



For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you and through the laying on of my hands, (2 Timothy 1:6 ESV).

Our new LWML-Oregon District President, Deb Weaver, has proclaimed in her marching orders this 2025-27 Biennium—that we have “Hearts on Fire and are Eager to Ignite!” At our robust and well-attended Executive Board meeting in Roseburg this past weekend, we seemed to shout, giggle, act-out and proclaim what the apostle Paul was extoling from prison to Timothy and his congregation in Ephesus. That our journey this new year is to stir up the coals laid carefully in our Societies over many decades, kindle and arouse interest in participation, be eager and welcoming to newcomers, encourage and ignite with heartfelt and personal invitations to new and young women to join our worship and sisterhood times together. And we all came away assigned to give thought to new and exciting ways to reach every woman in some way. We are reminded of the “four pillars” everyone needs: FAITH+FAMILY+FRIENDS+ and a PURPOSE to get up and out of bed every day!

An enormous amount of time and effort behind the scenes, by our new Committees, was reflected in the six-hour, action-energy-packed meeting Agenda, under Pres. Debs’ new gavel. She did great, setting the bar and a fine example. Out of it came something I wish you faith-family leaders and friends of mine would ponder. We were asked to take on roles in a wonderful series of skits designed* to make it so noticeably clear: THAT our road into this biennium is to take and make T.I.M.E* in our programs, to T: Touch/ I: inspire/ M: Motivate/ E: Encourage. I love acronyms that are easy to remember and pull up when I need them. We women intend to put this one into action, ASAP (another well-known acronym)!

Soup time came and we scrambled to eat with a person we never knew! That worked for me because there are so many fresh faces, stepping forward to serve. Then look back: what if we did that back home in small circles during donut/coffee time at Sunday School? We would make new connects all the *TIME! So now, at our monthly get togethers, tell others to please sit by someone you barely know, and get acquainted. AND I make a motion we bring back name tags! Flame that gift of someone who has a knack for bold and classy tags! We were encouraged to speak out and share a reflective moment of what we may have just learned about their “lunch date” or coffee partner! The same could be said of picking up that phone and telling someone that you “had seen on the prayer chain of their need and just wanted THEM to know that YOU were praying for them!” That is a “God-gift,” and it really does flame the fire! It ignites HOPE; one simple call calms a weary soul, someone alone in life, treading sad sands these days—agree? We need to grow bold, not just “olde.”

SO, at halftime, my wheels began to squeak; I got so excited about the TIME we are given and committed to, for the making of “moments” that can become meaningful and magic! I could not help but reflect on how important it is to scramble up our Agenda occasionally, not fall into humdrum routines. During stretch times, I went in and bugged the host luncheon ladies—always thank those behind the scenes. Let’s make “break time” become “make time” and then we can go away, having made a new friend! There is, of course, scripture to back up each item. BUT the best skit was where we broke down all pieces that we can gratefully pull from each person’s “flaming gift of God,” to enrich our time together. Fine folks are good at: using time well, keeping things in an orderly fashion, speaking, planning, taking minutes, and making phone calls. Please pray for the mighty contingency of Oregon Delegates attending the 41st Biennial Convention in Omaha, June 26-29, 2025. Growing in God’s Grace. We sent our Zone leaders home, armed with the tools to share and stir things up!

To God be the Glory,
Pat Reck, HUG Author