

**Western North Carolina Conference  
Lay Organization Meeting**

**January 10, 2015  
Persimmon Grove A. M. E. Church  
Greensboro, NC**

The meeting was called to order by President Penny Oliver at 10:00 am.

Devotion was led by our Chaplain Sis. Rosa Taylor which began with the singing of our Laymen Hymn after which she gave the prayer and scripture (Matt. 5:1-11).

President Oliver asked if there were any additions/deletions to the Agenda. There being none the Agenda was approved.

Roll Call of Officers was given by Sis. Barbara Smith, Corresponding Secretary. Officers not in attendance were: Sis. Diane Foy, Sis. Bertha McLendon, Bro. James Hill, and Bro. Dwight Patterson; all were excused.

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. President asked if there were any corrections, there being none the minutes were approved.

Bro. Woodrow Winchester gave the Treasurer's Report. The question was brought up as to why the delegates to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District Lay Convention did not receive the same stipend as was stipulated in the previous meeting. Bro. Winchester stated that this year they were given money for actual expenses. There was much discussion as to why the action was altered. Sis. Flo Avery made a motion that the President appoint a committee to review delegate expenses and report back to the body. Seconded by Bro. John Smith, motion was approved. The Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit.

Welcome was given by Rev. Debra Smith, Pastor of Persimmon Grove A. M. E. Church and Bro. Lamont Upperman, local president. Sis. Barbara Smith read a thank you note from Elizabeth A. M. E. Church thanking the Lay for the donation to help with repairs to their sanctuary roof.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Sis. Theresa Watson reported on the Prayer Breakfast held on Sept. 13, 2014. There were 210 participants; 18 churches from the Western District and 18 churches from the Eastern District participated. The Committee met at 9:30 am today and will meet at 9:00 am on March 14, 2015. The 2015 Prayer Breakfast will be held at St. Matthew A. M. E. Church, Raleigh, NC on September 12, 2015. Business Card Survey: there was a tie, President Oliver will break the tie.

Historiographer Sis. Sonia Barbre had a display of pictures taken at the Lay Convention and Prayer Breakfast. She also presented the Newsletter and it will be posted on the website. She asked that each church email their history, picture of lay president and church as soon as possible. She also had a photo album to display. President will get with Executive Board to see about buying a camera.

The question was asked, "Where do we keep our history?" The most recent records are at Bro. Hooker's house. We need to establish a central location. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

**Membership List** –Sis. Janie Wilson reported that four churches have turned in their memberships and dues. Greater Bethel, Charlotte; Payne's Chapel, Hillsborough; Persimmon Grove, Greensboro and St. Paul, Chapel Hill.

**President's Report** – President Oliver extended Best Wishes and a Happy New Year to everyone! She stated that Sis. Myrtle Mayo was recognized at the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Lay Convention as the Outstanding Lay Person from the Western North Carolina Conference. Bro. Kenneth Woods displayed the plaque that she received. Reports will be added to the minutes at the next meeting. We are to keep attendance records at our local lay meetings. Bro. Wilbert Hooker has now received his license as a Lay Minister. The new website will be available in February. We gave a donation to Elizabeth A. M. E. Church. They were very happy to receive it. She visited Joseph Temple A. M. E. Church in Laurinburg. She encouraged us to visit one another also. She stated that the information in packets was on the website and emailed. She thanked us for all that we do for the WNCC Lay Organization.

### **Old Business:**

Jack & Jill – Sis. Mary Harris reported that she has formulated a letter, with very simple form to be sent out to churches. The Jack & Jill will be held on April 11, 2015 at St. James A. M. E. Church, Winston-Salem, NC at 12:00 noon. Registration will begin at 10:45. Information will go out on Monday to churches. It was noted that the President's name/signature should be on the letter. If we work together, we can grow.

**Lay Institute:** Sis. Jackie Kanipe presented information about the Lay Organization Biennial Convention. What is the Lay Biennial? It is a Working Convention held every two years by the Connectional Lay. Any member in good and regular standing in the AME church is eligible to run as a delegate to represent the Conference Organization. The WNCCLO will have 7 delegates, one must be a youth age 18-26. You are not eligible if you have not paid your dues. The date of the Connectional Biennial is August 2-6, 2015, Charleston, SC. Registration is \$250.00.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Sis. Betty Parker gave further information concerning the biennial delegates. There are no rules affecting who can run as a delegate except, you must have attended one half of the WNCCLO meetings. Names will come from the floor. All members running must have a local lay organization of 5 or more members to be eligible to run as a delegate (pg. 384 in the AMEC 2012 Discipline). Sis. Parker will get with committee and determine who is eligible to

run and email to body. Dues must be in by February 17, 2015 in order to run as a delegate or to be eligible to vote.

**Lay Night** – Sis. Jackie Kanipe and Committee gave tentative plans for Lay Night (June 4, 2015) at Annual Conference. They had two options for the program: (1) Speaker; (2) Play (Glory Train). It was decided to have the play. Sis. Gertrude Upperman is waiting on “Fresh Fruit Ministries” to contact her. They do not charge a fee, but are usually given an honorarium. Presidents will march in with pastors. Attire – Stoles with appropriate Lay colors. Convention choir and musicians will provide the music. Jack & Jill contestants will be presented. One program participant will be a youth. A reception was not discussed. Bro. Kenneth Woods made a motion that the committee proceed with the plans. Motion carried.

Bro. Hooker made the statement that whenever someone has served their 8 years in the organization we only give them a card or certificate. He made a motion that we give Bro. Dwight Patterson a monetary donation. After much discussion, Sis. Flo Avery made a motion that President Oliver form a Benevolent Committee and bring results back to the body. Motion carried.

**Announcements:**

Sis. Sonia Barbre gave her email address: [spbarbre@hotmail.com](mailto:spbarbre@hotmail.com) and her mailing address is on the website.

Bro. Kenneth Woods – Lay Day at White Cross A. M. E. Church on January 18, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Sis. Penny Oliver will be the speaker. Come out and support White Cross.

Rev. Kim Moss – Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church, Hickory, NC, Lay Program January 25, 2015. Sis. Penny will be one of the speakers.

There is a new Membership List. Changes - Need name of District and City that church is located in.

The next meeting will be held March 14, 2015 at Mt. Zion A. M. E Church, 1422 Huffine Mill Road, Greensboro, NC 27406.

The meeting was closed with the Lay Benediction.

Barbara R. Smith  
Corresponding Secretary