



# SHARE

## From the President

Autumn has arrived! With this time of year comes many changes. Temperatures are turning cool. Leaves are changing to beautiful shades of yellow, orange and red. Soon they will be falling, creating opportunity for us to spend time in the crisp temperatures out-of-doors as we attempt to keep our lawns clear.

With fall this year, came a change in the scheduling of our USSWO Convention, which was held on the last Saturday of September. It was nice to be able to set up for, and have, this convention without being so warm. Elections were conducted to fill the vacancies in offices and Executive Board seats. Results: President – Deb Hackenberger; Vice President – Sue Baylor; Board Members – Tonya Tabb and Rita Avery. We join the existing board members, Doris Mertz- Secretary, Wendy Zajac- Treasurer, Robin Latsha, Carol Winter, Chris Hollinger, Fran Blatchley, Anne Spicer, and Carol Bartoe.

As President, I look forward to serving the women of the USS. My goal for the next two years is to increase communications between the ELCA, the synodical organization and congregational units as we strive to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world, according to the Purpose of the Women of the ELCA.

I am anxious to become acquainted with women from across our synod and participate in your activities. As you make plans within your units and clusters, please communicate them to the board so we can have someone from the synodical group in attendance whenever possible. You can find contact information for each of us elsewhere in this publication of SHARE.

May God richly bless your congregational planning and actions as you move into the coming year.

USSWO President,

*Deb Hackenberger*

## Psalm 23 for Busy People

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, and His guidance of peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day,

I will not fret, for His presence is here.

His timelessness, His all importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity

by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility;

my cup of joyous energy overflows.

Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,

for I shall walk in the pace of my Lord, and dwell in His house forever!

*By Toki Miyashina Japanese poet, ca 1960*

## In this issue ...

Minutes of the Twenty-third Annual Convention and some pictures from that event; also a new feature...**NEWS FROM THE UNITS.**

*Our thanks to all the “reporters” and our appreciation for all that you do!*

*~The Editors*

# NEWS FROM WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE

by Deacon Sandra Grier, WELCA Churchwide Ex. Board

**Deacon Sandy Grier was the Churchwide Representative at our Convention on September 25<sup>th</sup>  
and this is her report to that Convention**

Women of the ELCA Churchwide Executive Board updates. This will be my last SHARE in representing the Churchwide Board. I have served 7 years on that board and am honored to be elected twice. I have been honored to represent you during that time. A lot has changed in those 7 years including having the triennial convention on-line in August because of COVID-19.

We do look forward to meeting in person for our Twelfth Triennial Convention and Gathering , Sept. 2023 in Phoenix AZ. I do want to share some of those decisions made by delegates throughout the country including the WELCA USS delegates. Below are some of the highlights:

- The convention approved updates to the organization's constitutions and bylaws;
- Participating in a congregational unit is encouraged but no longer required for leadership in either the synodical or churchwide expressions of Women of the ELCA; however, voting membership in an ELCA congregation is required;
- Reducing the number of churchwide executive board members from 21 to 15, including the four officers;
- Creating more flexibility for synodical women's organization boards: The board may number "3 or more" without requiring approval from the churchwide executive board to change the number of SWO board members;
- Allowing two members of the same congregational unit to serve as leaders of an SWO; one as an officer and the other as a board member; Offering more flexibility in SWO leaders' titles: leaders may be called presidents and vice-presidents, chairs or co-chairs, conveners or co-conveners, or coordinators;
- The constitution had not originally provided for digital conventions. Voting members from the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) were called into action and, in a mail-in ballot sent in July, approved a constitutional amendment to hold conventions remotely or virtually, provided participants are sufficient to constitute a quorum, thus paving the way for the historic first digital convention of Women of the ELCA.

## MEMORIALS ADOPTED

Voting members adopted several memorials that included:

- Continuing to fight human trafficking;
- Continuing to support solar energy in Liberia;
- Supporting and participating in Thursdays in Black; We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies. The campaign is simple but profound. Wear black on Thursdays;
- Encouraging the practice of using reusable bags;
- Encouraging immigration reform;
- Engaging in education against school violence and mass shootings;
- Focusing on unjust treatment of women and girls by providing education and prayers for those who have been victimized and giving voice and support to those who willingly acknowledge such treatment by saying #METOO.

**To read the complete memorials, download the Eleventh Triennial Convention Programs and Reports.**

Two matters of business will be referred to the churchwide executive board because of their importance. They are:

- That first-time voting members at this convention be allowed to serve as first-time voting members at the Twelfth Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA.
- The dilemma of a synodical organization whose board members have served for seven years and are no longer eligible for re-election according to their constitution and bylaws.



## CONVENTION OFFERING

The convention offering was divided equally between Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest and the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization, as designated by the churchwide executive board. If you would like to make a gift to Women of the ELCA, please send it to the following address:

Women of the ELCA, c/o ELCA Gift Processing,  
PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009.

(Gifts from congregational units (form B) and synodical women's organizations (form C) should be drawn on the group's checking account to give proper credit to the group.)

- ABOUT 260 WOMEN OF THE ELCA voting members approved constitutional changes that reduced the size of its churchwide board from 21 to 15 members while making it more inclusive;
- They also elected new churchwide officers and an executive board and adopted a 2022 budget;
- Women of the ELCA's newly revised constitution now reads that the make-up of the executive board shall be at least 20 percent women of color or whose primary language is other than English, and at least 20 percent will be under 45 and/or members of the LGBTQIA+ community;
- The churchwide executive board for the 2017-2020 triennium had a vision of making the organization more welcoming, inclusive, and nimble, said Linda Bushkofsky. "They sought to lead by example." Following the election, "one-third of the new board are women of color or primary language other than English, exceeding the constitutional mandate of 20 percent." "Three women are under 45 and/or members of the LGBTQIA+community."

## NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD

**Joy Michalicek** of Duluth, Minn. (Northeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization); President  
**Freddie Jordan** of Columbus, Ohio (Southern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization), Vice President;  
**Angela Bell** of Palos Heights, Ill. (Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization), Secretary  
**Raeann Purcell** of Deland, Fla. (Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization), Treasurer.

Well, those are the highlights. As I said before, I have been honored to be the first woman from the Upper Susquehanna Synod to be on the WELCA Churchwide Executive Board .

My thanks to each of you for your continued support and love of Women of the ELCA. You are all amazing in sharing your faith. I look forward to the next chapter in our faith-journey together.

God bless you and the ministry you do in Christ's Name.

Your sister in Christ,  
Deacon Sandy Grier

*Sandy*



### BAKED PINEAPPLE

In a large mixing bowl, cream together 1/2 cup butter and 1-3/4 cups white sugar.

Add and mix well 3 beaten eggs and 1/2 cup milk.  
(I use an egg beater until mixture is smooth.)

Add and mix well 1 tin (20 oz.) Crushed Pineapple. (Do NOT drain the pineapple.)

Cut into cubes and add to above mixture 4 cups of soft white bread (7 slices = 4 cups), preferably without crusts. Mix until bread is absorbed.

Pour mixture into a buttered pyrex baking bowl and sprinkle with cinnamon.  
BAKE at 350 degree for 60-70 minutes until surface is firm, but not burnt.

*Ruth Doran (phone 570-584-5814—home)*



# Biographies

## Deb Hackenberger

Hello! My name is Deborah 'Deb' Hackenbrger. I am a member of Centre Evangelical Lutheran Church in the village of Centre, Juniata County, about 3 miles east of Mifflintown. I am married to D. Richard Hackenberger. Between us we have three grown children and eight grandchildren. We enjoy traveling and have been privileged to visit all of the fifty states, except three. Alaska was one of our favorites. We also enjoy spending time with family and friends, especially while camping. I retired in 2016 after 19 years of employment at First National Bank of Mifflintown (now Pennian Bank). Prior to that I was self-employed and worked on staff with Hemlock Girl Scout Council.

At church, I serve as the Financial Secretary and the Altar Guild Chair, and also hold the office of Secretary/Treasurer of our congregational WELCA unit. I am now serving as the newly elected USSWO President. In 2009, I became an Authorized Lay Worship Leader (ALWL) in the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

My hobbies include card making/scrapbooking, crocheting, and weaving. My responsibilities in the church along with my hobbies and traveling don't allow for much 'down' time.

## Chris Hollinger

I am a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Berwick, PA. I'm a widow and my hobby is card-making. I love sending cards and hopefully bring joy to those who receive them. I serve on church council, worship and music committee, attend the Women of the ELCA meetings, and serve on the altar guild.

*Editors' Note: We thank Chris for her photographic talents ... the Convention pictures in SHARE come from Chris!"*

## Rita Avery

Greetings Fellow Sisters of USSWO!

May I introduce myself?... I am Rita Avery.... Newly elected to the Board of USSWO at our Sept 2021 convention.

I reside with my husband of 45 years, Tom, about four miles southeast of Sunbury about a half mile (as the crow flies) from where I grew up on the family farm. I was the only girl with four brothers.

Tom and I were not blessed with children but have two kitty "kids" and enjoy some traveling (although not recently with COVID keeping us close to home). Tom is planning to retire the end of 2021 so we're looking forward to a new chapter for us.

We've served as financial secretaries at United Lutheran/Sunbury since the late 1980s. I participate in senior choir, fellowship and special events activities, stewardship committee and I've coordinated funeral lunches since my mom "handed over the book" in 1999. For 42 years I worked full time as a medical transcriptionist transcribing/typing doctors' dictation also serving as dept secretary.

The majority of my working years (38+) were at Evangelical Hospital/Lewisburg in the Laboratory/Pathology department. When COVID hit, I was furloughed for three months at which point the hospital offered me a retirement opportunity that I chose to accept.

In the distant past, I had served the USSWO as a convention registrar (beginning back when we were still gathering at Susquehanna University – Virginia Dushman was the president when I started). After serving as convention registrar for a number of years, I was elected as secretary of the USSWO for four years. I also remained active in our home congregational unit and have served as the coordinator for many years (20+ ? – I've lost track!!).

For some of those years I was also active on our Tulpehocken Cluster team. After a hiatus of a number of years, you've elected me to return to the USSWO Board and I hope to help our organization continue to offer opportunities for growth, action and community service.



## Elizabeth (Sue) Baylor

I am a retired critical care nurse, a veteran, a grandmother and great-grandmother. I have lived in Danville since 1981, before that in San Antonio, Kentucky, Germany, and Vietnam with the Army.

I am a member of Pine Street Lutheran Church, active in the church choir and bell choir as well as Women of the ELCA. I was past President of the Women of the Upper Susquehanna Synod and am the newly-elected Vice President. I have been co-chair of the Mission Action Committee for several years.

I have a passion for genealogy and am a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

I am hoping that we can continue the energy we had at the 2021 convention; lots of fun and much interest in the activities of Women of the ELCA. Our new constitution allows women who are voting members of an ELCA congregation to participate in leadership positions in the synod even if they do not have an active congregational unit. I hope this will encourage diversity in our leadership and more members to participate in our activities.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the future events in the synod.

## Carol A. Winter

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Carol Winter. I am a resident of Lewisburg, PA and a member of Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport, PA.

A graduate of Susquehanna University, I taught in the Loyalsock Twp. School District, Williamsport, PA, for 37 years. I enjoy traveling, reading, spending time with my family and friends, and you can always add some games, to the list of what I enjoy, especially pinochle.

A lifelong Lutheran, involvement in the church has always been an important part of my life. I have taught Sunday School and Confirmation classes, served on Christian Education and Social Ministry committees, Altar Guild, and the Church Council, and been a delegate to the Synod Assembly.

Being part of the women's organization has offered me many opportunities, for service and growth. Service has occurred through projects, that help the "least of these." Growth has occurred through Bible studies and events that expanded my knowledge. I have worked, with the Board, on USSWO conventions, was honored to be elected as president of the USSWO for 2 terms (2007 - 2010), and attended the triennials in San Antonio, Salt Lake City, and Spokane.

I am looking forward to the coming year and all the good things it will bring.

## Tonya Tabb

I am a member of Centre Lutheran Church in Mifflintown. I am currently serving as president of our congregational unit, and have previously served as vice president, secretary, and treasurer. I am currently the secretary for our church and coordinator of our off-site summer day camp conducted with Camp Mount Luther.

Outside of the church, I teach Family and Consumer Science to 7th -12th graders in Juniata County School District. In my free time, I enjoy reading, knitting, paper-crafting, and spending time with my niece (age 11) and nephew (age 5). My favorite vacations include traveling, camping, and being at the beach with family and friends.

## Fran Blatchley

I'm a lifelong Lutheran. Currently I am a member of Messiah Evangelical Lutheran, New Berlin, where I am vice president of WELCA. I retired from Evangelical Community Hospital after almost 45 years and volunteer at the hospital when I can. Since we live half a block from the church, it is like a second home.



# NEWS FROM THE UNITS



*Provided by members of the USSWO  
Executive Board*

At the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board, members were asked, “Describe your Unit’s meetings in September and October for inclusion in SHARE.” The discussion that followed was interesting! One Unit meets after the Worship Service rather than in the evenings ... one has Business Meetings only a couple of times a year ... one person said, “I’m the youngest person there, and I’m 70!”

## Here is information from these Units ...

### St. John’s Women of the ELCA, Lewistown

*Reported by Anne Spicer*  
We don’t have monthly meetings. The Officers and Board meet about four times a year. We have started a small group dedicated to local mission needs in the community and church. Our projects include the following:

Getting backpacks filled with items needed for back-to-school for high schoolers who are “couch” surfers and those who are homeless

Thinking-of-you bags for church members who are unable to attend church due to COVID or other health conditions. Bags contain a decorative night-light, a devotional booklet, and a dove ornament.

### United, Sunbury

*Reported by Rita Avery*  
We haven’t had meetings, but we participate in the “Seafarers’ Bags Project,” give cookies to Shut-ins at Christmas, do blanket/quilt sewing, and LWR Kits are donated.

### Grace WELCA, Berwick

*Reported by Chris Hollinger*  
Our September and October meetings featured Bible Studies from “Gather.” We also donated “Seafarers’ Bags.”

### Agape Women of the ELCA, Holy Spirit, Turbotville

*Reported by Doris Mertz*  
Doris Mertz had the program and they had a Turkey Dinner to support the congregation’s missionary. The October program was given by Vallery Barnwell and they are buying Christmas gifts for two Elementary children.

### St. John’s, Mifflinville

*Reported by Wendy Zajac*  
We have not been meeting due to COVID.

### Messiah, New Berlin

*Reported by Fran Blatchley*  
We didn’t meet in September. In October we packed LWR Kits and quilts. We are planning an Advent-by-Candlelight Dinner. In November we will have a speaker of possibly the Gold Award (Girl Scout Award).

### Messiah WELCA, Messiah, Mifflintown

*Reported by Linda Leister*  
In August, September and October we assembled 39 School Kits and boxed them. We also packed almost 150 bars of soap. Over 300 quilts were packed and marked for delivery to the Synod Office. We have Devotions and discussions at each meeting. We serve refreshments several times a year.

### Centre WELCA, Centre, Mifflintown

*Reported by Tonya Tabb*  
We did not meet in September; however, in October we planned to order and distribute Advent calendars and devotionals provided by ELCA World Hunger. These will be available to anyone attending church or shared by members. We planned to participate in the community’s “Christmas Angel Project,” purchasing gifts to be given to needy children and families. We also planned the congregation’s Christmas Dinner—a dinner at a local restaurant. Each attendee is to bring a donation for the local Food Pantry. Our program was packing up and undecorating the sanctuary from our Harvest Home Sunday, fall decorations in the sanctuary, and collection of items for the local Food Pantry.



# WOMEN OF THE ELCA, UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

## Minutes of the Thirty-third Annual Convention

Theme: Love One Another   
Saturday, September 25, 2021

President Jean Crumb welcomed delegates, visitors and guests to the convention. Each person received a Bulletin of Reports and Recommendations. There was a brief orientation for delegates to familiarize themselves with the booklet, Guidelines for Delegates, the Standing Rules, and an explanation of how the elections for the various offices were to proceed including ecclesiastical ballot for President and Vice President.

We then participated in the WORSHIP SERVICE led by The Rev. Lisa Raylene Barnes of Follmer Lutheran Parish who spoke on the theme of “Love One Another”. Mrs. Carol Waltz served as our pianist. Chris Hollinger was lector. Communion assistants were Deb Hackenberger and Robin Latsha. Ushers were Deb Hackenberger, Robin Latsha and Fran Blatchley.

We then returned to the meeting area and President Jean Crumb led the “Order for Opening of Convention.”

### FIRST BUSINESS MEETING

#### REPORT ON COMMITTEE OF CREDENTIALS

- Sue Baylor presented the first report of the Committee of Credentials as follows: 9 delegates, 4 officers, 7 board members, 11 participants and 4 guests for total of 35.
- The quorum was determined to be 20 voting members.
- The recommendations from the Executive Board to adopt the Standing Rules for the convention and the Agenda for the convention were approved unanimously.
- Carol Winter was appointed as parliamentarian.
- The committees of the convention were also approved as appointed by the president.
- The executive board recommended that the minutes of the convention be reviewed and corrected by the administrative committee and after approval be printed and distributed to all existing units/congregations by November 1, if possible. They will be printed in the SHARE.

#### FIRST BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Anne Spicer explained the process of ecclesiastical ballot to elect the President. We then completed the first ballot for election of President.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

While we were awaiting the results of the first ballot for President, we heard from Chad Hershberger, the executive director of Camp Mt. Luther. He was representing Bishop Barbara Jean Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod as she was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. He expressed how vital the women’s organization was to the ministry of our Synod and thanked us for our contributions and service. He also thanked us for our support of Camp Mt. Luther over the years. He had 150 campers over the summer and they had an enjoyable camping experience.

We then welcomed Marianne Brock, daughter of Board member, Frances Blatchley who is a Deaconess in the ELCA and the Regional Gift Planner. She visits congregations and explains how to set up endowment funds and charitable contributions through planned giving. She stated this is “a thank you to your past and a love letter to your future.”

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS – FIRST BALLOT FOR PRESIDENT

Following was the result of the first ballot for President: Deborah Hackenberger 5, Frances Blatchley 1, Carol Winter 7, Elizabeth Baylor 2, Robin Latsha 2, Doris Mertz 1, Rita Avery 1 and Linda Leister 1. All declined to remain on the ballot except for Deborah Hackenberger, Elizabeth Baylor and Rita Avery. So it was necessary for a second ballot to be cast as a 14 vote quorum was needed to be elected.

#### INTRODUCTION OF SANDRA GRIER, CHURCHWIDE EXECUTIVE BOARD

While we were awaiting the results of the Second Ballot for President, we welcomed Sandy Grier of Williamsport, the first member of the Church-wide Executive Board from the Upper Susquehanna Synod whose second 3-year term has just ended. She brought greetings from Past President Lisa Plorin and newly-elected President Joy Michalicek as well as Executive President Linda Post Bushkofsky. Sandy talked about Katie’s Fund, which is an endowment fund created in

*Continued on the next page*

## Convention Minutes Continued

honor of Martin Luther's wife, Katie. She stated the Upper Susquehanna Synod has been very active in the churchwide office. We are one of 64 Synods in the WELCA organization with headquarters in Chicago. A very strong weaving in the organization supports all of us. The publications of the church-wide organization are "Gather" and "Cafe". They are also on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest and you have access to an app "Daily Grace" on your smart phone. At the last Triennial in August, which was virtual, they updated the Constitution and the Bylaws. The Executive Board was downsized from 21 to 15. It was approved they could have a digital or virtual convention as long as there is a quorum. It also approved that two members of the same congregational unit can serve on the local Executive Board as long as one is a board member and one is an officer. The offering at the Triennial was divided between the Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest and Church-wide. The next Triennial in 2023 will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, where it was to be held in 2020.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS – SECOND BALLOT FOR PRESIDENT

Following was the result of the second ballot for President: Deborah Hackenberger 17, Elizabeth Baylor 2 and Rita Avery 1. Deborah Hackenberger is our new President.

### REPORT OF MISSION AREAS

- Sue Baylor spoke on **Mission Action** – She referred us to her report on page 27 of the Bulletin of Reports. She mentioned the container for the blankets and other items would be at the Synod Office from Wednesday, October 6 through Monday, October 11 to place your items. She and a few others will be there on Saturday, October 9 from 9:00 am to 12 noon to help load the items into the container.
- Linda Leister spoke on **Mission Community** and referred us to her report on page 28 of the Bulletin of Reports.
- Chris Hollinger spoke on **Mission Growth** and referred us to page 29 of the Bulletin of Reports. She encouraged all units to participate in cluster gatherings.

### ADJOURNMENT OF FIRST BUSINESS MEETING

At this point we adjourned the first business meeting and the group broke into two groups, one going to the Bible Study with Vicar Jodi Ellis and the other group joined Barbara Schmouder at the Workshop doing "Pressed Flower Pictures." Jodi spoke on "love" which was the theme for our convention. Everyone enjoyed creating their dried flower pictures.

Wendy Zajac asked those who haven't already done so to bring their offerings up front for the In-Gathering offering which is going to Lutheran Disaster Response. Anyone bringing monetary donations instead of "items" for the In-Kind Offering could also bring them forward. The donations will be split between Haven Ministry and The New Love Center. She then offered a prayer prior to our delicious lunch.

### SECOND BUSINESS MEETING

Chris Hollinger had opening devotions for the second business meeting entitled "Love As Jesus Loved."

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Per Sue Baylor there were 9 delegates, 4 officers, 7 board members, 11 participants and 4 guests for a total of 35. The quorum was determined to be 20 voting members.

### FIRST BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

As per the rules of the organization, the office of Vice President will also be elected by ecclesiastical ballot. The voting members then voted.

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS – FIRST BALLOT FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Per Anne Spicer, following were the results of the first ballot for Vice President: Elizabeth Sue Baylor 7, Rita Avery 5, Carol Winter 3, Fran Blatchley 2, Sandra Grier 1, Anne Spicer 1, Robin Latsha 1. All declined running except for Elizabeth Sue Baylor and Rita Avery. Since there needs to be 14 votes to be elected, there was a need for a second ballot for Vice President.

While awaiting the results of the second ballot, we heard from Ruth Doran regarding our newsletter SHARE. She stated SHARE comes out twice a year either by e-mail or postal delivery. She asked that anyone who wishes to receive it and doesn't at this point to let her know and she will gladly add them to the list. She also has a survey she would like everyone to complete and return prior to leaving today. She asked that we let her know about special

events or programs we have in our churches so she can put the information in SHARE. She mentioned that at her church, Messiah in South



*Continued on the next page*



# CONVENTION PICTURES



*Incoming Officers - Deb Hackenberger, President, and Sue Baylor, Vice President*



*Jean Crumb (Outgoing President); Deb Hackenberger (Incoming President)*



*Executive Board Officers for 2021-2022 - Doris Mertx (Secretary); Deb Hackenberger (President); Sue Baylor (Vice President); Wendy Zajac (Treasurer)*



*Linda Leister; Jean Crumb; Carol Winter (Outgoing Officers of the Board)*



*Sandy Jansson and Carol Winter at the Bookstore display*



*Chad Hershberger, Director of Camp Mt. Luther*



*Group sharing "Pressed Flower" pictures; Barb Schmouder (Workshop Presenter) is second from right in the front*



*The Rev. Lisa Barnes (Worship Leader); Pastor of Follmer Parish*

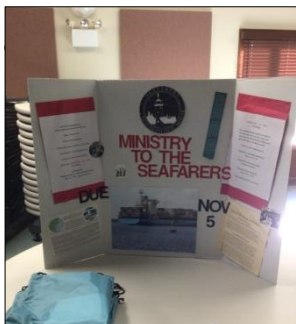


*Delegates and Visitors during the Business Session*



*A Cancer Survivor's Story*

*Bookstore items*



*Seafarers' Ministry*



*Amber Ellis - Vicar Jodi Ellis (Bible Study Leader) - Deacon Sandy Grier (Churchwide Representative; also Operator of "Along the Way Bookstore")*



*A table centerpiece on the Convention theme, "Love One Another"*

# 2021-2022 SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD



## **PRESIDENT**

Deborah Hackenberger  
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Mifflintown, PA 17059  
717-363-0277 (cell)  
[dktabb@gmail.com](mailto:dktabb@gmail.com)  
Term ends: 2023

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

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## **SECRETARY**

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## **TREASURER**

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Term ends: 2022

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

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Term ends: 2023

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Term ends: 2022

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Term ends 2023

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Term ends: 2022



(seated, left to right) - Robin Latsha, Fran Blatchley, Tonya Tabb, Doris Mertz  
(standing, left to right) - Wendy Zajac, Deb Hackenberger, Sue Bayhlor, Chris Hollinger, Rita Avery, Carol Winter, Anne Spicer  
(missing from photo) - Carol Bartoe





## **Convention Minutes Continued**

everyone to complete and return prior to leaving today. She asked that we let her know about special events or programs we have in our churches so she can put the information in SHARE. She mentioned that at her church, Messiah in South Williamsport they had a program by Muslim women and also a State Trooper from Montoursville, Lauren Leshner, was coming to speak on scams and fraud.

Deb Hackenberger then mentioned a few events they do at her church. They give Christmas gifts to children and they send homemade Christmas cards to shut ins at Christmas. They do a Lenten project where they designate certain items each week to be collected for the food pantry.

### **REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS – SECOND BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT**

Per Anne Spicer following were the results of the second ballot for Vice President: Elizabeth Sue Baylor 13 and Rita Avery 7. Elizabeth Sue Baylor is our new Vice President.

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS**

- Chris Hollinger stated the following were nominated for a second term for Executive Board: Fran Blatchley, Chris Hollinger and Carol Winter. New members nominated were Rita Avery and Tonya Tabb. Linda Leister made a motion to accept all five of those nominated to be elected to the Executive Board. The vote was then held.

While awaiting the results, President Jean recognized the Past Presidents of the USS Women of the ELCA. Vicar Jodi Ellis offered the prayer.

Sandy Grier then spoke on the updated constitution revisions. The main “welcomed” revision was that two women from the same unit can serve on Board as long as one is an officer and the other one a Board member.

### **VOTE ON SYNODICAL CONSTITUTION REVISIONS**

Vote ensued on the Synodical Constitution revisions and it was passed.

### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS**

Anne Spicer reported all five women nominated were elected as Board members. Votes received were Frances Blatchley 15, Chris Hollinger 18, Carol Winter 14, Rita Avery 13 and Tonya Tabb 16.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF SECOND BUSINESS MEETING**

At this time we again had time for women to attend either the workshop on “Pressed Flower Pictures” with Barbara Schmouder or the Bible Study with Vicar Jodi Ellis.

## **THIRD BUSINESS MEETING**

We had opening devotions by Robin Latsha, again pertaining to our theme of Love.

### **REPORT ON COMMITTEE OF CREDENTIALS**

- Per Sue Baylor, there were 9 delegates, 4 officers, 7 board members, 11 participants and 2 guests for a total of 33.
- The report of the treasurer was presented by Wendy Zajac.
- The Accountant’s report was available in the report. The executive board recommended that the report of the accounting firm, Darlene C. Gabsewics, CPA concerning the statements of cash receipts and disbursements of the USSWO of the Women of the ELCA for the 2018-2019 year be accepted. This does not need a second since it was proposed by the Board. Motion passed.
- The executive board recommended that the proposed budget for the USSWO of the Women of the ELCA for 2019-2020 year be adopted. This does not need a second since it was proposed by the Board. Motion passed.

### **Report of the Committees of Convention**

Carol Bartoe spoke on the **Committee of Reference and Council**. She thanked everyone involved in making the convention a success: Pastor Lisa Barnes and Carol Walz for participation in the worship service this morning. Vicar Jodi Ellis for presenting the Bible Study. Barbara Schmouder for the pressed flower craft we did. Sue Baylor for all the work she puts into the Bulletin of Reports and other projects throughout the year and participation in the Board meetings and SHARE. Ruth Doran and Nicole Cummins for their work on SHARE and Ruth’s participation in the Board meetings. Camp Mt. Luther – Chad Hershberger and Toni for their work in getting the convention center ready and preparing the meal and snacks. Church-wide Executive Board, especially Sandy Grier for their help over the years in helping us with any questions or issues we might have. Outgoing President Jean Crumb for her dedication and work over the years as our Synodical President. Wendy Zajac, our Treasurer for her tireless work taking care of our money.

*Continued on the next page*

## Convention Minutes Continued

The WELCA Board who have worked tirelessly to make our Synodical Women's group thrive over the years and planned our convention. Also, thanks to all the Board members who prepared the table decorations. Thanks to those who prepared displays this year – Sandy Grier with her “Along The Way” gift shop and book store, the Synod office who provided Seafarer Bags for you to take along to share with your congregations, Robin Gum with her Cancer Info and Maryann Brock-Regional Gift Planner. Thanks to everyone here today who took time out of their day to participate in the Convention and to all the women throughout the Upper Susquehanna Synod who work tirelessly to make a difference in the world and SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS WITH OTHERS!!

Fran Blatchley spoke on the **Committee on Credentials**.

Buffalo Valley	1 delegate	0 participants	1 board	1 officer	total of 3	
Juniata	3 delegates	1 participant	3 board	0 officers	total of 7	
Middle Creek	0 delegate	0 participants	1 board	0 officer	total of 1	
North Branch	2 delegates	6 participants	1 board	2 officers	total of 11	
Tulpehocken	2 delegates	0 participants	1 board	0 officers	total of 3	
West Branch	1 delegate	4 participants	0 board	1 officer	total of 6	
Guests					total of 4	
Total	9 delegates	11 participants	7 board	4 officers	4 guests	total 35

Wendy Zajac commented on the **Committee on Offerings**. The freewill offering totaled \$178, the In-Gathering offering totaled \$1197 and the In-Kind Offering totaled \$475 for a total of \$1850 in offerings for the convention. Many needed items were also received as “in-kind” offering for Haven Ministry in Sunbury and The New Love Center in Jersey Shore.

Anne Spicer then spoke on the display regarding cancer that her friend Robin Gum created. She is from St. John's in Lewistown and is a cancer survivor and ACS representative. She has a wealth of information and would be happy to perhaps speak at a cluster meeting if anyone is interested in having her.

Georgette Copp then spoke regarding the “Gather” magazine and encouraged everyone to subscribe to it.

**Recognition of Outgoing Board Members and Officers:** Sandra Grier, Church-wide Representative recognized Jean Crumb as the outgoing President and Linda Leister as an outgoing executive board member. Carol Winter was the outgoing Vice President but will remain on the executive board. She thanked them all for their many years of dedicated service to the Women's Organization.

### **SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS/BOARD**

Sandra Grier, Church-wide Executive Board Representative then installed the officers and executive board members for 2021/2022. Deborah Hackenberger, President; Elizabeth Sue Baylor, Vice President; Doris Mertz, Secretary; Wendy Zajac, Treasurer; Board Members, Rita Avery, Carol Bartoe, Frances Blatchley, Chris Hollinger, Robin Latsha, Anne Spicer, Tonya Tabb and Carol Winter.

President Jean Crumb then led the “Order for Closing of Convention.” The convention adjourned at 3:20 PM. President Deb asked the new board members to stay to set the next meeting date.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robin Latsha*

Acting Secretary

*Merry Christmas*







## Milestone Sunday

Milestone Sunday at Himmel's Church is one of the special days of our church calendar. A *milestone* is a goal that is reached and celebrated in your life. The idea began after our council president and I attended an Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly and saw a display. He asked me to write up a set of milestone guidelines that would meet our needs. It is now celebrated the first Sunday of June each year. First we honor our most senior citizens, and milestone anniversaries (50, 60, 70 years) with flowers. Births, baptisms, adoptions, and new members are also recognized. Two-to-12-year-old children receive a prayer pillow and are taught to use them as they learn the importance of prayer in their lives; Graduates: preschool thru advanced degrees are recognized and receive small gifts; cards are sent to those who no longer are in the area.

We feel their success is due to the foundation that began at Himmel's. An Angel Visor clip is given to youth who will become new drivers. One thing that also falls under Milestones is recognition of students who achieve Honor Roll status throughout the school year. Youth often share the message and the scripture on this special day. A social time in the past was held following this special day and hopefully will happen again in the future.

*-Peggy Starr, Himmel's Dornsife*

## Jubilee Kitchen

Jubilee Kitchen was organized several years ago by the Montour County Ministerium. It is a weekly get together for those who are hungry or in need of a social place to eat. However the past two years with COVID they do a drive by and pick up your food. Pine Street Lutheran is one of several groups that sponsor for a week. We usually sponsor twice a year. Jubilee Kitchen is held now at Trinity Lutheran Church in Danville. In the past it had been hosted by Mahoning Presbyterian church until their congregation was no longer able to support the ministry. Different groups have helped in the past including various churches, girl scouts, boy scouts, the Key Club, and several of the area churches. I believe they have some families that host also. When we actually had a chance to sit down and visit with the families that come, it was a good way to keep up with other people in the community. Pine Street also helps by purchasing paper goods for use at the kitchen.

*- Jean Crumb, Pine Street Danville*

## Veterans Lunch

The Women of Himmel's Church in 2020 honored the veterans and their families of the local area with a box lunch and a card of gratitude for the service they have given to our country. The original idea started with just feeding the veterans of our church and those who are serving at this time. It then grew to include members of our community. Those

who do not live locally any more but have a connection to the church were sent cards of gratitude from the women. The morning of the giveaway had a large group of volunteers helping to pack and distribute the lunches. The day was not on Veteran's Day so it would not interfere with local businesses who use that day for honoring the veterans. A total of 96 lunches were packed and distributed to 49 households and 15 cards were sent. Funds from Thrivent helped pay for the project. College students and Active Military receive boxes yearly for Valentine's Day as a continuing outreach of The Women of Himmel's Church.

*- Peggy Starr, Himmel's Dornsife*

## Backpack Program

In May of 2018, members of the Line Mountain community in southern Northumberland County began The Line Mountain Nourishing Eagle Program to Soar Weekend Backpack Program. Known as the LM NETS they packed their first weekend backpacks in January 2019. Himmel's Church along with the other local churches support the program with food collections and monetary donations and volunteers. Individuals also can sponsor a student for a year with a \$75.00 donation. Grants and money from philanthropic organizations also help supply the food for the backpacks. Children in grades K thru 12 are eligible for the weekend backpacks if they qualify for the Federal Government's Free and

# NEWS FROM THE UNITS

## **Backpack Program cont'd**

Reduced Lunch Program. Parents must sign permission papers before the child can receive the weekend food. The food is sent home weekly during the school year and is distributed by the guidance counselors. Ninety-eight students are currently being served. Long weekends have one extra food item packed and during extended holiday breaks larger amounts are sent home. Himmel's Church designates the third Sunday of each month for collections which are sent to the packing center. Himmel's also designates the first Sunday of the month for collections for the Line Mountain Food Bank which serves families in this rural area.

- Peggy Starr, Himmel's, Dornsife

## **Meetings for September, October & November, 2021**

We always begin our meetings with devotions. At our September meeting, we commented on how well "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday" went the day before. All those participating shared a meal. Then the rest was sent to Haven Ministry, a local homeless shelter and also delivered to our shut-ins. Some people did a trash pickup while others did a project repairing play equipment in the church grove. Still others filled OCC shoeboxes (over 150) or school kits (137). Still others knotted blankets or sorted clothing for Angel's Closet, a local church clothing give-away project. All in all, it was a very productive and rewarding day. We then discussed the upcoming WELCA Convention

Mt Camp Mt. Luther. Our delegate is Peggy Starr. We will be giving needed items to Haven Ministry and the New Love Center and also money for Lutheran Disaster Response. Blanket Sunday is October 3 and our speakers will be Steve Bordner and Dave Kahler who will speak about their mission trip to North Carolina. The blankets will be displayed on the pews. Other items displayed will include school kits, prayer shawls, lap robes, pillowcase dresses, hats and scarves for Seafarer Bags and OCC shoeboxes. Our upcoming Fall Food Fair is on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have for sale ham and chicken potpie, chicken corn soup, ham and bean soup, vegetable soup, chow chow, variety of baked goods, fresh vegetables from our local farmer, a book sale, greeting card sale and pumpkin craft. Profits will be used to pay for a new commercial dishwasher for the kitchen as the old one is no longer usable. It was decided we will again sponsor two children through "God's Precious Children."

At our October meeting, Peggy reported on the WELCA Convention. Those of us attending thought it went very well. We encouraged more to attend in the future. We then had our Blanket Sunday wrap up. The speakers did a great job and were very informative and interesting. We had a total of 89 knotted quilts, 5 lap robes, 40 prayer shawls, 105 pillowcase dresses which went in OCC shoeboxes, 137 school kits, dozens of hats and 30 scarves which either went in OCC

shoeboxes or Seafarer Bags. We then discussed our Praise and Thanksgiving service which will be on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Carrie Call, the UCC Conference Minister will be our guest speaker at worship that morning. We will then share a turkey with all the trimmings meal following the service.

At our November meeting, we had the Food Fair wrap up. Everything was sold out except chow chow and some fresh vegetables. The chow chow is sold throughout the year. The remainder of the fresh veggies along with some apples, pears and grapes were taken to Haven Ministry from our Harvest Home service on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Profit from the Food Fair was a little over \$2700 which will help pay for the new dishwasher. We sent a total of 25 Seafarer Bags to the Synod office. Final plans were made for the Praise and Thanksgiving meal on Nov. 14. We will provide refreshments following the Community Thanksgiving service the evening of Nov. 21 to be held at Himmel's. We then discussed that we have Thrivent monies to purchase Christmas gifts for our shut ins and also for a group at Selinsgrove Center. We also will be getting Thrivent monies for Christmas gifts for Bethany Children's Home in Womelsdorf which we do every year. We also discussed perhaps preparing more "comfort meals" which are given to people undergoing hospitalization or other issues that keep them homebound. We will see what leftovers we have from our Thanksgiving meal and then decide.

- Robin Latsha, Himmel's, Dornsife

## DONATIONS for "Blanket Sunday" (2021)

Quilts - 994  
Blankets - 71  
Personal Care Kits - 446  
School Kits - 616  
Fabric - 20  
Baby Kits - 292  
Bars of Soap - 239



## THANKS to these Congregations

Buffalo Valley Conference  
Christ's United, Millmont  
Messiah, New Berlin

Juniata Valley Conference  
St John's, Belleville  
St. John's, Lewistown  
St. Stephen's, Licking Creek  
Messiah, Mifflintown  
Port Royal, Port Royal  
Reedsville, Reedsville

Middle Creek Conference  
Sharon, Selinsgrove  
Messiah, Troxelville

North Branch Conference  
Grace, Berwick

Tulpehocken Conference  
Himmel's, Dornsife  
St. John's, Leck Kill  
St. John's, Northumberland  
Zion, Sunbury  
United, Sunbury

West Branch Conference  
St. John's, Montgomery  
Zion, Renovo  
Messiah, South Williamsport  
Redeemer, Williamsport  
St. Luke's, Williamsport  
St. Mark's, Williamsport

*Thanks also to Bethany, Montoursville, for their contribution.*

*THANKS to all the congregations that gave quilts, blankets, kits, fabric, soap and to those who gave financial support for "Blanket Sunday." Your generosity is greatly appreciated!"*

*Thanks to our helpers for the LWR collection day. Dick Baylor, Steve Baylor, Sammy Baylor and Quintin Shultz*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Wendy Zajac, Synodical Treasurer  
792 Hetlerville Road, Nescopeck, Pa.

**Convention Offerings** were as follows:

\$ 178.00

Offering at the Worship Service

\$1,197.00

Lutheran Disaster Response

\$227.50

The New Love Center, Jersey Shore

\$227.50

Haven Ministry, Sunbury (plus a \$20.00 check made payable to "Haven Ministry")

**This makes a Grand Total of**

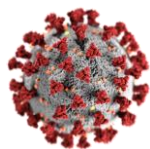
**\$1,850.00.**

We also packed several boxes of food items for the two ministry groups.

Thanks, on behalf of the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization, to all the Units and individuals for your generosity!



*We make a living by what we get, but make a life with what we give!*



## Long-haulers' after COVID: What do you do when the symptoms won't go away?

Most people recover fully and quickly from COVID-19 — but some don't. It's possible to have physical and mental symptoms that develop during or after infection. This syndrome is often known as “long COVID,” and people who have it are called “long-haulers.”

Symptoms of long COVID generally last more than a month and can't be explained by another cause. Even though the infection has cleared, some symptoms linger, or new ones develop. Why does this happen to some people and not others? It's not clear yet. Although it may be worse in people who were very sick with COVID and had to be hospitalized, even young and previously healthy people who only had mild infections can get long COVID.

Common long COVID symptoms include:

- Fatigue
- Getting short of breath with exertion
- Chest pain
- Cough
- Joint pain and body aches
- Headaches
- Loss of smell or taste
- Hair loss
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Poor memory or concentration

Those with symptoms of long COVID may need closer evaluation. This could mean laboratory tests and tests of the heart and lungs, though it will vary from person to person. Rehabilitation or medications may also be needed to help with symptoms.

Regardless of how severe a case is and whether treatment is needed, recovering from COVID can be slow. It's common for people with long COVID to have symptoms for many months.

### Having symptoms of long COVID?

If you or someone you know is experiencing these symptoms, talk to your Geisinger primary care physician. They can give you a thorough evaluation and if needed, refer you to our new Post-COVID Clinic, which specializes in caring for people with long-term COVID symptoms.

You can schedule an appointment with a primary care doctor online via [MyGeisinger](#) or by calling 800-275-6401.

### Have patients who have symptoms of long COVID?

If you suspect your patient is experiencing long-COVID, refer them to our clinic via Epic. All you need to do is place a general referral order and specify “Covid Long Haul Clinic.”

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## COVID-19 ... and Vaccinations

Do you remember hearing (in the early days of the pandemic) about “COVID PARTIES” in California? Deliberate attempts to get COVID??? Why would normally intelligent people think this was “fun?”

I think we’ve come a long way since then, but we still have a long way to go .....

People who have gotten COVID and recovered are the lucky ones, or are they? Their immune systems have been breached. According to a report from the Geisinger Health System, “these previously healthy people who had only mild infections can get long COVID.” Geisinger lists the symptoms of “long COVID” as the following, any of which should serve as an alert ... *Fatigue; Getting short of breath with exertion; Chest pain; Cough; Joint pain and body aches; Headaches; Loss of smell or taste; Hair loss; Anxiety; Depression; Poor memory or concentration.* They urge people with these types of symptoms to seek medical attention.

And then there are the “Vaxxers” ... and the “Anti-vaxxers” ...

I am vaccinated because I don’t want to die from COVID-19 ... I don’t want to deprive someone else of a hospital bed if I get sick ... I want to hug my family and enjoy this life. I don’t agree with the “Anti-vaxxers” who want to know what is in the vaccines before they’ll submit to inoculation. *Do they question the doctors about prescriptions; their dentists about the contents of the needles? As children, we were vaccinated for mumps, measles, rubella, polio, chicken pox, whooping cough, and a few others ... did our parents question what was in each shot??*

We need to trust the “Scientific Community,” even if trust is difficult for us. We need to believe that they have our welfare at heart. The COVID vaccine—as with the FLU vaccine—is life-saving. Take it; it may save your life!

*Ruth Doran*

## State Trooper Speaks about SCAMS and FRAUD

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Women of the ELCA, Messiah, South Williamsport, and guests from Redeemer and St. Mark's (Williamsport congregations) and St. Michael's (Cogan Station) viewed an excellent power-point presentation by Lauren Leshar, Community Service Officer, Troop F, Pennsylvania State Police. She addressed the subject, **PROTECT YOURSELF from Scams and Fraud.**

Troop F operates in nine Counties and has eight Substations. Trooper Leshar's duties include organizing and attending community events, school events, updating school safety plans, providing car seat safety checks and installations, and answering media questions as the Troop F Information Officer. She also is in charge of organizing and helping to administer the Troop F Camp Cadet and Sunny Day Camp programs.

In addition, she assists Troopers with animal cruelty investigations.

Trooper Leshar addressed many types of **FRAUD** and reported on some of the **SCAMS** that have been perpetrated on unsuspecting Seniors. She presented a list of "Contacts" and a "What to do if a victim of Identity Theft" (see list in next column).

One lady who was present told about the scam which had almost taken her in ... but she was "saved" by the alertness of a bank teller and didn't withdraw the funds requested by the scammer.

## Protect Yourself

Trooper Leshar's advice, ... If it sounds too good to be true, it likely isn't. Be wary of smooth-talking strangers on the phone; don't answer the phone if you don't know the person who is calling. Don't say the word, "yes" on the phone unless YOU have initiated the call.

We heartily recommend--to our sisters in other WELCA Units within the Troop F territory—that you invite Trooper Leshar to give her presentation to your congregation. The knowledge gained is invaluable!

*Ruth Doran, Messiah, South Williamsport*



### RECAP OF CONTACTS

- National Do Not Call Registry – 888-382-1222
- Federal Trade Commission – 877-382-4357
- Forward phishing emails to the Federal Trade Commission at [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov)
- Better Business Bureau – 877-267-5222
- National Center for Disaster Fraud – 866-720-5721
- IRS's database of Charity Organizations – [www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search](http://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search)
- US Postal Inspection Service – 877-876-2455
- Pennsylvania Attorney General – 800-441-2555
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### IF YOU HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT

- The victim reports the identity theft to the police and to the major credit bureaus.
- The victim asks the credit bureaus to note the crime on his or her credit reports.
- The victim may need to consult with a local victims' assistance agency or an attorney for specific steps that can be helpful or necessary.
- The victim should also file a complaint through the Federal Trade Commission registry at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)
- The victim needs to complete an affidavit of identity theft, available at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) identity theft section.

Information provided by Lauren Leshar, Community Service Officer, Troop F (Montoursville Barracks) – email [lalesher@pa.gov](mailto:lalesher@pa.gov) or contact Trooper Leshar by calling 570-560-1361 (cell). You can call the State Police – 570-368-5700 or fax – 570-368-5704 or contact – [www.psp.state.pa.us](http://www.psp.state.pa.us)



