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12 LLL'ers made the journey to Greensboro

Several Iowa District West LLL'ers made the journey to Greensboro this summer for the League's 92 annual convention. Next year, the drive is a very short one – the Omaha, Nebraska Quest Center!

Next year would be a great time for the Iowa District West Board to encourage our fellow League sponsors to attend a convention. Next year would be a good time for you to attend and to get all pumped up over the work of our Lord and the work that the League is accomplishing for Him through your support.

At Greensboro, we heard inspiring stories and speeches of how His Word spreads and how His Word changes lives. One such story came from the President of the Lutheran Laymen's League – Canada. It was a very touching story that brought tears to the crowd as he revealed how the Lutheran Hour had deeply changed a life – his own.

During one of the sessions, President Kiseschnick, sporting a Men's Network shirt, gave powerful words of encouragement. At one of the evening entertainment sessions, racecar patriarch Ned Jarrett gave a heartwarming account of his life as a Christian in the world of NASCAR.

On an afternoon outing, the men toured the famous Christian Outreach Farm of Kyle Petty. Kyle's family has an outreach for handicapped children. While the men were lunching and touring the farm, the ladies gathered at the convention center to listen to Mrs. Kyle Petty (Patty) as she talked about God, her family, racing, and about losing her son Adam in a racing accident.

During one of the sessions, several of the international directors spent a few minutes at center stage, telling about the Lutheran Hour in their countries. We also had several chances to visit one-on-one with each of them at their booth during the weekend. Their thankfulness for the LLL and for all of you who support them in time, talent and treasure is beyond their words.

During the Lutheran Hour Rally held at the convention, 750 attendees belted out your favorite songs of praise, the choir performed (including several of us from Iowa District West), and all 40 of the flags of the countries where The Lutheran Hour maintains offices and staff were paraded onto the stage in a very inspiring ceremony (Cathie Segebart carried a flag!).

And of course, Pastor Dr. Ken Klaus gave his usual inspiring effort in his sermon. You can hear a pin drop during his talks.

If you ain't fired up after one of his convention sermons, you ain't breathin'.

We were also entertained by:

- an African dance group who performed authentic tribal music and dance from western Africa.

- Barney of Mayberry. The Barney look alike and several look-a-likes from the old Andy Griffith Show were on hand to entertain with jokes, slapstick humor, some magic and a couple of citizen arrests.

- A family that included dad, four sons, and a daughter who sang Christian songs. Dad played the guitar. The sons played banjo, mandolin, bass fiddle, and violin. The daughter was the writer of several of the songs and she often sang the lead. All of the boys also sang.

Our very own Harry Ritchart was honored with Ambassador of the Year, and our Regional Governor, Chuck Groth, won re-election as Region 7 Governor.

In attendance from Iowa District West were Mark and Cathie Segebart, Gene and Gladys Mandernach, Harry and Jimmie Ritchart, Ray Immel, Steve Segebart, Mark and Lynne Astleford and Mark's mother, and Garry Gruhn.

Folks, International Convention is a must. Let's take a huge contingent to Omaha next year. Once you have attended a convention, you will never be the same again.

Upcoming LLL Events

- September 12-20, 2009 – LLL Fair Booth at Clay County Fair
- September 18-19, 2009 – Orphan Grain Train Convention – Norfolk, Nebraska
- October 4, 2009 – OGT Fish Boil – Peace Lutheran – Rock Rapids, Iowa
- October 31, 2009 – Harvest Deadline for LLL articles to LLL Editor
- November 14, 2009 – Men's Ministry Breakfast at Sioux City with LLL District Board meeting to follow

Lutheran Hour Ministries Selects Executive Director

St. Louis, MO, June 17, 2009 - After prayerful consideration, the Board of Governors for the International Lutheran Laymen's League has selected Bruce Wurdeman as the new Executive Director for Lutheran Hour Ministries. Wurdeman, who currently serves as LHM's Director of United States Ministries, will take the reins beginning Aug. 1. He will

replace Larry Lumpe, who will be retiring at the end of July following his second stint as Executive Director for the ministry.



Bruce Wurdeman

“Bruce has a great vision for the ministry and high expectations for excellence,” says Mick Onnen, President of the Int’l LLL. “I praise God for Bruce and his willingness to accept the Executive Director position, and I pledge my full support for his work and service among us.”

“I am both honored and humbled to become the next Executive Director for Lutheran Hour Ministries,” says Wurdeman. “God is accomplishing tremendous things through this life-changing ministry, and I look forward to working with our staff to boldly proclaim the salvation story of Jesus Christ to ever-increasing numbers of people.”

In his current position, Wurdeman oversees the production of *The Lutheran Hour*®, *Woman to Woman*®, and *Para el Camino* radio programs, seasonal television specials, and print materials, as well as ministry fulfillment and referral services. Under his direction, the ministry also launched the LHM Men’s Network in January 2009, a program geared to help congregations reconnect with men and build local men’s ministries.

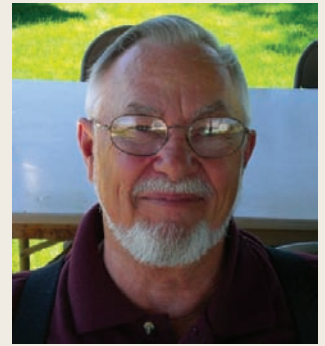
“In only its first six months of operation, the program has witnessed unprecedented growth and excitement,” says Onnen. More than 2,000 churches from the The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and other denominations have already signed up.

Wurdeman previously worked at Lutheran Hour Ministries from 1994 through 2002 in the Volunteer Opportunities department as an assistant director and manager, positions that allowed him to recruit and train more than 100,000 volunteers throughout North America. He most recently served as a mission and ministry facilitator for the Texas District of

the LCMS, where he was a resource person for 100 congregations in west and south Texas.

Prior to his first stint at Lutheran Hour Ministries, Wurdeman filled a variety of roles throughout Lutheran circles, including principal and director of adult education at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Eureka, Missouri, director of campus ministry for the North Dakota District of the LCMS, director of youth ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Fargo, North Dakota, and a math/science teacher and youth director at Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, Illinois.

Wurdeman has a bachelor’s degree in Education and School Administration from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, and a master’s degree in Exegetical Theology (Old Testament) from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He is a member of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ellisville, Missouri. He and his wife, Marijane, have three grown children and one grandchild.



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Ambassador Recognition Program



Harry Ritchart of Ruthven, Iowa receives the 2009 Iowa District West LLL Ambassador of the Year Award at the LLL District Convention on June 13, 2009 at Sioux City, Iowa. Harry and his wife Jimmy are members at First English Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa.

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) has a long history of accomplishments through the efforts of willing volunteers at the local level and in congregations. There are many loyal Ambassadors working diligently to promote the mission of LHM. They go about their volunteer work quietly and without fanfare. These Ambassadors order materials from LHM for their congregations, participate in LHM Sunday, renew existing donors and actively enlist new donors, financially support the work of LHM, attend training workshops, and attend zone, district, and international events. Through the Ambassador Recognition Program we recognize these dedicated servants who consistently do an exceptional job of representing LHM. Through

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the program we not only properly recognize these loyal servants but also learn from them and share their successes with peers.

We here at Iowa District West LLL recognize and congratulate Harry Ritchart of Ruthven, Iowa who is a member of First English Lutheran Church of Spencer. Thank you Harry for your work in Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Entertainment and Education All-In-One: 'JCPlayZone'

As the summer heats up, the kids are looking for something new and exciting ... and maybe something indoors! LHM's interactive Web site for kids, JCPlayZone, is just the thing. JCPlayZone has it all: games, coloring pages, crafts, e-cards, and much more. New content is added often to keep the site fresh and fun. JCPlayZone also features Bible stories, Christian music, and Daily Devotions to teach the kids about Jesus while they play.



The "Bee Attitudes" downloadable coloring book is a popular feature for churches and schools alike. Your church or school can customize the coloring book with service times, contact information, or a special event schedule. One church customized and printed 1,000 coloring books and used them to invite Vacation Bible School participants to church services.

The coloring book teaches children to "Bee Happy," "Bee Joyful," "Bee Patient," and others, covering the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12). The coloring book even allows children to think of their own "Bee Attitude". Just click "Coloring" from the JCPlayZone home page.

LHM is also working on a new game that will teach children common words and numbers in Spanish, along with a sprinkling of "heavenly" words! This game is sure to be a favorite! Other games include "Wacky Word Search," "Bramble Ramble," "Bubble Bugs," "Creation Matching," and much more.

To start playing now, visit www.jcplayzone.com.

Orphan Grain Train Sunday



We are told in Scripture to help the hungry, poor, and helpless; and God promises in John 14:18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." The Orphan Grain Train has been blessed with the resources, volunteers, and means to provide humanitarian aid both domestically and internationally to sustain lives in need. When we tend to the needs of others we are carrying out the commands of our Lord and are a reflection of the love He has for us.

In prayer we call upon the Lord to direct both giver and receiver to Jesus' words, to remind us that "He will not leave us as orphans; He will come to us."

The Iowa District West Lutheran Laymen's League in convention at Sioux City, Iowa on June 13, 2009 by resolution encourages each congregation within this district to take part in publicizing, supporting, and celebrating this great work, and ask that all of the LCMS congregations in Iowa District West hold an Orphan Grain Train event this fall and that each congregation support this opportunity to offer their time, talents, and cash gifts to the Orphan Grain Train; so that they can continue to provide humanitarian aid, and continue to bless those in need, and continue to bring thanksgiving and hope to the world in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord.

These events could be a supper of some kind, a free will offering, a dartball tournament, a golf outing, a softball tournament, anything that will educate, inspire, or motivate your friends and fellow believers to support the OGT in word and deed. The Ida Grove, Iowa warehouse currently has enough supplies to ship two 40 foot containers overseas, but no funds to ship them. All government funds have stopped and the cost to ship one container is over \$5000. We need your help!

Please let OGT District Chairman Elroy Koch of Kiron, Iowa know about your plans, or give him a call to discuss information on the event you are planning. Please call him at 712 675-4818 or email him at elrokoch@schallertel.net.

Orphan Grain Train September 18-19, Convention 2009 Schedule

Friday evening, September 18

- **3:30 to 5:30 P.M.** Registration at Lutheran High School Northeast and walking tour of a model “Orphan Grain Train Village” as used on the U.S. Gulf Coast and Greensburg, Kansas.
- **5:30 P.M.** Evening meal prepared by “God’s Gumbo Gang” (music by Norfolk’s “Golden Combo”). A free will offering will be taken for Orphan Grain Train shipping expenses.
- **6:30 P.M.** Gary Thies, Mission Developer, Nebraska District and Iowa District West Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) introduces Rev. Matt Heise, LCMS Missionary to Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- **7:15 P.M.** Rev. David Buss, President, Recovery Assistance (RAI) Ministries, New Orleans, La. Where the Katrina Recovery effort continues.

Saturday’s Sectionals

Katrina Relief and Recovery, Rev. Dave Buss and Mr. Kurt Jostes

Thanks to Orphan Grain Train and thousands of volunteers, Katrina relief and recovery work continues on the Gulf Coast at Camp Biloxi and Camp Restore in New Orleans. This sectional explores deeper into the complexities of the Katrina recovery, volunteer camp operations, and why so many people call the Gulf Coast home, with substantial question-and-answer opportunities.

Greensburg tornado story, Mr. Matt Deighton

This sectional adds to Matt’s morning talk with opportunity for more questions and answers.

Sorting and Packing for Foreign Shipments, Bob and Edie Feddern

This is an important session for Orphan Grain Train warehouse and work-center volunteers. Shipping requirements by governments around the world continue to become more stringent. This session helps you learn how to make sure your inventory items are prepared for the strictest guidelines.

Orphan Grain Train Division treasurer’s workshop, Mrs. Jane Fleeer and Mrs. Susie Lutz

Highly recommended step-by-step “how to” for all Orphan Grain Train division treasurers and chairmen.

Preparing to Meet the Challenge, Rev. Glenn Merritt

The material covers the financial, material, and people challenges that congregations and organizations face as they respond to disasters in a coordinated and comprehensive way. This sectional covers the challenges of working together in an ever-complex society to provide maximum disaster relief with minimal resources.

Registration fee:

\$45 per person for postmark on or before September 1—\$50 per person after September 1. Send check or money order payable to “Orphan Grain Train Convention, P.O. Box 1466, Norfolk, NE 68702-1466.

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone(s) _____
 Email _____

Select three Saturday sectionals from list above:

- Katrina Relief and Recovery
- Greensburg tornado story
- Sorting and Packing for Foreign Shipments
- Treasurers’ workshop
- Preparing to Meet the Challenge!



Lutheran Laymen’s League

