

VSWO 2022 Call to Convention
Virginia Synodical Women's Organization - Women of the ELCA
Thirty-fourth Annual Convention - August 12 – 13, 2022
Hotel 24 South – 24 S. Market Street, Staunton, Virginia

- Convention Theme:** “Shining God’s Light in the Darkness”
- Convention Scripture:** John 1:5 – The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
- Convention Hymn:** “We Are Marching in the Light of God” ELW Hymn #866
- In-kind Donations:** Please bring one (1) pair of socks to convention. The VSWO Board’s challenge to all units has been to donate 200 pairs of socks per unit to shelters and/or organizations in your local communities. Please report at convention your unit’s total number of socks donated and to whom. This can be written on a piece of paper with your unit’s name and handed to our registrar. The socks collected at convention will be donated to Valley Mission in Staunton, Virginia.
- Offerings:** The Love Offering will go to Valley Mission located in Staunton. Valley Mission has provided shelter, support, and hope to the homeless since 1971. The general offering from our closing worship will be split between Lutheran Disaster Relief and Women of the ELCA.
- Convention Chaplain:** Rev. Phyllis Diamond, Pleasant View Lutheran Church, Staunton, Virginia
- Business:** Convention business will be conducted on both days Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13 of the convention and will include the election of a President (1 year), Vice President (2 years), Secretary (2 years), Treasurer (1 year), three (3) Board Members (2 for 2 years and 1 for 1 year) and three (3) Triennial Delegates, as well as, the adoption of the 2023 – 2024 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, as well as to enjoy all the Awareness Sessions.
- Grants:** Financial assistance for first-time, non-voting member participants is offered through the Sophie Wilson Grant program. Recipients will be notified by **July 8, 2022.**

**Please consider making a donation to the Sophie Wilson Grant
when registering to attend the convention.**

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Official notice is given that the 34th annual convention of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) of the Women of the ELCA will be held on August 12 – 13, 2022 at Hotel 24 South – 24 S. Market Street, Staunton, Virginia

Awareness Sessions: Three (3) Awareness Sessions are planned emphasizing “the many ways we bring God’s light to the darkness....”

Awareness Session #1 Susan Richardson is the Executive Director of the Valley Mission, a private, non-profit homeless shelter located in Staunton, Virginia. The Valley Mission is a 125-bed facility that temporarily houses single men, single women, and families. This Christian organization has been in operation in Staunton since 1971. Valley Mission will be the recipient of our Love Offering and socks brought to convention. www.valleymission.net

Awareness Session #2 In 2013, Sabrina Dorman-Andrew and her husband founded New Creation, a non-profit that creatively counteracts human trafficking, locally and globally. To date, they have generated over \$3 million to combat trafficking. Her presentation will include the history of their non-profit, education as to the actual problem of human trafficking and how their organization is working to help those affected. The New Creation pop-up store will be available for shopping. By being a conscious consumer we make an impact with our shopping dollars. www.newcreationva.com

Awareness Session #3 Judy Castele is Executive Director of Project Horizon in Lexington, Virginia. Project Horizon is 'dedicated to eradicating domestic, sexual, and dating violence through empowerment of survivors, and by being a sanctuary for victims'. Judy's presentation will include a story about human trafficking, a story with a happy ending, a project that was handled jointly by Project Horizon and Judy's church, Good Shepherd Lutheran. <https://www.projecthorizon.org/>

Sylvia Eley, Vice-President of VSWO and Chair for Mission Justice, will present the Red Sand Project. Individual units will find this a helpful resource to take back to their congregations to educate about human trafficking. <https://redsandproject.org/>

Resources:

Land Acknowledgment Awareness: Using this website <https://native-land.ca/> type in your address to learn which indigenous people's land you inhabit and walk. We humbly recognize and remember the original inhabitants whose lands we now walk, reside and steward.

Spiritual Gifts Assessment: Our spiritual gifts change. Prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with Women of the ELCA in your unit, or the synod level. <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>

It can also be found in the resource Gifts for You: opening your spiritual gifts which can be downloaded for free at: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/SpiritualGifts.pdf>

Plan Your Trip: **Visit Staunton:** <https://visitstaunton.com/>
Staunton See & Do <https://visitstaunton.com/see-do/tours/>
Women's History in Staunton <https://visitstaunton.com/womens-history-in-staunton/>

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Hotel 24 South – 24 S. Market Street, Staunton, 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. If possible, please return form by **June 30th**. The Bulletin of Reports will be sent electronically and available on-line for printing by **July 11th**. Hard copies are available upon request at a cost of \$5.00 per copy.

SCHEDULE

Registration will begin on Friday at 10 am, 10:45am Voting Member Orientation, 11am Convention Opening, 12:15pm Friday lunch(on your own). Business will be conducted between 1:30-5:00pm on Friday with final business session on Saturday at 9am. Voting members are required to attend all business sessions. Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast will be at the hotel. Convention will conclude with Closing Worship by 12 noon on Saturday. All speakers, business sessions and awareness sessions will be in a large group format.

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:

Lavelva Stevens
1369 Beth Scott Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301

*****PLEASE NOTE***** the increase in Fair Share from previous years. Travel reimbursement requests must be turned in by the end of Business Session 2 on **Friday, August 12th** at the convention.

LODGING -HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday night at **Hotel 24 South, 24 S. Market Street, Staunton, Virginia**. Cost is \$145+tax/fees per night for Single/Double occupancy. If more than 2 per room, please add \$20 per additional person. There is a maximum of 4 per room in a Queen/Queen room. Individual attendees will make their own reservations directly with Hotel 24 South **prior to June 29, 2022** by calling (540)885-4848. <https://www.hotel24south.com/>

You must mention Virginia Synodical Women's Organization to receive the group rate. Check-in time is 4:00 PM and check-out time is 12noon. There will be a late charge for departures after 1:00 PM. Self parking is available in the attached city parking garage. **Deadline to reserve rooms at the group rate is June 29, and there is no guarantee of a room after this date.**

MEALS

Friday lunch on your own in downtown Staunton, Friday dinner/Saturday breakfast (included in registration fee), and Saturday lunch on your own.

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 **Edith Blake**, Registrar, at the address on the form by **July 8th**. **Voting members are encouraged to return the registration form by June 30th.**

Board Nomination Form - Use the enclosed form for nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 3 board members & 3 Triennial delegates. **Send to JoAnn Fawley by June 30th.**

Sophie Wilson Grant - This grant was established to help defray costs for first-time, non-voting member participants. **Mail to Lavelva Stevens by June 30th.**

Health Form - Bring to convention.

QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION?

Contact registrar, Edith Blake, at ejbwwb@aol.com or 540-331-3214 or JoAnn Fawley at 703-727-7957 or fawley6409@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

VSWO – Thirty-fourth Annual Convention ~ August 12 – 13, 2022

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM

VOTING MEMBERS BY JUNE 30 AND PARTICIPANTS BY JULY 8, 2022 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 (Friday Dinner/Saturday Breakfast Included)	\$60.00	
One day-participant (no meals included) (suggested donation)	\$25.00	
Meals		
Friday and Saturday Lunch on your own in downtown Staunton	*****	*****
Friday Dinner and Saturday Breakfast included for full participant	*****	*****
Friday Dinner (if attending/participating in Talent Show)	\$35.00	
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)
- Special dietary needs (please specify)** _____
- * **I plan to participate in the Friday Night Talent Show as part of the evening entertainment. Please share the title of your act or group.**

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/Triennial Delegate

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization ~ Women of the ELCA

**MAIL/EMAIL COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM BY June 30, 2022 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 (1 year) Vice President (2 years) Secretary (2 years) Treasurer (1 year)
- 2-year Board Member 1-year Board member (Board members to be elected 3 - 2 for 2 years; 1 for 1 year)
- Triennial delegate Phoenix/Week of **September 18, 2023** (3 to be elected) **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN MONTH**

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
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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 no later than July 8, 2022

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION FORM BY June 30, 2022 TO:

**Lavelva Stevens
1369 Beth Scott Drive
Pulaski, Virginia 24301
lstevens@verizon.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? _____

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
Jody Smiley, Circulation Manager
901 Brattle Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24040

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 212
Roanoke, VA

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IT'S TIME TO COME TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE!!