

2024 Annual Report of the LOM President

“Therefore, my beloveds, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” (I Cor 15:58)

Our work this year has been centered on the strategic plan. But a majority of what has been accomplished has come from the needs of our outdoor ministries organizations and their staff who are involved in this organization.

This has been a very busy year for LOM. The following is a short list of our work together.

Major LOM accomplishments for 2024:

- Began a complete rebranding of LOM including a fresh new logo, working in partnership with Tic-Tac-Toe
- Continued to work with a creative and active development committee to develop a strong financial development plan for LOM
- Approved an updated LOM Gift Acceptance Policy, thanks to the work of the development Committee
- In the process of a major LOM by-laws review and revision to make them more relevant and so they match our current practices
- Developed and are implementing the LOM Community Expectations policy for all LOM events to ensure all feel safe and included
- Played a major role in the planning for the 2025 OMC Great Gathering
- Produced another outstanding summer curriculum
- Have taken major steps to begin revamping and reinvigorating our Diversity Committee in the beginning of 2025 with the LOM Leaders Forum
- Finalized the ELCA Outdoor Ministry Affiliation Criteria document and submitted it to church-wide council for approval
- Hosted another robust and successful auction
- Continued the annual “thank-a-thon” with personal phone calls from Board Members to thank donors for giving
- Fully lived into our purpose as LOM by providing support to Red Willow Ministries and Park River Bible Camp, as well as Bear Creek Lutheran Camp. Thank you to Don for taking the lead on our behalf
- Continued efforts to create a more welcoming greeting and presence at the annual conference

One other major accomplishment from this year is the LOM Board had a lengthy and heart-felt conversation of why LOM exists. There are parts of the strategic plan that would lead us to focus our energies on expanding our presence so the world knows Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. The Board has come back to center that LOM’s main purpose is to help grow and develop the professionals of Lutheran outdoor ministries – to educate, to support, and to be a resource so that professionals can serve more confidently and faithfully.

We are presenting a 2025 budget that was, once again, tough to develop. Expenses continue to rise and income and giving have not increased at that same rate. We had to

cut items that we think are critical to LOM's ministry. I want to encourage you all to give generously to this organization. No gift is too small or too large. This will open the door for us to really dream.

I'm very thankful for the board members who have captured the vision of LOM and have helped that transcend to the work of their committees:

Leah Pletscher– Vice-President and Nominating Committee

Karen Muse – Secretary

Dallas Shealy - Treasurer

Kelsey Green - Curriculum Committee

Laney Herauf – Education Committee/LTE

Ed Kay– Diversity Committee

Tami Lewis-Ahrendt – Development Committee

Jessica Jackson – Education and Welcoming Committees

Amanda Rasner – Auction Committee

Matt O'Rear – Recognition Committee

Ed Kay – Churchwide Representative

The theme for this conference is "BE MORE:" to be Bold leaders, Loving leaders, and Sensible leaders. The current context of outdoor ministry leadership calls for leaders to step out in new and adaptive ways. And LOM will be right there to walk with you. Celebrate the victories of your partners in LOM, learn from each other, and be there to help others in the challenging times. That was demonstrated multiple times this past year.

Thank you to all of you that deeply care about LOM. You all are the heart of LOM. And thank you to Don Johnson for your support and partnership in leading this organization. I have loved the close working relationship with you and your belief in me. In the midst of the joys and even the challenges, this year has been a gift!

I will be finishing my term on the Board and my last year as your President. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I find that any time I invest additional time in an organization, I find out even more great things about that organization that not everyone gets to know. LOM is here for you... and I mean each and every one of you! LOM exists to serve our professionals and Boards so that you can proclaim the Gospel to literally thousands that come to all of your sites. What we do is even more important in our current world. Kids can learn to love from you and to be love in the world. **The world needs what we do.** Never forget that!

In Your Service,



Dave Jarvis
LOM President