

# Reflections



## Devotional Thought

Military leaders need strength and courage. Government leaders need wisdom and the ability to communicate well. Coaches need to be good at the sports they manage and understand the rules. What do church and LWML leaders need to be good leaders? You may ask, "What does this have to do with me?" Galatians 5 gives some guidelines for leadership and what it produces. The last part of the chapter summarizes by saying "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (v. 25) and "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control," (v. 22). (NIV)

Make a list of the leaders in your congregation, your society, zone, and district in the LCMS. Pray for them regularly, asking God to help them follow the Holy Spirit's leading and to increase the fruit of the Spirit in them. While you are praying, include those "in authority" that the Lord would give them wisdom in their leadership (see 1 Timothy 2:1-4). Pray for yourself also that the Lord may lead you to see His plan for you.

From "Impressions", Barb Virus, Leader Development Chairman

## Count Me In!

"What a fantastic group of women." I was asked to jot down my thoughts on the LWML OK District meeting I attended recently, and those were the words that immediately came to mind. Yeah, the meeting itself had it's slow parts, and there was more than enough parliamentary procedure to go around, but it was really the women themselves who made it a joy to be there. They had real enthusiasm and love for what they were doing, and you couldn't help but let it rub off on you.

I had a terrific time getting to chat with some of them, swap ideas with a few others, and in general get some good networking done. And what I came away with (besides the purple rain poncho and requisite purple bag- which is a very handy size I might add), was the satisfaction of knowing there is a fantastic group of women all working together for the good of those around them and all for the glory of God. And all I can add to that is, if I came away thinking this from merely attending a board meeting, imagine what the National Convention is going to be like! Count me in!

Joanna Wescoatt, Oklahoma District YWR



## Did you know?

LWML conventions are held (convened) every two years in the odd years to conduct the business of the organization. This business is carried out in an organized, structured way. To some it may seem dull but to none should it seem unimportant.

The Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and various other committees meet between conventions to carry out the programs and business adopted by delegates at the conventions. These delegates are chosen by their congregations and zones to represent them. They are certified and then seated on the convention floor by districts along with one district pastoral counselor and up to two Young Woman Representatives. Delegates receive the matters scheduled to be voted on such as bylaw amendments, mission grants and officer candidates prior to coming to convention and are urged to study them and prayerfully consider how they should vote. They then attend a delegate orientation upon arrival at convention. Remember your delegates with prayer.

From "Impressions", Patti Ross, Leader Development Committee Member

## From the Heart of a YWR

Whenever I'm asked to name a person who has been influential in my life, I always struggle to name just one. There have been so many people who have touched my life, beginning with my parents. Thinking back over the years, my elementary school music teacher and a particular church camp counselor really made an impact on me. I also think of the parents of certain friends, as well as various others that have come and gone in my life. One theme seems to run strong in all of these people: their love for Christ and their willingness to exemplify that in their own lives.

Over the past two years, the LWML has come to mean so very much in my life. I have found a whole new set of influential mentors at my fingertips. I have become more comfortable in my "Christian skin" and am able to talk about my faith in a way that I haven't done since I was in grade school. I am so proud of this organization and the women involved in it that I want to be sure to pass on that excitement to the next generation.

As a former YWR, I have decided that I will begin to pray for and look for my own mentee. For each YWR, there has been a mentor. Whether silent or vocal, there is a woman out there who thought enough of you to nominate you for this special position. By merely suggesting that she thought you were a good candidate for the YWR spot, she placed you in a group of women that God has chosen to lead this organization into the next generation. What an awesome honor! We must not forget our responsibility to uphold the years of hard work and service from the women that came before us. Therefore, I challenge each of you to pray and ask God to reveal to you your successor. Who is the woman that needs your mentoring? Who is the one that will follow in your footsteps?

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From "Impressions", Amy Bartels, Osage Beach, MO