

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization Meeting
Saturday, January 12, 2019 -10:00 a.m.
Persimmon Grove AMEC, Greensboro, NC

The Lay meeting was called to order by President Penny Oliver at 10:05 a.m. She thanked everyone for their presence and wished them a Happy New Year!

Devotion: Sis Jessie Cardwell, Chaplain

Prayer was lifted by Sis Barbara Myers. Afterwards, Sis Cardwell asked the Lay Body to reflect on the verse from the book of *Micah 6:8*, and asked three (3) persons to share a “special gift” they received this year for Christmas. The three that shared stated –

“She was a cancer survivor, received a cup with an engraved biblical verse.”

“She received the book she wanted, written by former First Lady Michelle Obama.”

“All of his children were home for Christmas, for the first time in a long time.”

Welcome: Sis Gertrude Upperman

Sis Upperman extended a hearty welcome to the WNCC Lay Body, in absentia of Bro Lamont Upperman, President of Local Lay and Rev. Debra Lawson-Smith, Pastor of Persimmon Grove. Their absence was due to a death in the church family.

President Oliver asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. It was moved by Bobbi Hague and seconded by various persons; motion carried to approve agenda, as printed.

Roll Call of Officers: Sis. Diane Foy, Secretary

(Present) – Penny Oliver, President
(Present) – Betty Parker, First Vice President
(Excused) – Adam Johnston, Second Vice President
(Present) – Barbara Myers, Third Vice President
(Present) – Diane Foy, Recording Secretary
(Present) - Joy Grandy, Asst. Recording Secretary
(Present) – Barbara Smith, Corresponding Secretary
(Present) - Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer
(Excused) – Mozell Weston, Financial Secretary
(Present) – Bobbi L. Hague, Parliamentarian
(Present) – Jessie Cardwell, Chaplain
(Excused) - Melissa Roberts, Historiographer
(Excused) - Jacqueline C. Kanipe, Director of Lay Activities
(Present) – Mary R. Harris, Young Adult Representative
(Present) – Bettie Duell, Eastern District Coordinator
(Present) – Sonia P. Barbre, Western District Coordinator
(Present) – Angela Elam, Director of Public Relations
(Present) – Shontea Smith, Credentials/Membership Chair

Ex-officio Officers:

(Excused) – Mary Dasher McAdams
(Excused) - Starr Battle
(Present) - Dwight Patterson
(Present) - Gertrude Upperman

(President asked Officers to Stand – for Members attending for the first time)

President Oliver asked the Lay Body if there were any **corrections in the last Minutes, October 13, 2018**. There was one correction – the spelling of the Third Vice President’s Last Name----Barbara **Myers**.

- Recorded by: Diane Foy, Secretary

Officer’s Written Reports

Social Action- Sis. Barbara Myers- Third Vice President

Handouts for the 2019-2021 NC General Assembly were distributed. Sis. Myers asked that we be mindful to look at and be aware of the new changes and new laws. She highlighted the new laws that passed based on the last election. She thanked the Lay Body for getting out to vote.

Sis. Angela Elam- Director of Public Relations

Sis. Elam referred to The Lay Express as there is only one Hidden Figure and one church spotlighted. She stated that we need churches to send in Hidden Figures and church information. There have only been 21 churches spotlighted and it’s important to spotlight all of our churches because that’s our history. She assigned the following churches to submit information for the next three months: Pearson Memorial-February 2019; Poplar Grove-March 2019 and Turner’s Chapel April 2019. Sis. Elam stated that we need the church history that is printed in your bulletin for your Church Anniversary. The Lay Express is sent to 202 people; 117 are Laity and 85 are Clergy.

Sis. Betty Duell-Eastern District Coordinator

Sis. Duell gave an update from the SEDLO Convention Legislation Committee: she stated there was no new legislation from the WNCCLO and information was due to SEDLO President by 1/15/19. She stated that the final step for all proposed legislation to be sent to the Connectional Lay Organization is 1/20/19. Sis. Duell noted that the person elected to the General Conference as a delegate must be well versed in the language on the website.

President Oliver noted that Rev. Clay Barrow, annual conference legislation chairperson, where she serves as a committee member, received 3 areas to be discussed from the WNCCLO executive board:

- 1) Office Limits
- 2) Assigning Itinerate Elders that don't receive assignments to assist in certain areas (prisons, homeless, etc) under the leadership of the Presiding Elder
- 3) Co-Pastor Terminology

President Oliver continued to say she did not understand why we did not share the 3 areas with the WNCCLO legislation chairperson.

President Oliver discussed the Certificate of Election found within the packet. This is a sample for the Lay Person elected as the Electoral College Delegate from their church. This certificate must be brought to Annual Conference.

Sis. Mary Harris-Young Adult Rep.

Sis. Harris distributed a letter that will go out to all the churches and pastors. The letter outlined the YAR plan for raising money for the WNCCLO Scholarships. The request is that each church donate \$300.00 to the fund and for each church to have a representative attend the WNCCLO Meeting on April 13, 2019 at Turner's Chapel. The YAR's have planned a Spring Fling to follow the meeting at Florence Elementary School to assess, plan and have fun. Sis. Harris stated that last year ended by imploring everyone to S.L.A.P. (Stop, Look Around, Assess and Proceed) themselves. She asked that we please encourage the young people to come out for this event. The headcount for the event needs to be given Sis. Harris by March 29, 2019.

Bro. Woodrow Winchester-Treasurer

A copy of the Bank Statement was given to the Assistant recording Secretary to be filed for information. Balance in the treasury was given as of 12/31/2018.

OLD BUSINESS:

2018-2019 Meeting Locations-dates were printed in the packet.

2018 Lay Institute Report

The 2018 Lay Institute was held at Mt. Zion in Greensboro. Dialogue with the Presiding Elders went really well. It was noted that we would like to continue having this type of Institute.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Conference Lay Event

The Committee consists of Sis. Jackie Kanipe-Chair, Sis. Gertrude Upperman, Bro, Dwight Patterson, Betty Duell, Sonia Barbre, Mary Harris and Gerald Logan. An invitation was sent to the WSSU Gospel Choir to perform at the Lay event. Pres. Oliver stated, as of right now we do not know what day or time the event will take place. If anyone has questions or suggestions please contact Jackie Kanipe.

Constitution and By-Law Committee (Delegates to 2019 Biennial Convention)

Adam Johnston-Chair, Jackie Kanipe, John Smith, Emma Devine, Betty Parker and Bobbi Hague.

Election of delegates to Lay Biennial for WNCC Lay per Constitution and By-laws to be elected as a delegate from the WNCC Lay Organization to the Lay Biennial, are as follows:

1. All elected delegates must be a member in good and regular standing in their local church lay (attends ½ of their local lay organization's meetings and pays required dues as set by his/her local lay organization).
 - A. Must have attended at least ½ of the official established meetings for the WNCC Lay and membership dues must be received by Feb. 25, 2019 to the membership chair Shontae Smith.
 - B. Membership dues for delegates will need be sent to Sis. Shontae Smith via email or hard copy by Feb. 25. If sent hard copy, membership dues must be post-marked by Feb. 23rd.
2. There will be two (2) separate elections
 - A. Election for delegates for the Lay Biennial
 1. President, DOLA and YAR attend the Lay Biennial by virtue of their office.
 2. Elect up to 6 adults, at least one (1) young adult (age 18-35).
 3. Note: Delegates voted in this election will be based on what the WNCCLO Executive Board recommends to the body and what funds are available from the WNCC Budget.

B. Election of the District Delegate:

Only one person from the WNCC Lay will represent the District.

This person cannot be an elected delegate or an alternate delegate.

Your President, DOLA and YAR are excluded as the District Delegate.

C. Alternate Delegates: Election of alternate delegates for the Biennial will consist up to 6 (at least one should be a young adult) adult members (same number of delegates elected for the Biennial), your President, DOLA and YAR are excluded as an alternate.

Note: (Funds may not be available for Alternate Delegates)

3. Ballot:

A. Secretary will prepare a ballot based on the nominees from the floor. Copies will be made of the ballot and given to all voting members

B. Credential Representative-Shontae Smith

Sis. Shontae Smith will be prepared to review her records on the said nominees from 8/2017 – 3/2019 to make sure all nominees have attended at least ½ of the conference lay meetings. Will ask for another assistant to aid in verifying records. In addition, will ask President, Sis. Oliver to allow time for verification of records.

Note: If you do not have a local Church Lay organization but paid your membership dues to the Conference membership Chair and have attended at least ½ of the conference lay meetings, you are eligible to vote and or run for delegate to the Biennial.

Boundaries: Will separate voting and non-voting members.

Pres. Oliver stated that the Executive Board met and the recommendation from the Executive Board is to elect to 2 Delegates plus a District delegate as funds were limited therefore the number of persons to receive a stipend are limited. She also stated more information to follow from the Sustentation Committee.

Verification of attendance to ½ of the Conference Meetings will be completed by Shontea Smith. Once verified by the Conference, the local Lay President must then verify that a member has attended ½ of the local meetings. The time thread will remain the same 2 year period.

A motion was made to accept the report with the recommendations from the Executive Board by Sis. Betty Duell and seconded by Sis. Hazeline Brooks, there was no opposition and the motion carried.

Sustentation Committee Report

Woodrow Winchester-Chair, Sis. Sonia Barbre, Sis. Joy Grandy, Sis. Mary Royster-Harris, Bro. Dale Wragg, Sis. Shontea Smith and Sis. Betty Duell

In the Budget \$6,000.00 was allocated for the 2019 Connectional Lay Biennial. Based on funds available for 4 delegates the breakdown is as follows:

Registration \$300.00 x 4 =\$1,200.00

\$6,000.00-\$1,200.00 =\$4,800.00

\$4,800.00/4=\$1,200.00

Each delegate will receive a stipend of \$1,200.00.

A motion was made to accept the report and recommendation by the Executive Board by Bro. John Smith and seconded by Bro. Kenneth Woods, there was no opposition and the motion carried.

Pres. Oliver thanked both the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and the Sustentation Committee for their reports. She stated that we need to work to get members to join the Lay. We need to go and be an example of Jesus Christ with in our churches to encourage members to join. She continued to say that the body agreed to send 4 Delegates, which includes the President and the DOLA. Our Young Adult Representative cannot go and no other Young Adult Representative can go based on attendance. We will vote on 2 delegates in March meeting.

Laity Teaching Moment

Pres. Oliver read the Teaching moment from the Lay Express Newsletter in the absence of our Director of Lay Activities Sis. Kanipe.

Membership Update- Sis. Shontea Smith-Membership Coordinator

Sis. Shontea Smith stated that today's registration was incomplete as some members paid but did not register.

The number of paid members registered for 2019-2020 is 196 from 13 churches. The Lay Membership Card will be forthcoming. Pres. Oliver stated

that we start our Membership Campaign in November, so all the dues collected in November and December of 2018 will be for the 2019 conference year. As of today we have received membership dues from 13 churches for 2019.

Remarks- President Penny Oliver

Pres. Oliver thanked Sis. Betty Parker for standing in and carrying on with the meeting. She further thanked all the members who were present for coming and participating in the discussion.

Announcements

- Mid-Winter Meeting (February 21-23) Portsmouth, Virginia
(\$119.00/Room)

With no further business, the Lay Body was led in prayer by Bro. Kenneth Woods after which the Lay Benediction was led by Sis. Betty Parker.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy P. Grandy

WNCCLC Assistant Recording Secretary