

# **Mississippi Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League Bylaws**

## **Article I — Name**

The name of this organization shall be Mississippi Zone of the Louisiana—Mississippi District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, hereinafter referred to as LWML, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

## **Article II — Objectives**

The objectives of this Zone shall be:

1. To develop and maintain a greater mission consciousness among the women of the Mississippi Zone through mission education, mission inspiration and mission service.
2. To foster and support the programs of the district and national LWML.
3. To encourage local societies with their mission goals, projects and regular LWML activities.

## **Article III — Membership**

Each local society shall be eligible for membership in this zone, the identifying boundaries of which shall conform as nearly as possible to those of Circuit 7, Southern District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

1. Application for membership shall be made to the district president.
2. Individuals shall be considered members of this zone when the local society of which they are members is approved for membership by the district.

## **Article IV — Meetings**

Semi-annual rallies shall be held in the spring and fall.

1. All members of a society are invited to attend and have the privilege of voting. (The delegate system does not apply to zone rallies.)
2. Non-affiliated societies shall also be invited to attend zone rallies as guests, without voting privileges.
3. Location of rally meetings shall be according to alphabetical order by city in the fall; spring rallies shall be held in the southern part of the zone.
4. The spring rally shall have a Christian growth emphasis, while the fall rally shall have a Christian mission emphasis.

## **Article V — Delegates to National Convention**

1. One delegate and one alternate to the national convention from each zone having 10 or fewer societies and one additional delegate and alternate for each additional 10 societies or major fraction thereof shall be elected at the fall zone rally preceding the national convention. Nominations shall be made from the floor. A plurality vote shall elect; highest number of votes shall be delegate, next highest shall be alternate.
2. It shall be the duty of the elected delegates to attend all business sessions of the national convention and give to the membership of each society in her zone a brief personal report of the main proceedings of said convention.

## **Article VI — Officers**

Position and manner of selection of officers:

1. The officers of the zone shall be a president, vice president and a secretary-treasurer.
2. Officers shall be elected at the fall rally, the president being elected in the even years and the vice president and the secretary-treasurer elected in odd years, each to serve a term of two years.
3. Officers shall assume their duties immediately after the closing devotions and the installation of officers at the fall rally.

## **Article VII — Duties of Officers**

1. The president shall:
  - a. Preside at all zone rallies and meetings of the zone executive board and appoint committee chairmen as provided in these bylaws, article IX, section 2.
  - b. Serve as district board member representing the Mississippi Zone and attend all executive board meetings of the LA—MS District LWML. In the event the President is unable to attend the district board meetings, she shall designate the zone vice president or an alternate to serve as her official representative.
  - c. Be a member ex-officio of all committees except the nominating committee.
  - d. Assist the district organization in implementing the league program in the zone.
  - e. Encourage participation of all member societies within the zone.
2. The vice president shall:
  - a. Assist the president in carrying out the league program.
  - b. Perform the duties of the president in the latter's absence or inability to act.
  - c. Serve as bylaws chairman and submit all amendments to the district bylaws committee for approval.
  - d. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the president.
3. The secretary—treasurer shall:
  - a. Keep accurate minutes of all zone rallies and zone executive board meetings.
  - b. Keep a current mailing list of all MS society officers and furnish the list to each society, district president and district secretary.
  - c. Send minutes of rallies to all societies and the district president.
  - d. Send notices of zone rallies (date, time, place) and request advance registration from each society and conduct other correspondence as may be necessary.
  - e. Keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenses.
  - f. Pay all bills approved by the zone.
  - g. Report at regular zone rallies and zone executive board meetings.
  - h. Submit records annually for audit.

## **Article VIII — Nominations**

1. A nominating committee of three members shall be appointed by the president at least three months prior to elections in the even years. This committee shall serve for a term of two years and report at each fall rally. All candidates for zone office shall be qualified league members and the consent of the nominees to serve, if elected, shall have been secured.
2. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.
3. A majority of votes cast shall elect.
4. Ballots shall be prepared by the nominating committee for each election.

### **Article IX — Appointed Officers**

1. A Christian growth chairman shall be appointed by the president to serve for a period of two years.

The Christian growth chairman shall:

- a. Be responsible for coordinating the Christian growth program within the zone.
  - b. Serve in an advisory capacity to local societies on matters of spiritual growth, along with the president and pastoral counselor.
  - c. Promote and plan details for rally programs in coordination with the district Christian growth chairman, zone executive board, pastoral counselor and host society.
  - d. Maintain a file of Christian growth resources and reports.
  - e. Present report of activities, both accomplished and planned, at zone rallies.
2. Other committee chairman shall be appointed by the president as necessary.

### **Article X — Zone Executive Board**

1. The zone executive board shall consist of the elected officers, the Christian growth chairman, the pastoral counselor, the president and Christian growth chairman or a designated representative of each member society.
2. The zone executive board shall:
  - a. Meet at the call of the president at least twice annually.
  - b. Assist the president in planning zone work in harmony with suggestions and recommendations of the district.
  - c. Cooperate with the district in encouraging spiritual growth programs.
  - d. Assist in planning the zone rally program.

### **Article XI— Pastoral Counselor**

1. The pastoral counselor shall be a pastor from the zone who is on the active clergy roster of the LCMS. He shall be elected at the fall rally in the even years for a two-year period and shall be eligible for one consecutive re-election.
2. The pastoral counselor shall:
  - a. Serve the zone in an advisory capacity.
  - b. Attend all rallies and zone executive board meetings.

### **Article XII— Parliamentary Authority**

Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

### **Article XIII— Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present.

These bylaws completely revised and adopted October 13, 2007.

## **Mississippi Zone Standing Rules**

1. Registration fee for each rally shall be \$10.00 per member (except pastors who are guests) and shall be distributed as follows:
  - \$5.00 for the host society
  - \$5.00 for zone expenses (honorarium \$50.00 and travel expenses 35¢/mile for guest speakers; postage, copies, telephone and other expenses as incurred.)
2. Rally offerings shall be designated to promote missions (mission speaker, mission project or some other worthwhile need within the zone.)
3. The host society shall be responsible for registration, refreshments, printed program, lunch, accompanist and preparations for the closing service.
4. Each society which can do so is strongly urged to remit \$25.00 each year to the district treasurer to apply toward our zone delegate's expenses to attend the national LWML convention.

## **Guidelines For Nominating Committee**

The following may be used as guidelines for consideration by the nominating committee:

1. The nominating committee should review the zone bylaws regarding duties of officers when selecting nominees.
2. Societies should provide a brief biographical sketch of the proposed nominee to include name, address, telephone number and local church activities, past and present.
3. Each nominee shall have been an active member in LWML for at least two years.
4. The nominee shall be willing to serve a full two-year term, with possible re-election for an additional two years.
5. Nominees for president shall have served her local society as an officer.
6. Nominees for president shall be advised that if elected she automatically becomes a member of the LA-MS executive board and is expected to attend its meetings or designate a representative to attend in her place.