GOOD NEWS

When It Rains Down

But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash (Matthew 7:26-27).

With our recent rains, which seemed to cover most of Indiana and especially the northern and central portions of the state, it might seem like the above verse is a lesson learned the hard way. When the century flood happens people who would never have guessed that their homes were in danger now find a disaster possibly pouring through their doors and up through the drains. The unforeseen events that strike us cause us to look outside ourselves for help, and hopefully we receive it.

The Bible verse does not seek to dwell on preparedness for natural disaster, nor do I. The verse speaks to a greater disaster which can cause us to crash if we don't hear and take action now. Faith can't wait, or it shouldn't. If a crisis happens and you lack faith in God and Christ as your Savior, the Word may still come to you, and you may develop a firm footing on the Rock.

However, the threat of death could be raining down on us and while it could catch us at an unforeseen moment it doesn't need to catch us unprepared. While you might not have thought your house could get flooded, your mortgage and insurance company did, and that is why they required flood insurance. They were trying to assure against their possible losses. Those companies really prefer to do business with people on solid ground, above the flood plain.

God, in His wisdom foresaw what sin could do and the destruction it could bring to all people. While people might try to believe they are in no danger, we are told that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. That could be our final result, but God sent His Son that all who build their faith on Him will stand firm when man's thinking and solutions fail. God was proactive, not waiting for you to realize you have a problem. He pointed out the problems in the Ten Commandments, showing us we can't stand above them on our own and then he sent the Savior to overcome our fall. The Father sent the assurance policy through Jesus' death and resurrection and gave us the Holy Spirit to help us hold on through all the disasters.

Rain and other problems may pour down, but through Christ the potential big disaster has been averted. The devil's attacks may come, but through faith we are protected. Keep your faith in the Rock, Who gives you the strength to stand.

Pastor Steven Latzke
Senior Counselor

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PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS BECKY THIBODEAU

Standing on His Shoulders

Did you ever get to ride on your dad's shoulders? Maybe you were tired of walking around the fair, and your daddy had pity on you, lifted you over his head and rested you on his shoulders. From your perch, you could see so much more. As he navigated the crowds to the tilt-a-whirl, you would laugh, knowing he had it all under control. He knew the way through.

That's kind of the feeling I have as I take on the position of LWML Indiana District President. I am standing on the shoulders of giants, and as I think about it, I realize I can rest. I realize I am in for a wonderful ride.

First of all, I am standing on the shoulders of so many wonderful women who have gone before me. I'm standing on the shoulders of the ladies who first began the LWML in 1942 who wanted to contribute to missions. I am standing with the ladies who for over eighty years have worked to share the gospel in their own lives and through missionaries around the world.

I'm standing on the shoulders of so many mentors in the Indiana District. These women have shaped my faith and helped me grow as a leader. They have inspired me by doing the work of the LWML with enthusiasm and joy. They have encouraged me to take on positions that have given me perspective and experience. They have challenged me to think outside of the box, even when they are not quite ready to do it themselves. In everything, they point to our Father who provides all we need, our Savior who saves us by grace, and the Spirit who empowers us to do good works. And now, they continue to do all of those things. I'm not alone; we are all doing this mission of the LWML together. I'm so thankful.

And finally, I'm standing on the shoulders of a wonderful Daddy—my Heavenly Father. He reminds us in Isaiah 46:4, I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save. He carries me through any obstacles that might come my way. From this vantage point, I can see some of what lies ahead, and it can be overwhelming. But I don't have to know the way. He does. I can rest, knowing He's got me. It's going to be a wild ride, and I'm excited and thankful to be on it.

As we enter this biennium together, I pray that you have a mentor who is guiding you. I pray that you are reaching out and inspiring, encouraging, and empowering the women around you. I pray that you get to ride on your Heavenly Father's shoulders, getting a glimpse of our exciting days of serving together.

Becky Thibodeau
President

LWML Indiana District

MISSION GRANTS INDIANA DISTRICT 2026-2028

Name of Grant	Amount Requested	Amount Paid
Calvary India Mission, Indianapolis, IN	$4,500	
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Fort Wayne, IN	$10,000	
Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op Freezer, Fort Wayne, IN	$10,000	
Latino Ministry and Pastoral Preparation, Indianapolis, IN	$12,000	$12,000
Lutheran Agency for Mission to Burmese (LAMB), Fort Wayne, IN	$12,000	
Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Fort Wayne, IN	$10,000	
Lutheran High School of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN	$5,000	
Lutheran Life Villages, Fort Wayne, IN	$12,000	
Sharing the Gospel, Classroom Expansion, St. Paul Lutheran, Columbus, IN	$12,000	
Swaddling Clothes, Demotte, IN	$5,000	
Worship Anew/Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc, Fort Wayne, IN	$12,000	
Y4Life/Lutherans for Life, Columbus, IN	$12,000	
Zion Lutheran Wiggle Church, New Palestine, IN	$4,500	

MISSION GRANTS UPDATE

MARGIE WICKERT

We have paid our first grant for the 2026-2028 biennium! The Latino Ministry in Indianapolis and Pastoral Preparation, Trinity Lutheran Church (Cornerstone Warren) in Indianapolis received a check for $12,000 in August. Trinity is the home of one of Indiana's four established Spanish services. Rev. Daniel Fickenscher is the Lataino Outreach Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church. Trinity Lutheran School has been the primary focus of Latino outreach efforts. The events reach the unchurched with the Gospel while strengthening active members in their faith and relationships with one another and Anglo members. Trinity is supporting future Spanish-speaking Lutheran pastors by inviting CTSFW seminarians to preach quarterly in Spanish. They are nurturing and encouraging students who have demonstrated gifts that would make excellent future pastoral candidates and church leaders in the future. Please pray for all those who received mission grants for this biennium.

All but one of the 2024-2026 biennium mission grants have been paid! We praise and thank God for His grace and mercy and the servant hearts of our Lutheran Women in Mission in our Indiana District who supported these Mission Grants through their participation, encouragement, prayers and mites. The Most Ministries in Elizabethtown, KY, has requested an extension of their Mission Grant into the 2026-2028 Biennium of $12,000. That request has been honored by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. We praise God for the privilege of supporting these mission endeavors, to reach out with His love to bring God's Word in so many different ways to many people.

CONVENTION RECAP SARAH RIPPY, PR DIRECTOR

"**Be Still and Know"** (based on Ps. 46:10a) was the theme of the 2026 LWML Indiana District Convention at the Vanderburgh County 4-H Conference Center in Evansville, Indiana, where 270 LWML Indiana District sisters and brothers in Christ assembled. Here is a summary of highlights:

Ingathering items were submitted for these organizations:

•Redeemer Lutheran Church - 93 blankets and sheets for general distribution
•Food Pantry Area Lutheran Churches - 693 items plus $385
•Jacob's Village (Adults with Disabilities) - 1,924 batteries and CD's, plus $500
•Our Savior Lutheran School - 1,580 playground, teacher and hospitality items plus $300
•Trinity Lutheran at Darmstadt Preschool - 457 items plus $260
•Gloria Dei Lutheran Childcare - 178 items
•Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Preschool - 91 items plus $450
•Grace Lutheran Preschool - 62 items plus $375

Election Results:

•President: Becky Thibodeau
•Vice President of Communication: Trisha Letterman
•Vice President of Christian Life: Bev McIntosh
•Financial Secretary: Carmen Gierhan
•Pastoral Counselor: Rev. Nathan Schieber (Zion Lutheran, Wabash, IN)
•Nominating Committee: Chairman: Sue Boyd, Members: Ruth Thomas, Renee Schuller, Susie Pflughoeft

Convention Offerings:

- 2026-2028 Mites: $13,012
- Lutheran Child and Family Services of IN/KY: $1,666
- Lutheran Heritage Foundation (South Sudan Seminary): $2,778
- Katie Retreat Scholarship: $1,640
- Basket Silent Auction proceeds: $3,758

The Silent Auction proceeds will be distributed among unmet needs as decided by the Executive Committee.

Other interesting convention items:

- Many volunteers bagged 24,850 meal for Love the Hungry.
- A new bylaw was passed allowing Pastoral Counselors to be active in a parish or retired for consideration as a candidate for Pastoral Counselor. This was also a change that occurred in the LWML Bylaws at the Omaha Convention June 2025.
- Saturday night entertainment had women up and marching for the folk music of our country. This was to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the

signing of the Declaration of Independence. The band presented historical perspectives along with the beautiful music.
•Despite the challenges of the weather, the convention organizers kept the event safe, uplifting, and inspiring. The addition of golf carts for assistance in transport from one building to the next was greatly appreciated! Thank you to the drivers/ husbands!
•We look forward to the 2028 LWML Indiana District Convention which will be held at the Hendricks County 4-H Conference Center, in Danville, IN, on June 8-11, 2028. This is where the 2024 LWML Indiana District Convention was held. The 2028 convention will be hosted by the Kankakee Valley, Kokomo, and Logansport zones. Mark your calendars now!!

Send submissions and reports of events and/or pictures to Sarah Rippy, Public Relations Director at lwmlindianapr@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN LIFE — SUE RANBARGER

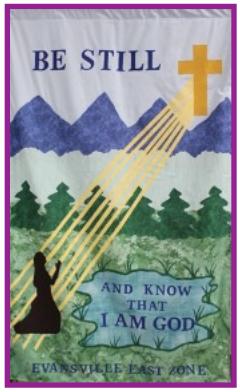
Olivia commented, “What a blessing to have a full committee!” For our “Be Still and Know” convention we were able to cover many bases: prayer chapel, an interactive display booth, and a luncheon session with Christian Leadership…running concurrently.

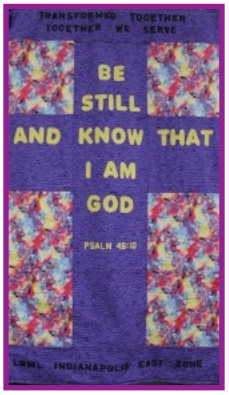
Thanks to Prayer Warriors who prayed on their own and at the prayer chapel for each convention speaker and session. We appreciate each one who participated in our booth activities of a trivia game, prayer requests, book markers, and sparkly calming bottles which remind us to *Be Still and Know* (Ps. 46:10). Those who attended our joint lunch session with Christian Leadership engaged in ways to make connections with the women in your church. We enjoyed presenting the calming “The Leadership of Stillness” devotion after our wonderfully rousing Saturday night entertainment.

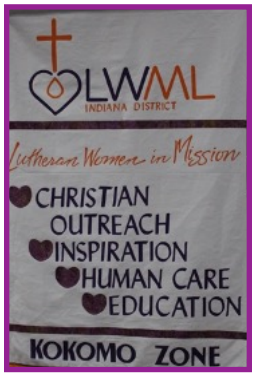
It is with appreciation (and sadness) that we see retiring co-chairs Olivia Knight and Mary Jones look for new ways to Serve the Lord with Gladness. They brought energy, creative talent, and a youthful perspective to the Christian Life Committee.

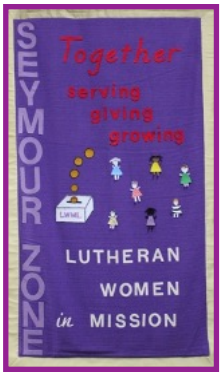
Joyfully, Kathy Larson and I welcome Esther Nowiki and Angela Lukens to our ranks. Look for us at district events. In this instance, don’t be still; get to know us; make connections.

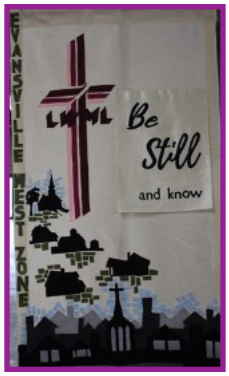
CONVENTION BANNERS ON DISPLAY

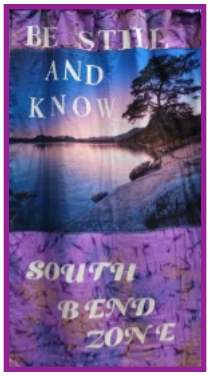












MOVING FOR MITES

DARLENE MOOG

It was such a blessing to serve on the "Moving for Mites" LWML Indiana District convention planning committee. Our committee is grateful for those who participated in the Mite Walk and Mite BINGO. Through the incredible generosity and faithful support in filling our Mite Boxes, we received over $13,000 at the convention. Your small coins and contributions combined to help fund upcoming grants and missions which enable us to share God's love with those who need it most. As you know, every coin counts! Just like the widow's mite, small gifts given with a joyful heart accomplish great things. Thank you for making a difference, one coin at a time.

Here are ideas used by churches to collect mite offerings:

- We display Mite Boxes in large baskets at the front and back door of church; also accept boxes in the offering plate.
- We put announcements in the church bulletin and newsletter when boxes will be collected on 1st and 3rd Sundays; Prayers for the mission grants on 2nd and 4th Sunday; Put on the monthly church calendar as a reminder
- Our pre-school has children's Mite Boxes; children bring them to chapel and each child gets to put their box into a large box.
- We have two collections during the church year; one in the spring and one in the fall with a table in the narthex; we give out Mite Boxes as the ladies leave church.
- Our church has a felt sock for a dime a month; multiplied per month.
- We give out labeled vehicle cup holder containers to make mite collecting easy when on the go.
- We share the biblical story of the widow's mite during Sunday school using books, skits, or puppet shows to teach sacrifice.
- We highlight a different mission project or grant recipient each month in the church bulletin so members know what they are contributing to and how it has impacted their organization or other individuals.
- We have mite calendars with daily micro-tasks and matching coin contributions.
- We host a seasonal brunch where members bring filled boxes and exchange them for fresh containers.
- We provide a list of chores kids can do at home to earn coins specifically designated for Mite Boxes that can then be brought to Sunday school.
- We have coin towers in our Sunday school rooms and classrooms so kids can visually watch the coins climb higher each week. Then we have representatives from the Sunday school come periodically and put it into a larger Mite Box during the children's message.
- Once a year we have a bake and craft sale where all proceeds are dedicated to mites.
- We communicate to our members the importance of mites and share how our small gifts can make a large impact for our district.
- When we have prayers of thanksgiving, we encourage people to put money in their Mite Boxes.
- We have a large, physical thermometer in the lobby of our church so people can see the funds being collected; we challenge our congregation each year to increase their giving.
- We have pictures of grants and missions up in Sunday school rooms so they visually see who we are dedicating our mites to and then pray for those organizations.

BYLAW AMENDMENT ADOPTED RUTH THOMAS

The delegates at the district convention in June adopted the following amendment:

ARTICLE IX – PASTORAL COUNSELORS
Section 1

a. The Pastoral Counselors shall be two (2) LCMS active or retired pastors within the District.

An updated 2026 LWML Indiana District Bylaws has been sent to the zone presidents who will distribute a copy to the groups in their zones. The bylaws will also be available on our district website lwmlindiana.org.

A goal for this biennium is that each zone will reviewed and update their zone bylaws. Check the date of its last update. Be sure your bylaws reflect what your zone is doing. Remember, **bylaws** contain basic rules relating principally to itself as an organization, rather than to the parliamentary procedure that it follows. **Standing rules** are rules that are related to the administration of a group rather than parliamentary procedure. Sample bylaws are available online at lwml.org to help you update your bylaws. Your District Structure Committee is also available to assist you.

Our committee welcomes Sheryl Bloebaum from the Evansville West Zone as a member of our committee. A big thank you goes to Barb Hamm for her many years of serving as a member of the Structure Committee.

Your 2026-2028 Structure Committee:

Ruth Thomas	laruthomas@yahoo.com	812-764-5816
Judy Ware	jmware224@gmail.com	765-463-2274 (home) or 765-414-3006 (cell)
Sheryl Bloebaum	sherylbloebaum@gmail.com	812-890-3657

NEW ONLINE EXPENSE VOUCHER ARLENE WOLFGANG

Below is a revised **EXPENSE VOUCHER** to be completed for submitting expenses online to the LWML Indiana District.

- For mileage reimbursement, you only need to fill in the miles and locations. Total expense is figured for you.
- If you donate part or all of your expenses, fill in the amount on the **AMOUNT OF DONATION** line. If you do not designate where you wish your donation to go at the bottom of the form, it will be put in the General Fund.
- Send an email to Arlene (arlene.kay47@gmail.com) to request the new Expense Voucher to save on your computer. Plans are in the works to post it on the LWML Indiana District website.

EXPENSE VOUCHER

THE TREASURER receives all moneys from the District Financial Secretary and makes all payments authorized through expense vouchers.

DISTRICT EXPENSE VOUCHERS may be obtained from the District Treasurer as a digital file **(**to be saved on your computer) or as a printed copy.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIGITAL FILE:

1. Download and save a copy of the attachment to your computer. This will be your master copy for the future.
2. Type the information required on the form; only type number of miles; cost is calculated for you. When you type in the donation amount, the Net Amount is calculated for you.
3. Save the completed copy to your computer. (File, save as, rename the form, and save in the folder that you want.)
4. Email/mail the completed form to the appropriate Chairman/VP/District President for their signature.

EXPENSE VOUCHERS are to be used by the District Executive Committee, Standing Committee chairmen, committee members, Special Appointed Personnel, and Zone Presidents.

EXPENSE VOUCHERS are used to request reimbursement for expenses incurred when attending meetings called by the District President and/or for meetings held to carry out committee responsibilities. Vouchers are signed by the person requesting reimbursement, approved by their committee chairman and/or VP, and by the District President. Receipts for expenses should be attached.

VOUCHERS ARE SENT OR GIVEN to the District President within 60 days of incurred expense. The President signs each voucher to authorize payment before forwarding to the Treasurer for payment.

EXPENSE SHEET

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE OF THE INDIANA DISTRICT

Send to the LWML Indiana District Chairman, VP, and/or President

For Treasurer's use:
ENCLOSED FIND CHECK

No. _____

For: _____

DO NOT WRITE IN ABOVE SPACE

For Treasurer's use:
CHECK NO. _____

Date _____
Account _____
Voucher No. _____

I understand that by typing my name, I am electronically signing this document.

To:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Approval:

(Committee Chair) **Date**

(Vice President) **Date**

(President) **Date**

ITEM	MILES	PURPOSE		AMOUNT TO BE REIMBURSED
Travel ($.30/ mile)		From:	To:	$0.00
Travel ($.30/ mile)		From:	To:	$0.00
Type of Expense:				
Type of Expense:				
Type of Expense:				
Type of Expense:				
			AMOUNT OF DONATION	
			Net Amount to be Reimbursed	$0.00

Attach Receipts Signature _____ Date: _____

Amount of Donation to:
_____ Mites
_____ Scholarships
_____ General Fund
_____ Other: _____

LWML Indiana District
Revised 8/9/26 Arlene Wolfgang

LWML SCHOLARSHIPS

DIANA TAYLOR

The LWML Indiana District recognizes the need to actively inspire young people to pursue church-related professions by making monies available in all phases of the Lord's work in the LCMS. We offer church workers financial scholarships that can nurture and support our upcoming pastors, church workers, and Lutheran school teachers. In 2026, all 28 candidates were awarded $750 each for a total of $21,000. Please pray often for these future church workers who dedicate their life to being pastors, DCEs, deaconesses, and teachers.

To be selected as a scholarship recipient each applicant must be a member in good standing of an Indiana District LCMS church, must attend an LCMS synodical school that will prepare them to be servants of the church on a full-time basis, must possess a commitment to serve their Lord and Savior, be in good academic standing, and provide the committee letters of reference from their congregational pastor and their educational institution. It is so inspiring to read the letters from each applicant whom God has called to do His work. We now send a check directly to the student for anyone who is chosen by the committee. The application will be posted at https://lwmlindiana.org/resources/#applications sometime in late November or early December 2026

You can also help in this endeavor by donating money for scholarships for those young people who are pursuing these professions,

The new Scholarship Chairman is
Diana Taylor
6921 Blue Mist Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46819
(260) 413-8157
dianataylor5765@gmail.com

Please send your contributions to the new Financial Secretary
Carmen Gierhan
1291 Lincolnway W
Ligonier, IN 46767
(260) 894-0998
carmenglwml@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

LWML INDIANA DISTRICT RETREAT

APRIL 16-17, 2027

FARMSTEAD INN

SHIPSHEWANA, INDIANA

GUEST SPEAKER

DONNA SNOW

Theme - "**FAITHFUL IN THE FIRE**"

Based on Daniel 2:20 – "God reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him" (ESV)

SAVE THE DATE

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Theme - "**FAITHFUL IN THE FIRE**"

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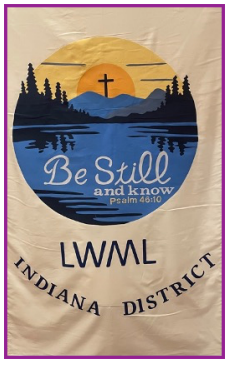
SOMEONE TO HELP WITH THE BIG THINGS

Renee and Fran were chatting as they walked out of church last Sunday. Renee said, “I finally made the decision to move into a retirement community. My house was just getting to be too much for me, especially after Frank went to be with the Lord. But I just don’t know where to get started on the packing. I have lived in that house for thirty years and there is so much stuff to sort through. I’m having a hard time starting.”

Fran replied, “If you would like, I can come help. I have a lot of boxes, and we can just pick off one room at a time.”

Renee said, “Oh, that would be lovely.” The process began on Wednesday with lots of laughter and even a few tears.

There are many “Big Things” in life that become easier to begin if we just have someone along with us. Christian estate planning is one of those. It requires organization of your information. It includes conversations about what you want to accomplish. It culminates in putting together legal documents that seem powerful, and maybe even a little scary. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can be your friend who will come along your side to get started. They have expertise and training in helping you move through each step of the process so that you can feel confident about the finished product when you sign documents with your attorney (if necessary). Instead of living with the burden of your procrastination, you can move forward, putting together a faithful stewardship plan directing the gifts the Lord has entrusted to you. For assistance, contact Sarah Seying at sarah.Seying@LFND.org or 800-741-4138 lwmlgiftplan.org



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VICE PRES. OF COMMUNICATION	Trisha Letterman	812-453-9788	lwmlinvpcomm@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT OF CONVENTIONS	Emily Rogers	765-778-7654 765-621-2131	emily12rogers6@gmail.com
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JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR	Rev. Nathan Schieber	701-460-9325	pastor.schieber@gmail.com
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CONVENTION CO-CHAIRMAN	Jan Plummer		
CONVENTION CO-CHAIRMAN	Glenna Gierke	765-470-8279	glennagierke57@gmail.com

BULLETIN BOARD NEWS

LWML INDIANA DISTRICT RETREAT

April 16-17, 2027
Farmstead INN, Shipshewana, IN
Theme: *Faithful in the Fire (*Daniel 2:20)
Guest Speaker: Donna Snow

LWML CONVENTION

July 8-11. 2027
Oklahoma City Convention Center
Theme: *Transformed in Christ* (Romans 12:2)
Goal Statement: God's renewing Spirit transforms us to proclaim Christ, support missions, and serve Him and Him alone.

IMPORTANT INFORMATON

Send all money collected for mites, *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, scholarship, and all contributions to the Financial Secretary:

Carmen Gierhan
1291 Lincolnway W
Ligonier, IN 46767
(260) 894-0998
carmenglwml@gmail.com

Make checks payable to *LWML Indiana District*

PRESERVE LWML HISTORY

PLEASE send your district and/or zone minutes and programs! All prior year information is welcome. Send via email, U.S. mail or bring them to any district event.

Shirley Gut, Archivist-Historian
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