Zoom and, as I told the Board members several times, the one thing I really missed was being able to give each and every one of them a hug.

**HOPE TO SEE ALL OF YOU OCTOBER 13-14 IN CARROLLTON!!!**

Yours In Christ,

Pam Nye, President

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana

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