

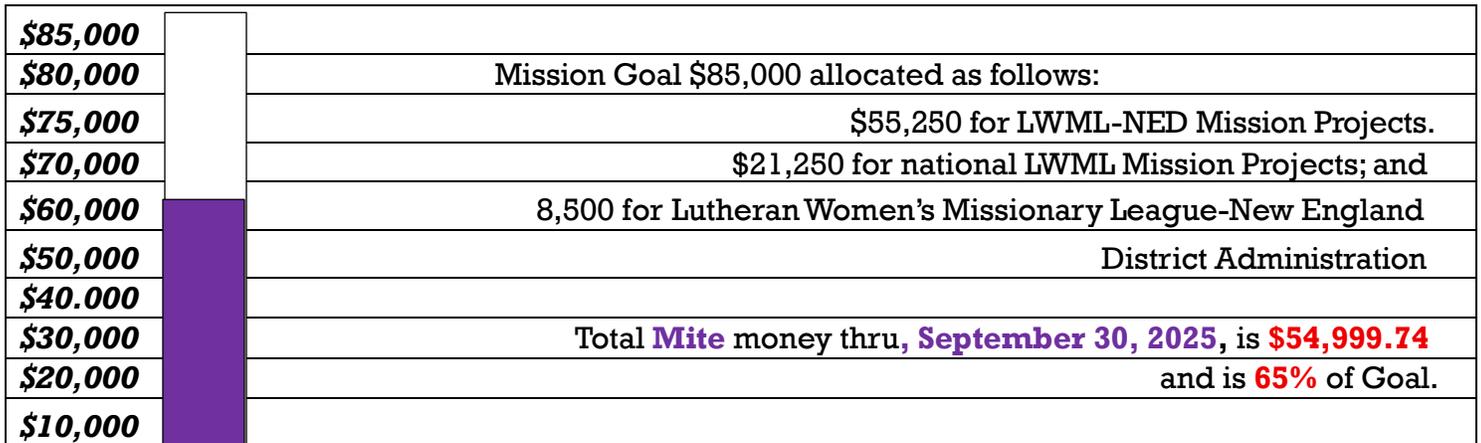


We hope you are enjoying these issues of “Pass It On” -- a tool that you can use to share the latest, most up-to-date information on what is happening in the **Lutheran Women Missionary League-New England District (LWML-NED)** * and nationally. For more news and information, visit www.lwml-ned.org

PASS IT ON
OCTOBER 2025

LWML-NED Mission Goal for 2024-2026 is \$85,000

2024-2026 LWML-NED MISSION GRANTS



Please **save and remit** your **Mite** donations payable to **LWML-NED**

Our Mission Grants enable us to share the love of Christ locally, nationally, and internationally.

SEND MITES TO: Barbara Lis, Treasurer
LWML-New England District
P.O. Box 932, Niantic, CT 06357



God bless you as you serve Him with gladness!

This is the Grant we are currently working on:

7b	PEER FELLOWS PILOT PROGRAM – First Lutheran Church of Boston (\$4,634.83 to-date)	\$ 5,000
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PLEASE KEEP OUR MITE RECIPIENTS IN YOUR PRAYERS AS YOU FEED YOUR MITE BOX.

*The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LWML-New England District (LWML-NED) is a part of the National LWML. Since 1942, the LWML has been encouraging women to use their God-given gifts to serve the Lord with gladness and to support global missions.

NOTE: TO PRINT PIO WITHOUT COLOR, SELECT “GREYSCALE” WHEN YOU PRINT.



Pass It On - **October 2025** - God's **Masterpiece**

What a wonderful place to live during the month of October....New England in all its glory. The scenes are breathtaking. The first picture is from a kayaking trip to northern Massachusetts when I just sat back in the kayak and floated past the beautiful reflections of the autumn foliage in the lake. The second picture is from a walk in the foothills of the mountains. As we strolled along the wooded path, peace descended upon us. You could 'feel' the creator. Nature is the **Masterpiece** that God gave to us – it is free of charge. Just take the time to enjoy it. Calm will overcome you when you slow down and take in God's handiwork. In this busy world of ours, we all need to stop and smell the roses – and thank God for his works of art.

Ezekiel 20:6: ...a land flowing with milk and honey; the most beautiful of all lands

Mountains and streams and rivers and hills

Always such beauty gives me the chills.

Surely you have felt nature's pure joy,

That fills your heart, whether girl or boy.

Everywhere during the autumn time

Revealing to us, it's all so fine.

Pleasing colors, yellow, orange and red

Its beauty, our souls are truly fed.

Every place you look is beauty aglow

Coming forth - a beautiful heavenly show

Enjoy, slow down and take a break

And appreciate God's gift, for goodness sake!

Yours in Christian Fellowship, **June**

Dr. June Rae Merwin,
President, LWML NED

Special Note: **MISSION POSSIBLE DAY Final Tally**
A Big Thank You

The final tally raised for MISSION POSSIBLE DAY is \$58,246.92!

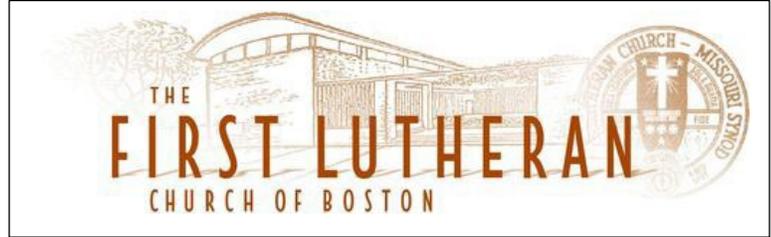
LWML District 2024-2026 Mission Grant #7b



7b PEER FELLOWS PILOT PROGRAM – First Lutheran Church of Boston

\$5,000

The goal of the *peer fellows* is to meet students where they are, on campuses, and have a dependable presence on campuses to bring the Gospel to those who would not otherwise hear it. They will foster relationships with students through the Word and be able to



encourage further teaching or attendance at Divine Services. They will be trained and disciplined by First Lutheran Church’s (FLC) director of young adult ministry and encouraged for ongoing ministry and leadership within the church. Funds will be used for the Peer Fellows stipends of \$300/month. Once the program has proved effective, a donor will support the program.

Lord Jesus, all praise to you as we work toward our Mission Goals. Amen.

LWML National 2025-2027 Mission Grant #3

Portable Laundry Trailer

Forged by Fire Services, U.S.

\$100,700

About This Mission Grant



The Forged in Fire trailer purchased with an LWML \$100,000 grant in 2024.

When disasters strike, Forged by Fire Services, a disaster response organization of the LCMS Southern District, is deployed to the Gulf Coast Region and beyond. Sharing the hope in Christ, they provide human care to the victims, volunteers, and first responders affected by natural and man-made disasters. After a disaster, one of the needs of the people and volunteers are clean clothes, but there may be no facility for laundry service available.

Forged by Fire Services would like to provide laundry service by obtaining a professionally built eight-station laundry trailer with all the supporting equipment. The laundry trailer would be set up in the parking lot of an LCMS church. When offering the service, the LERT

trained volunteers have an opportunity to talk to the people about the grace, mercy, and love of Jesus Christ. This grant will provide funds for the purchase of the portable laundry trailer.

Lutheran Womens Missionary League New England District



FALL RETREAT 2025

November 7-8, 2025

Theme: Praying and Serving in Hope

Speaker: The Most Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor

The Most Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor is the Bishop and President of the LCMS Atlantic District, Pastor of Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx, New York, and the LCMS President's Voting Representative on the Board for National Mission.



Saturday, November 8th Linda Arbesman from Orphan Grain Train (OGT) in Terryville, CT will speak to us on OGT's work in CT and around the world.

COME, JOIN US!

Hilton-Garden Inn

35 Major Taylor Boulevard,
Worcester, Massachusetts, 01608, USA

THE **REGISTRATION FORM** IS AT THE BACK OF THE PIO. ALL REGISTRATION/HOTEL/MEALS/GIFTS FROM THE HEART/COSTS ARE ON THE FORM.

Suggested Mission Service Project to aid FORGED BY FIRE MINISTRIES (LWML National Mission Grant #3)

Forged by Fire Ministries is seeking help from the LWML to create Courageous Crosses and an accompanying small card with a message of hope. The crosses which symbolize the confidence we have in our loving Savior, Jesus Christ, provide hope and comfort to individuals recovering from disasters and those facing food insecurity. At any one deployment, Forged by Fire Ministries serves 300 to 500 people meals. The ministry would like to place a cross into the hands of those they serve. Your LWML society can help share the love of Christ by making these crosses, packaging them in zip-lock bags of 25 to a bag, and sending them to Forged by Fire Ministries for distribution. For directions on how to make the crosses and where to buy the supplies, links can be found on the www.lwml-ned.org website under **New Mission Servant Activities**. To read about the inspiration for these crosses and other ways to support this ministry, please see <https://fbf501c3.com/>



NEEDED →
Themed Gift Baskets
for **CRAFT TABLE**
at
LWML FALL RETREAT
NOV 7-8th Worcester

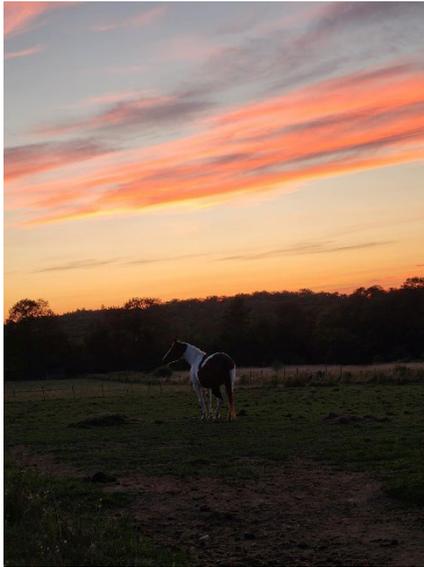


proceeds go to MITES

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR **CRAFTS; BAKED GOODS;** and
Canned (jellies, pickles, etc.) Goods!

Hope for Healing: Ministry Update

By Deaconess Kim Slininger



Hope for Healing continues to serve Veterans and our rural Maine community through equine-assisted ministry. Our program brings together horses, Veterans, and those who are hurting—reminding us that Christ meets us in our suffering, offering presence, peace, and hope.

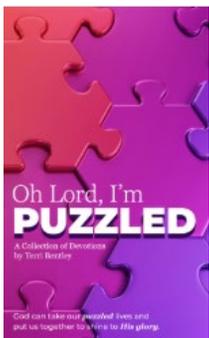
This past year has not been without its challenges. Personally, I have walked through the valley of illness and recovery, navigating cancer treatments and the long journey of healing after injury. During this time, Emma and Penny—our faithful horses—have remained constant companions. Their quiet presence taught me a profound truth of ministry: sometimes the most faithful way to care for others is simply to be present.

Veterans who come to Hope for Healing often carry invisible wounds—PTSD, grief, or moral injury. Horses sense their anxiety and pain yet meet them without judgment. A Veteran once described how standing beside Penny lowered his heart rate and helped him breathe again. In that moment, healing began not with words, but with presence.

As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 1:8–9, suffering reminds us “not to rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.” That reminder has sustained me personally and strengthened our ministry. Hope for Healing is expanding to provide a full Therapeutic Equine Campus, where Veterans and their families will find opportunities for horsemanship, peer support, and fellowship. Our dream is to offer not only equine therapy, but also job training, food security, and Christ-centered care that restores dignity and hope.

I ask for your continued prayers for our horses, our Veterans, and for me as I continue treatments. Pray that this ministry remains rooted in Christ’s mercy, guided by His Word, and strengthened by the support of sisters in the LWML.

Together, we embody our LWML motto: “Serve the Lord with Gladness”—trusting that in service, presence, and prayer, God brings healing through the reins.



Oh Lord, I'm Puzzled Spiritual Growth Resource

Oh Lord, I'm Puzzled by Terri Bentley is a collection of 21 devotions using the theme of puzzles to reflect on God’s work in our lives. Just as every piece belongs in a puzzle, God brings together the pieces of our lives in His perfect timing. These devotions offer encouragement when life feels confusing and remind us of the hope we have in Christ. May this collection inspire you to trust His design and shine to His glory.

This booklet is found & ordered (\$5.50) at <https://lwml.cph.org/spiritual-growth>

Mid-Valley Zone

New Officers

Congratulations!



Mid-Valley Zone Officers – 10/25 Jan Krampitz, Sec.;
Sue Lastowski, Treas.;
Mary Anne Hansen, V.P.;
Linda Slozak, President.



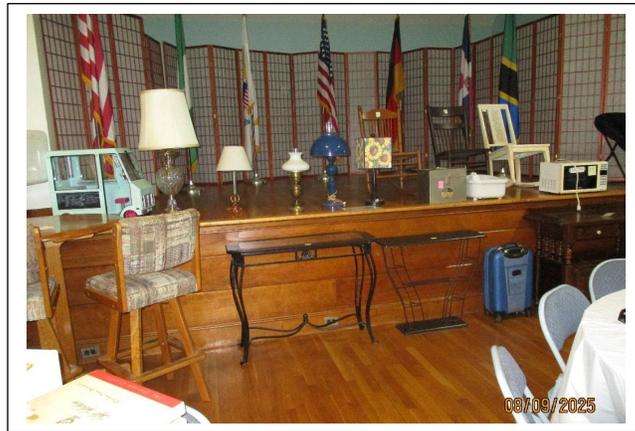
LWML NED President June Merwin
congratulates Mary Anne Hansen,
incoming Mid-Valley Zone V.P.

Eastern Zone

WELCOME TO OUR DISTRICT!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Providence, RI

This is the newest society in our New England District, Eastern Zone. They are **St. Paul's LWML – Sisters in Service**. The pictures below are from their first “indoor yard sale” held on August 9th.



Treasurer, Pat Martin's husband DAVE – Who made the signs with balloons and advertising – Great Job!



SEE YOU AT RETREAT!



LIVESTREAMING THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN OMAHA

The 41st Biennial Convention livestreamed all convention sessions in the CHI Convention Center. For those watching the convention at home, you were able to participate in the Opening and Sending Worship Services, Bible studies with Christina Hergenrader, heard the inspiring Mites in Action speakers, and heard

the new biennium’s mission goal and mission grants announced. You can still watch the livestream posted on the *Convention Central* webpage along with a downloadable convention manual and worship bulletins so you can follow along.

Young Woman Representative to the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League New England District 29th Biennial Convention
 Friday & Saturday, **April 17-18, 2026**
 SpringHill Suites, Devens, MA



WHO: a mature young woman, preferably 22-35 years of age, who is a member of the LCMS and has not previously attended a district convention as a Zone Young Woman Representative, who has a deep love and devotion for her Lord Jesus Christ and is willing to participate in the full scope of the Convention.

WHAT: The **Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) New England District Convention**. The Convention includes missionary updates, business meetings, break-out sessions with interesting speakers or servant opportunities, Bible study, and lots of Christian sister fellowship!

WHEN: Friday, April 17th @ 1 pm to Saturday, April 18th @ 4 pm

WHERE: SpringHill Suites, 27 Andrews Pkwy, Devens, MA 01434

HOW: Compliments of the LWML-NED! We will pay for your hotel room on Friday night (shared with another YWR), plus dinner on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

WHY: Because we love the LWML, we love you, and we’d like you to love the LWML! LWML is also known as **Lutheran Women in Mission** and we think that phrase and our mission statement describe us perfectly: *The mission of the Lutheran Women in New England is to continue glorifying our God through acts of love, service, and encouragement toward each other and those whose lives we touch.*

NEXT STEPS: Fill out an **application (next page)**, scan, and submit it to our Young Women Committee at mrs.sage@veino.com.

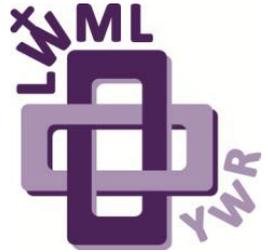
Zone Young Woman Representative Application

LWML New England District 29th Biennial Convention

Friday & Saturday, April 17-18, 2026

SpringHill Suites, Devens, MA

Theme: Known By God Hebrews 13:13-14



Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Occupation _____

Home Congregation _____

Zone _____

Phone/email _____

Please answer the following questions on a separate page:

- 1) The LWML motto is “Serve the Lord with gladness” (Psalm 100:2). How do you do this in your life?
- 2) What groups and activities are you involved in or have you been involved in at your church?
- 3) What do you know about the LWML? Have you been involved at any level?
- 4) Why do you desire to be a Young Woman Representative for your zone?
- 5) What do you feel your special interests, talents, and gifts are?
- 6) Your district is making a financial commitment to send you to the LWML convention. It will be an exciting and spiritually inspiring event. Do you intend to joyfully participate in the full scope of the convention?

Please have someone who knows you well, perhaps the person who encouraged you to apply, answer the following question, “Why do you feel this woman would make a good Young Woman Representative?”

Have them forward their response along with their name and relationship to you to one of the contacts below. Thank you!

By March 1, 2026, please remit to President Dr. June Merwin at President@lwml-ned.org or Sage Veino at mrs.sage@veino.com. We’re looking forward to meeting you.

THANK YOU NOTES

We received the following notes from two of our mission grant recipients.

2024-2026 Mission Grant List

6a. **Food Co-op to Purchase Food – Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN – \$2,000**

The purpose of this project is to ease the financial burden to future pastors, deaconesses, and their families while at the seminary preparing for full-time church work – by providing groceries at no cost to them during their time at CTSFW. We are able to provide up to 80-90% of their grocery needs including fruit, milk, produce, eggs, as well as diapers, wipes, paper towels, etc.

...Warm greetings from the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne... There are no words to convey the gratitude felt by every student and their family for the support provided by the New England LWML District. During these difficult economic times, this means so much to all of our students, your future pastors and deaconesses. Because of your love and support, we have been able to use these funds to provide dairy, fruits and vegetables, eggs, pork and beef as well as cereal and other staples for our students and their families...

Deaconess Katherine E. Rittner
Director, Food and Clothing Co-op

6b. **Bethel Oromo Lutheran Church – Boston, MA – \$5,000**

Bethel Oromo Lutheran Church is a newly emerging congregation that is reaching gospel to the Oromo (region in Ethiopia) people residing in Boston and the surrounding cities. The first-generation immigrants love to worship in their own language which is Afan Oromo. Currently needs include support for the pastor, specific musical instruments, and training on these instruments.

THANK YOU To LWML-NED Gospel Outreach

...Your GENEROSITY means more than it's possible to say and is truly APPRECIATED...GOD BLESS YOU!

*Abel Keroru
President, Bethel, OLCMS*
*Raji Mamade
AA Member.*
Abel Keroru

Bethel olcms, April, 2025

LWML-NED CALENDER OF EVENTS



Date	Location	Function	Other Info
October 25 10:00AM-12:00PM	St. Peters Lutheran Church Norwalk, CT	Koinonia Zone Fall Rally Pastor Dan Smeltzer Capstone Ministries	For more information: Sue Dow suedow@aol.com
October 25 12:00PM- 3:00PM	St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Providence, RI	Eastern Zone Fall Rally Speaker: Jon Rossman Gbarnga Lutheran School, Liberia	For more information: Leslie Colligan leslie.colligan@lwml.org
Nov 7, 2025 2:00 – 4:00 PM	Hilton-Garden Inn Worcester, MA	District Board Meeting (held at Retreat Hotel)	For more information: June Merwin June.Merwin@gmail.com
Nov 7-8, 2025 Register 4PM -11/7 Saturday 11/8 til 3PM	Hilton-Garden Inn Worcester, MA	LWML-NED Retreat Speaker: Rev. Dien Taylor	For more Information: Christina Anop jmansgram@aol.com
April 17-18, 2026 Friday PM/ Saturday until 3 PM	Spring-Hill Suites Devens, MA	LWML-NED District Convention "Known by God" (Psalm 139:13-14)	Application for Young Woman Representative (YWR) on Page 8 of this PIO.

“Capstone Camp 2025” “Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever! Amen II Peter 3:18

Dan and Patty want to recognize the LWML of LCMS for funding the camp over the past two years.

NOTE: Dan and Patty’s Travel Schedule in New England

Sept 21 & 28 Lutheran Church of the Cross, Hanover, MA and Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA

October 5 Holy Trinity Lutheran, Terryville, CT; **Oct. 11** Shepherd of the Hills, Morris, CT

Oct. 12 St. Paul’s Lutheran, New Hartford, CT; **Oct. 19** Our Savior Lutheran, S. Windsor, CT

October 20-22 New England District Pastor’s Conference.; **Oct. 26** Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT



For LWML women, **October** is when we celebrate **Lutheran Women in Mission**. In 2025 we will focus on the first part of our mission statement — we joyfully proclaim Christ. The text is Luke 24:44-53. We are to “GO,” proclaiming repentance and forgiveness of sins in Christ’s name to all people and showing Christ’s mercy in what we say and do. There are many resources available at [LWML Sunday](#) to help your LWML group organize a Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday at your church. Now — on your mark, get set, GO joyfully proclaim Christ!

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

2025 FALL RETREAT REGISTRATION

NOVEMBER 7/8, 2025

HILTON GARDEN INN, WORCESTER, MA

NOTE:
IMPORTANT
REGISTRATION
INFORMATION
BELOW



SPEAKER: THE MOST REV. DR. DION ASHLEY TAYLOR

THEME: PRAYING AND SERVING IN HOPE

Send CHECK (payable to LWML-NED) - Registration Form to: Patricia Heather, 606 Waverly Road, Middleboro, MA 02346 email: patheather47@gmail.com Cell phone: 781-690-4150

REGISTRATION FEE: **\$65** FIRST TIME ATTENDEES: **\$60** REGISTRATION STARTS AT 4:00PM FRI./7:30AM SAT.

Name: _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Cide _____

Home Church _____ City/State _____

LWML Zone: _____ Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____ Email: _____

Saturday - Pavilion Lunch Bar: Chef Special Pasta Salad; Wraps & Pitas: Turkey Club w/Cranberry Mayo; Albacore Tuna; Tuscan Antipasto.

Includes: Iced Tea, Lemonade, Premium Coffee, & Seasonal Selected Desserts. Included in registration.

If you have food allergies/health issues, please inform Patricia Heather at registration desk.

Your Signature _____ Date _____

ATTENTION! These are local hotels you can call to find out the costs and availability for Friday night. AC Hotel Worcester, Homewood Suites by Hilton Worcester, or Hampton Inn & Suites Worcester.

Check-out is 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM from Hilton Garden Inn.

FRIDAY OVER NIGHT PARKING IS \$15.00 WHICH WILL BE CHARGED TO YOUR HOTEL BILL.

ONE DAY SATURDAY PARKING IS \$10.00 – YOU WILL PAY AT THE HOTEL DESK AS YOU ENTER.

PARKING GARAGE IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE HOTEL!

SATURDAY PROGRAM will begin at 8:00 AM and will include Our guest speaker- Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor; Bill Meyer will be speaking on the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission; Linda Arbesman from Orphan Grain Train (OGT) in Terryville, CT will speak to us on OGT's work in Ct and around the world; Mission Projects; etc.. Craft items, jam, ornaments, etc. are for sale and monies go toward MITES. Five zone baskets to be raffled off and all money goes towards MITES; etc.. IF YOU CAN'T COME FRIDAY, SATURDAY JUST MIGHT BE A GOOD DAY!

GIFTS FROM THE HEART: Please support our four LCMS-NED Lutheran Schools. Bring any of these items with you to the retreat: Gift cards to Walmart/Staples, boxes of tissues, sanitizing wipes, poster board, poster paint, packages of construction paper, colored highlighters, colored pencils, and crayons.

NOTE: FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPER AND SATURDAY BREAKFAST ARE ON YOUR OWN! Breakfast may be purchased at the hotel: Full Breakfast Buffet is \$16.99, or you may order as you prefer – prices from \$7.00 - \$10.00.

CHECK HERE IF YOU ARE A FIRST TIME ATTENTEE: _____

