

Today's Business

Rev. Mueller re-elected president



During the Friday morning session, Rev. Herbert C. Mueller was re-elected as president of the Southern Illinois District Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for his sixth term.

Others on the ballot included: Rev. Frederic Baue, Rev. George Gude, Rev. Bruce Keseman, Rev. Timothy Scharr and Rev. Michael Walther. Elected as First Vice President was Rev. Timothy Scharr of Nashville and Second Vice President is Rev. George Gude of Dorsey. Rev. Antonin

Troup of Waterloo was re-elected Secretary and Gary Hemmer of Waterloo was elected Treasurer.

For the first time at this convention, delegates used electronic voting. The ballots were presented on the screen, and the results were processed within a few minutes.

Dr. Kieschnick continues his report

President Kieschnick began this session with some opening remarks. He noted that theology and doctrine are linked to structure and governance. He noted two reasons for the task force.

#1 is mission. We need new ways to address the challenges of modern missions. He noted a need to renew a sense of urgency regarding missions. #2 is stewardship. He said that the current structure is complex and often inefficient.

President Kieschnick encouraged feedback on this preliminary report; both positive and negative. He reminded us that this is not the final report, and that all feedback will be looked at before issuing a final report.

The first hour was spent going over each of the 19 proposals. For each of the proposals four points were made: 1) the desired goal, 2) the current problem or deficiency, 3) the recommended solution, and 4) the rationale for the

Turn to Page 2



2009 Southern Illinois District Convention

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy. He has caused us to be born again to a **living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.” 1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV*

Thought For The Day

*“May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NIV*

Inside This Issue

- Greetings.....Page 2
- Anniversaries.....Page 3
- Prayer Requests.....Page 4
- Press Release.....Page 4

Bring greetings to the convention body



Roger Sprengel



Rev. Alvin Kollmann



Bishop Tswaedi

Reports from Friday evening Session

State of Schools Report—Roger Sprengel reported on challenges: funding, enrollment, leadership and Synodically trained workers. Unity is experiencing growth and is working on their “Time to Build” campaign. Good Shepherd, Collinsville, named an Exemplary Lutheran School by the Nat’l. Lutheran Schools Assoc.; Roger reported that Jill Hasstedt, Zion, Belleville, named LEA’s Master DCE of the Year. March 21 is orientation for new board members.

Mission Assistant—Rev. Kenneth Young
—Encouraged hiring of a half-time mission

assistant. Promote outreach to the Hispanic population in our District. **LCEF Area VP for SID-Dennis Klussman**—Served us since Feb. 2007 in partnership with Mission District. Dan Roth works as part-time position director. **Lutheran Child and Family Services—Gene Svebakken**—Provides services in 30 different sites throughout Illinois. 2008 was 40th anniversary of partnership between SID/LCFS. Lutheran Social ministry service is the largest philanthropic work in the United States. Gene encouraged us to “be little Christs to the world around us.”

SID Fifth Annual Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble
Saturday, May 2, 12:30 p.m., Okawville Roland Barkau Golf Course
Call 618-234-4767

Kieschnick...

solution. Time for comments was allowed at the end of the presentation.

A wide variety of questions and concerns were raised. Some questioned focusing so much time on structure, rather than on doctrine and prayer. Other concerns were raised regarding the certification process, funding for the proposals and whether this process has been from the bottom up or the top down. One pastor commented his thankfulness that we were able to discuss our differences on these issues in a peaceful/civil manner.

President Kieschnick closed by again encouraging feedback from everyone and that all feedback would be evaluated.

“One Sure Hope” by Rev. Harrison

“Can there be hope for us today?” With that question, Rev. Matthew Harrison, launched his theological essay for SID convention attendees on Friday afternoon, challenging his audience to “look at the times” in the context of a “world gone insane.”

Dr. Harrison gave examples of this insanity that we face today – terrorism, racial tension, moral decadence, war, human rights abuses, fascination with the occult, idolatry and many others. This “insanity” also exists within the Church, resulting in many problems such as tensions over the role of women, financial pressures, theological differences, cultural divisions, fanatics claiming to be the mouth of

God and a rejection of the Gospel even within the Church.

But these examples of an insane world are not necessarily representative of our times only – for the list presented by Harrison was assembled by going through *The Acts of the Apostles*! The problem today, just as it was in early Christian times, is that the future is hopeless if **we** are the ones who are to save the world and save the Church. There is only One Sure Hope – Jesus Christ – and our hope is certain because of Christ’s resurrection.



The heart and soul of Christianity is that our justification took place at Christ’s resurrection. Not only is this justification outside of us (*extra nos*), but it was done *for us* and *despite us*. Here Harrison referred to Luther’s comment that “Christ became the greatest of all sinners” by taking the place of all sinners. Our forgiveness in Christ is complete – all outside of us – and not by works of the Law or anything *inside* of us.

Harrison then posed this question: “So how does what happened 2,000 years ago, and 8,000 miles away, come to us today? He answered his question with this statement: “Because here we have the Church,” where we receive Christ’s mercy. He continued with the example of someone who comes into the Church with an “empty sack.” In the Church we receive the Word of hope, Baptism (the resurrection comes home!) and the LORD’s Supper (the guarantee of our resurrection). In the Church we receive God’s grace and mercy. Our sack is filled – it’s in the bag!

Referring to Luther’s death and the struggles of Walther and Wyneken, Harrison stated that our sure hope is born of death and affliction. But hope gives courage. Luther referred to courage in relation to repentance, Word and vocation, terms that Harrison then applied to the Missouri Synod. Our One Sure Hope gives us this courage – to take heart.

Anniversaries celebrated by the pastors during this triennium

Since there was no banquet at this year’s convention, there was no formal recognition of pastors who reached milestones.

They were honored individually throughout the year and are as follows:

60 years - Erwin Kolb, Walter Meyer; **55 years** – Alvin Tomack, Ernst Wentzel; **50 years** – James Liedholdt; **45 years** – Clifford Hunt; **40 years** – Herbert Grieves, George Gude, Leonard Laetsch, Larry Meinzen; **35 years** – Maurice Aims, Paul Bauman, Kit Belk, Robert Brown, David Fielding, Gary Galen, Robert Gray, Robert Kramer, Donald Langhoff, Roger Rekstad, Perry Schefelker, Darwin Schrader; **30 years** – William Engfehr, Mark Girardin, Elwin Harms, Josepha Lecke, John Lukomski, Theodore Mayes, Leslie Mitkos, James Revitt; **25 years** – Frederic Baue, Walter Byerly, Daniel Deckery, Terry Grebing, Alan Janneke, David Kollmeyer, Russell Koen, Steven Theiss, Mark Willig; **20 years** – Clifford Adair, Daniel Barbey, Bert Eickhoff, Gary Harroun, Fred Kraemer, Ralph Laufer, Donald McKelvey, Timothy Mueller, Martin Schultz, Gregory Todd, Richard Watson, William Weedon

Adopted Resolutions

- To study and establish our own district mission appeal instead of "Fan into Flame"
- To continue our Mission Partnership with the Lutheran Church of South Africa through LCMS World Mission
- To support Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School through finances, prayers and mission work
- To Encourage Continued Prison Ministry Support
- To encourage support for the SID "Freed in Christ" initiative
- To form a Standing Advisory Committee or Stewardship Education in the SID.
- To encourage International Stewardship Education in the SID.
- To delete the Commission on School Matters and give its responsibilities to the Board of Congregational Support
- To retain the present District structure of Synod
- Adopted as amended to retain Voting Delegates as Lay and Pastoral
- To support Issues, Etc.
- To Encourage Congregations to Intentionally Reach Hispanic Families
- To Rejoice in and Encourage Church Planting Efforts in Harrisburg and Eldorado

Dr. Krueger Presents "What-A-Way"

Dr. Kurt Krueger, Executive Director of the LCMS Board of University Education, made a brief presentation of Friday afternoon focusing on the *What-A-Way* initiative.

What-A-Way is an important program intended to recruit and retain "Workers for the Harvest" – ordained and commissioned servants of the Gospel. Dr. Krueger presented a brief video about *What-A-Way* and encouraged attendees to review the materials included in the convention packets.

Elections Results

Voting for Circuit Counselors For the circuits that had to caucus to select a counselor: Metro North – Rev. Martin Schultz, Greater Belleville – Rev. Brian Holle, Greater Egypt – Rev. Ted Mayes; **Board of Directors – Commissioned** -Deitt Schneider, Mark Sochowski; **Board of Directors – Layperson** Matthew Bertels, John Eggerding, Wayne Muskopf, Neil Neunaber, Lee Suedmeyer, Leslie Sramek, Stephanie Van Ulft and Ruth Waeltz; **Board of Missions – Ordained** -Kirk Clayton, Mark Girardin, James Leistico, **Board of Missions -- Commissioned** -Dawn Mueller **Laypersons**-Richard Diefenbach, Don Hutchinson, Elaine Muskopf and Frank Simek; **Board for Congregational Support - Ordained**– Steven Theiss and Will Weedon; **Board for Congregational Support—Layperson**-Les Cramer, Cliff Ascher, Curtis Boehne, David Dyson



Requests can be brought to the press room

- For good health to Rev. Mueller as he begins his sixth term as president and all other officers elected at the convention
- For the troops deployed to Middle East and also those serving in this country
- For Pastor James Rivett's son, Ryan, who was taken to the Veterans Hospital

PRESS RELEASE

This year, due to the shortened convention sessions, the final press release will be sent to pastors via email. We apologize for the dark photos in the newsletter.

NOTICE! NOTICE!

In order to avoid cost to the district, please do not remove the electronic key pads from the convention hall!!!

Today's Business Online
To make the issues of *Today's Business* available to those who were not able to attend, it can be read by going to the Southern Illinois District website at www.sidlcms.org. after the convention.