

# LWML Nebraska District North Candidate Biographies

## **President**

### **Lisa Stirtz, Gretna**

Lisa is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Gretna. She has a BS degree in Elementary/Special Education from Concordia University, Seward. She has been Preschool Director of Wee Lambs at Good Shepherd. She and Craig have been married for 33 years and have three children, Tyler, 29, married to Chelsea, Jordan, 27, married to Morgan and Kari, 22, who will marry Ryan Maser on June 16, 2018. They have one grandson, and a new grandchild on the way. Lisa has been president of Women's Ministry LWML, Bible Study Leader for Women's Ministry, Omaha West Zone Treasurer and President. She has served as VP of Communications, VP of Human Care, VP of Gospel Outreach, and Meeting Manager of the District. Lisa has also served as a Committee Member of the National LWML Communications Department. She enjoys cooking and shopping.

## **Vice President of Gospel Outreach**

### **Joyce Buethe**

Joyce is a member of First Lutheran Church in Papillion. She is currently a Medical Technologist and has a bachelor's degree from UNMC in Medical Technology. She and her husband, Terry have been married for 37 years. They have sons, Chris married to Kim, with sons Jaxin and Elijah, and Jared, still born in 1982. Their daughter, Patty is married to Mike Fulton. In her local LWML society, Joyce has served as president and vice president. On the District level she has served as Rocky Mountain Delegate, Nebraska North Delegate, Servant Resource Committee Member as well as Co-Chair the Christian Materials Coordinator position. Joyce's hobbies include baking, gardening, crocheting, reading, and crafts.

### **Janelle Feddern**

Janelle is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Pierce. She is retired, but was a Licensed Insurance Agent for NE, SD, WY; CO, KS, IA, and MN. She has been married to Ronald for 54 years. They have three children, Rev. David, 53, Stacey, 52, and Elizabeth, 49. She is currently serving her second term as president of the Agape Circle, and has been treasurer two or three terms. On the district level she was the

Short Term Mission Coordinator, served on the Nominating Committee, and Committee member of Human Care.

## **Vice President of Servant Resources**

### **Debra Gutz**

Deb is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Osmond. She received her AA degree from Northeast Community College, Norfolk. She currently works as a part time library aide. She and her husband, Philip, have been married for 36 years. She has a step daughter, Tricia Christiansen, 42, and sons, Ryan, 31, and Aaron, 28. She has served as Treasurer and is currently society president. She completes her term as district treasurer at the end of this convention. Deb enjoys walking, reading, and traveling.

### **Cassandra Splittgerber**

Cassandra is a member of Christ Lutheran Church, Columbus. She received a BA in psychology, and a BS in Behavioral Science from Concordia University, Seward. She is currently finishing up her Master's Degree in Early Childhood. Cassandra teaches preschool and is Children's Music Director at Christ Lutheran, Columbus. She and Kelly have been married for 16 years, and have 5 children: Maddie, 15, Kavah, 13, Brody, 11, Emma, 9, and Audri, 7. Cassandra served as a member of the society at St. Paul's, Utica until 2013 before coming to Christ, Columbus. She served as Human Care Chair, and Bible Study Leader substitute. She was Columbus Zone president from 2015-2017 and was on the District Nominating Committee 2016-2018. Cassandra enjoys reading, anything music, cooking, organizing, and gardening.

## **Treasurer**

### **Karen Peters**

Karen is a member of 1st Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomfield. She is a retired teacher who substitute teaches at Bloomfield. Karen received her degree from Concordia Teachers' College, Seward. She has been married to Daryle for 49 years. They have children, Christina, 46, married to Ed Eppens, Alison, 44, married to Roger Lange (have four children), and daughter-in-law, Regina, 37, who has 2 children with their son, Jon, who is deceased. Karen has served as society secretary, and society president. She has been Plainview Zone Treasurer. From 2008-2012 Karen was District

Recording Secretary, and since 2013 has been Coordinator of the Structure Committee. Karen has attended all national conventions since 1984! She enjoys reading, gardening, walking, and spending time with her grandchildren.

## **Donna Taylor**

Donna is a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, Omaha is a retired office manager with some college education. She now volunteers in her free time. She has adult children. Donna has been president, vice president, secretary, and is currently historian of her society. She has served on the District Structure Committee and Heart to Heart Sisters Coordinator. Donna enjoys knitting, crocheting, quilting, gardening, sewing reading, cards, and board games.

# **Pastoral Counselor**

## **Rev. Ryan Eden**

Pastor Eden has served at St. Matthew, Meadow Grove and St. Paul, Tilden since 2016. He graduated from Concordia University, Seward with a BA in History with a Religion Education minor in 2006 and then from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne with a Master of Divinity in 2010. He served at St. John Lutheran Church, Louisville, IL from 2011-2016. He was involved with LWML during his vicarage at St. John, Louisville, IL and is currently involved with the societies at St. Matthew/St. Paul, Meadow Grove and Tilden, NE. Pastor Eden was Zone Counselor at Effingham/Shelby Zone of the Central Illinois District from 2013-2016. He is married to Rachel and enjoys watching movies and sports (particularly hockey), listening to music, cooking and running.

## **Rev. Marcel Kohlmeyer**

Pastor Kohlmeyer currently serves at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Orchard, and St. Paul, Venus and has served there since 2010. He graduated from Lake Area Vo-Tech (Electronics) in March 1993. In May of 2000 he graduated from Concordia University, Seward with a BA in History and then from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis with a Master of Divinity in May 2005. Pastor Kohlmeyer served at St. Paul Lutheran Church Ireton, IA from 2005-2009. His experience with LWML included Grace Lutheran, Le Mars, IA from 2003-2004, St. Paul Lutheran, Ireton, IA from 2005-2009 and St. Peter Lutheran, Orchard/St. Paul, Venus 2010-Present. On the Zone level he was Plainview Zone Counselor from 2010-2015 as well as stepping in to complete the vacancy for Nebraska

District North Counselor since 2016. Pastor Kohlmeyer has served on the Stewardship Board of the Nebraska District LCMS from 2011-2015 and on the Nebraska District LCMS Engaging Rural & Small Community Team from 2016-Present. He is married to Deborah and has three children: Gabrielle, 13, Madalyn, 11, and Andrew, 10. He enjoys working on computers, walking, and riding bike.

## **Nominating Committee**

Two-year term with five elected

### **Ainsworth Zone**

Shirley Stoltenberg, Atkinson

Shirley is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Atkinson. Shirley is retired and had two + years of college education. She and her husband, Ken, have been married for 58 years. Their children are adults, ages 49-56. She has served as president, secretary, and treasurer in her local society. On the District level Shirley has served on Member Development, VP for Mission Education, Corresponding Secretary, Nominations Committee, and Convention Chairman. She helped the District with the National Convention in Omaha in 1979. Shirley enjoys family activities, reading, taking photos, and traveling.

### **Columbus Zone**

Carolyn Wilke, Columbus

Carolyn is a member of Christ Lutheran Church, Columbus. She is a retired teacher graduating from Concordia Teachers' College, Seward. Carolyn has 5 grown children, 16 grandchildren, and 6 great grandchildren. She has served as president, vice president, secretary and Christian Growth in her local society. She has been Columbus Zone president and vice president. Carolyn has also served twice on the District Nominations Committee. She enjoys reading.

### **Fremont Zone**

Rachel Jensen, Fremont

Rachel is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fremont. She is a retired Preschool and DayCare Teacher. Rachel had one year of Business College. Rachel has two children, Michelle, 50, and Kurtis, 47. She has served as society president, secretary, treasurer, and Christian Growth several times. Rachel has also been Fremont

Zone President, Treasurer, and Historian. She has served as Registrar of a District Convention. Her hobbies are sewing, embroidering on greeting cards, crafts in general, and volunteer work.

## **Norfolk Zone**

Sue Jensen, Norfolk

Sue is a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Norfolk. Sue has been a cashier for Diamond Shamrock in Norfolk. She has been married to Allen for 45 years. They have a daughter, Katie, and she and her husband, Kyle, have 3 children. Sue has served as Sunday School Teacher for 33 years, VBS teacher for 33 years, has been in Ladies Aid for 20 years, and an LWML member for 20 years. She is currently president of her society and also heads the sewing group at Mt. Olive helping to make 17-20 quilts every 3 months. Sue has also served as secretary for the Norfolk Zone. Sue has attended national conventions at Portland, Oregon, and Des Moines, Iowa.

## **Omaha North Zone**

Jolene Wells Padròn, Omaha

Jolene is a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Omaha. She works as a pharmacist after completing her BS in Pharmacy in 1974 at UNMC and a Pharmacy Doctorate in 1995 from Creighton University. She has been married to Victor for 39 years and has three children: Bethany, 32, Cameron, 29, and Wesley, 27. Jolene is treasurer of her local society and has served 4 years as Omaha North Zone President. She has attended 2 of the District conventions and went to the National Convention in Sioux Falls, SD. Jolene enjoys gardening, reading, and baking.

## **Omaha South Zone**

Maxine Igou, Council Bluffs, IA

Maxine is a member at First Lutheran Church, Papillion. She is a bank teller after graduating from 2 years of college for basics, and 1 year of Clerical Science. Maxine has been married to George for 7 years. She has four children: Jordan Eli Pettibone, 35, Miranda Nicole Miller, 34, Melissa Davis, 44, and Laura Igou, 41. Maxine currently leads the evening LWML Group, "Women of Faith" at First Lutheran. She has served on the Gospel Outreach Committee for the District. She also has attended two National Conventions: Peoria, IL and Des Moines, IA

## **Omaha West Zone**

Joyce Schlosser, Omaha

Joyce is a member of King of Kings, Omaha. She is retired after being a receptionist. She graduated with an MS in Early Childhood Education. Joyce has been married to Al for 52 years. Their children are Charlotte Heck, 48, Charlene Schlosser, 48, and Lynette Angers, who has been in heaven since 2006. They have five grandchildren ranging in age from 14 to 27. On the local level, Joyce has been involved as Circle Leader, Bible Study/Devotion Leader, Prayer Warrior, and is currently Historian. She has been Omaha West Zone President in 2006 and now in 2018. She has attended five national conventions. Joyce enjoys sewing, putting together puzzles and making greeting cards.

### **Plainview Zone**

Imogene Wacker, Osmond

Imogene is a member of Zion Lutheran Church, Plainview. She attended UNL and is now a retired administrative assistant. She has been married to Dennis for 47 years, and they have been active in Lutheran Laymen's League. Their children, Shawn Herbek, Heather Gowin, and Erin Wilken are all adults. Imogene has served in all offices at Zion's Priscilla Society. She enjoys reading, walking, gardening, and being with her grandchildren.

### **Wayne Zone**

Ellen Heineman, Wakefield

Ellen is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Wayne. She is retired and has children, David, 49, married to Jeanni, Christine, 48, married to Scott and Timothy, 40, married to Anita. Ellen has six grandchildren. She has served as Secretary and President and is currently Vice President of her society. Ellen has served on Christian Growth and helped to plan/host a District Convention. She enjoys knitting, quilting, and spending time with her grandchildren.

### **West Point Zone**

Susan Cohee, West Point

Susan is a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Beemer. She is a retired Registered Nurse, CEN graduating from Wayne State College and NE Methodist School of Nursing. Susan has been married to William for 47 years, and they have 3 children: Amy, 46, Thomas, 43, and Amanda, 39. Susan has been involved in LWML in her local society for 30 + years. She enjoys reading and line-dancing.

