**MINUTES**

**Western North Carolina Lay Organization Meeting**

**Gaston Chapel AME Church**

**Saturday, October 10, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The regular meeting of the Western North Carolina Lay Organization was held on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at Gaston Chapel AME Church in Morganton, NC. President Penny Oliver called the meeting to order.

**DEVOTION**

Sister Rosa Taylor, Chaplain, led the body in Devotion.

*Lay Hymn*; *Prayer* by Sister Janie Wilson praying for grace and mercy, unity, sick and shut in/ bereavement, specifically Bro. Hooker and the Barbre family; *Scripture* from Matthew 28 rendered by Sis. Bettie Duell; *Litany* led by Sis. Rosa Taylor.

**WELCOME**
President Oliver called for Bro. Charles Harbison to bring the welcome in Rev. Benjamin’s absence. In Local President Myers’ absence, Sis. Vickie Tate, 1st VP brought the welcome from Gaston Chapel AME Church.

**ROLL CALL** – Sis. Bertha McLendon, Asst. Recording Secretary

**Present:** Penny Oliver, Betty Parker, Woodrow Winchester, Mozell Weston, Bertha McLendon, Barbara Smith, Rosa Taylor, John Smith, Jacqueline Kanipe, Bettie Duell, Renee White, Gertrude Upperman, Mary Dasher-McAdams

**Excused Absentees:** Wilbert Hooker, Jr., Mary Harris, Theresa Watson, Diane Foy, Sonia Barbre, Niki Allen, Starr Battle, James Hill and Dwight Patterson.

**AGENDA**

President Oliver asked for approval of the Agenda. Sis. Betty Duell made a **motion** which was seconded by several to accept the agenda as presented. **The motion carried.**

**MINUTES**

President Oliver asked if there were any corrections to the minutes, which were distributed earlier. One correction: Sis. Betty Parker indicated that the roll call should indicate that she was “excused” from the meeting. After the correction was made, President Oliver indicated that the minutes were approved as corrected.

**OFFICERS’ REPORTS**

* 1st Vice President – Bro. Wilbert Hooker is not present due to hospitalization. President Oliver asked the body to keep him in prayer.
* 2nd Vice President – Sis. Betty Parker – No report
* 3rd Vice President – Sis. Theresa Watson – Absent
* Young Adult Representative – Sis. Mary Harris – Absent. President Oliver indicated that a conference call will be held regarding Jack and Jill. If anyone wants to serve on the committee, please inform Sis. Harris.
* Eastern District Coordinator – Sis. Bettie Duell – They are doing well. Eight (8) more churches were visited and she informed them that she is available if they need assistance.
* Western District Coordinator – Sis. Renee White – Trying to catch up with the Eastern District. They are also attempting to enroll more churches.

Sis. Emma Devine reported that she did a workshop for Mt. Zion Hillsborough. Sis. Duell requested that when workshops are done to let the coordinator know so they will not replicate it.

* Historiographer – Sis. Sonia Barbre – Absent because her father-in-law passed away. His funeral is on Monday. President Oliver reported that October newsletters were available and can be accessed on the Lay website.
* Corresponding Secretary – Sis. Barbara Smith – Sis. Smith read a sympathy card from Cassandra and Jermaine Favor and a thank-you card from Valerie Bell for gift received from President Penny Oliver and the WNCCLO.
* Social Action Committee – Bro. Kenneth Woods, Chairperson – Bro. Woods’ report entailed information on voting, including being able to register and vote at the same time this year. It was pointed out that not all counties are adhering to this rule. You do not have to present a voter registration card this year, however beginning next year, identification will be required. Primaries will be held on March 15th beginning in 2016 statewide. Early voting dates have not been determined. Additional information was provided in the handouts the committee shared. President Oliver noted that she wants to keep everyone abreast of what is going on and this information can be shared with others.

**Lay Biennial Delegates Reports** – President Oliver pointed out that these reports are included in the packet of information provided. The delegates were recognized and thanked for their thorough reports.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Bro. Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer, Sis. Mozell Weston, Financial Secretary.

 The financial reports were distributed.

Bro. Winchester made the following comments regarding budget: Two major checks outstanding will be deposited. Sis. Emma Devine turned in money for scarves; use of church for meeting; Lay Director – Brochures, voucher for $50.25; one Discipline remaining to be sold.

Sis. Mozell Weston reported that she has receipts from August, September and October on the table for pickup.

Response to question regarding prayer breakfast – Last report showed $500 and with additional funds of $1,525.

Bro. Lamont Upperman: Thanked the Treasurer for this type of report being more thorough.

President Oliver noted that the Treasurer Report is accepted for information only.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **2015 Budget**

Bro. Winchester provided copies of the WNCCLO Budget for January 2015 – December 2015. There were adjustments made. There were no reports for the Second Episcopal District expenses. He received an email from SED that the WNCCLO owed $2,000 for the Davis McKinney Scholarship. An application was submitted from a student in the WNCC for the scholarship and that is why we received an email stating no scholarship since no money had been paid. $2,500 was paid in 2012 and $2,500 was paid in 2013. No checks were issued after that because at a meeting, it was indicated that no conference would pay any more in Davis McKinney scholarship funds because funds would come from an endowment fund.

**Discussion Notes:**

***Sis. Devine*** – How much was scholarship?

***Sis. Parker*** - $1,200

***Sis. Devine*** – If we send in $1,500 to District because we haven’t paid, why send money and then apply for same money we sent. Does this make sense?

***Bro. Winchester -*** Doesn’t make sense to pay $1,500 to get back $1,200

***Sis. Devine*** – Management problems with upper echelon.

Joseph McKinney raised about $40,000 for scholarships. Decision made to dissolve the Foundation and put in scholarship for 2nd District students for all five conferences. Voted in meeting to not pay any more money until it was used up. If we have $25,000 left, what we voted to do, dropped off along the way. Why send money to get money.

***Sis. Upperman*** – When first established, had over $100,000. The McKinney family put a lot of money in it and then the 2nd District Lay Organization wanted to dissolve it. Donations were made every year by the McKinney family.

***Sis. Wilson*** – In a meeting she attended, SED does not have money. They don’t know where money went. Do not feel we should give any money. It is wrong.

***Sis. Upperman*** – Do we have access to minutes to what happened?

***Bro. Winchester*** – Dialogue with Treasurer. Do not have minutes. Supposedly an executive board meeting.

***Others*** – Suggestion: Independent audit on what happened to funds.

***Bro. Winchester*** – He does not feel comfortable writing check for $1,500.00 to SED and young lady will only get $1,200. Does not feel WNCC is in a position to pay. WNCC has own scholarship fund. Therefore the $1,200 is not included in the BUDGET.

***Question:*** Whose law prevails: SED or WNCC?

***Bro. Winchester*** - One who is paying the money.

***President Oliver*** – This should be discussed at the SED Executive Board meeting or on the floor at the SED regular meeting.

Sis. Devine made a **motion** that we table this adding scholarship money for Davis McKinney until meeting at Mid-Year with the Executive Board to discuss same and no check be written to SED for $1,500.00. Unreadiness: Concern about Student receiving funds in a timely manner. Answer: only 3 weeks. **The motion carried.**

Sis. Devine made a **motion** to pay the scholarship money to young lady now. Unreadiness: Bro. Winchester said only 3 weeks until solved, just can’t do. No second to motion. **Motion failed**.

Sis. Kanipe made a **motion** that the Budget for 2015 be approved. Sis. Devine seconded and the **motion carried**.

In response to a question, Bro. Winchester informed the body that the 2016 budget will be presented at the next meeting in January, 2016.

Sis. Upperman – In reference to meeting with the Executive Board, don’t rely on their recollection; legal document is their minutes. President Oliver agreed that it has to be in writing.

* **Conference Meeting Sign-Up Sheet**
1. 2nd Saturday – January 9, 2016 – Clapps Chapel, Whitsett, NC
2. 2nd Saturday – March 12, 2016 – Greater Bethel, Charlotte, NC
3. 3rd Saturday – April 16 , 2016 – Clapps Chapel, Whitsett, NC (Election)
4. 2nd Saturday – August 13, 2016 – St. James, Asheville, NC

Additional Dates:

2nd Saturday – April 9, 2016 – Jack and Jill Program

Lay Institute – November 14, 2015 – Bethel-Greensboro

* **2015 Prayer Breakfast Update** – Prayer Breakfast Committee - Sis. Theresa Watson, Chairperson. In Sis. Watson’s absence, President Oliver reported that the Prayer Breakfast was well attended and that it was reported in the newsletter. It was a glorious time. She asked if any church wants to host the next Breakfast to let her know.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Outreach Ministry Committee – Sis. Mary Dasher-McAdams, Chairperson**

Reported as follows: Met October 7, 2015 via teleconference; received ideas and suggestions about purpose and criteria for its operation; new Committee; individuals will document ideas; she will compile them and email each other; want to be fair across the conference; face to face meeting for November 7, 2015 at Persimmon Grove; Bro. Upperman to host it; will make decisions, criteria at that meeting.

* **2016-18 Nominating Committee Report – Nominating Committee – Bro. Kenneth Woods, Chairperson**

Reported as follows:

Those desiring to run for office, make sure of requirements for office and that you meet qualifications.

President Oliver wanted to know who is to sign her letter of intent. Bro. Woods called President Bell and she said she would find out and get back in touch. Before she responded the committee had to send out the notices. Email response from Sis. Bell dated September 9, 2015 included copy of letter of intent, letters to accept or reject nomination, and conference lay organization nominating committee guidelines. Bro. Woods read from the Constitution about the election procedures.

Parliamentarian John Smith stated that until the Constitution has been properly amended and voted on by the District, then you have to follow what has been approved.

President Oliver (out of chair) commented “so I am to get the conference 1st vice president to sign off on her letter of intent and no one else to sign, what about the local lay president, I am asking for clarification?”

Bro. Winchester – SED is not consistent with what they do

Sis. Upperman – SED Lay Organization has a lot of issues. It has deteriorated and there is a major disconnect.

The local lay President of Shiloh stated if disagreement, why haven’t the proper papers been submitted to amend. If not clear, need to submit information to be put in there because other districts may be having same problems. Need to go through the process.

Sis. Upperman stated cannot change or amend in the middle of an election process, not been an issue for a long time. Cloudy legislature, whether or not it makes general conference floor is questionable.

Bro. Woods – WNCCLO Constitution, article 16, Amendments. This year we have to follow Constitution, and to amend it, read Article 16.

Parliamentarian Smith reiterated that you can’t make a change to Conference Bylaws that will be inconsistent with SED, if they amend their bylaws, and then Conference can amend theirs.

Sis. Duell stated letters of intent were sent to all churches and are on the web site. They were also emailed. Attention: Lay organization. Understand that some are not getting it. Bro. Woods has copies of everything if anyone needs it.

President Oliver (back in President’s chair) – The Nominating Committee’s will contact the local presidents of each letter of intent, not the conference lay president.

President Oliver thanked committee for work done. She will go by what the committee recommended her to do.

Bro. Woods stated that you cannot campaign until after you have received a letter from the committee indicating you are qualified to run.

* **Laity Teaching Moment – Sis. Jackie Kanipe, Director of Lay Activities**

Sis. Jackie Kanipe discussed Cost of Discipleship. Book entitled “Anvil”.

* Believes other forms of discipleship are simpler and more attainable.
* Must love in order to participate in Christian discipleship; 1st Corin 12:1-13
* Love One another.
* Jesus will never leave us alone
* Discipleship – joyful, pleasant, wonderful experience
* Love – Jesus Christ’s abiding gift to us, essential element of Christian discipleship

Sis. Kanipe reported that Study Guides will be ordered. If interested, let her know and as soon as she gets directives from SED, she will be placing the order. The cost is approximately $25 each. A list was distributed for persons to sign up for the study guides.

* **Lay Institute – Workshop Committee – Sis. Jackie Kanipe, Chairperson**

The Lay Institute will be held on November 14, 2015 at Bethel-Greensboro. Registration process is ready to start; Register by church with one check sent in; submit to Sis. Mozell Weston. She is accepting pre-registration through October 31, 2015 at cost of $10. After October 31st and onsite registration, the cost is $15.

Sis. Kanipe requested a meeting with the Annual Conference Committee after this session to begin the process. She will ask the host Lay President, Sis. Thelma Fox, to serve on the committee.

* **Richard Allen Memorial Courtyard Project**

President Oliver reported that to support the Richard Allen Memorial Courtyard Project, the Executive Board had decided to purchase a brick for $200 for the WNCCLO. She said she should have brought it before the entire conference, however forgot. Parliamentarian Smith advised that can ask for a motion to ratify the decision by the WNCCLO. Bro. Winchester made a **motion** that the WNCCLO ratify the decision of the Executive Board to purchase a brick for the Richard Allen Memorial Courtyard. **The motion carried.**

* **Membership Update – Sis. Niki Allen**

In Sis. Allen’s absence, Sis. Janie Wilson reported: 1,362 members and 114 youth; 51 registered today. One person slipped by without paying $5. Youth cannot vote until age 18. They can be active but we cannot collect youth dues starting January 1, 2016.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Sis. Devine – Sunday is Lay Sunday and she has lay scarves at cost of $25.00.
2. Sis. Betty Parker, President of Concord-Logan Optimist Club is selling peanuts for $2.00 a bag to assist their scholarship drive.
3. Lay Speakers for Sunday, October 11, 2015:
* President Oliver – Bethel, Greensboro
* Sis. Angie Pugh – Greater Bethel, Charlotte
* Sis. Jackie Kanipe – Emmanuel
* Bro. Dwight Patterson – St. Paul, Mt. Airy
* Bro. Charles Moore – Shiloh, Morganton
1. President Oliver – St. Matthews, Burlington – 1st Sunday in November
2. First Time Visitors: Welcomed by President Oliver
* Betty Crisp – Queens Chapel
* Claudia Corpening – St. Paul, Raleigh
* Charlette Gore – Mt. Pisgah, Hickory
* Valerie Jenkins – Mt. Pisgah, Hickory
* Jane Smith – Mt. Zion, Greensboro
* Julie Thompson – Bethel, Greensboro
* Charmayne Owens – Bethel, Greensboro
* Margaret Harbison – Gaston Chapel
1. Sis. Janie Wilson – Membership dues are welcome today.
2. Sis. Upperman – Living Legacy Banquet sponsored by the Western District CDC will be held on November 13, 2015 at Khalif Event Center in Greensboro. The tickets are $50. The speaker is Representative Alma Adams. October 24, 2015 is the last date to purchase tickets.

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm with the singing of the Lay Benediction. Lunch was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Bertha B. McLendon, Assistant Recording Secretary