

**Western North Carolina Lay Organization Meeting
Mt. Sinai A.M.E. Church, Pittsboro, NC
Saturday, August 10, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Western North Carolina Lay Organization was held on Saturday, August 10, 2019 at Mt. Sinai A.M.E. Church in Pittsboro, NC. President Penny Oliver called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

DEVOTION:

Bro. Kenneth Woods, SED Chaplain, led the body in Devotion.

The Body sang "Come By Here Lord"; Prayer was led by Sis. Myrtle Mayo, the Scripture - Genesis 37:19-27 was read by Bro. Kenneth Woods

WELCOME:

President Oliver called for the Local President, Bro. Ernest Dark and the Pastor Rev. Camelia P. Eaves to welcome the Body.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

Present:

Sis. Penny Oliver-President
Sis. Betty Parker-1st Vice President
Bro. Adam Johnston-2nd Vice President
Sis. Barbara Myers-3rd Vice President
Sis. Joy Grandy-Asst. Recording Secretary
Sis. Barbara R. Smith-Corresponding Secretary
Bro. Woodrow Winchester-Treasurer
Sis. Mozell Weston-Financial Secretary
Sis. Bobbi L. Hague-Parliamentarian
Sis. Jacqueline C. Kanipe-Dir. of Lay Activities
Sis. Angela Elam-Dir. of Public Relations
Sis. Mary Harris-Young Adult Representative
Sis. Bettie Duell-Eastern District Coordinator
Sis. Sonia Barbre-Western district Coordinator
Sis. Shontea Smith-Credential/Membership Chair

Excused Absentees:

Sis. Jessie Cardwell- Chaplain
Sis. Diane Foy-Recording Secretary

Ex-Officio Officers:

Sis. Starr Battle-Present
Bro. Kenneth Woods-Present
Bro. Dwight Patterson-Present
Sis. Gertrude Upperman-Present
Sis. Mary Dasher-McAdams- Excused

(President Oliver asked the Officers to stand for members attending for the first time)

MINUTES

President Oliver asked if there were any corrections to the minutes, which were attached and distributed earlier. There being no corrections President Oliver stated that the minutes were approved. President Oliver stated that the minutes are in your packet and they are emailed to the members. Please give your email address to Sis. Shontea Smith.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

CLO YAR-Bro. Adam Johnston-2nd Vice President

Bro. Johnston discussed the role of the Young Adult Representative (YAR) in transitioning to an active young adult in the church. Bro. Johnston stated at the Biennial the discussion was focused on how we can better grow the church. The YAR's have felt empowered and more are getting involved but we have to empower them on the local and conference levels.

Evangelism -Sis. Barbara Myers-3rd Vice President

In place of Sis. Barbara who is on her way, Sis. Starr Battle-CLO 3rd Vice President spoke on the Evangelism Movement. She stated that it must incorporate the Lay Organization as our pastors may not be available. We have the CLO Devotional Book which is a good source of information. The Devotional is \$10 and we need to see Sis. Barbara Myers to get one. Another good source is "Becoming A Disciple-Maker by Billie Hanks Jr. with Randy Craig. There is a website to get the materials. Sis. Battle stated that we need to use these materials in working with new members as well as with old members who have forgotten what their call is. She stated that we are called to a ministry and we need to work within that ministry. The link to the materials will be sent out.

Strategic Planning-Sis. Betty Parker-1st Vice President

Sis. Parker stated that we are looking into different ways to change our Jack and Jill to help raise funds for our scholarships. She asked if any members were interested in being part of a committee to come up with ideas for fundraisers. She asked those interested to see her after the meeting. She stated that the name changed to the YAR Program instead of the Jack and Jill as we want to draw young adults.

Correspondence-Sis. Barbara Smith-Corresponding Secretary

A Thank You Card from Sis. Starr Battle was read. Sis. Battle thanked the body for being asked to speak at Lay Night at WNCC Annual Conference.

Treasurer Report-Bro. Woodrow Winchester

Bro. Winchester stated that there are two documents being passed out, one being the Financial Report and the other is the Report of Scholarship Money received. Mr. Winchester stated that if your church name is not on the Scholarship Report your money can still be taken. Bro. Winchester went over the financial report with one correction. The date should read August 10, 2019. Sis. Betty Parker made a motion that the Financial Report be filed for information, it was seconded by Sis. Bobbi Hague and there were no objections. President Oliver noted that the financial aid report will be filed as information only.

Bro. Winchester asked the body to review the Scholarship Report and stated that if adjustments needed to be made to let him know.

Sis. Mary Harris-Young Adult Representative

Sis. Mary Harris stated that she and 1st Vice President, Sis. Betty Parker will work together on the YAR event. Some information that came from the April 2019 Spring Fling is as follows. The YAR's want: more contemporary music, more opportunities for participation, more ecumenical – cross denominational programs, to be met where they are, mentoring/training in their local church, to see themselves in the teaching-in having more Youth Ministers, to travel more/expand exposure to fellowship with other YAR's in the conference, to have workshops on dating, finance and appropriate relationships, to see increased use of technology in the local churches and to have the seniors to be less brash-to be mindful in how they talk to the young people. Sis. Starr Battle stated that as far as the ecumenical part we can work with other Christian based organizations to come together to do programs. President Oliver stated we should be inviting other denominations to fellowship with us. Sis. Teresa Watson stated that each church has the ability to have a website. President Oliver stated that the Presiding Elders are working with churches getting the churches website updated. A workshop was held in July to assist churches in establishing websites. Bro. Lamont Upperman asked how do we increase Youth Ministers. Sis. Harris stated that the YAR's want to see more Youth Ministers be drawn into our churches. President Oliver stated that the Presiding Elders are aware of this and are looking into getting more Youth Ministers. All of the people between the ages of 18-40 were asked to stand. There are 7 persons in attendance today between 18-40.

3rd Vice President-Sis. Barbara Myers

Sis. Myers stated that we are moving toward elections and we need to be mindful of the elections in our areas. Districts 3 & 9 are having Primary's. She asked that we work with the pastors. September 24, 2019 is National Registration Day. You can go to the website voterregistration.org and register to vote. She stated that Voter ID training is coming up so check the Board of Elections website to get updates. She asked that we also know what ID will work. She informed the body that the NC Supreme Court will be looking at the gerrymandering case again as the lawsuit was filed by 4 Governors. She asked that we follow the HB86 Gun Violence Law to see where it is going. President Oliver stated that we need to work together to make sure we get people registered to vote.

Lay Express- Sis. Angela Elam-Director of Public Relations

Sis. Elam informed the body that the Newsletter was emailed to 218 people and we added 8 new people. She stated that we need churches to spotlight for October 2019-April 2020. Sis. Harris and Sis. Myers were asked to send their reports to be added. Sis. Elam stated that we need youth to write articles to be spotlighted. She stated that the Lay Express can be found at wncc.lay.org. Sis. Battle stated that we need to be mindful that our training is for 18 and older when we are talking about youth. Sis. Jackie Kanipe asked if we are sending the newsletter to other conferences. Sis. Elam stated that we are not but other folk have gotten on the website and have seen the newsletter. The question of when would the Spotlight Cycle start over was raised. Sis. Elam stated that she would like to get information on all churches before we recycle other churches.

Scholarship Committee Report-Sis. Sonia Barbre'

Sis. Barbre and her committee reported that we have received 3 applications for the Davis-McKinney Scholarship and 8 applications for the James Johnson Scholarship and none have been received for the Kittrell-Allen-Adams Scholarship. Sis. Mary Harris thanked all churches that submitted money for the scholarships.

OLD BUSINESS

President Oliver stated that the WNCCLC Constitution and By-Laws were approved by the SEDLO and are on the website. Sis. Starr Battle asked who approved the Constitution and By-Laws. President Oliver stated that the SEDLO President, Bro. Matthew Douglas had approved them. Sis. Battle stated that the SEDLO President cannot approve them without the Constitution and By-Laws Committee of the SEDLO. She stated that we need to table this matter. President Oliver stated that we will table the matter. (Previous WNCCLC Constitution and By-Laws was returned to the website after email from President Douglas and CLO 3rd VP Starr Battle)

Sis. Jacqueline C. Kanipe-Director of Lay Activities

Sis. Jacqueline Kanipe reported on the Lay Prayer Breakfast. She stated that some churches were sent 10 tickets for the breakfast and she had 3 letters to come back undeliverable. St. Paul-Chapel Hill, McElrath Chapel and Lincolnton all stated that they did not receive tickets. Sis. Kanipe stated that they will get tickets and that money could be turned in today to the Financial Secretary, Sis. Mozell Weston. The WNCCLC Lay Prayer Breakfast will be held on September 14, 2019 at Macedonia AME Church in Milton, NC, where the local Lay President is Sis. Joan Brandon. The doors will open at 9:00AM. Sis. Bettie Duell has been asked to preside. Sis. Duell ask that Sis. Kanipe leave that spot open for now and she will get back with her. The Community Choir of Milton will sing and the following persons have been asked to pray: Presiding Elder Pridgen, Bro. Kenneth Woods, Bro. Dwight Patterson, Sis. Shlonda Nottingham, and Bro. Elam. Sis. Mary Harris will conduct the Memorial Service with a song by Rev. Dr. Abdue Knox. Hostesses are needed and are asked to see Sis. Emma Devine. Three persons volunteered from Greater Bethel and 2 volunteered from Mt. Zion –Hillsborough. The Delegates and Alternates to the 2020 General Conference will be recognized. The deadline to report money for the breakfast is August 25, 2019.

CLO Biennial Delegates Updates

The printed reports are in the packet that was passed out earlier. Sis. Barbara Smith thanked the body for being elected as a Delegate to the Biennial. She informed the body that Sis. Starr Battle is running for the General Conference Judicial Committee. She stated that we need to make sure that we are supporting her. Bro. Kenneth Woods stated that this was the best Biennial he has been to as they gave out lots of information. Sis. Battle stated that the conference was live streamed throughout the conference. Sis. Battle asked why a YAR was not sent by the

conference to the Biennial. She stated that she needs clarification as to why a YAR was not on the ballot. President Oliver stated that she will check the minutes from that meeting and get back to her. (The minutes were shared with CLO 3rd VP Starr Battle and she shared with me the reason given for Tasha Duell not being the young adult delegate was incorrect. The young adult delegate does not have to be an office of the WNCC Lay Executive Board. She would not have replaced the YAR position. Therefore, Tasha is owed an apology by the WNCC Lay Organization. We all need to be mindful to follow our Lay Constitution and Bylaws, at all times.)

Next Steps to Mirroring Project

President Oliver discussed The Mirroring Project-next steps, the deadline is October 22, 2019. She stated that the information is in the packet. Need to look at what our church presented and work on one item. Set a goal, purpose and vision (for example: Conversions-set a goal to get people into the church) the plan will go to the Bishop. Each church needs to choose the one item to work on, make a mission statement and an action statement send the information to President Oliver and she will forward the information to the Presiding Elders.

New Lives In Christ

The Lay of the church is asked to take a picture of every new member, that person will get an invitation to come to Lay Night at Annual Conference to be recognized. President will ask for the pictures. This will help keep the numbers correct when the Pastors and Delegates have to give the report on membership at Annual Conference. A question was raised about Affiliate members to which President Oliver stated this only applies to new members. Sis. Battle stated that we need to have training on what conversions, accessions and membership means.

General Conference Lay Delegation

The Delegates and Alternates to the General Conference were recognized as follows:

Delegates:

Sis. Penny Oliver
Sis. Flo Avery
Bro. Woodrow Winchester
Sis. Barbara Smith
Sis. Azzie Conley
Bro. Dwight Patterson
Sis. Alice Hillman
Sis. Jesse Cardwell
Bro. Christian Beatty

Alternates:

Sis. Emma Devine
Sis. Sonia Barbre
Sis. Tasha Duell
Sis. Nikki Allen
Sis. Barbara Myers
Sis. Diane Foy
Bro. Preston Thomas
Bro Ernest Dark
Sis. Tamara Ervin

The Clergy Delegates and Alternates to the General Conference were announced. Sis. Mary Harris asked for a Point of Clarification as to Rev. Reddon's name being read in the listing. President Oliver stated that Rev. Reddon will still sit with the WNCC Delegation as he was elected in the WNCC.

NEW BUSINESS

WNCCLO Shirts

Sis. Shontea Smith designed T-Shirts to be worn at the CLO Biennial (the shirt was shown.) The T-Shirts will be \$25. The women's shirts run small but the men's run more true to size. If we want to order these we can get with Sis. Jackie Kanipe.

Location of WNCCLO Meetings (Greensboro/WS/HP are or various locations)

Sis. Teresa Watson made a motion that we travel throughout the conference for our meetings and it was seconded by Bro. Kenneth Woods. A vote was taken to travel for the meetings or to keep them in a centralized location. The vote went as follows:

Travel-26

Central location-36

Our meetings will be held in a central location within the Greensboro/WS/HP Area.

Lay and Clergy Institute-Sis. Jacqueline Kanipe-DOLA

Sis. Kanipe stated that the Lay and Clergy Institute will be held at St. Matthew AME in Burlington, NC. The date is November 9, 2019 with registration beginning at 8:30AM. The Institute will begin at 9:00AM and end at 12:00PM. The Planning Committee will be Sis. Gertrude Upperman, Bro. Dwight Patterson, Sis. Sonia Barbre, Sis. Bettie Duell, and Sis. Mary Harris. Sis. Starr Battle suggested that a new local President be added to the committee as they may have questions that others may not think of. Sis. Whitney Johnson was added to the committee.

Topic Suggestions included: Recruitment and Retention of Lay; Evangelism; Making Disciples; Importance of voting; Youth In Training. The Presiding Elders will have a session (1hr.) where they talk to the Lay and we can ask questions from the floor. President stated that the Presiding Elders are working on other topics. Sis. Starr Battle was asked to facilitate the session on Evangelism and she accepted. Other suggestions for topics were: Marketing, Role of a Pastor in the church and Relationship with the Stewards and Trustees. Sis. Barbre stated that there should be a panel of youth to discuss what they want to see in the church.

Registration for the Lay and Clergy Institute is \$10.

Second Episcopal District Community Development Corporation Update

Rev. Gwen Wise-Blackman and President Oliver serve as members of the CDC. Rev. Wise-Blackman stated that we borrowed \$2,193,750.00 to purchase an office building on Pennsylvania Ave in Washington DC. Members of the SED made pledges on this project and we have been collecting money on 2 Sundays to help fund the project. A question was raised about the reporting of the money received. Rev. Wise-Blackman stated that a report will be made at the Annual Conferences, Summer Summit and at the Mid-Winter Meeting. She stated that the

building has already been closed on. President Oliver stated that the money from the rent on this building will go to pay assessments for the 50 smaller churches in the SED so they can focus on evangelism. Sis. Starr Battle raised a question about what happens with this property when a new Bishop comes in. Rev. Wise-Blackman stated that the Bishop is not part of the Committee. The Committee voted to get a Management Company to handle the rent for the building. The Bishop does not have a say but it is up to the Annual Conferences. The Committee voted on By-Laws and the members will rotate off the Committee.

A question was raised about the Kittrell Project. Sis. Emma Devine stated that 86 acres of the property has been converted into a Solar Farm. The plan to put a hotel on the site would not be profitable as the hotel would not be used enough to pay for it. She stated that there is a contract to harvest the timber and Duke Power will buy the power from the Solar Farm.

Study Guide 19-20/Laity Teaching Moment-Sis. Jackie Kanipe-DOLA

President Oliver informed the body that there is a new Pin and Study guide. If persons would like the new Pins we can order them at \$10 to be paid in advance. She stated that the information is in the Newsletter on the new logo for 2017-2020. Sis. Battle stated that this logo is for the new theme only as we have a standard symbol for the Lay.

Sis. Kanipe discussed the symbols in the new study guide and what each one means. The Study Guides are \$25 and you can go through the AME Book Store to purchase them. The Study Guide relates to the new theme for 2017-2020.

If anyone is interested in the Christian Recorder you can send in a subscription on your own. The information on how to subscribe will be in the newsletter.

Membership Update-Sis. Shontea Smith-Membership Coordinator

Today's attendance was 92. We have 53 of 82 churches active with a Lay Organization. The 2019 Membership Drive-1,382 members that is 1,357 Adults and 25 YARs. Bro. Winchester reported that we will turn in 1,302 members on 8/17/19.

Announcements

The WNCCLO has the highest membership of the 5 Conferences.

The CLO Executive Board Meeting is December 5-7, 2019 in Atlanta, GA.

Lay Witness Sunday is October 13, 2019. If you are having speakers get the information to Sis. Barbara Myers so they can be codified.

Lay Evangelism Sunday is March 31, 2020 submit information to Sis. Myers.

August 17, 2019-Sis. Starr Battle will speak at Clapps Chapel AME for their Lay Breakfast.

General Conference Delegation will meet at the Mid-Winter Meeting-Founders Day.

The Bishop will preach at the Western District Conference on Thursday, September 26, 2019. The Western District Conference is September 26-28 at St. James AME in Winston Salem, NC.

President Oliver asked that we please look through our packets for General Conference information. Delegates and Alternates do not register as the District will register you. Observers will need to register themselves.

Praise Reports were given.

Closing Prayer was given by Bro. Woodrow Winchester and the Lay Benediction was sung in unison.

The meeting was adjourned by President Oliver.

Respectfully Submitted

Joy P. Grandy

Joy P. Grandy
WNCCLO Assistant Recording Secretary