

VSWO 2019 Call to Convention

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization - Women of the ELCA
Thirty-second Annual Convention - August 2-3, 2019
First Lutheran Church, 1301 Colley Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517

- Convention Theme:** "All are Welcome at the Table"
- Convention Scripture:** Galatians 3:28
- Convention Hymn:** "All Are Welcome" ELW Hymn #641
- CWO Representative:** We look forward to welcoming Barbara Tormondson from Rye Brook, NY (Metro NY Synod) as our Churchwide Women's Organization Representative.
- Special Guest:** Pastor John Wertz, Director of Evangelical Mission, Assistant to the Bishop
- In-kind donations:** Please bring school supplies for local area schools. Supplies needed most include pens and pencils (sharpened is best), notebooks and folders (without designs), erasers, crayons, glue sticks, dry erase markers, tissues, antibacterial wipes and red pens. Volunteers from the Tidewater area will deliver the supplies to local schools.
- For local projects, we suggest supporting Knots of Love (www.knotsoflove.org); Linus Project (www.linusproject.org); or Case for Smiles (www.caseforsmiles.org). See the most recent Visions for more information.
- Offerings:** The Love Offering will be divided between two organizations that our host church supports: The Ghent Area Ministry and the Alzheimer's Association.
- Chaplains:** Pastor Leslie Scanlon (Grace, Chesapeake) and Pastor Suzanne Stierwalt (St. Andrew, Portsmouth) will serve as our convention chaplains. The Rev. Dr. Jean Bozeman will preach at our Saturday worship service.
- Business:** Convention business will be conducted on Friday, August 2nd and will include the election of a President, Treasurer, 4 board members and 3 Triennial delegates as well as the adoption of the 2020 – 2021 budget.
- Participants:** While convention voting members attend to business on Friday afternoon, participants will have an opportunity to attend 3 workshops including one on "deskercise"; another on reviving Congregational Units and a third one on improving the use of social media and communications.
- Awareness Sessions:** *Saturday will be devoted to our workshops. If you wish, you will be able to attend all that are offered!*
- Grants:** Financial assistance for first-time, non voting member participants is offered through the Sophie Wilson Grant program. Recipients will be notified by July 12, 2019

VSWO 2019 Call to Convention

Official notice is given that the 32nd annual convention of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) of the Women of the ELCA will be held at First Lutheran, Norfolk, 1301 Colley Ave, Norfolk, VA 23517, August 2-3, 2019

VOTING MEMBERS

The constitution of the VSWO includes the following provisions for representation at convention:

Article VI, Section 2: Representation Item 1: Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers and board members of the synodical women's organization and one voting member from each unit on the roll of this synodical women's organization.

Item 2: Those congregations not represented by a unit shall be invited to send to the regular convention, one representative who shall have seat and voice. Voting members *must* register for convention using the enclosed Registration Form. If possible, please return form by July 6th. The Bulletin of Reports will be sent electronically and available on-line for printing by July 13th. Hard copies are available upon request at a cost of \$5.00 per copy.

SCHEDULE

Registration will begin at 10:00am on Friday with Devotions, presentations by our Churchwide Representative and VSWO President, Lunch and Orientation from 11:00-1:00. Business will be conducted from 1:00-5:00pm and all voting members are required to attend. Dinner will be served at the church. Saturday will begin with worship at 8:45am. Small groups will be in one hour blocks with a break for lunch. Convention will conclude on Saturday with worship at 2:30.

FAIR SHARE TRAVEL FUND

Delegates attending the entire convention will be reimbursed under the guidelines of the Fair Share Travel Fund, providing their unit has sent \$35 by July 26 to VSWO Treasurer Edith Blake, 3377 Brandywine Dr, Chesapeake, Virginia, 23321. (Please note the increase in Fair Share from previous years.) Travel reimbursement requests must be turned in by the end of Business Session on Friday August 2nd.

LODGING -HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

We have a block of rooms on hold for Friday night at the SpringHill Suites at 4500 Hampton Blvd. (1.4 miles from the church.) Cost is \$160.00+tax per night for king or 2 queen bed room. Breakfast is included. Parking is \$8 per night. **Use group code VSWR for SpringHill.** We also have rooms reserved at the Quality Suites (\$149+ tax) and Sleep Inn (\$129 + tax). Breakfast is included. Parking is included in both hotels which are 6 miles from the church at 1521 Premium Outlets Blvd. Please **mention code VSWO when calling Quality Inn.** Deadline to reserve rooms at this rate is July 11th.

MEALS

Friday lunch, dinner and Saturday lunch are included in the registration.

GUIDE TO ENCLOSED FORMS

- **Registration form**
All participants (voting members, visitors, guests, board members, conference coordinators) must return Registration Form, along with a check (if applicable) to Genie Brown, Registrar, at the address on the form by July 20. **Voting members are encouraged to return the registration form by July 6th.**
- **Board Nomination Form**
Use the enclosed form for nominations for President, Treasurer, board members & Triennial delegates. **Send to Judy Castelee by July 12.**
- **Sophie Wilson Grant**
This grant was established to help defray costs for first-time, non-voting member participants. **Mail to Edith Blake by July 6.**
- **Health Form**
Bring to convention.

QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION?

Contact convention registrar Genie Brown at grandmag2@cox.net or 540-774-9165 or Judy Castelee at jlcastelee@comcast.net or 540-264-9998.

REGISTRATION FORM

VSWO – Thirty-second Annual Convention ~ August 2-3, 2019

MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM BY JULY 20, 2019 TO:

Genie Brown, Registrar
5517 South Village Dr
Roanoke, VA 24018

Questions? Contact Genie at grandmag2@cox.net or 540.774.9165

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Church/City _____

Conference _____ Email _____

Registration	Fee	Amount due
Full participant	\$50.00	
One day participant	\$25.00	
Meals		
Please check <input type="checkbox"/> all meals needed		
Friday lunch		Included
Friday banquet		Included
Saturday lunch		Included
Bulletin of Reports (hard copy)	\$5.00	
I've included a gift for the Betty Wilson Triennial Scholarship	\$ _____	
I've included a gift for the Sophie Wilson Grant Fund		
Total amount due		\$

Please check all that apply:

My check is enclosed. *(Make registration checks payable to VSWO)*

My registration will be paid by the VSWO*

I would like a hard copy of the Bulletin of Reports (\$5.00)

I have special dietary needs _____

Please check **all** that apply:

- This is my **FIRST** time attending VSWO Convention
- Voting Member
 Participant
 VSWO Board Member*
 Invited Guest or Speaker*
- VSWO Officer*
 Conference Coordinator*

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization
EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM
VSWO CONVENTION**

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____
Street City State/Country Zip Code

Age _____ Birth Date _____ Gender (M/F) _____

Blood Type _____ Date of last tetanus shot _____ Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? _____

Describe treatments you are receiving for a current illness/condition (including chronic illnesses, i.e. asthma, diabetes, seizures) _____

List any allergies (e.g., insect stings, food, medication, etc.) _____

List any medications you are currently taking _____

Emergency Contact #1 _____ Relationship _____

Home Telephone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Emergency Contact #2 _____ Relationship _____

Home Telephone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

PERMISSION TO TREAT

I give permission for Medical personnel to treat me in the event that I am unconscious or otherwise unable to give consent.

(printed name)

(signature)

(date)

Please bring form with you to convention in case of an emergency.

NOMINATION FORM – OFFICER/BOARD MEMBER/Triennial Delegate

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization ~ Women of the ELCA

MAIL/EMAIL COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM BY July 13, 2019

Judy Castele
726 W. 4th St.
Buena Vista, VA 24416 or
jlcastele@comcast.net

Individual must consent to serve if elected. This nomination is for:

- President (2 year term) Treasurer (2 year term) Board member (3 for 2 year terms, 1 for 1 year term)
- Triennial delegate Phoenix July 2020 (3 to be elected)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email address: _____

Age range 34 and under 35-49 50-64 65 or older

Ethnic/racial heritage Caucasian Black or African American Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native

Middle Eastern or Arab Asian

Church/City _____ Conference _____

Occupation/Vocation _____

Women of the ELCA Experience (Check all that apply.)

Local unit: current participant officer

Conference: participant conference team conference coordinator

Synodical: attended convention convention voting member VSWO board member VSWO officer

Churchwide: attended Triennial Triennial voting member Churchwide board member Churchwide officer

Hobbies: _____

Volunteer Work: _____

Form submitted by Name: _____ Phone _____

Unit and conference _____

SOPHIE WILSON GRANT APPLICATION

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization ~ Women of the ELCA
Thirty-second Annual Convention ~ August 2-3, 2019

The Sophie Wilson Grant is available to help offset the costs of convention for
FIRST-TIME, NON-VOTING MEMBER ATTENDEES.

Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision by July 12, 2019

MAIL COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION FORM BY July 5, 2019 TO:

**Edith Blake
3377 Brandywine Dr.
Chesapeake, Virginia, 23321**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email address _____

Church/City _____ Conference _____

Occupation/Vocation _____

To what extent are you currently involved in Women of the ELCA? _____

Why is attending this convention important to you? _____

How will you use this experience when you return home? _____

Why are you requesting grant support? _____

If chosen as a grant recipient, we ask that you attend the entire convention.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date _____

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization
Genie Brown, Circulation Manager
5517 South Village Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**All are welcome at
God's Table**