



Arizona-California
DISTRICT
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS Arizona-California District Nominating Committee

2018 District Convention Notes and Biographies for Convention Elections

Dear Delegates to the 2018 WELS AZ-CA District Convention,

Thank you for your faithful service at this year's District Convention! One of our items of business throughout our sessions will be to elect officers to various positions of service within our District. The following pages will give you basic information about each of the candidates being presented to you. Please review this information at your convenience and arrive at Convention fully informed and prepared to participate in all of these elections.

You may find the following notes about this year's elections useful in your preparation:

1. Each of the following pages represent one of the positions which is up for election. All candidates for the position are listed on the same page for easy comparison. Incumbent candidates (when applicable) are listed first; all other nominees are listed in alphabetical order. A basic one-page candidate list is also available on the District website for your convenience.
2. A separate document with a fuller explanation of the various District elected positions, as well as candidate limitations and length of terms, is available on the District website.
3. On occasion, Synod abbreviations are used (e.g. DMB, MCG, etc.) in the candidate descriptions. Please see the separate file available on the District website if you need help with an acronym that is unfamiliar to you.
4. As at our last convention, elections will be held electronically. Please be sure to have a device with you (laptop, tablet, or smart phone) that has a mainstream web browser and live Internet access (wi-fi or cellular are both OK). For those not bringing a personal device, please contact District Secretary Steve Gabb ASAP to request a seat in our analog "bullpen" for access to paper ballots.
5. Just like our 2016 convention, the ability to vote multiple times has not been restricted. Please do not abuse this freedom by voting more than once! Your cooperation keeps the voting process simple and prevents us from having to spend a lot of time, money and effort in pursuing a more complex system just to 'police' our delegates.
6. This year's elections include two special elections. The first is for an additional member to our District Mission Board (the expansion of the DMB will be presented in a separate resolution at the beginning of the convention). The second is to fill an empty slot on our District Nominating Committee, which was vacated by Rev. Johann Caauwe when he accepted a call outside of our district. Rev. Caauwe's replacement will take over mid-term, serving an initial term of two years (instead of the normal four). When you accept the slate of candidates prior to the elections, you will also be indicating your approval of these special elections in the process.
7. Our committee wishes to thank all our out-going officers for their many years of faithful service to our Savior and to the saints in our District. Your labor in the Lord was not, and never will be in vain!

In Christ's service,
Josh Stahmann, Chairman

**2016 WELS AZ-CA District Convention
Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices**

District Mission Board — Pastor

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Ronald G. Koehler III** Age: 53
Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in 2012)
Address: 2664 W Lazybrook Drive, Tucson, AZ 85741
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Grace Lutheran Church of Southern Arizona

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Administrative pastor at Grace Lutheran Church
AZ-CA District Mission Board
Northwestern Publishing House Contact Pastor

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Saguaro Circuit
WELS Campus Ministry Committee Member

Candidate 2: **Rev. Lincoln A. Albrecht** Age: 32
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 17040 W Cocopah, Goodyear, AZ 85338
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro West
Congregation: River of Life, Goodyear, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

ALA Board of Directors

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

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District Mission Board — Pastor

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Noah M. Bater** Age: 35
Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in 2018)
Address: 3415 Erbes Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California South Circuit: Los Angeles
Congregation: Prince of Peace, Thousand Oaks, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Mission Board

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Home Missionary in Salt Lake City, Utah (2009 - 2017)
Church Planter (Redemption Lutheran in St. George, UT; Good News Lutheran in Lehi, UT)
Nebraska District Commission on Evangelism Chairman
Colorado Conference Treasurer & Secretary

Candidate 2: **Rev. James M. Werner** Age: 43
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 5911 Printwood Way, San Diego, CA 92117
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California South Circuit: San Diego
Congregation: Reformation, San Diego, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — San Diego Circuit (2017 - present)
AZ-CA District Treasurer (2017 - present)

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Chairman, WELS BWM Administrative Committee for Africa (2014 - 2015)
Committee Member, WELS BWM Administrative Committee for Africa (2008 - 2014)
District Secretary, South Atlantic District (2009 - 2014)
District Nominating Committee, South Atlantic District (2008 - 2014)
Circuit Pastor — South Atlantic District, Gold Coast Circuit (2010 - 2013)
Pastor at Pompano Lutheran, Pompano Beach, FL (2004 - 2014)
Pastor at Risen Savior/Calvary, Cedar Grove/Sheboygan, WI (2003 - 2004)
Tutor at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN (2001 - 2003)

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District Mission Board — Pastor

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Paul R. Schroeder** Age: 49
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 10629 E El Moro Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85120
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Superstition Mountains
Congregation: King of Kings, Apache Junction, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Committee on Constitutional Matters

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Board of Appeals

Candidate 2: **Rev. Steven E. Wilkens** Age: 61
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 1565 S Mountain View Road, Cornville, AZ 86325
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Grand Canyon
Congregation: Our Shepherd, Cornville, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

WW District Mission Board Member

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District Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator
(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Justin H. Gran** Age: 30
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 2336 W Melody Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85041
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Superstition Mountains
Congregation: Emmanuel, Tempe, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod
Youth and Outreach pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Candidate 2: **Deacon Michael J. Mundstock** Age: 55
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 2114 W McRae Way, Phoenix, AZ 85027
Occupation: Outreach and Family Minister
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro East
Congregation: Deer Valley, Phoenix, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod
Black Canyon Conference Secretary
AZ-CA District Youth and Family Commission Member

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod
President of the Staff Ministers Conference 2016

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District Worship Coordinator

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

<p>Candidate 1: Rev. Mark H. Schewe Age: 51 Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in 2016) Address: 2405 Lincoln Avenue, Clovis, CA 93611 Occupation: Pastor Conference: California North Circuit: Golden Gate Congregation: St. Peter, Clovis, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> AZ-CA District Worship Coordinator WELS CCC Consultant</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Northern WI District Commission on Youth Discipleship PNW District Worship Coordinator PNW District Secretary PNW District Board for Parish Services Chairman PNW District Men's Retreat Coordinator PNW District Board of Appeals PNW District Rep. for WELS Translation Evaluation Committee Translation Evaluation: NIV11, HCSB, CSB, and ESV Asian Ministry Mentor</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Rev. Daniel M. Schroeder Age: 49 Election Status: Nominee Address: 3461 Merle Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355 Occupation: Pastor Conference: California North Circuit: Golden Gate Congregation: St. Peter, Modesto, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> California Pastors' Conference Chairman</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Editor at Northwestern Publishing House WELS Adult Discipleship Advisory Member AZ-CA District Secretary Southern California Conference Chairman AZ-CA District Adult Discipleship Chairman and Member Kettle Moraine Conference Secretary Metro North LWMS Pastoral Advisor</p>

2016 WELS AZ-CA District Convention
Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices

District Board of Appeals — Chairman

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Ross H. Else** Age: 51
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2012)
Address: 127 E Joan d Arc Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85022
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro East
Congregation: Emmaus, Phoenix, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Board of Appeals Chairman
AZ-CA District Help Committee Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Circuit pastor — Phoenix Metro East Circuit
District Ad Hoc Crosswalk Committee Chairman

Candidate 2: **Rev. Bart A. Brauer** Age: 45
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 1844 E Apollo Road, Phoenix, AZ 85042
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Superstition Mountains
Congregation: Emmanuel, Tempe, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Michigan District Evangelism Commission

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District Board of Appeals — Pastor

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Adam J. Horneber** Age: 61
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 2811 View Way, Lakeside, AZ 85929
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Apache Circuit: Apache
Congregation: Immanuel, Lakeside, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Apache Circuit
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at Christ, Merrill, WI
Pastor at Prince of Peace, Fairport, NY
Circuit Pastor — NA District, Seaway Circuit
NA District Board for Parish Services Chairman

Candidate 2: **Rev. David L. Waterstradt** Age: 49
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 7117 Hope Way, Penryn, CA 95663
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California North Circuit: Sierra
Congregation: Hope, Penryn, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Sierra Circuit
Devotion Writer for WhatAboutJesus.com

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at Palos Lutheran, Palos Heights, IL
Pastor at Shepherd of the Lakes, Fairmont, MN and Spirit Lake, IA
MN District Evangelism Committee
New Ulm Conference Secretary
LWMS Spiritual Advisor Circuit Pastor — South Chicago Circuit of the SEW District

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Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices

District Board of Appeals — Teacher

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

Candidate 1: **Teacher E. John Fredrich** Age: 43
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 7632 W North Laned, Peoria, AZ 85345
Occupation: Teacher
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro West
Congregation: Grace, Glendale, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA Teachers Conference Vice-Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Principal

MN Redwing Teachers conference Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Candidate 2: **Teacher Michael H. Peek** Age: 40
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 4401 W Rockwood Drive, Tucson, AZ 85741
Occupation: Principal/Teacher
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Redeemer, Tucson, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Director of Christian Education
AZ-CA Teachers' Conference Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ Principals' Group Chairman

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District Board of Appeals — Layman

(Term length = 6 years, Maximum service = 2 terms)

<p>Candidate 1: Mr. David H. Miller Age: 70 Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2012) Address: 13809 N 31st Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85053 Occupation: Retired Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro East Congregation: Emmaus, Phoenix, AZ</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Board of Elders at Emmaus Lutheran District Review Committee</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Ordained minister: 1975 - 1986 Board of Education at Emmaus Lutheran Board of Elders at Emmaus Lutheran</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Mr. Robert J. Chojnacki Age: 50 Election Status: Nominee Address: 6183 Academy Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506 Occupation: Outside Salesman Conference: California South Circuit: Orange Congregation: Crown of Life, Riverside, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Church Leadership Team Church Board</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Church Property Manager Board of Education President</p>

**2016 WELS AZ-CA District Convention
Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices**

District Nominating Committee — Chairman
(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Joshua E. Stahmann** Age: 43
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2014)
Address: 6507 S 34th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85041
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro East
Congregation: Salem, Scottsdale, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Nominating Committee Chairman
AZ-CA District Constitution Committee Chairman
AZ Pastors' Conference Chairman
Grow in Grace mentor for WLS graduates

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Missionary to Japan (2000 - 2009)

Candidate 2: **Rev. Daniel M. Schroeder** Age: 49
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 3461 Merle Avenue, Modesto, CA 95355
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California North Circuit: Golden Gate
Congregation: St. Peter, Modesto, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

California Pastors' Conference Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Editor at Northwestern Publishing House
WELS Adult Discipleship Advisory Member
AZ-CA District Secretary
Southern California Conference Chairman
AZ-CA District Adult Discipleship Chairman and Member
Kettle Moraine Conference Secretary
Metro North LWMS Pastoral Advisor

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Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices

District Nominating Committee — Apache Conference

(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Adam J. Horneber** Age: 61
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2014)
Address: 2811 View Way, Lakeside, AZ 85929
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Apache Circuit: Apache
Congregation: Immanuel, Lakeside, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Apache Circuit
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at Christ, Merrill, WI
Pastor at Prince of Peace, Fairport, NY
Circuit Pastor — NA District, Seaway Circuit
NA District Board for Parish Services Chairman

Candidate 2: **Rev. Kirk Massey Jr.** Age: 41
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 18 W Oak Street, Whiteriver, AZ 85941
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Apache Circuit: Apache
Congregation: Church of the Open Bible, Whiteriver, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor for the Apache mission field

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Financial Secretary
Church president
Church council member
Youth and Family minister
Native American Missions Director

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Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices**

District Nominating Committee — Black Canyon Conference

(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

<p>Candidate 1: Rev. Hernandez L. Daylo Jr. Age: 43 Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2014) Address: 6587 E 33rd Street, Yuma, AZ 85365 Occupation: Pastor Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro West Congregation: Prince of Peace, Yuma, AZ</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> AZ-CA District Worship Committee AZ-CA District Nominating Committee</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> AZ-CA District Worship Committee AZ-CA District Nominating Committee</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Teacher Andrew K. Plocher Age: 51 Election Status: Nominee Address: 8608 N 45th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85302 Occupation: Principal/Teacher Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro East Congregation: Emmaus, Phoenix, AZ</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Principal/Teacher at Emmaus, Phoenix, AZ</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Teacher at St. John's, Dakota, MN Principal/Teacher at Our Redeemer, Santa Barbara, CA Principal/Teacher at Ascension, Escondido, CA SoCal Principals' Conference Chairman SoCal Teachers' Conference Chairman AZ-CA District Teachers' Conference Program Committee AZ-CA District Board of Appeals</p>

**2016 WELS AZ-CA District Convention
Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices**

District Nominating Committee — Gadsden Conference #1

(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Matthew J. Langebartels** Age: 35
Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in 2016)
Address: 8744 N Hidden Wash Court, Tucson, AZ 85743
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Redeemer, Tucson, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Associate Pastor at Redeemer
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Candidate 2: **Rev. Jason L. Schmidt** Age: 44
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 3484 W Copper Spirit Drive, Marana, AZ 85658
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Shepherd of the Hills, Tucson, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Youth and Family Ministry Commission Coordinator

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

D-M District LWMS Pastoral Advisor and Spiritual Advisor
AZ-CA District LWMS Pastoral Advisor and Spiritual Advisor
PNW District Youth Discipleship Commission Coordinator
D-M District Youth Discipleship Commission Member and Coordinator
Circuit Pastor — D-M District, Eastern Circuit
Circuit Pastor — AZ-CA District, Sierra Circuit
AZ-CA District Youth and Family Ministry Commission Member

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District Nominating Committee — Gadsden Conference #2

(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. David L. Parsons** Age: 37
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 10275 E Placita de dos Pesos, Tucson, AZ 85730
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Holy Cross, Tucson, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

LWMS Pastoral Spiritual Advisor GCE Circuit
AZ-CA District Convention House Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at East Fork and Canyon Day Lutheran Church
Apache Conference Chairman

Candidate 2: **Teacher Michael H. Peek** Age: 40
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 4401 W Rockwood Drive, Tucson, AZ 85741
Occupation: Principal/Teacher
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Redeemer, Tucson, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Director of Christian Education
AZ-CA Teachers' Conference Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ Principals' Group Chairman

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Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices

District Nominating Committee — Northern California Conference

(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Teacher Richard A. De Frain** Age: 61
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2016)
Address: 15 Mulberry Court, Belmont, CA 94002
Occupation: Principal/Teacher
Conference: California North Circuit: Golden Gate
Congregation: Gloria Dei, Belmont, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Congregation Board of Education
Congregation Church Council
Congregation Building Committee
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Principal/Teacher at Good Shepherd, Phoenix AZ
Congregation Church Council
Congregation Board of Education
Board of Directors at Arizona Lutheran Academy
Teacher at Pilgrim, Mesa, AZ

Candidate 2: **Rev. Steven M. Lockman** Age: 60
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 901 Ely Blvd S, Petaluma, CA 94954
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California North Circuit: Golden Gate
Congregation: Living Word, Petaluma, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor— SA District, Gold Coast Circuit
PNW District Special Ministries Coordinator

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Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices

District Nominating Committee — Southern California Conference

(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Rev. Timothy D. Wempner** Age: 50
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2014)
Address: 13471 Newhope Street, Garden Grove, CA 92843
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California South Circuit: Orange
Congregation: King of Kings, Garden Grove, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

NA District Mission Board member
NA District Mission Board chairman

Candidate 2: **Rev. Andrew W. Mueller** Age: 37
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 380 E Frias Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89183
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: California South Circuit: Las Vegas
Congregation: Beautiful Savior, Las Vegas, NV

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

LWMS Golden West Circuit Spiritual Growth Advisor
AZ-CA District Adult Discipleship Committee
SoCal Conference Chairman

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

LWMS SE Michigan Spiritual Growth Advisor