



Welcome to the 31st biennial convention of the WELS Arizona-California District. We pray that your time and stay will not only be well spent, but also enjoyable as we dedicate ourselves to the work of God's kingdom and the fellowship of the saints.

What follows below should provide you with pertinent information about the convention as well as details for your stay at the resort. Please read it carefully.

The Purpose of the Convention

The WELS is divided into twelve districts. Each district sends delegates to a general convention in the odd numbered years. The representation is roughly one delegate each for every ten congregations, pastors, and teachers. As representatives of their respective districts, the delegates provide input and speak for the entire church body as decisions are made that will affect the mission and goals of the WELS.

During the even numbered years in which the Synod does not meet in convention, each district gathers in what might be described as a mini-synod convention. At these conventions, 100% representation is provided by every pastor, male teacher, and congregation. Each district provides input to the identical business at hand (recorded in the Report to the Twelve Districts, or RttTD). The actions that are taken in the convention become a voice of the district. When combined with the voices of the other eleven districts, a consensus of the synod is achieved. All actions taken by the twelve districts are considered and/or acted upon when the entire synod meets in convention the following year. Thus, much of the platform for the succeeding synod convention has been formulated and discussed on the grass roots level by the district conventions.

Convention Decorum and Parliamentary Procedure

- The flow chart (agenda) will give you an idea of the scheduled time frames for the business that will be carried out at this convention.
- When the convention is in session, please turn off all cell phones or switch your phone setting to "vibrate".
- All certified delegates have a voice in the discussions that ensue and a vote in all resolutions brought before the convention. Each delegate is acting as a representative of his respective congregation thus providing a representative voice from all congregations in the district.

- If you wish to speak before the convention, please move to the microphones located on the convention floor. When recognized by the Chair, please identify yourself before you speak.
- When a motion is made from the floor, the speaker is reminded to identify himself, and to speak clearly and concisely. The secretary may ask him to repeat his motion for recording purposes.
- During the voting process for district offices, please use the note pads provided for nomination ballots.
- At the close of sessions on Monday and Tuesday, you are requested to take all items with you so the catering staff can clean the hall.

Excuses

Those who did not submit a valid excuse for non-attendance will be listed as unexcused. A reminder: Family vacations, reunions, etc., are not generally considered as valid excuses since the convention dates are public over a year in advance. Verbal requests submitted to the Registration and Excuse Committee at the time of registration on behalf of missing delegates will be accepted at the committee's discretion. No excuses will be accepted after the close of the registration process on Monday.

Travel Reimbursements

Please see the Equalization Committee if you are eligible for travel subsidy. A copy of the [Travel Equalization Policy](#) is included in the district Dropbox folder and on the district website: www.azcadistrict.com. A [Travel Reimbursement form](#) is available in the District dropbox folder and on the district website. Checks will be distributed before the close of the convention. You may fill out your reimbursement form anytime during the convention and turn it in to one of the Equalization Committee members (Pastor Jeff Enderle, Staff Minister Mike Mundstock, Teacher Benjamin Pagel).

Resolutions Committees

- Resolutions Committees **must submit their resolutions** to the resolutions editor, Pastor Jim Winterstein, **before** they are printed and distributed to the delegates for action.
- If you have a laptop computer with USB memory stick, you may download the resolution to the office computer for printing. Use MS WORD format. The office secretary will print the finished product. When finished, please **do not** delete the copy from the office secretary's computer. I, as district secretary, will need an electronic copy. You can email me a copy at revdmscv@gmail.com.

Help and Assistance

If you require assistance pertaining to the convention, please see a member of the District Secretary's Committee:

- [Pastor Brad Bode](#) Text: (623) 694-6828
- [Pastor Steve Gabb](#) Text: (310) 429-3584
- [Pastor Paul Schroeder](#) Text: (608) 434-1069

Do **not** ask the resort for assistance pertaining to the convention. The committee members will endeavor to assist you or point you in the right direction.

If you require assistance relating to your accommodations, please contact the front desk.

Hospitality Room / Refreshments

Once again we will have a hospitality room that has coolers full of sodas, ice tea, bottled water and snack items. It is located in room 170 (on the first floor, near the convention hall). You can see the site map file for the location. Feel free to grab some refreshments during breaks. The room will be open throughout the day. The cost of sodas and waters from the resort is about \$3.00 each. This saves us a considerable amount of money by offering this option for our delegates. Pastor Brad Bode has been assigned the task of keeping the coolers stocked. We thank him for his service.

Meals

For those staying at the resort, a made-to-order breakfast is part of the perks you receive with your room. The breakfast is available from 6:00 am – 10:00 am. You are asked to show your room key when getting your food. Delegates are on their own for meals. The resort has a restaurant on the resort grounds, but it will not be able to accommodate our group for lunch on Tuesday. It couldn't handle 250 delegates for a lunch to be finished in 1.5 hours. Numerous restaurants and fast food establishments are located within walking distance or a short drive from the resort. A "Restaurant Guide" has been provided in the convention files. It has a map and a list of restaurants within a mile of the resort. About 1.5 miles south of the resort on Scottsdale Road is an area with numerous restaurants as well. Should you eat at an establishment away from the resort, please plan accordingly to return in time for the convention session beginning in the morning or afternoon.

Fellowship Gathering

The resort provides an "evening reception" from 5:30-7:30 pm each evening. Though the drinks are complimentary, please remember to generously tip the bartenders. An opportunity to meet, greet, and visit with fellow delegates will be provided on Tuesday night. Beginning at 8:30 pm that evening there will be an adult fellowship gathering in the Paloma Garden, with tables inside for those who wish. A cash bar (beer, soda, drinks) will be available to you. Please note that resort policy does not allow you to bring in your own food or beverage. Munchies will also be provided.

Displays, Handouts, and Materials for the taking

A number of organizations have requested space to display and distribute materials of interest to the congregations of the district. Check them out!

District Convention Proceedings

The Proceedings from this district convention will be available on the district website, www.az-cadistrict.com. The Proceedings contain the minutes, reports, convention items, resolutions, and other items from the convention. They will be located in the area labeled as “Archived Conferences and Conventions.”

District Website

The district website (www.azcadistrict.com) is and continues to be a source of information for our district. Do not forsake the value of the district calendar. An AZ-CA District Google Calendar is available to sync with your calendar programs you may use on your computer or phone. Information is available on the district website: www.azcadistrict.com. Conference officers should provide updated materials for each conference meeting. Circuit pastors should provide information relative to their respective circuits. Congregations may provide information that would be of interest on the district level.

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to those who provided assistance in carrying out this convention. We are trying out a new location with a new way of carrying out some of the convention details. This is our first convention where we have tried to make most items available digitally before the convention and accessible via a district Dropbox folder and the district website. I’m sure there will be some learning and adjusting along the way. Thank you for your patience as we try to improve the convention work.

Thank you to ...

- **Pastor Curt Grube** for providing all the audio equipment for our use for free.
- **Arizona Office Technologies and their representative Todd Cordts**. They are providing free for our use copiers, paper, and toner, all set up and take down of the copiers, and delivery.
- **The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) and their representative Pastor Joel Gaertner**. TLHA is providing Schwan’s ice cream treats for the afternoon break on Monday of the convention.
- **Ian Welch**, a member at Risen Savior – Chula Vista and owner of [Paramentics](http://Paramentics.com). He designed the nametag layout for the convention.

Finally, thank you to all those who served on floor committees and in other capacities at this convention. Your time and your service to your fellow delegates is truly appreciated.

Rev. Daniel M. Schroeder

AZ-CA District Secretary

Email: revdmscv@gmail.com / Cell or Text: (619) 852-2440

June 2014