

VSWO 2023 Call to Convention
Virginia Synodical Women's Organization - Women of the ELCA
Thirty-fifth Annual Convention – July 21-22, 2023
Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia

- Convention Theme:** “Weave us Together”
- Convention Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-14
- Convention Hymn:** “Weave” by Rosemary Crow (used at the WELCA constituting convention in 1987)
- In-kind Donations:** Items for Project Horizon (see p.2 of Call to Convention)
- Offerings:** The 2023 Love Offering will go to Project Horizon in Lexington. Project Horizon has provided shelter, support, and hope to the homeless since 1971. The general offering from our closing worship will be split between ELCA World Hunger and Women of the ELCA.
- Convention Chaplain:** Rev. Laura Swanson, St. Philip Lutheran Church, Roanoke
- Business:** Convention business will be conducted on both days Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22 and will include the election of a President (2-year term), Treasurer (2-year term), four (4) Board Members (3 for 2-year terms and 1 for a 1-year term), as well as the adoption of the 2024–2025 budget.
- Participants:** We invite participants to attend the business sessions to observe, to support your voting members and to learn of the leadership opportunities and how the different expressions of Women of the ELCA support one another. There will be service projects and craft opportunities for non-voting members to participate in during the business sessions.
- Grants:** The Sophie Wilson Grant program encourages first-time, non-voting member participants to attend the convention. Recipients will be notified by June 23. Please consider making a donation to the Sophie Wilson Grant program when registering.

IMPORTANT: The Call to Convention (CTC) is only being distributed by email, and can also be accessed through the VSWO website and Facebook page. Due to rising postage costs and being good stewards of your offerings to Women of the ELCA, the board made the decision not to mail paper copies of the CTC. Please help by copying the registration form portion of the CTC and distributing to others. Also, please promote the convention in bulletins and newsletters.

CONVENTION PROJECT: We are suggesting that those attending the convention each **bring 1-1/2 to 2 yards of fleece**. This is the yardage needed to make one (1) blanket. The pattern has been revised; please see the link provided. <https://www.projectlinus.org/patterns/pdf/NoSewFB.pdf> . During the convention, all participants will have the opportunity to make no-sew fleece blankets for Project Linus. The blankets will be donated to the Roanoke Chapter of Linus Blankets. Non-voting attendees have the option of making the fleece blankets during the business sessions.

VSWO 2023 Call to Convention

Official notice is given that the 35th annual convention of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) of the Women of the ELCA will be held on July 21-22, 2023 at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia

The following three (3) awareness sessions will be presented at the convention.

Reconciling in Christ: Rev. Colleen Montgomery is both the Director for Digital Ministries in the VA Synod, and the pastor of All Places Together, a Reconciling in Christ on-line faith community and mission development of the VA Synod. Pastor Colleen will help us understand "What is a Reconciling-in-Christ congregation?"

Micah Ministries: Meghann Cotter is the Executive Servant-Leader for Micah Ecumenical Ministries. Micah is a collaboration of churches in the Fredericksburg area. Micah Street Church is an ecumenical congregation co-sponsored by the VA Synod and Micah Ecumenical Ministries. This congregation without walls focuses on those experiencing homelessness and was launched in early 2020.

Bible Study: The bible study will focus on our convention scripture 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

2023 Service Project: Please bring the bears and all other items collected for Project Horizon to the convention. When checking in at the registration desk, please turn in a written report of how many bears, household and Amazon items were collected within your unit even if some of these items were shared within your community. The total number collected across the synod will be reported during the convention. The three (3) congregations with the highest participation total will be recognized.

The 2023 service project benefits Project Horizon in Lexington which is a non-profit human service organization dedicated to reducing domestic, dating and sexual violence. The household items are paper towels, toilet paper, kitchen size garbage bags, and deodorant. The Amazon items are Squishy Stress Balls (12 per pack) and Hedgehog Finger Rings which is a stress relief fidget sensory toy (10 per pack). The address for direct delivery by Amazon is 120 Varner Lane, Lexington, VA 24450.

If you need the sewing pattern for the bears, please email vswovirginiasynodicalwomen@gmail.com

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Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia

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 or SWO leaders 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 by **June 15**. The Bulletin of Reports will be sent electronically and available on-line by **June 30**. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like a hard copy of the Bulletin of Reports for \$5.00.

SCHEDULE

Friday Lunch on your own and Convention Registration will happen between 10:00am-12:30pm, 12:30pm Voting Member Orientation, 1:00pm Convention Opening. Business will be conducted between 2:30-5:00pm on Friday and Saturday at 8:45am-11:00am. Voting members are required to attend all business sessions. Convention closes by 11:30am on Saturday.

FAIR SHARE TRAVEL FUND

Voting Members attending the entire convention will be reimbursed under the guidelines of the Fair Share Travel Fund, providing their unit has sent **\$35** by **June 30** to VSWO Treasurer:

Judy Castele
726 W 4th Street
Buena Vista, VA 24416

Travel reimbursement requests must be turned in by the end of Business Session 2 on **Friday, August 12**.

LODGING

Sleeping accommodations will be in the college dorms for \$35. Convention attendees will provide all linens (twin extra long or queen sheets fit, pillow and towels). Linens are no longer provided by Roanoke College. Attendees may choose to stay in a hotel, but there will not be a block of rooms reserved at any hotel. Attendees will be responsible for making their own hotel reservations at the current rates offered.

MEALS

A \$20 meal fee includes two (2) meals. Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast will be in the campus dining hall. Friday and Saturday lunches are on your own.

GUIDE TO ENCLOSED FORMS

Registration Form - *All* participants (visitors, guests, board members, conference coordinators) must return the Registration Form, along with a check (if applicable) to **Edith Blake**, Registrar, at the address on the form by **June 23**. **Voting members are encouraged to return the registration form by June 15.**

Board Nomination Form - Use the enclosed form for nominations for President, Treasurer, and board members. **Send to JoAnn Fawley by June 15.**

Sophie Wilson Grant - This grant was established to encourage first-time, non-voting member participants to attend the convention. **Mail to Judy Castele by June 15.**

Health Form - Bring to convention.

QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION?

Contact registrar, Edith Blake, at ejbwwb@aol.com or 757-956-5535 or JoAnn Fawley at 703-727-7957 or fawley6409@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

VSWO – Thirty-fifth Annual Convention ~ July 21-22, 2023

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM

VOTING MEMBERS BY JUNE 15 AND PARTICIPANTS BY JUNE 23 TO:

Edith Blake, Registrar
5137 Portsmouth Blvd.
Portsmouth, VA 23701

Questions? Contact Edith at ejbwvb@aol.com or 757-956-5535

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Church/City _____

Conference _____ Email _____

Registration	Fee	Amount due
Full Participant	\$100.00	
One day Participant	\$ 50.00	
Meals (Includes 2 meals-Friday Dinner and Saturday Breakfast)	\$ 20.00	
Housing Fee (<u>bring own linens for the dorm</u>)	\$ 35.00	
Bulletin of Reports (hard copy)	\$ 5.00	
Opportunities to give below:		
I've included a gift to the VSWO Thrivent Endowment Fund		
I've included a gift to Katie's Fund		
I've included a gift to the Roanoke Scholarship		
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)
- Special dietary needs** (please specify) _____

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

Gender (optional) _____

Age: 34 and under ____ 35-49 ____ 50-65 ____ over 65 ____

Blood Type _____ Date of last tetanus shot _____

Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? ____ Are you hearing impaired or wear hearing aids? ____

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 this form with you to convention in case of an emergency.

NOMINATION FORM OFFICER/BOARD MEMBER

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization ~ Women of the ELCA

**MAIL/EMAIL COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM BY June 15, 2023 TO:
JoAnn Fawley, 6409 W. Old Mountain Rd, Louisa, VA 23093 or fawley6409@gmail.com**

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

President (2-year term)

Treasurer (2-year term)

2-year term Board Member

1-year term Board member

(Four (4) board members to be elected - 3 board members for 2 years; 1 board member for 1 year)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email address: _____

Age range 34 and under 35-49 50-64 over 65

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: 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-fifth Annual Convention ~ July 21-22, 2023

The Sophie Wilson Grant is available to encourage
FIRST-TIME, NON-VOTING MEMBER PARTICIPANTS
to attend the convention.

Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision no later than **June 23, 2023**

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION FORM BY June 15, 2023 TO:

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

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? _____

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

Signature of applicant: _____ Date _____