



Arizona-California
DISTRICT
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WELS AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

2016 District Convention Notes and Biographies for Convention Elections

Dear Delegates to the 2016 WELS AZ-CA District Convention,

Thank you for your willing service at this year's District Convention! One of our items of business throughout our meetings 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 also 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. Elections will take place electronically this year. 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). If you are not able to vote via your personal device, please contact District Secretary Steve Gabb ASAP to request a seat in our old-school analog "bullpen" for access to paper ballots.
5. With this year's electronic voting system, the ability to vote multiple times has not been restricted. Please do not abuse this freedom by voting more than once! Your cooperation will keep the voting process simple and will prevent 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 to replace Lynn Wiedmann, who is retiring, on our District Mission Board. By holding an election instead of appointing a replacement, we are re-spacing the terms of our DMB members for a more even distribution. The second is to replace Pat Walker on our District Nominating Committee. Pat is also retiring, and his 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

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Synodical Council Representative — Layman
(Term length = 4 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

<p>Candidate 1: Mr. Steven D. Hansen Age: 55 Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2012) Address: 10850 Inspiration Circle, Dublin, CA 94568 Occupation: Engineer Conference: Northern California Circuit: Golden Gate Congregation: Gloria Dei, Belmont, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> AZ-CA District Synodical Council Lay Representative Congregation President</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Various congregational roles at Gloria Dei such as Recording Secretary, Evangelism Elder & Lead of Site Planning Committee & Building Committee</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Mr. Jon T. Bartel Age: 41 Election Status: Nominee Address: 34202 Quail Creek Lane, Wildomar, CA 92595 Occupation: U.S. Coast Guard helicopter pilot Conference: Southern California Circuit: San Diego Congregation: Christ the Vine, Temecula, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> California Lutheran High School Board of Directors, Chairman of Property Congregation Church Council — Outreach Concord Lutheran Academy (new LES in Temecula, CA) Short-term Planning Committee</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Reformation, San Diego, CA Board of Education Beautiful Savior, Hillsboro, OR Church Council</p>
<p>Candidate 3: Mr. Paul F. Dankert Age: 71 Election Status: Nominee Address: 1897 W Pinon Court, Gilbert, AZ, 85233 Occupation: Retired Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Superstition Mountains Congregation: Calvary, Chandler, AZ</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Congregation Pastor-Teacher Scholarship Fund Committee</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Congregation President Congregation Financial Secretary Lay Delegate to 2012 AZ-CA District Convention Lay Delegate to 2011 WELS Synod Convention</p>

**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. Michael A. Schroeder** Age: 42
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 35571 Verde Vista Way, Wildomar, CA 92595
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Southern California Circuit: San Diego
Congregation: Living Hope, Wildomar, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Evangelism Commission — School of Outreach Advisor
Northwestern Publishing House Contact Pastor for AZ-CA District
Forward in Christ Reporter for AZ-CA District

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Tutor at Luther Preparatory School (2000 - 2002)
European Civilian Chaplain (2002 - 2007)

Candidate 2: **Rev. Daniel M. Wagenknecht** Age: 48
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 21180 Via Lugo, Yorba Linda, CA 92887
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Southern California Circuit: Orange
Congregation: Grace, Yorba Linda, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Orange Circuit
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District California Mission Board Chairman (2005 - 2012)
AZ-CA District Adult Discipleship Commission member
CCFS Member and Chairman
Southern California Delegate Conference Secretary
AZ-CA District Board of Appeals

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District Mission Board — Layman

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

Candidate 1: **Mr. Roger A. Prigge** Age: 72
Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in late 2007 and subsequently elected in 2010)
Address: 3605 E Dakota Court, Phoenix, AZ 85044
Occupation: Retired
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Superstition Mountains
Congregation: Emmanuel, Tempe, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Mission Board member
Congregation Board of Elders
Congregation Adult Education Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Congregation Board of Education
Congregation Budget Committee
Delegate to Constituting Convention of South Atlantic District (really!)

Candidate 2: **Mr. Nathan G. Hartzell** Age: 40
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 7635 S Rincon Valley Ranch Road, Vail, AZ 85641
Occupation: President, Concrete Designs Inc.
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Saguaro
Congregation: Holy Cross, Tucson, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Congregation Financial Secretary

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Congregation Elder

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District Evangelism Coordinator

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

Candidate 1: **Rev. Steven M. Hillmer** Age: 40
Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in 2011)
Address: 6960 Verite Court, Sparks, NV 89436
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Northern California Circuit: Sierra
Congregation: The Springs, Sparks, NV

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Home Missionary since 2008
AZ-CA District Evangelism Commission Chairman since 2011

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

South Atlantic District's Adult Discipleship Committee (2005 - 2008)

Candidate 2: **Rev. Mark R. Jacobson** Age: 39
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 10926 W Ashland Way, Avondale, AZ 85392
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro West
Congregation: Grace, Glendale, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Adult Education Commission member
Spiritual Advisor for LWMS Grand Canyon — West Circuit

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Saguaro Circuit Treasurer (2008 - 2014)

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District Coordinator for Lutheran Schools

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

<p>Candidate 1: Teacher Michael S. Homan Election Status: Nominee Address: 6965 Bettyhill Drive, San Diego, CA 92117 Occupation: Principal/Teacher Conference: Southern California Congregation: Reformation, San Diego, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Congregation Board of Education ex officio member Congregation Church Council Southern California Principals' Conference President Principal Mentor</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Principal of East Fork Lutheran Grade School and High School Vice-principal Head of Station - East Fork Lutheran High School and Grade School Teacher Athletic Director St. Croix Lutheran Marketing Task Force Treasurer of Pilgrim Lutheran Church Recruitment Director Schools for Peace Member</p>	<p>Age: 42 Circuit: San Diego</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Teacher Joel D. Walker Election Status: Nominee Address: 724 El Sereno Drive, San Jose, CA 95123 Occupation: Principal Conference: Northern California Congregation: Apostles, San Jose, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> AZ-CA District Commission on Lutheran Schools member since 2007 AZ-CA District Commission on Lutheran Schools Accreditation Committee since 2015</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Teacher at Atonement, Baltimore, MD Teacher/Principal at Faith, Milwaukee, WI Teacher/Principal at Reformation, San Diego, CA California Lutheran High School Board of Directors Principal's Conference Chairman WELSSA visitation committee Milwaukee Teacher Conference Program Committee</p>	<p>Age: 40 Circuit: Golden Gate</p>

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District Board of Appeals — Pastor

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

Candidate 1: **Rev. Paul M. Mueller** Age: 59
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 4025 N Van Nuys, Kingman, AZ 86409
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Southern California Circuit: Las Vegas
Congregation: Cross of Christ, Kingman, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Mission Board member
Bible Camp Director

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Golden Gate Circuit
District Mission Board
Camp Director
LWMS Advisor
District Evangelism Committee

Candidate 2: **Rev. Timothy J. Shrimpton** Age: 34
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 2600 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Northern California Circuit: Golden Gate
Congregation: Gloria Dei, Belmont, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Golden Gate Circuit

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at Zion, Mobridge, SD and St. Jacobi, Glenham, SD
Assistant to the District President (Dakota-Montana District)

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District Board of Appeals — Teacher

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

Candidate 1: **Teacher Terrance J. Greening** Age: 62
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2010)
Address: 8591 N 107th Drive, Peoria, AZ 85345
Occupation: Teacher
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro West
Congregation: Grace, Glendale, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Teacher (Grades 7 - 8)

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Board of Appeals

Candidate 2: **Teacher Matthew T. Bauer** Age: 35
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 7945 Joshua Court, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Occupation: School administrator/Teacher
Conference: Northern California Circuit: Sierra
Congregation: St. Mark's, Citrus Heights, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Northern CA Delegate Conference Secretary
Mentor for New Teacher Induction Program

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Teachers' Conference Program Committee

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District Board of Appeals — Layman

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

<p>Candidate 1: Mr. Eric L. Ayers Age: 48 Election Status: Nominee Address: 670 Evans Road, Dixon, CA 95620 Occupation: Hospital Informaticists, RN Conference: Northern California Circuit: Sierra Congregation: St. John, Vacaville, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Congregation Financial Secretary Congregation Budget Committee</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Congregation President Congregation Property and Finance Chairman</p>
<p>Candidate 2: Mr. John W. McCauley Age: 63 Election Status: Nominee Address: 831 Farmer Lane, Placentia, CA 92870 Occupation: Attorney (retired) Conference: Southern California Conference Circuit: Orange Congregation: Grace, Yorba Linda, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> None</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> None</p>
<p>Candidate 3: Mr. Daniel R. Torres Age: 49 Election Status: Nominee Address: 110 Mimosa Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94589 Occupation: Retired (disability) Conference: Northern California Circuit: Golden Gate Congregation: Good Shepherd, Vallejo, CA</p> <p><u>Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod</u> Congregation President Congregation Evangelism Chairman</p> <p><u>Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod</u> Congregation Evangelism Chairman</p>

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District Nominating Committee — Apache Conference

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

Candidate 1: **Rev. Seth A. Georgson** Age: 30
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 3074 W Park Plaza Lane, Snowflake, AZ 85937
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Apache Circuit: Apache
Congregation: Immanuel, Taylor, AZ and Immanuel, Springerville, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at Zion, Mobridge, SD and St. Jacobi, Glenham, SD

Candidate 2: **Rev. Gary Lupe** Age: 51
Election Status: Nominee
Address: P.O. Box 1449, Whiteriver, AZ 85941
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Apache Circuit: Apache
Congregation: Gethsemane, Cibecue, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor for the Apache mission field

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

None

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District Nominating Committee — Black Canyon Conference

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

Candidate 1: **Rev. Thomas E. Zimdars** Age: 49
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2012)
Address: 11158 W Hadley Street, Avondale, AZ 85323
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro West
Congregation: Santo Tomás, Phoenix, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Candidate 2: **Teacher Mark S. Kaiser** Age: 51
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 11234 N 58th Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85304
Occupation: Teacher
Conference: Black Canyon Circuit: Phoenix Metro East
Congregation: Emmaus, Phoenix, AZ

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Teacher (Grades 5 - 6)
Athletic Director

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Principal at Emmaus, Phoenix, AZ (6 years)
AZ-CA District Teachers' Conference Chairman
NE District Teachers' Conference Chairman
NE District Board of Appeals

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District Nominating Committee — Gadsden Conference

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

Candidate 1: **Rev. Johann W. Caauwe** Age: 37
Election Status: Incumbent (elected in 2012)
Address: 10949 Bullseye Street, El Paso, TX 79934
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Gadsden Circuit: Rio Grande
Congregation: Trinity, El Paso, TX

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Rio Grande Circuit
WELS Hymnal Project
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

None

Candidate 2: **Rev. Matthew J. Langebartels** Age: 33
Election Status: Nominee
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

Campus Pastor at Redeemer

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

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District Nominating Committee — Northern California Conference #1

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

Candidate 1: **Rev. M. John Derme** Age: 32
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 1415 Brenda Way, Washoe Valley, NV 89704
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Northern California Circuit: Sierra
Congregation: Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, NV

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Northern California Delegate Conference Chairman
Editor, WLS Grow in Grace's The Shepherd's Study

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Pastor at St. John's, Lewiston, MN and Jehovah, Altura, MN
Planning Committee Member, Mississippi River Valley Conference
LWMS Spiritual Growth Pastor, Winona Circuit

Candidate 2: **Rev. William R. Kant** Age: 49
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 401 Catalina Way, Vallejo, CA 94589
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Northern California Circuit: Golden Gate
Congregation: Good Shepherd, Vallejo, CA and Eternal Life, Concord, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Tree of Life Bible Camp Board
California Lutheran High School Admissions/Policies Committee
AZ-CA District Help Team

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

CA Pastors' Conference Treasurer

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Nominations and Biographies for District Boards, Committees and Offices

District Nominating Committee — Northern California Conference #2

(Term length = 2 years, Maximum service = 3 terms)

Candidate 1: **Teacher Richard A. De Frain** Age: 59
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 15 Mulberry Court, Belmont, CA 94002
Occupation: Principal/Teacher (Grades 1 - 6)
Conference: Northern California 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

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 (1 year)

Candidate 2: **Rev. Paul R. Johnston** Age: 65
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 694 Collyer Drive, Redding, CA 96003
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Northern California Circuit: Sierra
Congregation: Faith, Anderson, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

Conference secretary
Dakota-Montana District Stewardship Coordinator
Dakota-Montana District Convention Planning Committee (several years)

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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. Daniel M. Wagenknecht** Age: 48
Election Status: Incumbent (appointed in 2015)
Address: 21180 Via Lugo, Yorba Linda, CA 92887
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Southern California Circuit: Orange
Congregation: Grace, Yorba Linda, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Circuit Pastor — Orange Circuit
AZ-CA District Nominating Committee

Previous Service to Congregation, District, and/or Synod

AZ-CA District California Mission Board Chairman (2005 - 2012)
AZ-CA District Adult Discipleship Commission member
CCFS Member and Chairman
Southern California Delegate Conference Secretary
AZ-CA District Board of Appeals

Candidate 2: **Rev. James M. Werner** Age: 41
Election Status: Nominee
Address: 5911 Printwood Way, San Diego, CA 92117
Occupation: Pastor
Conference: Southern California Circuit: San Diego
Congregation: Reformation, San Diego, CA

Current Service to Congregation, District and/or Synod

Pastor at Reformation Lutheran Church & School (2014 - 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, Gold Coast Circuit, South Atlantic District (2010 - 2013)
Pastor, Pompano Lutheran Church, Pompano Beach, FL (2004 - 2014)
Pastor, Risen Savior/Calvary Lutheran Church, Cedar Grove/Sheboygan, WI (2003 - 2004)
Tutor, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN (2001 - 2003)