

VSWO 2024 Call to Convention
Virginia Synodical Women's Organization - Women of the ELCA
Thirty-sixth Annual Convention – July 26-27, 2024
Our Saviour's Lutheran - Norge, Williamsburg, Virginia

Convention Theme: “Stir up the gift of God which is in us”

Convention Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Convention Hymns: “God of Grace and God of Glory” and “Here I Am Lord”

In-kind Donations: Quilts and Amazon Wishlist Items for Micah Ministries
(see information on page 2 regarding the 2024 Service Project)

Offerings: The 2024 Love Offering recipient is Micah Ministries.
The General worship offering will go to the Women of the ELCA.

Convention Chaplain: Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Our Saviour's Lutheran – Norge

Business: Convention business will be conducted on both days Friday, July 26
And Saturday, July 27 with the following to be elected:

Vice-President (2-year term), Secretary (2-year term),
three (3) Board Members (2-year term each), and
the adoption of the 2025–2026 budget.

Non-voting member Participant Activities: Stir up the gifts God has given you! During a creative hour with Dawn Murray, you will be invited to decorate a wooden kitchen spoon that will serve as a reminder of your time at the 2024 convention. Your wrapped spoon handle will be a lovely decorative item, but will also be usable in your kitchen. We will work together to wrap and seal the handle with the colors of your choice. Match your décor, select colors that bring you joy, or choose colors that inspire you. All supplies and instruction will be provided. The fee to participate is \$10 per person and can be added on your registration form.

The VSWO Officers and Board Members appreciate your presence at the business sessions to support the voting members, to learn of leadership opportunities and to understand how the different expressions of Women of the ELCA support one another.

Grants: The Sophie Wilson Grant program encourages first-time, non-voting member participants to attend the convention. Recipients will be notified by June 22. Please consider adding a donation to the Sophie Wilson Grant program on your registration form.

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IMPORTANT: The Call to Convention (CTC) is only distributed via email, and/or the VSWO website and Facebook page. Please help by copying the registration form portion of the CTC and distributing to others. Also, please promote the convention in bulletins and newsletters.

Worship: The Rev. Dr. Phyllis Blair Milton, bishop of the Virginia Synod, will deliver the opening worship sermon and bring greetings from the Synod Office.

2024 Service Project Information Click on this link for the [Micah Ministries Amazon Wishlist](#) to select items to purchase. The items may be shipped directly to Micah Ministries by Amazon or brought to convention. **Quilts are also needed.** Gender neutral colors are appreciated. The quilts may also be brought to the convention or delivered to Micah Ministries. **Teresa Bowers is the Micah Ministries contact at: ctbowers@cox.net.** Micah Ministries is a collaboration of churches in the Fredericksburg area. Micah Street Church is an ecumenical congregation co-sponsored by the VA Synod and Micah Ecumenical Ministries. Micah is a congregation without walls focusing on assisting those neighbors experiencing homelessness.

Awareness Sessions **Latisha's House** - A representative from Latisha's House will speak on their work as a long-term, trauma-informed safe house for survivors of human trafficking. Latisha's House will be the recipient of the 2025 Love Offering and the 2025 Service Project. We will be introducing the 2025 service project on Saturday morning.

Healthier Minds – To learn how we are affected by trauma and how it changes the brain. We will become more trauma aware.

Encircle – A representative from Encircle which is affiliated with the VA Synod of the ELCA will speak on Virginia's foster care system and the need for foster parents

Bring A Mug We are asking all participants to the convention to bring a mug from home that you don't mind regifting. Drop off your mug when you check-in at the registration table. The mugs will be prepared by the VSWO board for a surprise activity during Saturday Opening Prayer at which time each convention participant will receive a different mug to take home.

VSWO 2024 Call to Convention

Official notice is given that the 36th annual convention of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) of the Women of the ELCA will be held on July 26-27, 2024 at
Our Saviour's Lutheran – Norge, Williamsburg, VA

VOTING MEMBERS

The constitution of the VSWO includes the following provisions for representation at convention:

Article VI, Section 2: Representation Item 1: Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers or SWO leaders and board members of the synodical women's organization and one voting member from each unit on the roll of this synodical women's organization. *Item 2:* Those congregations not represented by a unit shall be invited to send to the regular convention one representative who shall have seat and voice.

Voting members **must register** for convention using the enclosed Registration Form by **July 1**. The Bulletin of Reports will be sent electronically and available on-line by **July 8**. Please indicate on your registration form if you would like a **hard copy of the Bulletin of Reports for \$10.00** (due to printing costs this is an increase).

SCHEDULE

On Friday, Convention Registration is between 11:00am-12:30pm, Lunch is from 11:45am-12:30pm and is a box lunch which is included in your registration. Opening Worship begins at 12:45pm. Business will be conducted on both Friday and Saturday. Voting members are required to attend all business sessions. Convention closes by 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

FAIR SHARE TRAVEL FUND

Voting Members attending the entire convention will be reimbursed under the guidelines of the Fair Share Travel Fund, providing their unit has sent **\$35 by June 30** to VSWO Treasurer:

Jody Smiley
901 Brattle Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Travel reimbursement requests must be turned in by the end of Business Session 2 on **Friday, July 26**.

LODGING -HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS

A block of rooms has been reserved for Friday night at **Holiday Inn Express Williamsburg North, 720 Lightfoot Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188**. Cost is \$145+tax/fees per night for Single/Double occupancy. Individual attendees will make their own reservations directly with Holiday Inn **prior to June 25, 2024 by calling 757-220-0062**.

[Click here for the Holiday Inn Express Williamsburg North website](#)

You must mention Virginia Synodical Women's Organization to receive the group rate. Check-in time is 4:00 PM and check-out time is 11 a.m. **Deadline to reserve rooms at the group rate is June 25, and there is no guarantee of a room after this date.**

MEALS

All meals are included in the registration cost. This is lunch and dinner on Friday, and lunch on Saturday by Andrea of Divine Lunches. Complimentary Breakfast at the hotel on Saturday morning. Please mention any dietary needs on your registration form.

GUIDE TO ENCLOSED FORMS

Registration Form - All participants (visitors, guests, board members, conference coordinators) must return the Registration Form, along with a check (if applicable) to **Jody Smiley**, Registrar, at the address on the form by **July 10**. **Voting members are encouraged to return the registration form by July 1.**

Board Nomination Form - Use the enclosed form for nominations for President, Treasurer, and board members. **Send to JoAnn Fawley by June 18.**

Sophie Wilson Grant - This grant was established to encourage first-time, non-voting member participants to attend the convention. **Mail to Jody Smiley by July 1.**

Health Form - Bring to convention.

QUESTIONS REGARDING REGISTRATION?

Contact registrar, Jody Smiley at [jdsmliley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net) or 540-250-6149 or JoAnn Fawley at 703-727-7957 or fawley6409@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

VSWO – Thirty-sixth Annual Convention ~ July 26-27, 2024

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM
VOTING MEMBERS BY JULY 1 AND PARTICIPANTS BY JULY 10 TO:

Jody Smiley
 901 Brattle Lane

Blacksburg, VA 24060

Questions? Contact Jody at jdsmiley29@comcast.net or 540-250-6149

Name _____ Pronouns _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Church/City _____

Conference _____ Email _____

Registration	Fee	Amount due
Full Participant (Includes all meals see page 3)	\$100.00	
One day Participant	\$ 70.00	
Friday art activity for non-voting members	\$10.00	
Bulletin of Reports (hard copy)	\$10.00	
Opportunities to give below:		
I've included a gift to the VSWO Thrivent Endowment Fund		
I've included a gift to Katie's Fund		
I've included a gift to the Roanoke Scholarship		
I've included a gift for the Betty Wilson Triennial Scholarship		
I've included a gift for the Sophie Wilson Grant Fund		
Total amount due		\$

Please check all that apply:

- My check is enclosed. *(Make registration checks payable to VSWO)*
- My registration will be paid by the VSWO*
- I will attend the Friday art activity for non-voting member participants.
- I would like a hard copy of the Bulletin of Reports (\$10.00)
- Special dietary needs (please specify)** _____

Please check all that apply: This is my FIRST time attending VSWO Convention

- Voting Member
- Participant
- VSWO Board Member*
- Invited Guest or Speaker*
- VSWO Officer*
- Conference Coordinator*

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization
EMERGENCY CONTACT AND MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM
VSWO CONVENTION**

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____
Street City State/Country Zip Code

Gender (optional) _____ Pronouns _____

Age: 34 and under _____ 35-49 _____ 50-65 _____ over 65 _____

Blood Type _____ Date of last tetanus shot _____

Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? _____ Are you hearing impaired or wear hearing aids? _____

Describe treatments you are receiving for a current illness/condition (including chronic illnesses, i.e. asthma, diabetes, seizures) _____

List any allergies (e.g., insect stings, food, medication, etc.) _____

List any medications you are currently taking _____

Emergency Contact #1 _____ Relationship _____

Home Telephone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Emergency Contact #2 _____ Relationship _____

Home Telephone _____ Work _____ Cell _____

PERMISSION TO TREAT

I give permission for Medical personnel to treat me in the event that I am unconscious or otherwise unable to give consent.

(printed name)

(signature)

(date)

Please bring this form with you to convention in case of an emergency.

NOMINATION FORM OFFICER/BOARD MEMBER

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization ~ Women of the ELCA

MAIL/EMAIL COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM BY **June 18, 2024** TO:
JoAnn Fawley, 6409 W. Old Mountain Rd, Louisa, VA 23093 or fawley6409@gmail.com

Individual must consent to serve if elected. This nomination is for:

Vice-President (2-year term)

Secretary (2-year term)

2-year term Board Member

Three (3) board members are needed all 2-year terms.

Name: _____ Pronouns _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email address: _____

Age range 34 and under 35-49 50-64 over 65

Ethnic/racial heritage Caucasian Black or African American Hispanic American Indian or Alaska Native
 Middle Eastern or Arab Asian

Church/City _____ Conference _____

Occupation/Vocation _____

Women of the ELCA Experience (Check all that apply.)

Local unit: participant officer

Conference: participant conference team conference coordinator

Synodical: attended convention convention voting member VSWO board member VSWO officer

Churchwide: attended Triennial Triennial voting member Churchwide board member Churchwide officer

Hobbies: _____

Volunteer Work: _____

Form submitted by Name: _____ Phone _____

Unit and conference

SOPHIE WILSON GRANT APPLICATION

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization ~ Women of the ELCA
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The Sophie Wilson Grant is available to encourage
FIRST-TIME, NON-VOTING MEMBER PARTICIPANTS
to attend the convention.

Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision no later than **July 10, 2024**

MAIL OR EMAIL COMPLETED GRANT APPLICATION FORM BY July 1, 2024 TO:

Jody Smiley
901 Brattle Lane
Blacksburg, VA 24060
jdsmiley29@comcast.net

Name: _____ Pronouns _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email address _____

Church/City _____ Conference _____

Occupation/Vocation _____

To what extent are you currently involved in Women of the ELCA? _____

Why is attending this convention important to you? _____

How will you use this experience when you return home? _____

If chosen as a grant recipient, we ask that you attend the entire convention.

Signature of applicant: _____ Date _____