



**The Pensacola-
Marianna District**

President Joseph Johnson

**The Quincy
District**

President Henry McGill

The Tallahassee District

President Eileen S. Warner

The Official Quarterly Publication of the Florida Conference Lay Organization

Volume 1 Issue 3 • July 2012

Florida Conference Laity “Shines” at 49th Quadrennial Session Nashville, Tennessee



Late night delegation meetings coupled with early morning devotional services and business sessions set the tone for the 49th Quadrennial Session which was held in Nashville, Tennessee. The Eleventh Episcopal District seated 115 delegates and the Florida Conference seated nine adult delegates and one young adult delegate as well as ten ministerial delegates. The delegates participated in the **ENTIRE** session inclusive of individually assigned commission meetings. Each delegate was allotted a small section to claim as personal space for the eight days. At times, the delegates were given hand held voting machines and an abundance of legislation and information relevant to the conference. When the delegates needed a break, they called on the conference alternates who were seated adjacent to the delegation area. The 49th Session was filled with memorable experiences and moments to be enshrined in the annals of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Florida Conference Lay Delegates: Johnnie Hill, John W. Love, Eileen S. Warner, Shepherd Myrick, Judith Hollinhead, Joseph Johnson, Jennifer Lawson, Donald Russell, Dorise Griffin, Norma Merritt, Orienthious Hill

Florida Conference Lay Alternates: Marrie W. McQueen, Sharolyn Woods, Sharon Sheffield, Priscilla Salter, Carissa Forbes, Isaac Miller, Helen Sinclair, Kyle Harris,

“Exalting Christ to Impact the World”

THE
FLA-
M-
E-
S-
O-
M-



THE FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF THE EEDLO

Mr. Johnnie Hill, Jr., President



From the President's Pen...

Greetings Members of the Florida Conference Lay Organization:

Since the last Quarterly Meeting we have had the following events to take place: Annual Lay Day; Florida Conference Lay Convention, EEDLO Lay Convention, General Conference and CEC. Thank to the members that were able to attend these events. Moreover; I want to personally thank the delegates and alternates that travelled to Nashville, TN. for the General Conference, and for the service each rendered. For the first timers I know it was an experience for you. Secondly, you helped with the selection of the Bishop for the 11th District.

The "Men of Distinction" Banquet was a success. Thank to the men that participated. Also, thank to the committee for a job well done, and to Bethel for serving as the host for the Convention.

However; the curtain has closed on those events and now facing us is the Annual Conference. The DOLA, John Love, will be contacting each district for lay members to participate on the Lay Witness Night Program. We will be working with the Bishop to get his input for the program.

Following the Annual Conference we will meet to set goals for the Conference Year. We will be discussing fundraisers because of the lay activities that will occur in 2012-2013 Conference Year. Let us continue to work together for the betterment of the lay organization.

Johnnie Hill, FCLO President.





Mr. John W. Love
Director of Lay Activities

The Training Corner

The General Conference 2012

Questions

Do you remember the events of the 49th Quadrennial Session?



49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference

*Exalting Christ
to Impact the World*

June 27 - July 4, 2012

Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tennessee



1. The 2012 General Conference was held in _____
2. Bishop _____ hosted the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference.
3. Who are the newly elected bishops _____
4. Who is the Senior Bishop? _____
5. Who is the bishop of the 11th Episcopal District _____
6. Who is the President of the Council of Bishops? _____
7. The 2016 General Conference will be held in _____
8. There are _____ active bishops
9. Bishop _____ is the Lay Commission Chair.
10. _____ was the keynote speaker at the 49th Quadrennial Session.

Answers:

1. Nashville, TN
2. Bishop Vashiti Murphy McKenzie
3. Bishop Clement W. Fugh (14th District) and Bishop Reginald T. Jackson (20th District and Ecumenical Officer)
4. Bishop John Richard Bryant
5. Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
6. Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
7. Philadelphia, PA
8. Twenty (20) active bishops, (One Located Bishop and Nine Retired Bishops)
9. Bishop William Phillips DeVaux Sr.
10. First Lady Michelle Obama

The Pensacola-Marianna District



President Joe Johnson

*Inspiration thought from the
president
"Together we stand, divided
we fall."*



Pensacola Marianna District Lay Organization
Presiding Elder, James Davis
Mr. Joseph Johnson, District President

The Pensacola - Marianna District Lay has hosted two meetings this quarter. The first meeting was held on April 21, 2012 Mt. Olive A.M. E. Church Panama City, FL,. Rev. Barbara Brinson was the host pastor. Our second meeting was held on May 19, 2012 at Good Hope A.M.E. Church in Pensacola, FL, Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Corbin was the host pastor.

On May 25-26, 2012 President Johnson attended the Florida Conference Lay Organization Day and half workshop at Bethel A.M.E. in Pensacola, FL. President Johnson also attended the 68th Episcopal District Lay Convention at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Sarasota, FL which was held June 12-15, 2012.

President Johnson is continually working on getting all churches in our district to have a lay organization; he is also asking the pastors to attend the meetings

*Congratulations to the
Pensacola-Marianna Men of Distinction*



*Brother Terry Mobley
Brother Nathaniel Smith
Brother James Wherry*

The Quincy District

THE QUINTESSENTIAL QUINCY DISTRICT

The Quincy District Lay Organization is moving onward and upward. We are training and informing our people and trying to teach them to continue to love the A.M.E. Church.

We held a beautiful Quincy District Social – A Semi-Formal Affair – just to say “Thank you” to our people. We wanted to give back to them for attending the District Meetings, paying their budgets and dues, attending District Functions and for just being all-around “good” people.

We also had a very Spiritual Annual Lay Day at Hopewell A.M.E. Church; where there is Hope at the well where the living waters flow. Rev. Lori G. Bouie was the preacher for this occasion and she preached a dynamic and inspiring message to encourage us to keep the faith and don’t give up.

The Quincy District Lay Organization appreciates the support given to us by our Presiding Elder, the Rev. Mary W. Robinson and the Pastors of the District. They are the “Best”! We are thankful for all of the blessings (Presiding Elder, Pastors, Officers and Members) that surround us and make us who we are.

We are winding down and coming to the end of this Conference year and we have met all of our obligations. We are gearing up and looking forward to the next conference year with all of its new challenges ahead.

We welcome the new Episcopal Team of Bishop and Supervisor Adam J and Connie Richardson, Jr. back to the 11th. We are looking forward to a Successful 147th Session as the Mt Zion AME Church, Havana (Glade) leads the Quincy District and the Florida conference onward to Victory.

To God be the Glory!

Submitted by: Sis. Jennifer C. Lawson

“The Silent Sermon”

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the firey sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday'.

The Tallahassee District

Anderson Chapel AMEC hosts District Annual Lay Day

Gathered at Bethel AMEC Monticello, where the Reverend Helen Johnson Robinson is the host pastor, members of the Tallahassee District Lay Organization assembled to participate in the 2012 TDLO Annual Lay Day. Sister Shondra Buggs served as the presiding officer for the program and the Reverend Freddie Glenn was the featured proclaimer. Reverend Glenn admonished the attendees about using their talents for the building of the kingdom and advised them to not get tired as they serve. Members of the Tallahassee District enjoyed the day of fellowship and stood in the presence of an anointed man of God who delivered a dynamic word. Praise God for the Reverend Freddie Glenn and his commitment to kingdom building.

TDLO District Members await the beginning of the program.



2 (Above) – Reverend Freddie Glenn proclaims the word of God during the Annual Lay day Program

3 (Right) – Sister Shondra Buggs serves as the presiding officer during the program.



AME Church Welcomed First Lady Michelle Obama as General Conference Keynote Speaker!

Mrs. Obama's visit marked the first time a sitting first lady has spoken at the General Conference!



The Tallahassee District

TDLO Hosts 2nd Annual Scholarship Banquet



The TDLO held its 2nd Annual Scholarship Banquet to honor the recipients of the RL and Joyce Wilson

Scholarship. The scholarship was initiated in the Tallahassee District in 2011 to assist high school seniors who chose to further their postsecondary education at an HBCU. .

The 2012 winners were:



Haylee Bell, St. Phillip AMEC
Shenita Anderson, Bethel AMEC/Tallahassee

Additionally, each local congregation was asked to nominate one young adult scholar from the church to be recognized. The academic scholarship recipients will receive \$750.00 each and the local congregation nominees received a certificate and a gift card. The featured speaker for the occasion for Brother Padric Scott, a senior pharmacy major at Florida A&M University and son of the Reverend Edward Scott. Brother

Scott is also one of the captains of the Rattler football team. He focused on the importance of young adult in the church.

1. The Bell Family pose with Retired Elder Ralph L. Wilson and President Warner.
2. Brother Padric Scott, featured speaker, is congratulated by President Warner.
3. Proud and loving grandmother, Gertrude Gaines, mother, Anita Anderson, sharing scholarship moment with, Shenita Anderson and Rev Wilson and President Gregg.

Anderson Chapel A.M.E.C. Annual Lay Day

It's known to all that Sister Lillie Robinson is the local president at Anderson Chapel AMEC where the Reverend Freddie Glenn is the pastor. But, on the day that was planned for the Annual Lay Day, Sister Robinson had to be admitted into the hospital. The program had been outlined and participants as well as District and church members were in place but Sister Robinson's presence was visibly missing. Her son, the

Reverend Nathaniel Robinson, the featured speaker informed the audience that she, recently discharged from the hospital was determined to make the program but he had to insist that she stay home to recuperate. The program was a success and the Reverend Freddie Glenn and the Anderson Chapel AMEC were overjoyed with the outcome.



Florida Conference Laity Receive Awards

69th Annual Session - Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization



The 69th Annual Session of the EEDLO proved to be a resounding success as several members of the Florida Conference were honored during the Annual Awards Program. 2012 Inductees into the EEDLO Hall of Fame were Sister Coline James and Brother James Sawyer. The highlight of the meeting occurred as the President of the Connectional Lay Organization, Dr. Willie C. Glover attended the meeting to host the Episcopal District election. The meeting proved to be both educational and rewarding for all who attended the sessions. Hats off to President Hugh Yancy and members of the West Coast Conference was a magnificent hosting!

Sister Coline James receives the Hall of Fame Award from CLO President Willie Glover and EEDLO President Elect Charlie Nichols

Episcopal Team Comes Home!



As you are all aware, Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. and Supervisor Connie Richardson have been appointed to serve the 11th Episcopal District.

Following the Christian Education Congress, one of their first official responsibilities will be to convene the 147th Session of the Florida Annual Conference here in Tallahassee, Florida. As is our tradition, as the oldest Annual Conference in the 11th Episcopal District, we are inviting you to attend a special "Welcome Luncheon" for our new Resident Bishop and Episcopal Supervisor of Missions on August 11, 2012 at 12 Noon at the University Center Club at Florida State University, hosted by the Florida Annual Conference.

We are asking all 11th Episcopal District Pastors and laity, the leadership of the Lay, Women's Missionary Society and clergy components at the Episcopal, Conference and the Presiding Elder District levels to participate in this extraordinary moment in the history of our Episcopal District. The cost of the luncheon is \$50. You may secure your ticket from the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church Office.

For any additional information, please contact Mrs. Laurise Thomas, Church Administrator at (850)-576-7501 or at bethelitelaaurise@gmail.com.

We look forward to your support and please join me in prayer for the success of this activity and the 147th Session of the Florida Annual Conference.

In His Name because of Christ and Calvary,
Julius H. McAllister Jr., D. Min.
Senior Minister

CLO 100 Anniversary Celebration



President Warner Poses with Bobby Jones



Eleventh Episcopal District Laity Gather For a Photo

Happy Birthday Connectional Lay Organization!

CELEBRATION!

49th Quadrennial
Session

Thursday
June 28, 2012

Laity from around the world purchased tickets, adorned themselves in blue and white and made their way at 7:00 a.m. to attend a Centennial Breakfast that was held at the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference to celebrate 100 years to honor the legacy of those stalwart and committed laypersons who struggled to get the lay movement off the ground and those who also persevered to bring us to this high point in the life of the Connectional Lay Organization.

Additionally, a secondary goal of the breakfast was to raise \$50,000.00 to support the mission and goals of the Connectional Lay Organization which is to support

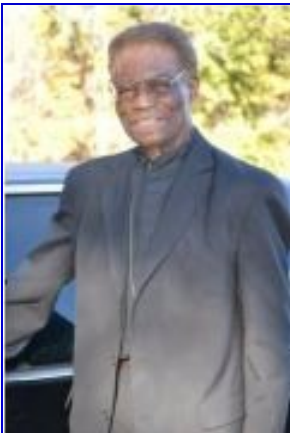
the ministry of lay witness, leadership training and advocacy on behalf of the church and the communities we serve. These funds will also be used to support our scholarship fund and help our Organization provide disaster relief, when necessary, under the AME Church banner.

Dr. Bobby Jones, international gospel star, served as the Master of Ceremonies with local and connectional talent to entertain and inspire. The program was a resounding success!

Necrology

Remembering the Life's Journey of...

Reverend Dozier Balloon, Jr.



Rev. Dozier Balloon, Jr. 84, began his life on a farm and ended it as a well respected husband, father, brother, uncle, soldier, provider and Christian leader. Rev. Dozier Balloon Jr., affectionately known as David departed this life to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 27th at Center Pointe Rehabilitation Center in Tallahassee, FL.

Rev. Balloon's survivors include his devoted wife of 55 years, Lillian Aikens Balloon, daughter, ViElla Balloon Lindsey, son-in-law, Rev. S. Gerrard Lindsey and two grandsons - Micaiah and Caleb Lindsey, of Tallahassee, FL; two sisters - Lillie B.

Nesbitt (Madison, FL) and Leola B. Garvander (Richville, MN), one brother, Ulysees "Buddy" Balloon (Tampa, FL) and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and sorrowing friends.

Family visitation was held on Friday, July 6, 2012, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at Jeslamb A.M.E. Church, 185 NE Almond Ave, Madison, FL 32340. (850) 973-6254.

A Celebration of life was held on Saturday, July 7, 2012, 11:00 am, at North Florida Community College, Van H. Priest Auditorium, Madison, FL followed by the interment at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church Cemetery, Cherry Lake, FL.

The Officers and Members of the Florida Conference Lay Organization would like to extend heartfelt condolences to Sister Lillian Balloon and the Balloon family during their period of bereavement.

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me" -
John 14:1

In Our Prayers..

Sister Vivian Cromartie
Sister China Evans
Sister Judith Hollinhead
Sister Florence Murphy
Sister Lula Wilson

OUR PRAYER FOR YOU!

FATHER GOD; we your humble servants THANK YOU for your omnipotence and omnipresence . We are calling upon you this day in prayer for our beloved members. Our Heavenly Father, YOU are our Alpha and Omega, the Creator and Guardian of our lives; we praise YOU, we glorify YOU as we ask you to heal and restore these members; that they may be living testimonies of how great YOU are and that ALL power is in your hands. We share this prayer for each brother and sister that is faced with the acid test of life throughout our Zion. Father GOD we are leaning on YOU and trusting YOU for healing that only YOU can give. We pray that YOU will strengthen family and friends and that your Holy anointing will fall upon every doctor, nurse, technician, medication and equipment used in the healing and restoration of your servants. We THANK YOU GOD and we are forever grateful for your divine grace and mercy; and we will continue to give YOU all the Praise, In the Mighty and Matchless Name of JESUS The CHRIST, AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

Bereavement

Sister Lillian Balloon
Sister Bobbie Bates
Sister Sarah Simmons

Spotlight on the AME Male

May 25th ▪ Pensacola, Florida



With an emphasis on the AME Male, the Florida Conference Lay Organization spotlighted 11 male members from throughout the Florida Conference. The men were nominated by their local churches and presented to the conference during the Annual 1½ day FCLO Convention. The event was held in the Pensacola-Marianna District. Each honoree was presented with a certificate from the conference and door prizes were periodically presented to the attendees. Brother Elmer Jenkins was the featured speaker and he provided an overview on the importance of the role of male in church. His delivery included a personal testimony of male involvement in the church taken from memories of his upbringing in the AME church. The activity served as a prelude to a day of workshops and business.

The men honored during the program have served the AME Church in various capacities and were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the AME Church



2012 Men of Distinction Honorees

Brother Aundra Bryant, Bethel Tallahassee

Brother Harold Carter, New Zion

Brother Israel Lee Cauley, Mt. Pisgah

Brother Oscar Lightfoot, Flipper Chapel

Brother Samuel B. Long, St. Paul Chaires

Brother John Wesley Love, Steward Temple

Brother Isaac Floyd Mitchell, Anderson Chapel

Brother Terry Mobley, Bethel Pensacola

Brother Nathaniel Smith, Jr.

Brother James Wherry, Good Hope AME

Brother Robert Youman, St. Hebron



The Florida Conference Lay Organization

Officers

President: Mr. Johnnie Hill, Jr.
1st Vice President: Mr. Shepherd Myrick
2nd Vice President: Mr. Joseph Johnson
3rd Vice President: Mrs. Eileen S. Warner
Recording Secretary: Mrs. Ethel Wooten
Assistant Recording Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Harley
Corresponding Secretary: OPEN
Treasurer: Mrs. Estelle Hogan
Financial Secretary: Mrs. Catherine Johnson
Chaplin: Mrs. Norma Merritt
Historiographer: Mrs. Willie M. Long-Cobb
Parliamentarian: Mr. James Sawyer
Director of Lay Activities: Mr. John W. Love
Director of Public Relations: Ms. Vivian E. Cromartie
Young Adult Representative: Ms. Auja Bush

Commissions

Director of Statistics and Finance: Mr. Robert Lane
Assistant Director: Ms. Cassandra Jenkins
Director of Program and Activities: Mrs. Eileen S. Warner
Assistant Director: Mr. Raymond Jackson
Director of Personnel and Procedure: Ms. Judith Hollinhead
Assistant Director: Mr. Donald Russell
Director of Organization and Structure: Mrs. Connie Jenkins-Pye
Assistant Director: Mr. Orenthious "OJ" Hill

District Presidents

Pensacola/Marianna District: Mr. Joseph Johnson
Quincy District: Mr. Henry W. McGill
Tallahassee District: Mrs. Eileen S. Warner

Advisors

Mr. Harry K. Holt, Mr. George Stakley, Mrs. Queen Brown,
Mr. Donald Russell

2012-2016 Episcopal District Assignments

1st - Bishop Gregory Ingram
2nd - Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux, Sr.
3rd - Bishop McKinley Young
4th - Bishop John Richard Bryant
5th - Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland
6th - Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II
7th - Bishop Richard Franklin Norris
8th - Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister
9th - Bishop James Levert Davis
10th - Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
11th - Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson
12th - Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green
13th - Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath
14th - Bishop Clement W. Fugh
15th - Bishop David Daniels, Jr.
16th - Bishop Sarah Francis Davis
17th - Bishop Wilfred Jacobus Messiah
18th - Bishop John Franklin White
19th - Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe
20th - Bishop Reginald T. Jackson
Ecumenical Officer: Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.
Located

General Officers

General Secretary/CIO

Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper

Treasurer/CFO

Dr. Richard A. Lewis

Publisher of the Sunday School Union

Dr. Johnny Barbour, Jr.

Historiographer

Dr. Teresa L. Fry-Brown

Ex. Director of Global Witness

Dr. George F. Flowers

Ex. Director of Annuity Investments

Dr. Jerome V. Harris

Ex. Director of Church Growth/Dev.

Dr. James C. Wade

Ex. Director of Christian Ed.

Dr. Daryl B. Ingram

Editor/The Christian Recorder

Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III

Judicial Council Members

Rev. Vernon R. Byrd, Jr.

Rev. Glenda F. Hodges

Send us your NEWS!!

"The Laymen's Voice"

Forward ALL information for publication to:

Mrs. Eileen S. Warner • Post Office Box 5701

Tallahassee, Florida 32310 •

Instruct926@aol.com

