

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization  
Virtual Meeting – August 13, 2022**

**President Barbara R. Myers, Presiding**

The WNCC Lay Organization Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Barbara R. Myers.

**Devotion/Prayer**      **Sis. Carol Davenport, WNCC-LO Chaplain**

The scripture lesson for today came from *John 17:18* ***As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. (KJV)***

**Subject Entitled**

*“Focus On Our Purpose”*

If we are followers of Jesus Christ God has given us a mission in this world, we are not here to take up space, strive after our own personal goals, but we have an assignment from God himself. Once we are in God’s family our life changes, we have a new reason for living, our life isn’t about us anymore but it’s about Gods will and God’s mission. After devotion Sis. Davenport led us in prayer.

**Approval of Agenda**

President Myers asked for the approval of the agenda that was sent in the packet prior to today’s meeting. With no corrections or additions, Sis. Azzie Conley made a motion to accept the agenda as printed and circulated to the lay body and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sis. Carol Davenport motion carried.

**Welcome**                      **Sis. Sonia Barbre, WNCC-LO Western District Coordinator**

The Lay Body received an arousing, warm welcome from Sis. Barbre the Western District Coordinator. She expressed her overwhelming joy with so many in attendance for the first meeting in support of the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization.

President Myers introduced to the lay body the SEDLO President Bro. Matthew Douglas who greeted the body and congratulated everyone on being elected in their position. President Douglas informed the body that the SEDLO Lay Convention will be held virtually September 29-Oct 1 more information will follow in the coming weeks. President Douglas mentioned he was waiting for Bishop Davis to release communication on behalf of the NAACP membership drive. The SEDLO President along with Rev. Kim Moss are leading the efforts to meet our first goal of 10,000 members.

**Minutes** – *(in the packet)*

Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary read minutes from the April 2022 meeting, with no corrections noted or mentioned, Bro. Owens moved to accept the minutes as read 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sis. Mary Roseboro motion carried.

**Roll Call**

**Bro. Brandon Owens, WNCC-LO Recording Secretary**

**Present**

Sis. Barbara R. Myers-President  
Sis. Betty Parker-1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Sis. Mary Royster Harris-2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Bro. Brandon Owens-Recording Secretary  
Sis. Joy Grandy-Asst. Recording Secretary  
Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys-Treasurer  
Sis. Bettie Duell-Financial Secretary  
Sis. Bobbi Hague-Parliamentarian  
Sis. Carol Davenport-Chaplain  
Sis. Azzie Conley-Dir. Lay Activities  
Bro. Kenneth Woods, Sr., Eastern District Coordinator  
Sis. Sonia Barbre, Western District Coordinator  
Sis. Gertrude Upperman, *Ex-officio Officer*

**Absent**

Sis. Portia Holman, Dir. of Public Relations  
Bro. Dwight Patterson, Ex-Officio  
Bro. Woodrow Winchester, Ex-Officio  
Bro. Adam Johnston, SEDLO YAR

**Excused**

Sis. Penny Oliver, Ex-Officio

**Financial Report**

**Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys, WNCC-LO Treasurer**

Sis. Jeffreys shared the last financial report was given by the immediate past treasurer Bro. Woodrow Winchester with a balance of **\$14,721.92**. Sis. Jeffreys informed the body there has been no activity to the account since being elected as treasurer, lastly, she reported the stated amount of **\$14,721.92** currently shows on the bank statement. The report was received as information only.

**Meet Your Newly Elected Conference Officers – (Sharing Their Vision)**

**Betty Parker – WNCC-LO 1<sup>ST</sup> Vice President**

Discussed how do we get new members to join the lay organization and the purpose of the *Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church*. Sis. Parker gave a brief explanation of how the Doctrine and Discipline works. Lastly, she mentioned the Discipline does not replace the Bible. Sis. Parker also stated she is working with Rev. Brent Edwards on making a video as to why joining the lay organization is important in the AME Church more information will be forthcoming.

**Mary Harris – WNCC-LO 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Shared with the lay body her role as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President according to the **BODD**. Sis. Harris stated she is responsible for strategic planning and coordinating assignments assigned by the President and the Executive Board. Sis. Harris mentioned, while her description is vague, she sees this as an opportunity for creativity. She mentioned a survey will be sent and encouraging all local lay members to complete the survey and as part of our strategic planning. Moving forward we plan to grow, but not without a plan. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve and looked forward to serving this conference year.

**Brandon Owens** – *WNCC-LO Recording Secretary*

Discussed the importance of being transparent and keeping the lines of communication open between clergy and lay members as we have done in previous administrations. Bro. Owens also commented since being elected as recording secretary he is making himself available to the entire lay body, his contact information was made available.

**Joy Grandy** – *WNCC-LO Assistant Recording Secretary*

Shared with the lay body her vision for this conference year is to assist Bro. Brandon Owens with keeping accurate records and documentation of all business of the *WNCC-LO* so that we may be transparent in any and everything we do. Sis. Grandy stated her contact information will be left in the chat below.

**Dorothy Jeffreys** – *WNCC-LO Treasurer*

Introduced herself to the entire lay body as being new to the position but not new to the organization. Sis. Jeffreys stated she has been serving in the financial part of the church for quite some time. She also mentioned being the treasurer of this organization is bit of a challenge, but she is willing to learn. Her vision is to be accountable, dependable, making sacrifices, with dedication to this body, and making sure there is continued transparency along with accuracy thought out all the transactions that go on from the financial part of this organization. Sis. Jeffreys ended by thanking everyone for entrusting her to serve in this capacity.

**Bettie Duell** – *WNCC-LO Financial Secretary*

Shared her duties which include maintain records, processing incoming records, and all expenditures. Sis. Duell's vision is to support in unity within the organization and maintain accurate financial records that are accessible.

**Carol Davenport** – *WNCC-LO Chaplain*

Praised and thank God for the opportunity to serve in the position of chaplain because there is nothing more important than prayer. Sis. Davenport stated her vision is for continual persistent prayer. Sis. Davenport mentioned she would like to start a prayer team with in the entire *WNCC-LO*. Sis. Davenport asked all chaplains and or presidents from the local church to please contact her regarding this prayer team project.

**Azzie Conley** – *WNCC-LO Director of Lay Activities*

Greeted the lay body and stated she is honored to serve as DOLA of the *WNCC-LO*. She acknowledged individuals from her hometown. Sis. Conley's vision is to let God take control and lead her with whatever suggestions or opportunities that she may have to serve or strengthen the *WNCC-LO*. She went on to mentioned she spends a lot of time communicating and collaborating with both the eastern and western district coordinators in all things she brings forward to the table. Sis. Conley mentioned she believes in structure, organization, and the constitution and by-laws which are set in place for a purpose. Lastly, Sis. Conley mentioned President Myers asked her serve as chair of the Constitution and By-Laws committee. Sis. Conley thanked everyone for entrusting her to serve as DOLA of the *WNCCLO*.

**Kenneth Woods** – *WNCC-LO Eastern District Coordinator*

Greeted the lay body with thanks for electing him as the eastern district coordinator. Bro. Woods mentioned he will continue to follow in the path that previous coordinators followed. He stated he would like to explain the process to churches that are sending in their membership roster and yearly dues to the conference lay organization. So many churches aren't being counted as having an active lay organization because they are not sending in their membership dues. His goal for the year is to work closely with churches in the eastern district to establish lay organizations in churches that does not currently have an organization.

**Sonia Barbre** – *WNCC-LO Western District Coordinator*

Shared a word of thanks to Sis. Bettie Duell who she worked and trained under as coordinator. Sis. Barbre vision is to reach out to all churches in the western district to meet and make sure everyone is on one accord with the same information that we all can share and increase our numbers of the lay organization. Also, Sis. Barbre is wanting to make sure everyone participates in all programs across the district and conference to where each person can grow, love, and train one another. Lastly, Sis. Barbre shared with the body that walking by faith we can achieve these goals.

President Myers thanked each officer for sharing their vision and she encourages the members of the *WNCCLO* to reach out to individuals, and as a team we can make a difference to our members, church, and community hopefully making disciples for Christ.

**WNCCLO Members Serving at other Levels of the Church** – **Azzie Conley**, *WNCC-LO DOLA*

Before acknowledging members serving in different areas of the church, Sis. Conley acknowledged the following clergy for joining the meeting today.

1. Rev. Shelton T. Miles, Pastor, Gaston Chapel, Morganton
2. Rev. Kim Moss, Pastor, St. Paul, Lenoir
3. Timothy Dorsey, Pastor, Johnson Chapel, Mebane

4. Rev. Randolph P. Lynch, Pastor, St. James, Winston Salem

The following persons are serving different areas of the church:

1. Sis. Starr Battle, Connectional Level, Judicial Council
2. Sis. Penny Oliver, CLO Legislation Committee
3. Bro. Adam Johnston, SEDLO YAR, Candidate for Re-Election
4. Bro. Kenneth Woods, SEDLO Chaplain, Candidate for Re-Election
5. Sis. Jacqueline C. Kanipe, Candidate for Assistant Secretary, SEDLO

After acknowledging members listed above, Sis. Conley acknowledged the presence of the WNCC WMS Conference Branch President Sis. Diane Tawwab, and thanked her for being a part of our meeting.

### **Parliamentarian Moment – Bobbi Hague – *WNCC-LO Parliamentarian***

Discussions were held about parliamentarian procedures and Roberts Rules. Sis. Hague mentioned she will ask Sis. Conley to send out a presentation after the meeting concerning parliamentarian procedures and Roberts Rules for those who are interested.

### **Old Business**

#### **Conference Officers Vacancies**

President Myers shared the following conference office vacancies:

1. Third Vice President
2. Corresponding Secretary
3. Historiographer
4. Young Adult Representative (YAR)

President Myers is asking everyone to please share this information with their local lay organization, information about these positions is included in the packet.

### **New Business**

#### **CLO Legislation Committee**

President Myers shared information about the CLO Legislation Committee which was enclosed with the meeting packet. President Myers is asking everyone to please read the information to better understand how legislation is proposed and submitted.

#### **SED NAACP Membership Challenge**

President Myers introduced Rev. Kim Moss who shared information about the SED NAACP Membership Drive. Rev. Moss stated Bishop Davis presented her and SEDLO President

Matthew Douglas with the opportunity to be coordinators for the recruitment campaign. Rev. Moss stated the goal is to have 10,000 members join the NAACP by October. She also stated individuals do not have to be AME to join the NAACP. An application was enclosed within the meeting packet.

### **SED Level Up/Mortgage Burning**

Rev. Moss discussed information that was presented during the summer summit about the level up campaign. She mentioned \$85,000.00 was needed to eliminate the mortgage on the building that was purchased on Pennsylvania Ave in Washington, DC. It was noted the goal was not reached while at the summit. Rev. Moss mentioned Bishop Davis is asking individuals to join the level up campaign and to contribute at least \$350.00 which can be mailed to the bishop's office or given electronically, the mortgage burning event will be held in October more information to follow.

### **Director of Lay Activities – Azzie Conley**

#### **Annual Lay Breakfast**

Sis. Azzie Conley gave greetings on behalf of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual lay breakfast committee by introducing committee members and consultants. Sis. Conley informed the body the annual lay breakfast would held virtually, along with the theme “Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transends, and Liberates” and scripture text Luke 4: 18-19. Sis. Conley also shared this year's format will be a combination of clergy and laity, along with different component ministries from across the WNC Conference. Lastly, Sis. Conley is asking all churches to please provide names of persons who has passed to their respective district coordinators to be identified during the memorial service.

#### **WNCCLO Lay Institute**

Sis. Conley stated the lay institute is scheduled for November 12, 2022, via the zoom platform. She also mentioned if there are persons interested in serving on the committee to coordinate and organize this year's institute, they will begin meeting around the first of September.

#### **SED and WNCCLO Calendar**

Sis. Conley shared in the packet there are various dates that apply to both the SEDLO and WNCCLO. She also mentioned this template is in the making with more dates to be added during this conference year.

#### **Lay Witness Sunday**

Sis. Conley mentioned lay witness Sunday is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in October. She went on to say this item was approved in 1967 where the official lay witness Sunday was designated.

#### **SEDLO Update**

### **SEDLO Convention**

President Myers informed the body information about the SEDLO Convention is within the meeting packet. She also mentioned as more information does come out about the convention she will share with the body.

### **SEDLO Assessments**

President Myers gave the following information: September 17, 2022, the WNCCLO will be making their annual assessment payment of \$750.00, membership fee of \$2.00 per member as of September 17, 2022, and the Davis-McKenney Scholarship Fund, along with the Executive Board assessment of \$50.00 all of which will be made payable to the SEDLO.

### **WNCCLO Committees**

President Myers shared with the body, the WNCCLO Executive Committee has decided to establish the following committees:

- A. Budget/Finance Committee
- B. Constitution/Bylaws Committee
- C. Lay Activity/Program Committee
- D. Membership Committee
- E. Nomination Committee
- F. Social Action Committee
- G. Technology Committee

President Myers shared as far as technology we are looking for individuals who is willing to help coordinate our meetings, create flyers, and help with registration for our meetings. President Myers also shared if anyone has the ability or know of anyone who is willing to serve on any of these committees, please contact her or any member of the executive committee.

### **Round Robin**

#### **Announcements**

WNCC WMS Conference Branch President Sis. Diane Tawwab expressed how happy she is to be a part of the WNCCLO. She also asked the entire lay to please support the WNCC WMS as they host their president retreat next week.

Bro. Kenneth Woods announced White Cross AME, Efland will host a one-night revival August 19, 2022, with the Rev. Archie T. Evans and the Male Chorus of Rock Creek AME, Snow Camp as guest preacher. Bro. Woods asked everyone please keep the Cheek and White Cross church family in prayer as they go through their hour of bereavement.

President Myers is asking everyone to please pay special attention to your voter registration, also the 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District will be doing a roll out about voter registration.

## Praise Reports

Sis. Gerald Logan is asking everyone to pray for Bro. John Smith who funeralized his wife Sis. Laura Smith on yesterday at St. Joseph AME, Durham.

Bro. Brandon Owens mentioned how good it was to see Sis. Gertrude Upperman on the call, he shared the Shiloh AME Church Lay Organization, and his family is continuing to pray for you in the recent passing of Bro. Lamont.

President Myers mentioned she is planning to reach out to Bro. John Smith this week and asking everyone to keep Sis. Emma Devine in prayer in the recent passing of her loved one.

## **Adjournment/ Closing Prayer/ Lay Benediction**

Bro. Brandon Owens made a motion to adjourn 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sis. Ruth Roseboro motion carried. Bro. Kenneth Woods closed the meeting with prayer. Sis. Carol Davenport led the WNCCLO with the lay benediction being read aloud with others muted.

## **Respectfully Submitted,**

Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary





