

Cast Conference Lay Newsletter

The Official Quarterly Publication of the East Conference Lay Organization

Message from the President

Greetings,

This past Conference Year has been one with many challenges but the East Conference Lay has been able to overcome all of the challenges that occurred. I realize that this would not have been possible had there not been the support of all of the members of the East Conference working together both the laity and the clergy. For this reason, I would like to thank each of you for all of your support.

We have been active on all levels from the local to the Connectional and for this I say praise be to God! We have had representation at all of the meetings, Conferences, and Conventions throughout the varying Presiding Elders Districts, Conferences, Eleventh Episcopal District and the Connectional. At each of these events we were well represented both in the number of persons attending and our willingness to participate and assist wherever we were needed. The East Conference has also been able to meet all of our financial obligations on all levels and this was done in a timely fashion. Training has been done

Throughout the East Conference and we have sought to meet all of the objectives of the Lay Organization.

With the new Conference Year, 2012 well underway, our goals are to continue to improve on communication using the varying methods

available, working with the Pastors and Presiding Elders to ensure that each church has a local Lay Organization; continuing to provide ongoing training, and finding ways in which to ensure the inclusion of our youth in the Lay Organization.

This year the Lay Organization is celebrating 100 years of existence which is a great feat for any organization and we would like to grant the Centennial Committee request to commemorate this great event by ensuring that events are held throughout the 11th Episcopal District to celebrate this milestone in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Also use it as an opportunity to celebrate many of the persons who have assisted in getting us this far without them we would not be where we are today.

Again, thanks to everyone for all of your hard work and I to working with each of you and thanks for your faith in re-electing me as your Conference President for the next two years.

Sincerely,

Aaron Jones, Jr.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION!

Greetings from the CLO 100 Co-Chairs

In Nashville, TN at the 49th Session of the General Conference in July 2012, the African Methodist Episcopal Church the Connectional Lay Organization will celebrate the 100th anniversary since the passage of the legislation from which evolved our beloved Connectional Lay Organization. The 100th anniversary is a praiseworthy milestone in the history of the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

From August 18, 2011 through July 2012, Lay Organizations at the Connectional, Episcopal District, Conference, and local levels will hold celebrations so that people around the world will know and commemorate the important roles the Connectional Lay Organization and its members have played in kingdom building, denominational governance, and improving the social and economic conditions of their communities.

During the centennial year of the Connectional Lay Organization, CLO 100, Lay Organizations at every level should sponsor activities to celebrate lay witness and ministries; the contributions of the laity within the African Methodist Episcopal Church; lay members who have made a positive difference in the larger society, outside the AME Church; to honor the legislative process that brought into existence, the forerunner entities that developed into the Connectional Lay Organization; to pay tribute to early pioneers in the lay movement; and to celebrate our 100 year history of progress and achievement.

On May 23, 1912 legislation passed entitled, Laymen's Missionary and Forward Movement of the AME Church." The bill put forward the following objectives for the movement:

"1. The object of the Movement is to educate and inspire along the lines of Missions, Home and Foreign.

2. It is to increase the membership of the Church on the part of men and boys. It seeks to engage them more actively in all Christian service.

- 3. It is to bring into the church a larger efficiency and a larger giving of life and means.
- 4. To stimulate an interest in Bible study."

From this legislative beginning almost 100 years ago to May 23, 2012 members of the Connectional Lay Organization will have been blessed to be a part of this continuum of lay witness, leadership training, and advocacy. To celebrate the ministries of the laity, each local lay organization is invited to include in its activities or meetings or special events a CLO 100 Founders Program, a CLO 100 Proclamation Ceremony, or a CLO 100 Birthday Party in honor of the Connectional Lay Organization. For greater impact and visibility, several local Lay Organizations in a community, might come together for such an event. Conferences and Episcopal Districts are invited to do likewise, but the emphasis should be at the local level. Let the world know that the Connectional Lay Organization is 100! Be Creative! Be Bold! Be Visionary! Enlarge Your Territory!

The culminating event of the CLO 100 will take place during the 49th Session of the General Conference in Nashville, TN. We look forward to your prayers and active engagement in this important benchmark in lay witness and ministry of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Yours in Christian Service,

Paulette Coleman, Ph.D.

Mr. William "Bill"

Ayers CLO 100 Co-Chair

CLO 100 Co-Chair





EAST CONFERENCE LAY DISTRICTS NEWS

ALACHUA- CENTRAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION 2012-2013 OFFICERS

Sis. Phyllis Filler – President

Bro. Dennis Murphy, Sr. - 1st Vice President

Bro. Aaron Jones, Jr. - 2nd Vice President

Sis. Deborah Langston - 3rd Vice President

Sis. Delphine Jackson - Recording Secretary

Sis. Gale Smith - Corresponding Secretary

Sis. Jennie Williams - Treasurer

Sis. Avis Litchfield - Financial Secretary

Bro. Andrew Brown, Jr. - Director of Lay Activities

Sis. Brenda Solomon - Historiographer

Bro. Richard Hilton - Parliamentarian

Bro. Robert Weston - Director of Public Relations

Sis. Alicia Davis - Director of Lay Benevolence





SUWANNEE NORTH DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION 2012 – 2013 OFFICERS

President – Bro. Reginald Robinson

1st Vice President – Bro. Lewis Palmer

2nd Vice President – Bro. Summer Herring, Jr.

3rd Vice President – Sarah Roberts

Recording Secretary – Sis. Shirley Kennedy

Treasurer – Sis. Ruth Carter

Financial Secretary – Sis. Elaine Fields

Corresponding Secretary – Sis. Vivan Toston

Director of Lay Activities – Sis. Carolyn Y. Floyd

Historiographer – Bro. Earl Lowman

Director of Youth Activities – TBA

Parliamentarian – Sis. Rhoshanda Herring

Chaplain – Sis. Annie Vining

Director of Public Relations - Sis. Mae DeVoe Fields

Director of Benevolence – Bro. Herman Floyd





SOUTH DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

The South District Lay Organization is moving, shaking and off to a great start this new conference year. Under the leadership of our dynamic and energized President, Sis. Lucretia McBride, we continue to move forward. Our very spirit-filled and knowledgeable Director of Lay Activities Bro. Fred Matthews, provides excellent monthly training sessions that are extremely beneficial to each of us.

The local Lay Organizations are busy, as well. In addition to having regularly scheduled meetings, some of them have reported various activities which were recently held, including the following:

- Wayman Chapel developed a business and service directory and initiated a voter registration drive for their two church locations and the locations and the community.
 Sis. Ann Reeves, Local President, Rev. Mark Griffin, Pastor.
- St. Luke, St. Augustine, hosted a Lay Breakfast/Workshop which was both physically and spiritually filling. Sis. Josephine Quarter man, Local President. Rev. Mattie Riley Hayes, Pastor.
- St. Stephens brought smiles to their sick and shut-in members in the month December as they delivered flowers to them. Bro. Elrese Peterson, Local President. Rev. Michael Mitchell, Pastor.

The South District is eagerly preparing for their upcoming event to celebrate the 100 Years of Service of the Connectional Lay Organization.



SOUTH DISTRICT

The Lay Organization
Of the
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Celebrates 100 Years of Service

Centennial Lay Celebration

Pinner ~ Pancing

May 11, 2012 7:30 P.M.

Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk

1515 Prudential Prive

Jacksonville, FL 32207

\$50 Ponation

Live Entertainment — Semi Formal

Brother Elijah McIntosh, Chair Sister Dorothy Williams

Sister Theresa Williams
Sister LuCretia McBride, President

Sister Ann Lovett



Schedule for Conference Year 2012

January 3-6, 2012 Connectional Church Growth & **Evangelism Seminar**

Arlington, VA

January 7, 2012 Black Heritage Planning Meeting January 10-13, 2012 Bishop's Council Retreat 5th District

January 13, 2012 WMS Commitment Service

Historic Mount Zion A. M. E. Church

Jacksonville

January 13-14, 2012 11th EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HYATT REGENCY DOWNTOWN 1000 BOULEVARD OF THE ARTS

SARASOTA, FL

January 16, 2012 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Holiday

January 21, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting

Saint Luke A. M. E. Church, Alachua

January 25, 2012 Deadline for Letter of Intent for

East Conference Lav

January 25-28, 2012 Connectional WMS Executive

Board Meeting Birmingham, AL

January 27-28, 2012 Episcopal Lay South/Bahamas

Training (Cancelled)

January 28, 2012 Officers Training and Commitment

Program

Saint Paul A. M. E. Church 6910 New Kings Road

Jacksonville, FL

January 29, 2012 East Conference 5th Sunday

Meeting

Phillip R. Cousin A. M. E. Church Jacksonville (South District)

February 1, 2012 Award Deadline to Local Church February 4, 2012 East Conference Essay Writing

Camp

Wayman Chapel Academy - Jacksonville

February 7, 2012 District Consultant LaTanya C.

Combs Birthday

February 8, 2012 Bi-Annual WMS & YPD (Pre-District Conference)

February 9-10, 2012 Alachua-Central District Conference

Greater Bethel A. M. E. Church, Gainesville

February 11, 2012 Black Heritage Weekend Workday Bishop's Office

February 11, 2012 East Conference Lay Organization Elections (also

Alachua-Central, South, Suwannee-North Districts)

Greater Payne A. M. E. Church - Jacksonville February 15, 2012 Scholarship Application Process starts at

Local Church Level

February 17-19, 2012 Black Heritage Weekend (25th

Edward Waters College

February 24-25, 2012 Episcopal Lay Central/West

Coast Training

Kissimee, Florida

February 25, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay

Meeting

Bethel A. M. E. Church, Lake City

March 1-3, 2012 Minister's Spouses Retreat/Clergy

Family Retreat

Saint Simmons Island

March 11, 2012 Lay Awareness Sunday

March 15, 2012 Deadline for Letter of Intent for

Episcopal Lay Office

March 15-17, 2012 Midyear/ Founder's Day

Rosen Shingle Creek- Orlando

March 22, 2012 Award Deadline from Local Church March 24, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting

New Saint James A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville

March 30-April 1, 2012 Connectional YPD Leadership

Training Institute

Atlanta, GA

March 26, 2012 Award Nomination Deadline to

District

April 1, 2012 Palm Sunday

April 5, 2012 Maundy Thursday

April 6, 2012 Good Friday

April 8, 2012 Easter

April 8, 2012 Offering for EWC (Easter Sunday)

April 9, 2012 Award Nomination Deadline from District

April 13, 2012 Connectional Day of Prayer

April 13, 2012 Award Nomination Deadline to

Conference

April 21, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting

Mount Pisgah A. M. E. Church, Archer

April 27-29, 2012 Alachua-Central District Spring Revival

Saint Paul A. M. E. Church - Jacksonville

April 29, 2012 East Conference 5th Sunday Meeting

Allen Chapel A. M. E. Church

Jacksonville (Alachua-Central District)

April 30, 2012 Scholarship Application submitted to Conference Level (Mail to: Maria Pearson at

1611 Tyler St-Jacksonville, FL 32209) May 4-5, 2012 EWC Baccalaureate/Commencement

Adams-Jenkins Music & Sports Complex

EWC - Jacksonville

May 12-19, 2012 YPD Self Denial

May 13, 2012 Award Nomination Deadline from

Conference

May 13, 2012 Mother's Day

May 17-19, 2012 Sons of Allen Retreat

Key West

May 18, 2012 Deadline for Hotel Reservation for State Lay Convention

May 19, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting Mount Zion A. M. E. Church (Watertown), Lake City

May 19, 2012 Area YPD Meeting

May 20, 2012 Award Nomination Deadline to

Episcopal District

May 20, 2012 Deadline for Ads for State Lay Convention

May 23, 2012 Connectional Lay Organization 100 Year Old Birthday

May 30, 2012 Scholarship Applications submitted **Episcopal Level**

by Designated Conference Lay Organization (Episcopal) Member - (East Conference Member -Maria Pearson)

June 1, 2012 Deadline for Registration for State Lay Convention

June 11-15, 2012 68th Annual Episcopal Lay Convention

Hyatt Regency Downtown

Sarasota, Florida

June 13, 2012 Alachua-Central District Sons of Allen Witness

(Pre-Church School Convention Program)

June 14, 2012 Deadline for late registration for **State Lay Convention**

(\$125 for adults/\$100 for clergy/ \$75 for youthage 13-17)

June 14-15, 2012 Alachua-Central District Church **School Convention**

Saint Paul A. M. E. Church - Jacksonville

June 16, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting Lewis Memorial A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville

June 17, 2012 Father's Day

June 27-July 5, 2012 49th Session of the General **Conference AMEC**

Nashville, TN

July 4, 2012 Fourth of July

July 21, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting Greater Bethel A. M. E. Church, Gainesville July 23-26, 2012 Christian Education Congress

Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel- Orlando July 25, 2012 Presiding Elder Elizabeth E. Yates's Birthday

July 26-27, 2012 Presiding Elders Retreat July 29, 2012 East Conference Lay 5th Sunday Meeting

TBD (Suwannee-North District)

August 3-6, 2012 YAR's Retreat Bahamas

August 11-17, 2012 Florida Annual Conference

Bethel A. M. E. Church - Tallahassee

August 18, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting Mount Tabor A. M. E. Church, Lake City

September 3, 2012 Labor Day

September 8-14, 2012 Central Annual Conference

Allen A. M. E. Church - Daytona Beach

September 9, 2012 Presiding Elder Elizabeth Appreciation

Columbia County

Mount Tabor A. M. E. Church- Lake City

September 15, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting

New Bethel A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville

September 15, 2012 Area YPD Meeting

September 16, 2012 Presiding Elder Elizabeth

Appreciation

Duval County

Saint Matthew A. M. E. Church - Jacksonville September 21, 2012 A. M. E. SADA Event September 22-28, 2012 South Annual Conference

Greater Bethel A. M. E. Church - Pompano Beach September 23, 2012 Presiding Elder Elizabeth Appreciation

Alachua County

Allen Chapel A. M. E. Church - High Springs

September 30, 2012 East Conference 5th Sunday Meeting

TBD (South District)

October 6-12, 2012 West Coast Annual Conference Greater Mount Zion A. M. E. Church - St. Petersburg October 20, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting

Mount Olive A. M. E. Church, Gainesville October 20-26, 2012 EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE Wayman Chapel A. M. E. Church

1176 LaBelle Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32205

October 30-November 4, 2012 Bahamas Annual Conference

Robinson-Morris A. M. E. Church - Nassau, Bahamas

November 6, 2012 ELECTION DAY November 11, 2012 Veteran's Day

November 15-17, 2012 POST PLANNING MEETING PLACE TBD

November 22, 2012 Thanksgiving

December 9, 2012 East Annual Conference Day of Sharing

December 15, 2012 Alachua-Central District Lay Meeting

New Mount Pisgah A. M. E. Church, Lake City

December 24, 2012 Christmas Eve

December 25, 2012 Christmas

December 30, 2012 East Conference 5th Sunday Meeting

Saint Luke A. M. E. Church

Alachua (Alachua-Central District)

December 31, 2012 New Year's Eve/Watch Night





East Conference Lay Organization OFFICERS

Aaron Jones, Jr. - President Ruth Carter – 1st Vice President Tricia Pough - 2nd Vice President Robert L. Jackson, Jr. – 3rd Vice President Shirley Kennedy – Recording Secretary Jacqueline Bryant - Assistant Recording Secretary Maria Pearson – Corresponding Secretary Sarah Roberts – Assistant Corresponding Secretary LuCretia McBride - Treasurer Laura Hamilton - Financial Secretary Shirley Harris – Chaplain Dessie P. Matthews - Historiographer Andrew Brown, Jr. - Parliamentarian Phillis Filer - Director of Lav Activities Delphine Jackson - Director of Public Relations James Campbell – Young Adult Representative Maria Pearson – Acting Director of Lay Benevolence Juanita Hagans – Registrar Sarah McCombs - Registrar Mary Wards - Hospitality Chair Joseph Coppock, Jr. – Advisor Peggy R. Johnson - Advisor Lewis N. Palmer - Advisor

District Presidents

Phillis Filer – Alachua Central LuCretia McBride – South Reginald D. Robinson – Suwannee-North



All information for publication should be submitted to Ms. Delphine Jackson
Eriskajackson2012@hotmail.com



AWARDS

Each year the Commission on Programs and Activities recognize laypersons/clergy of the Eleventh Episcopal District, community members and community organizations that have exemplified outstanding performance and other accomplishments during the conference year.

Presentation of these awards takes place during the Episcopal Annual Lay Convention.

Award categories:

Outstanding Community Service – Selected by Host Conference

Solider of the Cross – Selected by Episcopal President

Anvil – All Conference (This award is presented to an individual, layperson, minister, or Bishop. Nominee must have made outstanding contributions to the lay organization and Connectional Church.

Hall of Fame – The inductee(s) must have made significant contributions, actively participating in the local, district and conference lay organizations for a minimum of eight years. The award recognizes persons who are involved in local church departments, rendering outstanding service. The prospective inductee(s) may be nominated a maximum of three (3) times in a ten (10) year period. No more than two (2) persons may be nominated in any given year, per conference. (See Schedule of Events for 2012 for deadlines.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Selmo Bradley Scholarship

- Graduating senior
- GPA 2.5 or better
- Accepted into an AME Church supported college or university, a predominately Black
- Enroll as a fulltime student in the fall of the year the scholarship is awarded
- Write an essay
- See Schedule of events for application deadline

The Willie J. Williams Music Scholarship

- Member of AMEC
- High School graduate
- Plan to attend a Historical Black College or University in the fall application submitted with a major in music.
- Proof of acceptance
- See Schedule of events for application deadline

The Marian Bacon White Textbook and Supplies Award

- Enroll or enrolling for present semester as a fulltime registered at EWC
- An active member of AMEC
- Submit completed application
- Demonstrate financial need

Local, Conference, and Episcopal District Lay Organizations' History Collections and Displays

Now is the time to reclaim and document our past to empower our future!

During the CLO 100 we are encouraging all AMEs to assist in our efforts to collect, preserve (if possible), and duplicate materials pertaining to the Connectional Lay Organization. Please send photographs, programs, training materials, memorabilia, profiles of key lay people, etc. from any period in our history so that we can document and tell the story of lay witness and ministry through the Connectional Lay Organization. While our focus is the Connectional Lay Organization, the same historical materials collection activities are encouraged at all levels.

In his book *Hidden Treasures: Guidelines for Local Church Historiography* (1993), A. C. Booyse* identified several factors to keep in mind when developing local church histories. These factors, with some adaptation, are useful for developing histories of Lay Organizations:

- 1. Identify the factors that led to the development of the Lay Organization.
- 2. Which individuals were involved at the inception of your Lay Organization?
- 3. If your Lay Organization has a name, why was it chosen?
- 4. What have been the highs and lows in the evolution of your Lay Organization?
- 5. Use research materials including minute books, Conference records (Quarterly, District, and Annual), correspondence, church bulletins, newspaper clippings, archives, and holdings of local historical societies.
- 6. Photos are very important and every photo tells a story. Photos are even more revealing when it is possible to know the exact date when it was taken and the names of the people who appear in it and their church involvement at that time.
- 7. Interviews with people who have a long history of involvement with the Lay Organization are very important. Recording interviews is very important, but always obtain the interviewee's permission in advance.

During this centennial Lay Organizations are invited to undertake oral history projects, to develop montages about the Lay Organization and to use their creativity to tell the story of lay ministry and witness in the African Methodist Episcopal Church worldwide.

*Rev. Booyse developed his love for historiography at Sims Chapel AME Church Stellenbosch, South Africa

49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference – Dates to Remember*

May 21 – 22, 2012 – The General Board meets to consider General Budget Proposal for 2012 - 2016

May 27, 2012 – Legislation to be made available (online)

June 21, 2012 – Revisions Committee begins its work at the site of the General Conference

June 25, 2012 – Rules Committee begins its work at the site of the General Conference

June 25, 2012 – Credentials Committee begins its work at the site of the General Conference

June 27 – July 4, 2012 – 49TH QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN SESSION, Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

(Due to be reported to the CIO 90 days prior to General Conference Opening)

Episcopal Committee - Elect two clergy and two lay (one lay a youth)

Revisions Committee - Elect one clergy and one lay (arrive 5 days before Gen Conference opens)

Treasurers Report - Appoint one clergy and one lay from each Annual Conference **Conference Boundaries -** Appoint one lay or clergy from each Annual Conference

Credentials Committee - Appoint one lay and one clergy (arrive 2 days early)

Rules Committee - Appoint one lay and one clergy (arrive 2 days early)

Each of the following Committees is appointed by the Presiding Bishop and is represented by one lay and one clergy member:

Worship Global Development

General Secretary's Report Social Action

Dept of Annuity and Investments Economic Development

Church Growth Lay Org
Christian Education RAYAC
Sunday School Union Health
Christian Recorder WIM

Historiographer Christian Debs and Masters

Global Witness Memorial

WMS Reception of Fraternal Delegates

Educational Institutions
Theological Scholarships
Episcopal District Projects

State of the Church
Public Relations
Election Commission



The Purpose of the Lay Organization

The purpose of the Lay Organization is to organize and train the lay members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, so that each member may utilize to the maximum the abilities and skills granted by God, in assisting with the improvement and extension of God's kingdom, and creating happiness, peace and harmony among its members.

To accomplish this purpose, the following objectives are adopted:

- To install in the membership of the church a love for, and appreciation of the history, tradition, and principles of African Methodism.
- 2. To keep forever alive the sacred memory of Richard Allen, our illustrious Founder.
- 3. To advocate respect and loyalty at all times to constituted authority and leadership.
- 4. To encourage the laity to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community, and throughout the Conference and Connection.
- 5. To encourage, stimulate, and educate the laity of the church in the history development, and organic laws of African Methodism.
- 6. To foster a systematic and regular study of the Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Parliamentary Procedure, to the end that greater knowledge and information may be disseminated among the laity, and with the further purpose of encouraging lay members to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 7. To foster, influence, and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church that promotes the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 8. To encourage development, recognition and utilization of the most appropriate operational practices and modern technology in conducting the activities of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 9. To promote the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare lay members for appropriately conveying God's word.
- 10. To provide training in Christian Stewardship which causes lay members to recognize that the connotation of stewardship addresses more than giving money.
- 11. To increase the circulation of church papers.
- 12. To provide for the orderly and systematic training of lay persons, especially officers, in order that they might more effectively, perform their service assignments.
- 13. To promote activities which will result in harmonious fellowship for lay persons throughout the Conference and the Connection.
- 14. To help in the support of the A.M.E. Educational Institutions.
- 15. To give financial assistance to the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) in support of Connectional programs.
- \sim If you are not an ordained minister, you are a lay person, and you need to be a part of the Lay Organization.
- ~ If you want to know how the laws of the A.M.E. Church are made, how bishops and pastors are chosen, and what the Church does with collected funds, you can find out in the Lay Organization.
- \sim If you want to make a positive difference in the direction of the Church, you belong in the Lay Organization.