



# LAY EXPRESS

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 11

## PRIMARY ELECTION—MARCH 15, 2016- MY VOICE COUNT!



### When did African American get the right to vote?

A number of blacks were killed at the Colfax massacre of 1873 while attempting to defend their right to vote. The Enforcement Acts were

passed by Congress in 1870–1871 to authorize federal prosecution of the KKK and others who violated the amendment.

### Which amendment deals with right to vote?

HAVE

YOU

?

### When did eighteen years old gain the right to vote?

### In what year did women get the right to vote?

### Who had the right to vote first black men or white women?

### When were blacks granted the right to vote in the U.S.?



The stamp art is a portrait of Allen, a detail from an 1876 print titled “Bishops of the A.M.E. Church.” Featuring Allen in the center surrounded by ten other bishops and six historical vignettes, the print is from the collection of the Library Company

## RICHARD ALLEN STAMP—GOT YOURS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The 39th stamp in the Black Heritage series commemorates preacher, activist, and civic leader Richard Allen (1760-1831), an inspiring figure whose life and work resonate profoundly in American history. This stamp coincides with the

200th anniversary of Allen’s founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, one of the most important institutions in African-American life, and his election and consecration as its first bishop.

The Richard Allen stamp is being issued as a Forever® stamp. This Forever stamp will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail® one-ounce price.

Stamp was issued on February 2, 2016.

## PRESIDENT MESSAGE –PENNY OLIVER

Thank you for being a team player!

These past two years the Western North Carolina Lay Organization has worked to put God first as we work together not as man over man but as lay persons working with God. That's call teamwork.

The role of the WNCCLO is a team effort that requires the cooperation of ALL the members of the body of Christ. Sometimes its members make serious mistakes, but this never means they are not needed. They may rebuke followed by forgiveness and restoration, but we must recognize they are needed as members of the body of Christ as Paul make so clear in [1 Corinthians 12](#).

It is teamwork that enables laity to

make ordinary human beings perform better than they seem capable of, to bring out whatever strength there is in its members, and to use each man's strength to help all the others perform. A team player does not seek to be a one-man show, but works together with his teammates and relies on their skills and abilities as he seeks to use his own abilities and gifts in a cooperative way. As I have stated on numerous occasions, I am persuaded that if we unite our hearts and minds together in one band of Christian love an allow



**UNITED WE STAND**

ourselves to be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve not only this great church of Allen, but all of humankind. We will see Him add a new agenda, with new ideas, into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in an effort to lead the church from

membership to Discipleship.

As we move forward to 2016-2018 election of officers for the WNCCLO I encourage us to not seek to be a one-man show but to work together with our teammates (laity and clergy) and rely on their skills and abilities as we seek to use our abilities and gifts in a cooperative way.

## It is Election Year for the WNCCLO!

The Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization election will take place Saturday April 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. **All offices are open.**

**Host Church: Clapps Chapel  
1301 Piney Grove Church  
Road  
Whitsett, NC 27377**

If you are seeking an office in the WNCCLO complete the *Letter of Intent*. The *Letter of Intent* a copy of *Article VI NOMINATION and ELECTION PROCEDURES, sections 1-8 and Article IV Membership* are on

the website <http://www.wncclay.org/>.

Mail the *Letter of Intent* with the signature of the WNCCLO president to the nominating committee chair. The certified letter must be postmarked or received by the chair of the Nominating Committee no later than March 16, 2016 (1 month) prior to the convening of the

Conference Annual Meeting, April 16, 2016.

### 2016 Nominating Committee:

Sis. Gertrude Upperman  
Sis. Mary Dasher-McAdams  
Sis. Marjorie Ervin  
Bro. Adam Johnston  
**Bro. Kenneth**



**VOTE**

## MCELRATH CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

McElrath Chapel A.M.E. Church located in southwest Burke County in the Silver Creek Township was deeded 10 acres of property on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 1874 by John W. McElrath and his wife Mary, for \$50.00. The deed, as drawn up, lists the trustees of the church as James McElrath, Jacob McElrath, Jacob Hardy, John O'Neil and Clinton O'Neil.

James McElrath was deeded 40 acres of land, 10 of which was deeded for a church. James and his wife lived in a two-room log cabin and raised their family of three children: Isaac, John Bush and Rosa. The community of "Jim Town" grew up around the Jim McElrath place, and the church was named McElrath Chapel.

The first congregation

worshipped in a brush arbor. Later a building was erected. A second church was built near the center of the 10-acre tract. This building was destroyed by a lightning fire around 1930. The members of the church built another church. The cornerstone was laid in 1934 while Rev. W.M. Farley was the pastor. As was the custom of African Methodist Episcopal Churches, a schoolhouse was built near the church. This school later merged with the school at Glen Alpine, forming McAlpine School. McElrath Chapel Church belonged to the Glen Alpine Circuit of the Western North Carolina Conference for many years.

In 1981, it became a station church and in 1999, under the pastorate of Rev. Diane E. Conley, the first female pastor in appointment there, a new building was dedicated which includes a sanctuary, classrooms, office space,

and kitchen/fellowship hall. Under the direction of Rev. Conley and divine plan from God, the church was able to pay off the building costs and mortgage within seven years. With the new construction, the church now had running water, water fountains and restrooms inside the building. The grounds around the buildings and cemetery have been beautifully landscaped.

Sources: Church records, Family recollections and Register of Deeds Office.

Christine L. Thomas-Lay President  
Rev. Diane E. Conley—Pastor



## EPISCOPAL DISTRICT -LAY ORGANIZATION MISSION PROJECT EYEGLASS COLLECTION

**WE ARE COLLECTING OVER-THE-COUNTER READING AND PRESCRIPTION GLASSES TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF RWANDA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO.**

**PLEASE INCLUDE \$1.00 PER PAIR OF GLASSES FOR SHIPPING AND HANDLING.**

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS DUE AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**



**2016 Jack and Jill Extravaganza**  
*“Lifting Our Voices for the Black Lives Matter Movement”*

The extravaganza will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at St. James A.M.E. Church, Winston-Salem, NC at 12 Noon. **Important:** Registration begins at 10:45 AM for contestants participating in the competition and churches. All Jack and Jill Contestants will need to turn in their funds by 11:45 AM to remain eligible to participate.

Below are ideas for various age groups to present, however your own expressions of *Black Lives Matter Movement* are welcomed.

Ages 3-7 can create a poster or form of art expression to exhibit the current context of Black Lives Matter Movement.

Ages 8-12 can write a poem, do a skit, or oratorical surrounding the effects of police brutality on minors.

Ages 13-17 will present on how education at any level can be reformed to aide in progression of reducing police brutality within the minority community or differences in crime sentences as it relates to the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Ages 18-35 can present on a social issue meaningful to them that can potentially arise in the 2016 Presidential Election that affects people of color. There will be a time limit for each category depending upon the number of participants. A scrapbook can be compiled for judging as well.

Church registration can be mailed prior to the event date, even if your church does not have anyone competing for the Jack and Jill. Please complete the entry form attached in the packet and return to Mary Royster Harris by March 16, 2016. The form is also available on [www.wncclay.org](http://www.wncclay.org).

**GENERAL CONFERENCE—JULY 6-11, 2016**



SCHOLARSHIPS

Davis/McKinney  
Due Date: 6/6/2016

Kittrell-Allen-Adams  
Due Date: 7/31/2016

While you are doing your internet search and online shopping, please utilize [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and select [Western North Carolina Lay Organization](#) as your cause.

The "goodshop" donates a percentage of each purchase to a cause (Western North Carolina Lay Organization) of your choice at no extra cost to you. When we use "goodsearch" we received a "penny" for every search.

This is a way we can support the Western North Carolina Lay Organization without taking people from the pews! Pass the word.

**[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)**