

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization Virtual Meeting – October 9, 2021

3rd VP Barbara Myers, Presiding

The WNCC Lay Organization meeting was called to order promptly at 10:00 a.m. by President Penny Oliver. She immediately introduced our 3rd Vice President, Barbara Myers who would be presiding over our meeting today. (**Note:** *Lay members received the link electronically to the meeting, along with the packet, which is covered by the registration fee*).

Devotion/Prayer **Sister Margie Alston, Local Lay President**
Johnson Chapel, Mebane, NC

The scripture lesson came from *Acts 22:14-15*, since we are on the eve of the Lay Emphasis Sunday celebrations. The text encourages us to be a witness for Jesus in the wonderful things you have seen and heard – just like we do everything else. Tell of the goodness of Jesus -- ***Now, Run and Tell That!***

Welcome **Sister Diane Foy, Recording Secretary**

Even though our Lay meeting was being held on a damp, rainy morning, we received a very warm, hearty welcome from Sister Foy, which was well received per 3rd VP Myers.

**Introduction of
Special Guest Speaker** **Brother Kenneth Woods, SEDLO Chaplain**

Our special guest speaker today is Dr. Bobbie Richardson, Chair of the NC Democratic Party. Brother Woods gave a brief summary of her bio in an effort to give her more time to speak to us. Dr. Richardson comes from a family of humble beginnings and is 1 of 18 children. Previously, she attended St. Joseph AMEC, Durham, NC and has now returned to her Baptist roots. She attended NCCU and UNC-CH. Dr. Richardson is the first African American to serve as Chair of the NC Democratic Party.

Social Action Update - Dr. Bobbie Richardson, Chair NC Democratic Party

Dr. Richardson stated that she has served on office as Chair since February 2020-21; she was previously Vice-Chair. She will be talking briefly on the values of the two parties in NC, “without calling their names”.

One party represents the 1%, rich people, the ones that fly to the moon. Then there is the party she represents that, value all people, like herself that started with humble beginnings. She stated, “*before we know where we are going - we need to know where we came from!*”

In her presentation, she gave many examples of the strides the Democratic Party are making with the Grass Root implementation; Precinct Leaders/Precinct Chair/Precinct Members. Voters should know who their Precinct Leaders/Chairs are. A vast amount of timely information was given to the Lay Organization in a short amount of time. All local elections are very important and they usually are a follow-up to the next one. Election months are November and March.

Roll Calls of Officers **Sister Diane Foy, Recording Secretary**

WNCC LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS
Virtual Meeting – October 9, 2021

P - President - Penny Oliver

P - 1st VP Betty Parker

P - 2nd VP – Adam Johnston

P - 3rd VP – Barbara Meyers

P - Recording Secretary - Diane Foy

P - Asst. Recording Secretary – Joy Grandy

P - Corresponding Secretary- Barbara Smith

P – Treasurer -Woodrow Winchester

EX - Financial Secretary – Mozell Weston

EX - Chaplain – Jessie Cardwell

P - Parliamentarian – Bobbi Hague

P - Director of Lay Activities – Jacqueline Kanipe

A - Director of Public Relations – Portia Holman

P -Young Adult Representative – Mary Royster-Harris

EX- Eastern District Coordinator – Betty Duell

P -Western District Coordinator – Sonia Barbre

A - Credentials/Membership Chair – Shontea Smith

P - District Chaplain-----Kenneth Woods

EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS:

Connectional

P - Gertrude Upperman

P- Starr Battle, 2nd VP

EX- Mary Dasher-McAdams

EX- Dwight Patterson

EX- James Hill

EX: Excused

A: Absent

P: Present

Minutes

President Oliver asked for corrections/additions to the Minutes. Sister Sonia Barbre asked that Sister Nikki Allen's name be added to the report as a Scholarship Committee Member for the Minutes. With no further corrections, the report was accepted, as information, as printed with, inclusion of the said name.

Officer's Reports

Corresponding Secretary **Sister Barbara Smith** No Report

Treasurer's Report **Brother Woodrow Winchester, Treasurer**
(See Page 9) **Sister Mozell Weston, Financial Secretary**

Treasurers' report was accepted as information only.

Old Business:

Prayer Breakfast Recap **Sister Jackie Kanipe, DOLA/Prayer Breakfast Committee**

President Oliver emphasized we had a wonderful time at the Prayer Breakfast. Sister Kanipe expressed her thanks to all participants and our speaker. "Acknowledgements have not gone out yet but, will be sent out the next week; there were many tasks that followed the Prayer Breakfast which delayed the issuance of acknowledgements and we want to let the participants know we appreciate their service because we might need them again."

Sister Kanipe asked if other members of the Committee had comments;
"This is the first time we had a speaker and it turned out to be an overwhelming success this year." (President Oliver)

Per Sister Kanipe, some names might have been omitted from the Memorial listing, she is compiling this info in a notebook to be displayed at a future face-to-face meeting. President Oliver thanked Sister Kanipe, the Committee and the Lay Organization for "working together in an effort to accomplish the things that we do, we have to work together. I thank you!"

**2022-24 Office Nominating
Committee**

Sister Gertrude Upperman, Chair

The audio was not clear when Sister Upperman spoke, so please (*See Page 11*) in your packet and go on line and fill in the Letter of Intent, compliments of Sister Azzie Conley. This form should be received by the Committee no later than **December**, in the event they need to solicit for office(s). Sister Betty Parker, *1st VP* asked that the officers that have served their eight (8) years be identified, so that the Lay Body Members may be aware of the various vacant positions. President Oliver asked Secretary Foy to read the list, they are;

- President, Penny Oliver
- Recording Secretary, Diane Foy
- Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Smith
- Treasurer, Woodrow Winchester
- Financial Secretary, Mozell Weston
- Chaplain, Jessie Cardwell
- Director Of Lay Activities, Jackie Kanipe
- Young Adult Representative, Mary Royster-Harris

If you have further questions, please contact Sister Gertrude Upperman, *Chairperson* at (336) 337-5495.

Scholarship Committee Updates

Sister Sonia Barbre/Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee consists of Adam Johnston, Lamont Upperman, Nikki Allen, Betty Parker and Audrey McCain. We had three (3) winners of the **Davis-McKinney** Scholarship and they are:

Ariana Pearson	White Cross AMEC	Attending NC A&T State University
MiRonda Swepson	Springdale AMEC	Attending Meredith College
Kevin L. Jones	St. Matthew AMEC	Lenoir Community College
	Raleigh, NC	

James E. Johnson Scholarship Winner

MiRonda Swepson Springdale AMEC Attending Meredith College

The Kittrell-Allen-Adams applications are in process. Sister Barbre asked the Lay Body to remind the applicants that when filling out their applications, allow someone to look over it to make sure all information is filled in completely and correctly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lay Witness Sunday Updates 3rd VP Sister Barbara Myers - (See Packet Pages 15-18)

Vice-President Myers thanked everyone for their participation and for the 25 churches that responded. We received the new theme. “*Faith, Hope and Charity- They Make All Things Work*” (1Corinthians 13:1-13), after information was already distributed for this year. The new theme will be implemented next year, since the packet had already been sent upon receipt of this information.

SEDLO Updates President Penny Oliver

Election of Delegates to 2022 Lay Convention – We need to elect delegates to SEDLO 2022 Lay Convention and per the WNCC-LO Constitution and By-laws the election should be on/before April 1st, of the Convention year. Our **new** President, DOLA and YAR should go because of their title. President Oliver recommends implementing the Letter-of-Intent to be used by all if they are interested in being elected as delegate or alternate excluding the newly elected President, DOL and YAR. She asked for feedback/questions from the Lay Body. A Nomination Committee has not been selected yet, if you are interested contact President Oliver.

District Membership Dues 2022 – Currently, we are paying \$1.00/member for dues; starting 2022 that amount will go up to \$2.00/member. We have not officially received this info in writing yet. Sister Betty Parker inquired since it was discussed by the group before and asked the question, “*will our \$6.00 registration fee remain the same or increase?*” President Oliver explained that we could get a committee together now to determine this matter, or wait for the new administration. Sister Bobbi Hague moved that we table this item for now and wait for the new administration; seconded by Brother Kenneth Woods; the motion was carried.

District Training – President Oliver encouraged the Lay Group to go back and review, (*inside packet*), the training tool presented September 23rd online, which was very good. Always take advantage of training shared by the 2nd District.

Level UP Campaign President Penny Oliver (See Page 35 in packet)

This campaign starts this weekend and the amount to pay off this building is roughly \$1.3 million and will be dedicated in November in memory of Sister Valerie Gary Bell. A date has not been set yet.

Two announcements made by President Oliver were;

- She received an email from Dr. Jeffrey Cooper, Department of Retirement Services, to report a material loss in the value of 1 or more of its department investments. Any questions? None.
- Sister Edna Watson, NC Conference, was elected Assistant Secretary on the Connectional Level. The lady that previously held this position passed away in July and an emergency election was held.

Clergy/Lay Institute

Sister Jackie Kanipe

The next institute will be held *virtually* **Saturday, November 13, 2021 at 10 AM.**

Theme: “*Church During Unprecedented Times: Doing a New Thing in Christ – Part 2
It’s Time for a Check-Up!*”

Online Registration \$10 is **NOW OPEN**

Facilitators: Sister Starr Battle, Dr. Michael Cousin, Rev Gwendolyn Wise-Blackman, Brother Reginald Blackman, and Presiding Elder Dr. Conrad K. Pridgen and Presiding Elder Reverend Anita Thompson

Teaching Moment

Sister Jackie Kanipe

Since we are approaching the time to elect new officers, Sister Kanipe thought this would be an opportune time to evaluate our gifts, as we decide whether or not we would make a good fit for an office. By utilizing/reading our Lay Study Guide, we learn that among our duties we need to remember who we represent. We should use our gifts to glorify God and when we are making decisions, pray about it.

There are questions you must ask yourself, as you consider to run for a Lay Office.
“*Are you a Servant Leader? Humble? Responsible to do the right thing? Can You Remember Who You Represent?*”

Praise Reports

Penny Oliver - Praising God for her Parents 70 years of Marriage.
Bobbi Hague – Doing great; desires continued prayers,
Diane Foy - Doing great, thank you!
Lamont Upperman – Doing well per Gertrude Upperman.

Closing Prayer

Brother Kenneth Woods

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm, by singing the *Lay Benediction* led by Sister Diane Foy.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Foy