

**Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization  
Virtual Meeting- January 14, 2023**

**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/Word of Encouragement**                      **Sis. Carol Davenport, WNCCLC Chaplain**

Sis. Davenport gave a spirit filled praise report and testimony about how good God has been to her during her sickness. She went on to thank everyone for their continued prayers.

Today's devotion moment is about testimonies and why it's important to give God praise. During her health challenges Sis. Davenport mentioned that she took time to give her Lord and Savior praise for the many things that he has done and continues to do in her life. We as christians today should always take time to give honor, glory, and praise to our God for the great things he has done. After the devotion moment Sis. Davenport led us in prayer.

**Welcome**                      **Sis. Mary L. Roseboro, Gaston Chapel AMEC, DOLA**

***Psalm 18:24 (KJV) "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"***

The lay body received a warm and heartfelt welcome from Sis. Mary Roseboro as she welcomed everyone to today's meeting. During her welcome Sis. Roseboro established protocol.

**Roll Call**                      **Bro. Brandon Owens, WNCCLC Recording Secretary**

**Present**

- Sis. Barbara R. Myers, President
- Sis. Betty Parker, 1st Vice President
- Sis. Gerald Logan, 3rd Vice President
- Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary
- Sis. Joy Grandy, Asst. Recording Secretary
- Sis. Charmayne Morrison, Corresponding Secretary
- Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys, Treasurer
- Sis. Bettie Duell, Financial Secretary
- Sis. Carol Davenport, Chaplain
- Sis. Bobbi Hague, Parliamentarian
- Sis. Azzie Conley, Dir. Of Lay Activities
- Bro. Kenneth Woods, Eastern Dist. Coordinator
- Sis. Sonia Barbre, Western Dist. Coordinator
- Sis. Danita Thompson, Historiographer
- Sis. Penny Oliver, *Ex-Officio Officer*

**Absent**

- Sis. Portia Holman, Dir. of Public Relations
- Bro. Adam Johnston, SED YAR
- Sis. Gertrude Upperman, *Ex-Officio Officer*
- Bro. Woodrow Winchester, *xOfficioOfficer*
- Bro. Dwight Patterson, *ExOfficioOfficer*

**Approval of Agenda** (in the packet)

President Myers called for the approval of the agenda that was sent in the packet prior to today's meeting. No additional changes or additions were noted. Sis. Azzie Conley made a motion to accept the agenda as printed, Sis. Betty Parker 2nd the motion, motion carried.

**Minutes** (in the packet)

Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary read minutes from our October 08, 2022 meeting, with no corrections noted or mentioned. Sis. Betty Parker made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Sis. Mary Roseboro 2nd the motion, motion carried.

**Correspondence**      **Sis. Charmayne Morrison, WNCCLO Corresponding Secretary**

President Myers mentioned to the body she received a card of thanks from both Presiding Elder Pridgen and Mrs. Pridgen and Presiding Elder Antia Thompson on their gifts sent from the WNCCLO.

**Financial Report**      **Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys, WNCCLO Treasurer**  
   **Sis. Bettie Duell, WNCCLO Financial Secretary**

Treasurer report was received as information and can be found on pg. 8 in the meeting packet.

In addition to the treasurer's report there was discussion pertaining to the collection of membership dues from each local lay organization. It was stated that membership dues are to be collected for the 2022 annual conference year and not the 2023 annual conference year. Sis. Charmayne Morrison made a motion to accept membership dues up to April 01, 2023 for the 2022 annual conference year, 2nd by Sis. Emma Devine, motion carried.

A letter will be sent out to each local lay president notifying them of this change.

**CLO Legislation Update**      **Sis. Penny Oliver**

Sis. Oliver informed the body the resolution on LGBTQ was sent to President Matthew Douglas, she will send the resolution to President Myers for her to distribute to the entire lay organization. She went on to mention that 4 bills were presented to the CLO Proposal Legislation Committee from the Second Episcopal District, 3 from the Washington Conference, and 1 from the Virginia Conference.

Sis. Oliver asked if there are any updates, or questions to the proposed legislation please send them to her. The bills that are in today's packet have already been submitted to the CLO proposed legislation committee. Sis. Oliver stated to the body that as of today there have been 20 bills submitted to the committee. The committee meets at 7:30 pm on Thursday's to go over bills that have been submitted, once the bills are vetted she will share with the organization. She went on to mention that the 2nd district met on December 28, 2022 and discussed the 4 bills that were submitted.

Sis. Oliver announced to the organization that the General Conference committee met in November to discuss the change of venue and dates for the General Conference. Sis. Oliver stated the change of venue is due to not being able to secure housing in Cincinnati due to hotels not being built. She went on to mention that since the change of venue happened, the dates for the general conference changed from June 2023 to August 2023 to accommodate the new venue in Columbus, Ohio. Lastly, she mentioned that this information has been made public to the connectional church, she will forward information as she receives it.

### **Words from Conference and District Leadership**

Presiding Elder Conrad Pridgen greeted the lay organization by thanking everyone for allowing him to be a part of the meeting.

Sis. Conley asked Presiding Elder Pridgen to address the body with guidelines and or information on the election of delegates from the local church to serve in the electoral college, and the level up campaign.

### **Lay Electoral College**

Presiding Elder Pridgen briefly discussed the election of delegates to the electoral college. He mentioned that each pastor has to announce the election of delegates to the Lay Electoral College two weeks prior to holding the election. Elder went on to mention that the election must be held at least 3 months prior to the opening of the annual conference. He also stated the Lay Electoral College will be the body that elects persons to be delegates to the General Conference.

### **Level Up**

Presiding Elder Pridgen mentioned that each Presiding Elder in the 2nd Episcopal District has been assigned a certain amount of money to raise within their district. The amount given by Bishop Davis represents the same percentage that each elder pays for their general budget. Presiding Elder Prigden stated that the purchase of the building is a vision and a dream come true, for decades we have been open to buy hotels, or some type of profit making venture that would be able to bring financial support to the 2nd Episcopal District. Once the building is paid each year resources will come into the district.

### **Conference Officers Reports**

President Myers stated to the body that on last Monday she had a ZOOM meeting with the local lay presidents, she wanted every president to know that she thanked those who took time out of their schedule to be on the ZOOM call. She also stated that she will be holding quarterly president meetings.

### **Teaching Moment Sis. Bobbie Hague, Parliamentarian**

Sis Hague put together a cheat sheet on how to do ZOOM meetings or anytime of online meetings, the sheet is included in today's meeting packet.

## **New Business**

### **SED NAACP Membership Campaign**

President Myers stated the NAACP membership campaign is ongoing and we are awaiting additional information prior to the convening of our Mid Winter meeting and Founders Day. President Myers is asking everyone to please join through your church if you haven't already.

### **Director of Lay Activities Sis. Azzie Conley**

Sis. Conley gave her report by mentioning that she attended the following events: 2nd Episcoapl District Christmas with the Bishop, 2nd Episcopal District Advent Service, CLO Executive Board Meeting, 4th District Lay Institute, Clergy & Lay Institute, Summit hosted by Rev. Matthew Watley and the Kingdom Fellowship AME Church. Sis. Conley mentioned that she is trying to pull together a lot of the presentations that were shared during the summit at Kingdom Fellowship. She went on to say that she plans to attend the 2nd Episcopal District Founders Day and the dedication of the Valarie Faith Gary Bell Building.

Sis. Conley made notice that the SED and WNCCLO Calendar updates are included in today's meeting packet. Lastly, Sis. Conley thanked Presiding Elder Pridgen for giving us information about the lay electoral college and the level up campaign.

During her report Sis. Conley asked President Myers if the floor could be open for discussion if the WNCCLO would like to go on record for some type of financial commitment in support of the level up campaign as we venture forward meeting the responsibility assigned to both presiding elders. Lastly, Sis. Conley asked that if anyone in the meeting today would be interested in serving on the Lay Witness Service Committee please let her know at the conclusion of this meeting.

Sis. Conley made a motion for the Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization to make a contribution of \$1,000.00 to the level up campaign, 2nd by Bro. Paul Williams and Bro. John Smith. During the lengthy discussion it was decided that our corresponding secretary will send out a voting poll to either send or not to send the \$1,000.00 to the level up campaign. The poll will only be sent to those persons who registered for today's meeting.

### **Praise Reports and Announcements**

Sis. Jackie Kanipe praised God for the attendance of Bro. John Smith.

### **Election of CLO Biennial Delegates**

The following persons were elected as delegates to the CLO Biennial.

Brandon Owens-District Delegate

Penny Oliver

Bettie Duell

Tasha Duell-Youth

Kenneth Woods  
Betty Parker  
Gearld Logan  
Jackie Kanipe

Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary cast a unanimous ballot on said names, 2nd by Sis. Charmayne Morrison, motioned carried.

President Myers thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. Bro. Kenneth Woods led us in closing prayer and Sis. Davenport led us in the Lay Benediction.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brandon Owens*

Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary