



LBW-Ministry Memo

SPECIAL EDITION

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"We live by faith, not by sight" - 2 Corinthians 5:7

April - June 2019

Lutheran Braille Workers Appoints Jay Zemke as President

YUCAIPA, CA, May 1, 2019 – Jay Zemke, has been appointed President of Lutheran Braille Workers – the Yucaipa, California-based non-profit which provides free Braille, Specialized Large Print and Audio Bibles, Hymnals and other Christian materials to people who are Visually Impaired throughout the world.

A life-long member of congregations belonging to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Zemke brings to the ministry his 30 years of experience in leadership, business development, problem solving, team building, strategic planning and operations. As President of Lutheran Braille Workers, his responsibilities will now span organizational mission, operations and strategy; securing financial stability and serving as an organizational spokesperson to constituents, the media and the public.



“I’m humbled for the opportunity to lead and further develop a strategic vision for Lutheran Braille Workers. A vision which enhances brand visibility and presence on the world stage to produce high-quality, Gospel-based materials to help people with visual impairments touch the promises of Jesus and bring them into a growing relationship with Him,” said Zemke. “With 150,000 volumes distributed per year through 167 ministry centers with over 3,000 volunteers, LBW has been uniquely successful in getting the Word of God into the hands of people in 168 countries who are Blind or Visually Impaired – in over 30 different languages, at no expense to them. I’m grateful to have this role with this extraordinary organization and contribute to its sharing of the love of God.”

Zemke succeeds Rev. Dennis Stueve, who retired in January 2019 after 17 years of faithful service to Lutheran Braille Workers in roles including Pastoral Advisor to the Board, Board Member and President.

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Jay's volunteer work with non-profits and philanthropic organizations spans his serving as Senior Team Lead for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritans Purse, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Healing Haiti and the rebranding of Lutheran Braille Workers while at a respected agency.

In the for-profit sector, Zemke has served in senior leadership roles for the past three decades, building long-term executive level relationships with Fortune 100 corporations, developing and implementing how we receive brands into our lives. He has worked with such respected corporations as 3M, Colgate, General Mills, Johnson & Johnson, Hasbro, Target, Arctic Cat, Coca-Cola, Under Armour, Medtronic, U.S. Bank, Adidas, Coleman, Walmart and SC Johnson.

“Jay's commitment to our mission at Lutheran Braille Workers – combined with his team leadership, people-oriented philosophy and three decades of experience in business development and organizational communications – make him an exceptional choice to lead our organization into its second 75-year history,” says Ken Loeber, chairperson of the Lutheran Braille Workers Board. “His faith, enthusiasm for service to God's Kingdom, servant leadership and innovative ideas, along with his business and communications skills, will be great assets for his new responsibilities. Our Board expresses its thanksgiving and praise for God's guidance and wisdom throughout our search process.”

Jay, who earned his BA degree in Communications and Psychology from Concordia University in St. Paul Minnesota, has moved to Southern California to work directly from LBW's home office as of April 2019.



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• : “” Exciting News Out Of the Braille Department “” :•

We are excited to announce that the New Testament of the English Standard Version of the Bible, in Braille, is scheduled to begin production next month! This project has been in the works for a few years, so it's amazing to see it finally come to fruition. We still have many grueling months ahead of us to get the Old Testament into production, but luckily we have the best transcribers & proofers working around the clock to make this happen. As always, thank you all for everything that you do, none of this would be possible without our many wonderful volunteers!

A Message From The President

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings during this joyous Easter season!

It is an honor and a privilege to write my first letter as President of Lutheran Braille Workers to all of you, the volunteers.

As I step into this role, I look to the inspiring legacy left by my predecessors, starting with the vision and efforts of our founder, Helene Koehler. It is remarkable to think about the 75 year history of this organization, the millions of people who have benefited from receiving the Scripture in a format and language they can read, and the tens of thousands of volunteers who have served this ministry. God has richly blessed LBW in the past, and we pray He will continue to do so moving forward.

One of the aspects of this ministry I most look forward to is getting on the road and meeting all of you, hearing your stories and history with LBW, and discovering your passion and reasons for continuing to serve every month, week, or even day. I look forward to being able to look you in your eye, shake your hand, and thank you for your dedication to sharing the Word of God with others. Most importantly, I cannot wait to share my vision for this organization and its future with each of you, so you can confidently continue to be an integral part of this ministry moving forward.

There are changes on the horizon as LBW adapts to new technology, processes, and the ever-shrinking world in today's digital society. We continue to strategically evaluate our operations and processes in an effort to be the best possible stewards of your time, talents, and gifts. We continue to pray, asking God to help open new doors and audiences for our materials so everybody in the world who is Blind or Visually Impaired can know the saving grace found in Jesus Christ. While change may seem scary, I look to the words of Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, former speaker of The Lutheran Hour, who encouraged Helene Koehler to expand LBW's ministry by saying, "Do not be afraid to try it. If it is pleasing to the Lord, it will succeed." We look to the Lord to lead our success as we try new and exciting things!

Thank you for what you do within this ministry. I look forward to serving alongside you for many years to come, while positioning LBW as a leader in Christian service to people who are Visually Impaired. Having been inspired by 75 years of joy-filled ministry, I look forward to seeing how God will use each and every one of us in the future!

May we all be filled with the same joy and determination moving forward to bring God's word to people who live in a physical and spiritual darkness we often cannot understand. May we continue, in the words of St. Paul, "[to] live by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Thank you for your prayers and support. I look forward to embarking on this journey with each and every one of you.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Zemke".

Jay Zemke, President of Lutheran Braille Workers

Thrivent Action Team's Update

Since the generous inception of Thrivent Action Teams in 2016 we have received \$25,199.15 to help cover supplies for several of our Ministry Centers. Plus other centers are applying using their card for team fundraising efforts or using their card to buy supplies locally. Thrivent would prefer for the Ministry Centers to do some kind of fundraising with these cards so that the \$250.00 could raise more funds for your center, however if that is not possible they will allow for it to cover supplies as long as they know a team will be meeting and producing the books. Please only apply for one card at a time per Ministry Center or Thrivent may deny you.

Who is eligible? All Thrivent members are eligible to lead a Thrivent Action Team. Benefit members are eligible to lead two Thrivent Action Teams per calendar year, and associate members are eligible to lead one per calendar year. Each Action Team is eligible for a \$250.00 card.

How do I apply? Go to www.thrivent.com click on **MYTHRIVENT** in the top right corner. Choose Apply for a **Thrivent Action Team**. Sign in with User ID and password or Register for account access. Complete all information making sure you are requesting **Lutheran Braille Workers** as your project. You can either do a fundraiser for your center or just request to help pay for your supplies.

How do I know if I'm approved? You will receive an email within three business days indicating whether or not you are approved (watch in Junk Folder also). Once approved it will take approximately 2-3 weeks to get your card. Once you receive your card, follow the steps to activate it and then call Deanna Bowles-Donor Relations at LBW (800) 925-6092 and give me your card information. I will run your card and once funds received, give your center credit.

Choice Dollars- If you have allocated your Choice Dollars to LBW and would like your funds to go to a particular Ministry Center, please call or email Deanna Bowles at (800) 925-6092 or deanna@lbwinc.org. I will need your name, amount and date allocated.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Blessings, Deanna Bowles

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Farewell Faithful Servants!

I would like to take this time to bid farewell and to say that it has been a pleasure to get to know all of you. I started working at LBW in June of 2004 and the years just seemed to fly by. I will be leaving at the end of May, along with my wife, Jan, who has been here since 1995. We want to see as much of this beautiful country as we can in our RV and also enjoy our retirement time with family and friends. We are both so grateful that God placed us here and will always cherish our LBW years. I pray that God continues to bless LBW and each and every one of you!

In Christian Love, Roy (& Jan) Fisher

Thank You For Your Years of Service

July

5 Years of Service

		MC#
Sandi Armbruster	KS	64
Sheila Ewing	TX	52
Galen Hackney	MO	312
Sally Kassaw	AR	160
Karla Lohaus-Fast	KS	64
Helen Mayer	IL	310
Selma Teinert	TX	146
Janice B White	NE	306

10 Years of Service

		MC#
Mike Brunsky	FL	59
Nancyann Deuber	FL	59
Mary Gordon	FL	59
William Kijowski	IL	167
Dawn Kijowski	IL	167
Jana Kijowski	IL	167
Tim Mack	FL	59
Lois Mager	MO	312
Norma Martin	TX	313
Amber Neimes	FL	59
Jerry Nieman	MO	312
Eunice Piepenbrink	MO	312
Bill Schirmer	FL	59
Nadine Schirmer	FL	59
Shirley Weaver	CA	45
Bonnie Worm	MO	69

15 Years of Service

		MC#
Ruth Brunkhorst	MO	161
Betty Emde	MO	161
Betty Harms	MO	161
Bradley Lietz	IL	315
Michele Tate	TX	313

30 Years of Service

		MC#
Dorothy Fishbeck	TX	52
Gerald G Woodward	OH	191
Phyllis J Woodward	OH	191

35 Years of Service

		MC#
Judith G Loeber	MO	161

August

5 Years of Service

		MC#
Margie Brown	CA	74
John C Cleckler	TX	119
James Cuartero	FL	59
Ron Key	TX	119
Sandra Knopp	CA	85
Ruth Laney	CA	23
Dick Lietz	CA	74
Donna L Loun	CA	45

Ruth E Martin	CA	1
Daniel Mattson	CA	1
Kay Wellik	AZ	102

10 Years of Service

		MC#
June Brandt	MO	69
Nancy Burgess	AZ	200
Roger Bushman	MO	161
Barbara Bushman	MO	161
Bob Harvey Sr	FL	59
Henrietta Harvey	FL	59
Edna Haynes	MO	69
Pat Lockett	FL	59
Jeanette McAlexander	MO	69
Christine Parrish	NC	51
Norma J Pickard	FL	59
Linda T Schelin	MO	69
Patti Zeck	IL	317

15 Years of Service

		MC#
Geneva Krieg	KS	64
Janet E Meyer	MO	161
Kathy Moody	KY	174
Gertrude Rolf	MO	161
Gail Yaw	TX	136

20 Years of Service

		MC#
Barbara Grimm	KS	64
Jerry Zelinsky	AR	160

30 Years of Service

		MC#
Rose Merkel	IN	98

50 Years of Service

		MC#
Puddin Krueger	TX	48

Robin Lynn Pay	CA	152
Karen Rixman	IL	315
Duane Schall	TX	136
Elaine Schall	TX	136
Charlee Tyson	NC	51

10 Years of Service

		MC#
Connie Bilzing-Cable	AZ	58
Gail Colvin	OK	73
Carol J Galchutt	MN	198
Jeannie Harrold	OK	73
Miriam Jacobson	MN	198
Sara Knudson	FL	59
Wanda Kroeplin	ND	133
Pam Moritz	TX	105
Chris Morris	CA	13
Carol Musser	TX	68
Beulah Owsley	KS	64
Sharon Viegas	MN	198

15 Years of Service

		MC#
Tom Cadotte	OH	191
Barbara Cadotte	OH	191
Delores Christianson	MO	161
Helen Eberhardt	PA	192
Pat A Hildebrand	IN	129
Eileen Hintz	IN	126
Ardith Powell	CA	201
Mary Preuss	IL	125

20 Years of Service

		MC#
Ed Bohm	TX	184
Karen Bohm	TX	184
Eunice Carroll	IL	315
Vicki Darby	OK	73
Beverly Gilbert	TX	184
Wanda Hein	KS	64
Chris Meyer	OK	73
Diane Nelsen	TX	184
Janice Wagner	SD	321

25 Years of Service

		MC#
Vi Kirchhoff	IL	164

30 Years of Service

		MC#
Irene Armstrong	PA	192
Harry C Roth	WA	127

35 Years of Service

		MC#
Marilyn J Mull	IL	137

40 Years of Service

		MC#
Eloise McGuire	IL	164

50 Years of Service

		MC#
Selma M Bauer	TX	52



September

5 Years of Service

		MC#
Ben Archuleta	CA	33
Linda Brenner	MO	79
Arlene Carlin	KS	64
Rudy Hunger	TX	68
Melvin Kincaid	TX	184
Christi Kincaid	TX	184
Morgan Kincaid	TX	184
Pamela Mackey	CA	1
Vanessa Maynard	TX	184
Megan Maynard	TX	184
Mike Meriage	TX	70
Beverly Murphy	NC	51



We Lay a Rose



Ruth Temme

MC#106 Leader from 1977-1980 was called home

Volunteer for 3 Years

Bea Ward

MC#163 Leader from 1984-2007 was called home 3/15/18

Volunteer for 33 Years

Elmer W Schulze

MC#85 Leader from 2007-2013 was called home 8/18/18

Volunteer for 19 Years

James Walters

MC#15 Leader from 2000-2013 was called home 11/16/18

Volunteer for 31 Years

Clara Riedel

MC#1 Large Print Proofreader from 1996-2013 was called home 12/30/18

Volunteer for 17 Years