**Western NC Conference Lay Organization Meeting**

***Persimmon Grove AME Church – Dolly Madison Road***

***Greensboro, NC* – January 11, 2020**

President Penny Oliver called the Western NC Lay Organization Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! She announced that Sister Jessie Cardwell, our Chaplain, because of sickness, is excused from today’s meeting. In her absence Brother Lamont Upperman will lead us in **Devotion.**

 The Lay Body was lead by Brother Upperman in singing, *“This is the Day that the Lord Has Made.”* Afterwards, he prayed and the Lay Body repeated *Psalm 23,* in unison.

**Welcome**

The Lay Body received a warm, heartfelt welcome from the Local Lay President, Stephanie Gause and *the First Man of Persimmon Grove,* Brother Bud Smith, in absentia of Pastor Debora Lawson Smith.

**Roll Call of Officers Diane Foy**

**Present Excused**

Penny Oliver, President Mozell Weston, Financial Secretary

Betty Parker, First Vice President Jessie Cardwell, Chaplain

Adam Johnston, Second Vice President Angela Elam, Dir. Public Relations

Barbara Myers, Third Vice President

Diane Foy, Recording Secretary Mary Dasher-McAdams, *Ex-officio*

Joy Grandy, Assistant Recording Secretary James Hill, *Ex-Officio*

Barbara Smith, Corresponding Secretary Dwight Patterson, *Ex-officio*

Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer

Bobbi Hague, Parliamentarian

Jacqueline Kanipe, Director of Lay Activities

Mary Royster-Harris, Young Adult Representative

Bettie Duell, Eastern District Coordinator

Sonia Barbre, Western District Coordinator

Shontea Smith, Credentials/Membership Chair

Kenneth Woods, Chaplain, *District Level*

Gertrude Upperman*, Ex-officio Officer*

Starr Battle, *3rd Vice President, Connectional Level*

**Minutes**

President Oliver asked the Body, after perusing the Minutes, if there were any corrections; none stated. No Corrections, the Minutes stand approved as printed. Our president announced that the printed materials for today were prepared by Saint Joseph. There were too many pages to staple/number; other avenues are being explored to communicate with members.

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**Officers Reports**

 **Angela Elam, Director of Public Relations**, report was sent via text, due to her illness, to President Oliver and read by Diane Foy, Recording Secretary.

 *“The newsletter public distribution total now is* ***232.*** *Joseph*

 *Temple’s history will be featured in the February issue and*

 *Clapps Chapel will be in the March issue.”*

Information to be printed for the newsletter is asked to be submitted as soon as possible.

**Adam Johnston, 2nd Vice President**, reported on CLO Executive Meeting/CONVO IX Winter Meeting he attended, December 2-5, 2019 at the Hilton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA. There was no written report, however, (The second part of the packet distributed today is the information from the CONVO, and President Oliver encouraged everyone, especially delegates and alternates to the General Conference to read and digest this report from cover to cover.) The next **Biennial Lay Biennial** will be held in **Chicago, IL, July 3 – July 8, 2021.**

**Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer,** verified the total current ending balance as of December 31, 2019. A detailed report will be submitted at our March 14, 2020 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

 **Lay/Clergy Institute Update: Jackie Kanipe & Committee**

The Lay/Clergy Institute annual date is always the 2nd Saturday in November, location is still being considered. President Oliver encouraged us, and other organizations within the AMEC please do not schedule any other meetings on this date. We are a connectional church and serve as a whole, missionaries, laity, etc. All un-ordained members of the AMEC are laity – you must pay your lay dues to be a “card carrying” lay member.

 **Offices Nomination Update Gertrude Upperman, *Chairperson***

The WNCC Lay Organization Election will take place ***Saturday, April 11, 2020 @ 10 am,*** St. James AMEC, Winston Salem. Letters of Intent may be found online wncclay.org (fill able form), due no later **than March 11, 2020.**

Sister Upperman has only received four (4) forms as of today’s meeting.

**Mary Royster Harris, Young Adult Representative**, reported on the program proposal originally presented at our last meeting, January 6, 2020.

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Each church in the conference is asked to donate **$300**, as was done this year, by **Saturday, April 11, 2020**, at St. James A.M.E. Church, Winston Salem. If you are unable to attend, mail your donation to Bro. Woodrow Winchester at 912 Fairgreen Road, Greensboro, NC. *Please see attached printed report*, for more details on upcoming proposed project. Questions, Discussions and Comments were entertained.

**Conference President Benevolence: Barbara Myers, *3rd VP & Committee***

This committee was appointed to make a recommendation to the Lay Body, as to what action should taken in response to one of our conference president’ death.

*A motion was made by committee member Brandon Owens that we give*

*Resolution to the family and the sum of $100 to their favorite charity or*

*Local church for any past or present WNCCLO President upon their*

*death. The motion was seconded by Diane Foy. The motion passed with*

*unanimous vote of those present on the call.*

After this recommendation was presented to the Lay Body, much discussion followed. Sister Audrey McCain moved to amend her original motion to state read, with the option that –

“*We give the contribution of $100 first to the Family, Favorite Charity or*

 *local church.”*

**We voted and the Majority of the Lay Body was In Favor of this Option.**

**Social Action 3rd VP Barbara Myers & Others**

President Oliver invited those persons involved with Social Action activities in their church, communities, counties and cities to come stand with Sister Myers. Vice President Myers stated by networking and communicating information this will provide necessary details that might not otherwise get out to the parties that need to hear it and also provide an opportunity to update voter registration.

 The main thing to remember is, “***Everyone Must Vote***.” You can do this by Absentee or Early Voting. Since information is different, depending on the county you live in…..*please do your research!*  Feel free to contact your local Board of Elections, for any questions, you might have.

**Annual Lay Night** for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference is being coordinated by Bethel AME, Greensboro, NC; Rev. Clay Barrow, *Coordinator;* Dale Wragg, *Presiding* for the worship experienceand Rev. Radcliff will provide the music. Local presidents will line up with their pastors at 7:15 pm so the

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program will begin promptly. The date: ***Thursday, May 7 at 7:*30 pm at the Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC.**

The theme for the evening is, “***New Lives in Christ.”*** Special invitations were designed by Sister Shontea Smith, our Credentials & Membership Chair, and will be sent to the new members that have joined the various AME churches, in the Western NC Conference, since May 2019 to the present.

They will be asked to attend the Lay night. This list will be compiled by President Matthew Douglas, *Second Episcopal Lay President,* after receipt from Pastors to Presiding Elders via to Bishop. This will be a joint effort; local lay presidents are expected to assist their pastors in getting the new members to the Annual Conference for this program, as they will be seated together in a reserved section for each name to be called out.

 Because of the time frame, the committee had originally decided to have only one Oratorical, per President Oliver. After much discussion, it was moved by Adolphus Kelly to allow the both Oratorical to be heard on Lay Night; seconded by Gerald Logan. **Vote:** **For:** 38 **Opposed:** 2 – Both will be heard.

There will be a **$50.00 donation for Lay Night**. Recognition will be made of the Officer’s who have served eight years and the New Officer’s will be installed, as well as, listed on the program.

 **Starr Battle, *3rd Vice President*/*Connectional Level***

Sister Battle shared with the lay body additional information received at the CLO Executive Board Winter Meeting in Atlanta, GA. CLO Biennial will be held beginning; **Monday, July 3, 2021 – Thursday, July 8, 2021 in Chicago, IL**

***Great Park Hilton, Chicago.*** *Theme: “Onward to Greater,” focusing on Evangelism and Discipleship; t*he average age of lay members is 63 years old.

President Oliver announced that:

***“Mid-Winter Meeting Breakfast”*** will be held ***Friday,***

***February 14th; 7-9 AM; Cost: $30.00*** *–* ***“Pastor’s & Laity.”***

 **\*Tickets *must be paid for before distribution.\****

***“2nd Episcopal District Lay Convention”***

 ***September 24 – 26, 2020***

 ***(North Carolina Area –TBA)***

 ***More Information to Follow***

 **Laity Teaching Moment Jackie Kanipe, DOLA**

**Sister Kanipe** distributed lesson sheets entitled, “*Called to Serve: Lay Leaders,”* whichsummarized the importance of knowing your calling as a

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leader. Having the respect of others, loving others, loving God and doing His will all are vital in being a Godly Leader and having a relationship with God.

There were many attributes for all of us to consider as we run and vote for new officers for our Lay Organization. She proceeded to engage the body in an interesting exercise that included the “hymns of the church” that left everyone thinking and in a hearty mindset.

 Everyone was reminded that **Devotionals are available for $10.**

**Membership Update Shontea Smith, *Credentials/Membership Chair***

First, the status of our Polo Shirts, Sister Smith is in the process of revamping the logo, so that we will be able to order the new shirts in a different color. We will not be ordering from the previous company.

The membership total as of the end of December, 2019 was 1,406 members. Out of 84 churches, we have 53 that have joined the Lay Organization. So far, we have five (5) churches that have updated their 2020 Membership. Today, we have 64 members in attendance, for a total of $320; Persimmon Grove will receive $160 for today. You may mail/bring your membership check in to Brother Winchester, however, she would “*love”* electronic membership roll sent to her at: shontealsmith@gmail.com

**Praise Reports and Prayer**

Numerous reports and requests were expressed. President Oliver expressed the need for the Lay Presidents to let her know when there is sickness or bereavement at your church; this is her only means of being contacted. Sister Betty Duell, *Eastern District Coordinator,* gave the closing prayer and grace for the food. Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Diane Foy**

Diane Foy

**Attachment -1**

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is*

*For brethren to dwell together in unity!”*  **Psalm 33:1 *NKJV***

**January 15, 2020**

**Greetings, in the Name of the Most High God:**

Every year we anticipate scholarship time! The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization provided 10 students with scholarships last year and we could not be more proud of them and their accomplishments.

We are asking every church in the conference for a $300 scholarship donation. We are elated about the scholarship awards given last year, but we would love to do more; and in order to do that, we need the support of every local church in the conference. The young adults who have received scholarships from us are change agents on their various campuses, and we are honored to be a part of each of their stories.

Please have a representative from your church Lay Organization in attendance at the WNCC Lay Organization Meeting at St. James A.M.E. Church, Winston Salem on Saturday April 11, 2020 at 10 am. If you are unable to attend the Lay meeting monies can be mailed to Bro. Woodrow Winchester at **912 Fairgreen Road, Greensboro, NC 27410.**

Also, we are kicking our efforts off with the first ever WNCC YAR Sip and Paint Event entitled **“What’s On Your Canvas?”**! Where we will gather together for fellowship aimed at nurturing the young adults within the conference, getting to know one another and creating a space where we can dialogue while up building the WNCC Lay Organization and one another.

We urge young adults ages 18-35 to mark your calendars and join us on **April 18, 2020** from **3pm-5pm** at Mad Platter in Greensboro, NC. More information will be provided within the next few weeks.

We look forward to seeing you there and bring a friend!

Yours In Christ and Christian Love,

Mary Royster Harris, WNCC- LO Young Adult Representative

Adam Johnston, SED-LO Young Adult Representative

Whitney Johnson Brown, Committee Member

Betty Parker, Committee Member

Brandon Owens, Committee Member

Shontea Smith, Committee Member

Jacqueline Kanipe, WNCC-LO Director of Lay Activities

Penny Oliver, President Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

 **-Attachment 1-**