Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization Virtual Meeting - August 14, 2021

President Penny Oliver called the meeting to order at 10 am

Sister Sonia Barbre, Western District Coordinator, led devotion. Our opening song was the *Lay Hymn*, led by Brother Lamont Upperman, followed by a unity prayer by Sister Barbre. The Lay Litany was led by Sister Barbre and the response by Sister Iris Huff, Lay President of Emmanuel AME Church, Durham, NC. We experienced a very powerful closing to our devotion.

The Lay Body received a very warm **welcome** from Sister Barbara Myers, 3rd Vice President.

Roll Call of Officers by Sister Diane Foy, *Recording Secretary*.

- P President Penny Oliver
- P 1st VP Betty Parker
- P 2nd VP Adam Johnston
- P 3rd VP Barbara Myers
- P Recording Secretary Diane Foy
- P Asst. Recording Secretary Joy Grandy
- P Corresponding Secretary- Barbara Smith
- P Treasurer Woodrow Winchester
- EX Financial Secretary Mozell Weston
- EX- Chaplain Jessie Cardwell
- P Parliamentarian Bobbi Hague
- P Director of Lay Activities Jacqueline Kanipe
- P Director of Public Relations Portia Holman
- P Young Adult Representative Mary Royster-Harris
- EX Eastern District Coordinator Betty Duell
 - P Western District Coordinator Sonia Barbre
 - A- Credentials/Membership Chair Shontea Smith
 - P District Chaplain Kenneth Woods

EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS: Connectional

P - Gertrude Upperman EX - Starr Battle, 2nd VP

EX- Mary Dasher-McAdams

EX- Dwight Patterson

EX- James Hill

EX: Excused

A: Absent

P: Present

President Oliver asked the Lay Body for changes (additions) to the agenda. Brother Woodrow Winchester asked for permission to give a few short remarks, at the end of the meeting and permission was granted.

The Lay Body for corrections, March 13, 2021, reviewed the Minutes from the last meeting, and Sister Betty Parker noted one. "In the body of the minutes, Sister Bobbi Hague's first name was misspelled with an 'e' added at the end". The correction was noted and corrected. With no further corrections, the Minutes were accepted as printed.

Officers Reports

President Oliver announced that Sister Betty Duell, *Eastern District Coordinator*, had surgery and will be going to rehab for recovery.

Corresponding Secretary Sister Barbara Smith

There was *no information/no report* to share with the Lay Body.

Treasurer's Report Brother Woodrow Winchester

The Finance Report and the Bank Statement are included in the packet, normally, only the finance report is shared, as explained by President Oliver. We are trying to be the "teaching arm of the church." Please forward any questions that you may have to Brother Winchester/President Oliver. (See pages 11, 12 and 13)

President Oliver encouraged members that when the Local meetings are held, share your Financial Report and welcome questions for transparency. She thanked Brother Winchester, as well as, Sister Mozell Weston for their service.

OLD BUSINESS:

51st General Conference Updates were compiled and included in the attached packet.

Written Reports from CLO Biennial

The reports are in the packet (pages 22-34). President Oliver allowed the Delegates to comment on their experiences at the Conference Meetings. Kudos to Sisters Starr Battle and Azzie Conley for their *outstanding services* and to the WNCCC *Alternate* Delegates, for their help in supplying the entire Second District! The North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conferences were the "only" conferences with a sufficient number of Alternates that could help relieve the Delegates.

Social Action/COVID-19/Voting Updates Sister Barbara Myers

Because of the Census, North Carolina is the ninth largest state in the nation and obtained another Congressional seat. Sister Myers advised the Lay Body to pay close attention to find out how this affects each individual county; there will be new Maps for re-districting...important to look listen and attend meetings.

Voting continues to be a problem.

Delta Variant is rising in <u>all</u> counties and is affecting our children and youth.

President Oliver commented that Sister Myers has shared a lot of information and she wants the Lay Members to do the same, "do not keep this information – Share It!"

Sister Bobbi Hague added that Municipal Elections will be held in November-study before going to the polls. Sister Myers will be calling a committee meeting, if the date/time is not convenient, please let her know as soon as possible, per President Oliver.

Membership Card

Sister Barbara Myers

Sister Penny reminded us that we are a card-carrying organization however; we have not distributed lay cards for several years. Sister Barbara was asked to chair this committee and found that the Washington Conference is the only conference in the 2nd District that does distribute lay cards. She and Sister Jackie Kanipe met July 27, 2021 and came up with a template that could be used for our organization, with the help of Sister Shontea Smith. A motion was made by Brother Winchester to print out and distribute the cards; it was properly seconded by Sister Hague. The motion was carried. We will begin in January 2022.

President Oliver paused to recognize the presence of all the Pastors and the Women's Missionary President. She thanked them for spending time with us this morning!

NEW BUSINESS:

Our packet included the **WNCCLO** *Save the Dates Meeting Schedule*, *page 47*. A survey was conducted by the executive board to remain Virtual or meet in person for the first two meetings and to meet in person starting at the January 2022 meeting or to meet in person starting August 2021. All members of the Executive Board, except one, voted on virtual meetings for the first two and in person meetings in 2022. President Oliver stated because of the climate of the COVID-19 virus that we would revisit the decision, if necessary.

Re-opening the Church Building

Included in the packet, (*page 52-69*), was information shared at meetings and posted on the AME church website. Re-opening the church is an important decision between the Pastor and the Lay Members of the church. President Oliver asked for questions, none was asked.

2022-24 Office Nominating Committee Sister Gertrude Upperman, Chairperson

A detailed report is included in the packet, (page 70- Letter of Intent page 71). The next election will be held April 10, 2022, with Letters of Intent due no later than March 9, 2022. The Nominating Committee members are: Sister Jackie Kanipe Sister Shontea Smith Brother John Smith Brother Dale Wragg Sister Gertrude Upperman, Chairperson

All Offices Are Open and she has received a notice from the office of Recording Secretary, Diane Foy, that she would have served her eight (8) years and will not be running for any other office. The sooner they receive these notices, the better it will be for the committee to be prepared for the upcoming election. President Oliver informed the body that President Matthew Douglas would conduct the election; in order to run for office, you must have attended four (4) conference meetings in the last two years. If you have questions, contact a committee member.

Prayer Breakfast Update

Prayer Breakfast Committee/DOLA

Sister Kanipe thanked the members that have already sent in their pictures for the Memorial for the Breakfast. This event will take place on Saturday, September 11, 2021at 10am. The theme: "After the Pandemic: Renewed by Faith, Transformed by God, and Revived to Serve!" Since she is not the only member of this committee, she called on Brother Adam Johnston for a general update. The Breakfast will be a Virtual Presentation with numerous prayers and the Pastor of Emmanuel AME Church, Reverend Akil Dickens will be our guest speaker. (See flyer enclosed in packet on page 72, with further details).

President Oliver added that you must register online – it is so much easier. However, should you mail in a check to Brother Winchester, let her know so she can send the link to you to view the breakfast. There were several inquiries about not having received the link for this morning's meeting. We send the link on Thursday after 10pm.

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Scholarship Committee Update Scholarship Committee/Sister Sonia Barbre

Sister Barbre introduced the members of her committee -

Brother Adam Johnston Brother Lamont Upperman

Sister Audrey McCain Sister Betty Parker

Applications are being reviewed. Recipients of these scholarships will be announced online, in the *Lay Express* and at our Prayer Breakfast. Problem areas the applicants need to be aware of, that the local Presidents, DOLA's and other officers can be helpful with are... not reading requirements and not checking to see if **all documents** are attached/enclosed.

President asked if any of the local Lay Presidents/DOLA has had questions. Each organization are to have Constitution & By-Laws and share them with the conference lay upon completion. We are to mirror the SEDLO Constitution & By-Laws. The question was ask did the SEDLO organization approve or disapprove the WNCCLO updated Constitution & By-Laws and President Oliver stated No, and she did not receive any feedback.

Clergy /Lay Institute

Sister Jackie Kanipe

This event will take place *virtually – November 13, 2021 at 10 A.M.* The same committee for the Prayer Breakfast will serve for the Clergy/Lay Institute. Lay members are ask to submit topics for discussion to Sister Jackie Kanipe or President Penny Oliver. They will be meeting early September, so the sooner you submit your topics for discussion, the better!

Teaching Moment

Sister Jackie Kanipe

Sister Kanipe apologized for not having a handout available for our packet today; however, she proceeded to give a brief history on the topic. Each year the **Second Sunday in October is "Lay Witness Sunday"** in the AME Church. The Lay Members, other than Ministers/Pastors carry out the Sunday Morning Services.

Sister Kanipe appealed to all Presidents of Local Lay Organizations share your theme and the date of your Lay Witness Sunday.

President Oliver recognized the presence of Sister Portia Holman, *Director of Public Relations* and publisher of our newsletter, *Lay Express* for comments. She emphasized, "deadline date for materials to be submitted in the *Lay Express* is *August 20*th!"

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Praise Reports

Numerous

- Gertrude Upperman for Lamont Upperman
- Diane Foy for Self
- Bobbi Hague for Self
- Margie Alston for Sister Patricia Jones
- Mary Locklear for her son.
- Emma Devine's Daughter, Kim
- Charmayne Morrison's Son, Matthew
- Barbara Smith lost 3 Lay Members, including Sister Joyce Corpening.
- Penny Oliver for Janie Wilson
- Reverend Donald Holman

Special Announcement

Brother Woodrow Winchester

He is currently a member of the Helium Corporation, fundraising organization, if you host a unit. He will be requesting information to be sent to our Lay Organization.

Closing Prayer

Brother Kenneth Woods

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am, by singing the *Lay Benediction* led by Sister Diane Foy.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Foy

Attachments