**Western NC Conference Lay Organization Meeting**

**Turners Chapel AMEC, High Point, NC**

**Saturday, August 8, 2015 – 10:00 AM**

President Penny Oliver called the meeting to order.

Sister Rosa Taylor*, Chaplain*, led us in Devotion and Sister Myrtle Mayo was asked to pray. Before praying, Sister Mayo asked that the names of the sick be called out in order to be included in the prayer. Afterwards, Sister Jessie Caldwell read the scripture coming from

*Psalm 1:1-6*.

The Lay Litany was read led by Sister Rosa Taylor and the Lay Body.

President Oliver recognized the Reverend Michael Bowden, Host Pastor of Turner Chapel. In a grand welcome to the Lay Body, he challenged them to join in with him in to:  *“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.”* The welcome was well received and the Lay Host President, Diane Foy, concurred with her remarks and gave further remarks/directions as where the restrooms, etc. are located.

**Roll Call of Officers Diane Foy**

 ***Present Excused Absent***

Penny Oliver Wilbur Hooker, 1st VP Betty Parker, *2nd VP*

Woodrow Winchester Theresa Watson, *3rd VP*

Mozell Weston Bertha McLendon*, Asst. Secy.* Mary Dasher-McAdams*, ExOfficio*

Diane Foy John Smith, *Parliamentarian*

Barbara Smith Renee White, *Western Dist.Coordinator*

Rosa Taylor Gertrude Upperman, *Ex-Officio Officer*

Sonia Barbre James Hill, Ex*-Officio Officer*

Jackie Kanipe

Mary Harris

Bettie Duell

Janie Wilson

Dwight Patterson. *Ex-Officio Officer*

Starr Battle, *Connectional 3rd VP*

President Oliver asked for approval of the Agenda; it was moved by Kenneth Woods and seconded by Bettie Duell to accept the agenda, as printed, so moved.

The Minutes were read silently with one correction. The first paragraph, “… *Sister Mayo presented our (strike-District) President, Sister Penny Oliver.”*

The following **Officers Reports** were read:

In absentia of ***3rd Vice President, Theresa Watson’*** report was read by Diane Foy, Recording Secretary. The report covered the details of our *Annual Prayer Breakfast* that is to be held at St. Matthew AME Church, Raleigh, NC on September 12, 2015. A draft of the program has been reviewed and all participates have been confirmed. Information is still pending on deceased members from the churches. They are on track for a successful event. There were eleven (11) churches whose mail was returned. President Oliver asked for updated addresses, if available.

***Young Adult Representative, Mary Royster Harris*** served as secretary during the Electoral College election at the 122nd Session of the Western NC Annual Conference on June 3, 2015. She reported the delegates elected to attend the 50th General Conference Session of the AME Church are:

 **Alternate Delegates Elected**

1. Mary Royster Harris 1. Nikki Allen
2. Barbara Smith 2. Woodrow Winchester
3. Flo Avery 3. Diane Foy
4. Jackie Kanipe 4. Ernest Dark
5. Penny Oliver 5. Myrtle Mayo
6. Azzie Conley 6.Wilbert Hooker
7. Dwight Patterson 7.Adam Johnston
8. Kenneth Woods 8. Mary Locklear
9. Emma Devine 9. Audrey McCain
10. Lenora Woods 10.Kim Scott

She attended and served as a delegate to the 34th Connectional Lay Organization Biennial. Also, as the newly elected WNCC YPD Director, she expressed her excitement about the work in the YPD and Lay and is open to any suggestions on improving the Jack and Jill program for the upcoming year.

***Eastern District Coordinator, Bettie Duell*** shared her success in the East, *by the grace of God,* that all of the churches have Lay Organizations except two (2) churches. She is willing to come to any church upon request, as well as, her counter counterpart ***Renee’ White, in the West***.

***Historiographer, Sonia Barbre*** shared with the Lay body an outstanding display of her work through photography. She captured the various activities the WNCC 2nd District Lay have been a part of and an article was so noted in the “***We Speak”*** for the Second District and we have our own ***WNCC Lay Express***, all compliments of Sister Barbre.

***Social Action, Kenneth Wood*** gave us vital information regarding changes/stipulations for Voting 2016. Much discussion followed, as well as, questions. Brother Wood stated e-mails will be sent out and a contact information person is needed in each church to filter information about voting.

***Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Smith*** read a *“thank you”* card from District President Valerie Bell toSister Myrtle Mayo, for representing the 2nd District at the Biennial.

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**Treasurer’s Report Woodrow Winchester**

 **Mozell Weston, Financial Secretary**

Brother Winchester stated the report is an accumulation of four (4) months of data. The report was made available to all presidents of first.

**Questions/Comments of Interest:**

**\*Starr Battle:** The report needs to be more detailed, for example with the Jack-n-Jill which

churches actually gave/expenditures,etc.? What are they?

\***Penny Oliver:** What is the amount $53.55 for? Web-Site Development submitted by Bobbie Hague.

**\*Byron Barbre:** In reference to outstanding checks/check being held, he suggested that a time period policy be implemented for clearance of checks.

**\*Leonard Flake:** What is the $404.50 amount under Treasurer/Finance? A stipend for that is used by the Treasurer/Financial Secretary, printing, etc. Further discussion followed.

**\*Flo Avery** moved that this be approved today and the Finance Committee address this item, come back with an explanation for this item; 2nd by Kenneth Woods; Unreadiness by Starr Battle.

**\*Azzie Conley** moved that the Treasurer and Financial Secretary cease receiving stipends until this matter has been resolved. Seconded by Janie Wilson; so moved.

**\*Byron Barbre** amended his earlier comment and made a motion that monies received should be given to the Financial Team within 30 days, including persons responsible for events. Seconded by Starr Battle; so moved.

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**Words from the President**

Sister Oliver greeting the Lay Body and thanked everyone for all they do for the building of God’s Kingdom. She made several announcements and recognitions from among us.

President Emeritus Dwight Patterson is now 1st VP of the 2nd District Lay Organization.

Also, God has moved our Membership Chairperson, Sister Janie Wilson, into the leadership role of Conference Area Leader of the Ethel Anderson Area.

President Oliver has asked and she has agreed, Nikki Allen, a member of Living Waters AMEC in Raleigh, to serve as our Membership Chairperson. This is an appointed position and it runs from January to December 31. Our Young Adult Representative, Mary Royster Harris, was elected as Western NC Conference Young Peoples Director.

The Coordinators from the Eastern and Western Districts, Bettie Duell & Renee White were recognized for their accomplishments in the number of churches that are now involved in the Lay as a result of their working with them. Let’s help them strive for 100%.

The local lay presidents were ask to stand along with the first time attendees. The first time attendees were: Gloria Pearce, St. James, Raleigh, NC and Dorothy McCain, Macedonia AME Church. She thanked all that were able to attend the 34th Biennial Session of the Lay Organization in Charleston, SC. We have the dates for the 35th Biennial Session and the place is Columbus, Ohio. The proposed legislation will be on our website.

The election of officers’ information for 2016 will be available in the next two weeks. The ***2016 Nominating Committee*** is: Sis. Gertrude Upperman Sis. Mary Dasher-McAdams

 Sis. Marjorie Ervin Bro. Adam Johnston

 Bro. Kenneth Woods (chairperson)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

President Oliver entertained discussion and a show of hands of the Conference Meeting Location; centralized or rotate at each church. The Lay Members by vote, 25 to rotate the meetings to 22 to oppose rotation. The next meeting will be held in October at Gaston Chapel, Morganton, NC; second choice – Shiloh AME Church.

**2014 -2016 Budget Budget Committee**

The Budget Committee proposed a Budget of which Brother Winchester presented to the Lay Body, to cover the remainder of the 2015 Budget year. Copies of Budget were distributed for their perusal. Stipends were increased for the following: Eastern & Western Coordinators, Director; and a decrease for the Lay Scarves/Pens. It was moved by Bettie Duell and Seconded by Leonard Flake to accept the Proposed Budget with the said corrections; so moved, motion carried.

**(4.)**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Membership Update Nikki Allen**

Today’s attendance: 52 Adults + 1 Youth = ***$260.00 – Total Collected,*** of which Turners Chapel, our host church today will receive one half. Total Membership: ***1245- Adults***

 ***114- Youth***

 ***1359- Total***

Sister Starr Battle informed us that there is no longer a Youth Organization within the Lay Organization and we should no longer be collecting dues from the youth. However, we should continue to include them in our meetings. Everyone 18 years old and up are to pay the $ 6.00. It was stated that the scholarship form asks if you are a member of the Youth Lay organization. Sister Battle will make a note to the Scholarship Committee to make change on the forms.

Lay members were reminded to register their AME Membership Cards, if you have not already done so.

***Sister Jackie Kanipe, Director of Lay Activities*** gave everyone a folder. Included was information on the various emblems used in the AME Church. She asked that we use the materials for training of stewards and trustees. New Study Guides are $25.00. Study Guides will be used at meetings for training. She acknowledged that Sister Starr Battle has an article in the Guide entitled, *“Love, Honor and Respect.”*

The ***Lay Institute*** is to be held on Saturday, November, 2015 at Bethel AME Church, Greensboro, NC. Pastors will be asked to attend. Proposed cost $10.00. Suggested topics:

 ***\*How Are Assessments Determined***

 ***\*Stewards and Trustees Training***

 ***\*Church Administration***

 ***\*Church Etiquette***

 ***\*Commitment to Position***

 ***\*Leadership that Pleases God***

 ***\*Parliamentarian Procedures***

Current plans are to have two (2) a year.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned by singing the ***Lay Benediction***.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Diane T. Foy**

***Recording Secretary***

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