



The Lay Communiqué

Magazine of The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Digital / Online Edition



The Sixth Edition of the Digital Magazine ✝ Spring/Summer Issue ✝ May-October 2017

*AMEC Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization ~ Photos/Events/Accolades
Content is presently updating ~ Please send your articles/photos for publication!*



Sunshine over Georgia Waters ~ Saint Simons Island, GA ~ "Sunshine & Water in Georgia" by AJSG ✝ East

Content in this Digital Magazine will update as features are submitted or created & removed when time has expired

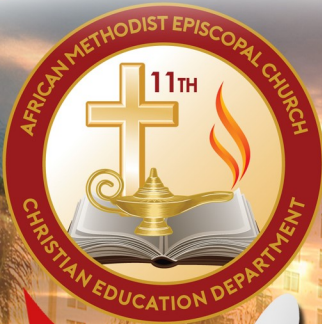
Please send your articles, photos, flyers & features for the Digital Lay Communiqué

President: Patricia Wright ✝ West Coast Conference/Director of Public Relations: Mary Silva ✝ Florida Conference

Digital Magazine design by AJSG ~ EEDLO Web Servant/Social Media ✝ East Conference

11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH & LEADERSHIP CONGRESS 2017



Music

I STILL HEAR
IN THE AIR

JULY 24 - 28, 2017

Save The Date

DYNAMIC WORSHIP; AGE APPROPRIATE WORKSHOPS; FOCUSED BIBLE STUDIES;
DANCE LESSONS; CHOIR; DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY CLASSES; STEP CLASSES;
MERIT BADGE WORKSHOPS FOR SCOUTS; YOUTH PERFORMANCES; SOCIAL;
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!



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SUPERVISOR
CONNIE SPEIGHTS RICHARDSON



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"The Lay Communiqué"

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Magazine

73rd Annual Convention Edition

Sheraton Suites, Cypress Creek, Fort Lauderdale, Florida



June 20, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 1

73rd Annual EEDLO Gets Down to Business in Balmy Broward County

The 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization year in Review:

2016 was as Electrifying as our 11th District as the second ever female was elected President of this august group of "Eloquent, Enlightened and Empowered Lay Persons." Another piece of 11th District history included the election of five persons from the Faithful Florida Conference to various offices on the Episcopal level.

2017 began with a Colorful Voices Worship Service and meeting to complete the foundation for the Annual Convention. The Annual Lay Retreat brought together a great group of singers in a Hymn fest with emphasis on the historical as well as the spiritual side of what we sing and some of the why's. Thus, the Holy Spirit was ushered in and saturated St. Paul for the planned workshops for Saturday.

After a filling lunch, we said our goodbyes until our next coming together during Mid-Year in Or-

lando.

Registrar, Ann McCelvy reported the following:

FL CO	33
Central	33
South	49
West Coast	40
East	26
Bahamas	09
Clergy	3
Total	190

(Includes Clergy)

Health Walk:

"Energetic Walkers in Motion and/or Sanctified Steppers"

Reporter & Tour Guide: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Florida Conference

Sister Connie comes with renewed energy to get this Annual Convention off to an invigorating and vibrant start. For those who have walked with Sister Connie, you must come with your "A" game; however, some of the seasoned saints enjoy the walk at their own pace. It's not about who finishes

first so long as you finish. To all the sanctified steppers and energetic walkers in motion. Sister Connie will be ready, bright and early on Wednesday, June 21, 2017. Please plan to join the group, by signing up with Sister Connie, she will have a sign-up/in sheet.

NEWS REPORTERS NEEDED FROM EACH CONFERENCE

Please sign up to cover Convention events as an enhancement to the daily paper. I encourage Conference Directors of Public Relations, and or any member of your respective conferences to cover sessions such as New Members Orientation, Worship Service & Communion, Business Sessions, etc. Please send a text message to Mary Silva, (850) 321-5198 or email me at mabs03@aol.com, if

The Right Reverend Adam J. Richardson, Jr., Presiding Bishop, 11th Episcopal District

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Prospective Reporters

Mary Silva, FC
Ethel Wooten, FC
Debra Gilliard, 11th District
Historiographer
Photographer, SC
Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, FC

CONFERENCE LAY WITNESS NIGHTS

In 2016, Conference Lay Witness Nights were held in each of the Conferences of the Eleventh District; however, the West Coast Conference must be the best as that was the **“ONLY”** Conference which provided information and pictures of their Lay

Organization worship service.

Conference Directors of Public Relations, let's get busy this year and provide quarterly information to the Episcopal District to keep our online paper up to date with fresh and interesting news.



A view from the TOP

Historical or Angelic Reflections:

My View:

As we prepare to complete the work of this 2017 Annual Convention, I reflected on persons that were instrumental to my growth and involvement as a member of the Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; these persons are in no particular order.

Bro. Thurman (West Florida Conference President) & Sis. Edna Fortune, members of Greater St. Joseph, DeFuniak Springs; Bro. Elliot Freeman, Mt. Zion, Crestview; Bro. Jewel & Sis. Eunice Davis, Bethel, Pensacola; Sister Lillie James Frazier (my mentor) I worked alongside her during the many Conferences and Conventions in the Old West Florida Annual Conference; Sister Bill Hutchinson, Henshaw Chapel, Cottondale; Bro. Raymond Jackson, (West Florida Conference President), Mt. Ol-

ive, Red Bay; Bro. George Stakley (West Florida Conference President), Mt. Zion, Crestview; Sister Dorise Griffin (former First Lady, Gregg Chapel); Sister Marie Dixon-Jones (Central Conference President), St. Paul, Ocala; Bro. Andrew Brown, (Local President), Greater Bethel, Gainesville; Bro. Freddie Matthews (Gainesville District President); Sis. Marian Bacon-White, (1st Female President, 11th Episcopal District).

I am much the better as a leader as I stand on the shoulders of many who paved the way and assisted me along the way.

For the ones that are no longer here with us, what would they think of the happenings within the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay, our various Conferences, our Districts, and our local church organizations. Would their views be full of pride for the manner in which we handle business or

would they be filled with incredulity, disbelief and dissatisfaction? The question is rhetorical, please respond to yourself only. As we begin the journey of this 2017 Annual Convention, many of our Church School Conventions have concluded and prayerfully they were as spirit-filled as the one that I attended where we had lessons regarding the “Jonah” mentality; admonition to rid ourselves of some of the “negative nets” that we’re holding on to and encouragement to reflect and build on Romans 8:28-31 and to know that we’re going somewhere. The icing on the cake was a session taught by the Rev. Dr. Mark Crutcher “Heading to Eternity” where he expounded on the movie the Wizard of Oz and it’s spirituality from Dorothy’s red shoes symbolizing the blood of Jesus to the Tin Man being anointed with oil to get love back into his heart.

As we move forward let us look reflectively at our self, our life, heart, service, love for human



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June 21, 2017

Volume 1, Issue 2

73rd Annual EEDLO Gets Down to Business in Balmy Broward County

Daily Devotional:

Ephesians 6:5-8

Christians sometimes make the mistake of mentally separating their work life from their spiritual life. This mindset says, "Sunday is the Lord's day, but the rest of the week belongs to me." That is an unbiblical way to live. God's Holy Spirit should be involved in everything we do, and we ought to recognize Him as our guide, comforter, and intercessor no matter where we are. Why would we want to exclude Him from something that takes up a large part of our week?

The apostle Paul clearly teaches that work is to be done as for the Lord (Col. 3:23). Other people may do a job better because of greater skill or experience, but believers should be known for doing quality work in a timely, wise, and respectful manner. And we can trust the Holy Spirit to equip us to do just that. Serving the Lord on the job means that our workplace is also our ministry site. A job provides money to support the family, but when done faithfully, it becomes far more than simply a means to make a living. One's work also develops character, builds a sense of self-worth, and develops skills. Moreover, while we are around coworkers for a number of

hours each day, we have opportunity to build relationships, bear testimony, and glorify our heavenly Father. Work shouldn't be seen as drudgery; it is an opportunity to show love for the Lord. The reward for those who serve God and love others on the job is greater than a paycheck. They are blessed with a ministry—a harvest field for the kingdom, right inside the factory, office building, or con-



struction site.

Health Walk:

"Energetic Walkers in Motion and/or Sanctified Steppers"

Reporter & Tour Guide: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Florida Conference

Sister Connie and crew, off to an energetic start; walkers assembling at 5:30am in the front lobby. The walk starts promptly at 5:45am.



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Photographer, SC
Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, FC**

FIRST TIMER'S ORIENTATION, VIVIAN CROMARTIE, FC

Sister Lenora White and Sister Teresa White, Episcopal DOLA were the instructors for the class.

The session was interesting as you talked about ways to get members to come join in and be a part of the Lay Organization, letting them know about the African Methodist Episcopal history as well as the history of the Lay.

We played a bingo game in hopes to get to know each other better. The bingo game asked questions like are you the youngest child; have you visited Mother Bethel in Philadelphia, PA, traveled out of the country, or were born in another state? This was all a part of getting to know new members from other conferences or districts. There were seven new members in attendance; three from the Florida Confer-

ence, and four from the South Conference.



OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Soaring South Conference left no stone unturned in removing all seen and unseen obstacles for the Opening Worship Service. The service seemingly elevated all worshipers into the third heaven as our souls and bodies were refreshed, renewed and restored by all that we saw, heard and felt during the worship experience.

The Episcopal Officers, worship participants, Elders, Clergy and Laity were all splendidly attired and entered the sanctuary for the service with high Praise on their lips and in their spirits.

The Reverend Milton Broomfield, Presiding Elder welcomed the constituency to the beautiful sunny south with its beautiful beaches and invited all to partake of a "Cajun Virgin Pina Colada and myriad seafood dishes while in the Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach area.

The Reverend Kevin Desire and the South Conference Choir were superb as they sang hymns and songs of the church with vim and vigor reminding many of us of the soul-stirring melodies of earlier times in church.

The preacher of the hour was The Reverend Jimmy J. Thompson, Presiding Elder of the Lively Lakeland District.

Elder Thompson's text scripture, Psalm 119:71; subject: "It was necessary." He began his sermon with a testimony from 2004 and his first run for Bishop, revealing that he never knew that you had to run before you run, in other words, testing the waters first, or putting out feelers before the run. His testimony included his disappointment and pain of having to take his name out of the running, leaving the stage dejected and defeated. He ended the testimony by stating that he had given pain and disappoint-

ment a pink slip from his life and gave the congregants ten points to ponder:

- 1. You can't trust everybody with your dreams and aspirations;*
- 2. Ambition always attracts adversaries;*
- 3. Smiling faces do lie;*
- 4. Don't call people your friend unless you've vetted them;*
- 5. Free yourself from human parasites and piranha's;*
- 6. When folk show you who they are believe them;*
- 7. Taste your words before you eat them, you may have to eat them again;*
- 8. Trust your instincts, they are usually correct;*
- 9. Believe your eyes, they're looking out for you; and*
- 10. Failure isn't Final.*

He further expounded that in life, most folks are sometimes plagued with the trifecta of trouble, trials

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP & BUSINESS

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE, CONT'D

That in this life, people will assassinate your character, but with God's help and guidance we can turn what some believe to be our obituary into our résumé. As our former FLOTUS stated, when they go low, we/you go HIGH!

He concluded his sermon by telling us to have a song in our hearts at all times as we hold fast to Psalm 27. Elder Thompson's song: "I've got a feeling that everything is gonna be alright."

Celebrants for Communion included Presiding Elder's Vincent Mitchell, Milton Broomfield, Jessie Harvin and Valerie Walker and several members of the clergy.

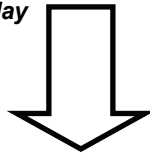
There were 171 persons that received the sacrament of Holy Communion.



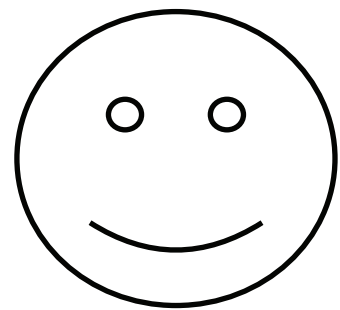
Health Walkers

Wednesday, June 21, 2017

Met in the lobby, bright and early to begin their day



THE STAFF HOPES THAT YOU'RE SEEING LOTS OF SMILING FACES!



Daily Agenda

Wednesday, 6/21/17

9-5 EEDLO Office Open

8:30am - 11:30am General Assembly

11:45am—1:00pm YAR Hour of Power

1:00pm –2:30pm Hospitality Room Open

2:30pm - 4:30pm General Assembly

4:40-6:00 pm Commissions at Work

7:00 p.m.

Laura P. Robinson

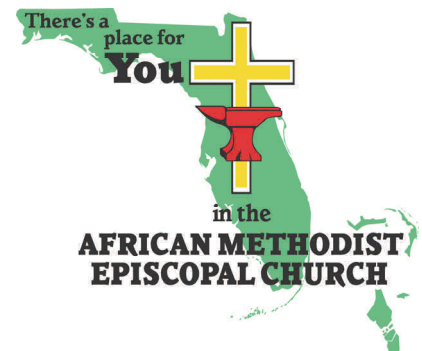
Lay Benevolence Activity

Commissions began their work on Tuesday as did the LEDP!

The Roving Reporter is still looking for a few good men and women to report on the various workshops, worship services and trainings that are ongoing during this convention.

The Reporter overheard some folk inquiring about Thursday's R & B in the AME ?? Inquiries included whether R & B means Rhythm and Blues, or if it meant Russell & Brown; Red & Black or Reach & Bend?

What do you think it means; keep guessing until tomorrow.





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June 22, 2017

73rd Annual EEDLO Continues with Business in Balmy & Breezy Broward County

Volume 1, Issue 3

Daily Devotional:

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Have you ever felt discouraged about trying to live the Christian life? If your efforts to make a difference in the world seem fruitless, following the Lord's example could change your outlook.

Christ served others in love, and His actions had tremendous impact in the world. How was He so effective? Scripture tells us that Jesus did not speak or act on His own initiative but instead depended upon His Father abiding in Him to do the work ([John 14:10](#)). And we are to do likewise.

Yet we often attempt to serve out of our own skills, intelligence, and ability to reason. Even though we may pour great effort and long hours into ministry, these alone won't produce fruitfulness. It's far more important to minister as the Lord intended.

True service is commissioned, empowered, and blessed by God alone. It may be our hands that are laboring, but our Father is the One at work. And the glory belongs to Him, not us.

What comfort this should give us! The Lord is not looking just for people who are extremely talented. He will use all who are willing

to let His Spirit work through them. And we can be confident that He will provide everything we need in order to do whatever He asks.

Who among us can serve the living God? Truthfully, no one can. Genuine service occurs only when we allow the Almighty to pour Himself through us; we are mere vessels. Even if the impact is not obvious to us, we know that God always achieves His purpose—and what's more, He is glorified.



Health Walk: "Energetic Walkers in Motion and/or Sanctified Steppers"

Reporter: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Florida Conference

On Wednesday, June 21, a brisk humid summer morning, the nine "Energetic Walkers in Motion/Sanctified Steppers" met in the front lobby of the Sheraton Suites. They did not find it robbery to prepare their temples in God's

kingdom to begin a daily walk before the business session of the convention convened.

The walkers were from the North, South, East and West and they started their day off with preparing their bodies with God's armor to walk the distance of 1.5 miles (from the hotel to the Cypress Creek Shopping Plaza).

The health walk will convene Thursday, June 22 and Friday, June 23, from 5:45-6:45am. We are encouraging members of the organization to join us on the above listed days.

The following "Energetic Walkers" had a great fellowship together: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye (Florida), Beverly Outler (East), Patricia A. Kelly (Central), Dessie P. Matthews (East), Deborah Langston (East), Melanie Weath-



erspoon (South), Marie Dixon-Jones (Central) and

●
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●
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Historiographer
Photographer, SC
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MINUTES MID-YEAR, SECRETARIAL STAFF

ELEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION

Patricia Wright, President

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richards, Jr. Presiding Pre-Late

Mid-Year Meeting-Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida

MARCH 23, 2017 / MID-YEAR MINUTES

Call to Order

The Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization called its meeting 10:10 am at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida by President Patricia Wright.

Devotion

Chaplain Sis. Deborah Langston led members in song for the devotion followed with prayer and scripture by Sis. Jean Kicklighter, Proverbs 3rd 1-6. She gave a reading on "Commission First." The meeting was then turned over to our President.

President Sis. Patricia Wright thanked our Chaplain Sis. Deborah Langston and the members for their participation in leading devotion and greeted all attending the meeting. She informed that the agenda was before us and we only had a short time to cover all materials listed.

Roll Call of Officers

Assistant Secretary Sis. Ella Wilson called the roll with Officers and Conference Presidents to stand and the members from those conferences.

Officers in attendance: President-Sis. Patricia Wright; 1st Vice Pres. Bro. John Love; 2nd Vice Pres. Sis. Lothar Cherry; 3rd Vice Pres. Bro. Johnnie Hill, Jr.; Secretary Sis. Ethel M Wooten; Asst. Secretary Sis. Ella Wilson; Treasurer Sis. Mae Devoe Fields; Financial Secretary Priscilla Salter; Director of Public Relations Sis. Mary Silva; Parliamentarian Bro. Jesse Burns; Historiographer Sis. Debra Gillard; Chaplain Sis. Deborah Langston; YAR Sis. Robbyn Hopewell; DOLA Sis. Teresa White. Conference Presidents-Bro. Shepherd Myrick; Sis. Katheryn Gillis; Sis. Ella Gilmore; Bro. Hugh Yancy, Jr.; Sis. Phillis Filer and Bro. Brian Brown.

Commission Chairs and Co-Chairs: Sis. Loretta Coppock; Sis. Lolita Brown, Sis. Carolyn Floyd; Sis. LuCretria McBride;

Pres. Sis. Patricia Wright informed of the outline for our meeting by earmarking a guide line for keeping the conversation as task masters.

Adoption of Agenda

Our President Sis. Patricia Wright then called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Sis. Lothar Cherry made the motion that we adopt the agenda for the day, it was seconded by several. Motion carried.

Minutes EEDLO in January

The minutes were read silently by the members; Sis. Patricia Wright, President then called for the adoption of the minutes. Bro. Tyrone Presley made the motion to adopt the minutes with necessary corrections, it was seconded by Bro. Dr. Dean Goldsby, Sis. Deborah Langston and others. Motion carried.

The Lay Organization at Work

President Sis. Patricia Wright gave reflections and stated that she was very happy to see so many in the room for this meeting and looking forward to seeing the same faces and then some for our upcoming Convention in June.

Retreat Recap- Financial Secretary Sis. Priscilla Salter shared that we had 214 persons to registrar with total funds of (\$2,067) \$10, 627: Conference participating were: Central 63; East 59; South 35; West Coast 35 and FLA 16, There were 6 additional persons to registrar that did not have their conferences listed.

Constitution and Bylaws- Bro. Donald Russell on Commissions gave updated report for the amendments for our by-laws and asked that we please receive from them conference Presidents so that we could ratify and make the changes by the Annual Convention in June.

Awards and Scholarships Report- Sis. Loretta Coppock Chairperson informed that we have received the scholarship applications back in a time before the deadline and thus now has passed. She is looking to have persons awarded and have not received any this year; but there is next near. We will view the scholarships at this Mid-year meeting and still seeking to receive \$2,000 from each conference in the support of the scholarship funding.

The Christian Recorder-President Sis. Patricia Wright informed that for the first time we have a Layperson writing and handling the subscriptions for our Christian Recorder and can be purchased for \$36 yearly and subscribe on line, but only the short versions, please check your emails on how to subscribe. We are asking each conference to purchase the Christian Recorder, and at the Biennial Convention they will recognize the district that have the most subscriptions. Sis. Priscilla Salter Financial Secretary will handle the funds.

June Convention-Sis. Katheryn Gills South Florida Conference President/President Sis. Patricia Wright presented the presentations of the up-coming 73rd EEDLO Convention to be held in North Fort Lauderdale at Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek Hotel, June 20-23, 2017,

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP & BUSINESS

Daily Agenda
Thursday, 6/22/17
9-5 EEDLO Office Open

Leadership Training Day

8:30am - Bible Study
9:15am—10:25am
Whole Group Training Session
10:30am-11:30am
The R & B in the AME
(Taking off the Spiritual Mask)
Groups Rotate
11:35am-12:35am
The R & B in the AME
(Taking off the Spiritual Mask)
12:35pm—1:00pm
WRAP UP

7:30 p.m.
Awards Banquet

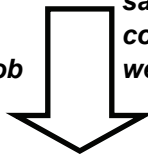
Laura P. Robinson Benevolence Worship Program

Theme: "Let the Choirs Say
Amen"

The worship experience was capably led by Sister Angela Mitchell; talents were displayed as the choirs, not only sang, but ministered to the worshippers with the selected songs. A blend of songs that met the spiritual needs of all in attendance and covered genre's of contemporary, gospel and spirituals.

Souls wafted heavenward as a feast was going on similar to Elder Thompson's message the evening before as he proclaimed that when you're experiencing the F², of "Favor and Flavor," you're unstoppable because God has you covered.

We thank the Committee and Sister Lothar Cherry for blending young people into the mix with the seasoned saints of the church and commend them for a job well done and superbly executed.



The Roving Reporter received a text message from a convention goer with the initials P.R.; that thought that the R & B could mean "recruit and baptize" or as she recalled from Elder Thompson's Tuesday night message:

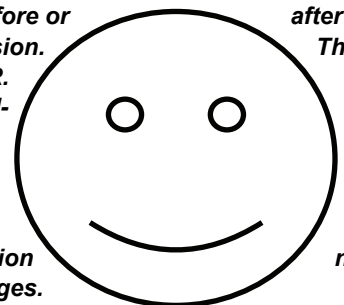


"rejoicing and back-stabbing."

Commissions were still working on Wednesday especially that hard-working Commission Chair with the initials L. S. P.

Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to print quality photos; however, we plan to produce a CD of Convention photos. Should you wish to purchase a CD, \$5.00; please email me at mabs03@aol.com. Advance payments only, mail to Priscilla Salter, Financial Secretary 953 Crawfordville Trace, Tallahassee, Florida 32310. Thanks!

Would love to get other thoughts before or after the session. Thanks for reading the P.R. news convention pages.



Minutes Cont'd

room rates \$99.00 per night; reservations 1-888-627-8250 by 5:00pm on May 20, 2017. Handouts were presented with additional information and the Souvenir Journal Advertisements due by April 14, 2017. Our President shared information on the ninety days prior to the convention we would be receiving the guideline for making our reports on stewardship there will be a special scholarship funding opportunity to be presented; ratification of the Constitution and bylaws; guests and information from CLO prospective Officers that will be campaigning at the Biennial Convention. A new twist will be presented at the closing of Convention with the last word from our Bishop and we will be closing at the same time. Please make sure that we registrar.

Biennial Convention – August 7-10, 2017

Registration – need to make reservation through your conference by May 20, 2017 (see DOLA information below)

Charlie Nichols- Candidacy-Charlie Nichols shared with us that he would be running for office at the Biennial for Connectional President and was seeking our support. The board members discussed the necessary details of endorsing him for this cause with further discussion to take place at June Convention.

DOLA Teaching and Learning. Nominated, Appointed or Self-Appointed

Sis. Teresa White Director of Lay Activities gave us a very informative workshop on how we elect our Bishops, Pastors, Stewards and Trustees and being sure of what these positions entail in the AME Church. She also presented a list of questions to ponder on: (How do you feel if some attempt to do the job that was given to you?)

Preparing Ahead

Annual Convention 20-23, 2017 South Conference- Sheraton Suites Cypress Creek, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Biennial Convention August, 2017, Columbus, OH- August 8/5-7, 2017; Election will be on the 7th. We need to register with executive board by next week \$250 and after June 15, 2017 \$300

Biennial Dress and Transportation - Discussion from DOLA Sis. Teresa White on the dress uniform and how we will be getting to the Biennial. She will be looking into travel to fly, train etc.. Samples of the dress shirt was presented to us in two different shades of blue and white. She stressed that we wear a blazer with the shirts and if the blazer should have navy or white buttons.

At the close out of the Biennial, we will dress out on this day. The order forms will be sent directly to the Conferences. She informed that the blazer information was not available so we will wear the navy/white shirts with our logo. This information will be on the website by 4/2/17 for the first orders. They will be brought to the Convention after orders have been placed. The ordering application will be on line.

Announcements/ Concerns

Programs and Activities members are asked to meet with Director Sis. Loretta Coppock

All Director of Lay Activities are to remain for a meeting with DOLA Sis. Teresa White

Florida Conference members need to see their President Bro. Shepherd Myrick.

Adjournment

Chaplain Sis. Deborah Langston made the motion to adjourn the meeting, it was second by Bro. Doug Thomas.

The 11th Episcopal District adjourned with members praying the Lay Benediction.

Sis. Patricia Wright, Episcopal District President

Sis. Ethel M. Wooten, Recording Secretary

Sis. Ella M. Wilson, Assistant Secretary

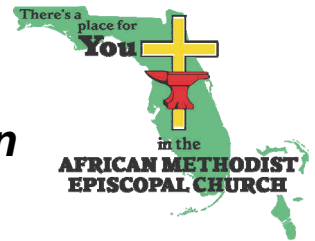


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In Touch Ministries Daily Devotional:

Colossians 3:23-24

In His Word, God commands us to serve one another. (See [Gal. 5:13](#).) However, in life there will inevitably be difficult people who make this mandate challenging.

Thankfully, a biblical definition of service can help us obey the Lord's instruction, no matter who the recipient may be. And the reason is that God is actually the One whom we serve.

When we have this motivation underlying everything we do, it will impact the quality of our work and keep us from becoming discouraged. Then, whatever our task—whether we lead a company, teach children, or do something less appealing—if our goal is to glorify God, we will do our best in His strength. And we trust Him to use us for His purposes, even if our labor should appear fruitless to us or to others.

When I was a child, I had to wake up before daylight to deliver newspapers. Even in rain or snow, I still had to complete the job. This was hard for me to do. Then the Lord impressed upon my heart that I was not merely bringing papers to people in my town; I was serving Jesus. As I under-

stood this truth more, waking up and working was purposeful and doable. Truthfully, I still did not always feel like facing the work, but feelings were no longer relevant. I was serving my Maker.

Whomever God calls us to serve and whatever He tells us to do, we can obey with joyful hearts when it's done for Jesus Christ. If this is our motivation, we won't need worldly approval or evidence of impact. We need to know only that God is pleased and promises to reward those who serve Him ([Heb. 11:6](#)).

The Danger of Drifting

Do you feel like you may be drifting in your spiritual life? Have you stopped feeling God's presence? Do you find it more difficult to read the Bible, pray, or go to church? Something is happening in your Christian walk—and it isn't good. You're drifting, which means you're headed for trouble. Learn about the consequences of drifting and how to avoid it in order to experience God's very best for your life.

Should you see President Wright, Pat her on the back for a Convention well planned and superbly executed! Her melodious alto voice could be heard during

the worship services as she added to the harmony on many songs of the church.

Health Walk:

"Energetic Walkers in Motion and/or Sanctified Steppers"

Reporter: Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Florida Conference

On Thursday, 6/22/17 and Friday, 6/23/17, the Walkers and Steppers enjoyed their morning walks as they communed with God and nature at an early hour. So, until we meet again in 2018, we bid you Godspeed! Continue to walk and step for the Lord.



See each of you in the Faithful and Fantabulous Florida Con-

The Right Reverend
Adam J. Richardson, Jr.,
Presiding Bishop,
11th Episcopal District

The Rt. Reverend
E. Earl McCloud, Jr.,
Lay Commission Chair

Dr. Connie Speights
Richardson,
Episcopal Supervisor

Dr. Willie C. Glover,
Connectional Lay President

Ms. Patricia H. Wright,
11th Episcopal District Lay
Organization President

Mrs. Mary Brown Silva,
11th District Director
of Public Relations

Prospective Reporters

Mary Silva, FC
Ethel Wooten, FC
Debra Gilliard,
11th District
Historiographer
Photographer, SC
Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, FC

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES, SECRETARIAL STAFF

The 73rd Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention

Sheraton Suites Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Prelate of the 11th Episcopal District

Patricia H. Wright, 11th Episcopal District Lay President

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2017

The Executive Board of the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization was called to order by President Patricia Wright at 10:08 a.m. The agenda was distributed to everyone present. The devotion was led by Chaplain Deborah Langston (S) by singing "I woke up this morning with my mind stayed on Jesus", followed with prayer by Chaplain Langston, then the scripture was led by Dr. Katheryn Gillis (S), taken from Rom. 12: 1 ~ 10; the devotion was closed with singing, "This Little Light of Mine." The board sang, Happy Birthday to 1st Vice President John Love.

Roll Call of Officers was completed by Secretary Ethel Wooten; Ella Wilson (ab), Esther Ferguson (ab), Mae DeVoe Fields, Jesse Burns, Robin Hopewell, Phillis Filer, Ella Gilmore, & Brian Brown Beulah Gregory, Robert Wright, James Honors (tardy), Valene Croskey, Marian B. White, Charlie Nichols, Tyrone Pressley, Lucretia McBride (tardy) & J.L. Williams (ab).

It was moved by Priscilla Salter to adopt the agenda as working documents with any additional items, seconded by Loretta Coppock (E), motion carried.

Reading of the minutes (Mid- Year) by Secretary Wooten (no copy available).

It was moved Lother Cherry that we adopt the minutes with the necessary correction, it was seconded by Dr. W. Dean Goldsby. Motion carried.

A preliminary report of the registration committee was made by Pres. Wright of 190. President Wright noted that there are 403 churches and we should have more than 190 delegates, although we were at 159 last year; we are showing an increase, but there should be more.

Overview of Annual Convention

The logistics of site, schedule of convention/programs were done by Dr. Gillis. Includes but not limited to the Opening Worship & Communion location will be here at Sheraton Suites, lunch on your own, rooms assignments were briefly given, equipment will be available as needed.

Review of the Constitution revision proposal and the Rules for the 73rd Annual Convention of the Lay Organization were done by Donald Russell (F).

The reviewing and Confirming Our Processes was done by President Patricia Wright as follow but not limited to Leadership; the Award Process (to include deadlines & timeline for adherence), the Election Process & after; the submission of Information/ Deadlines (names, application, items for consideration),

Leadership (planning & utilizing agenda/plan) President Wright's GOAL is to have a monthly conference call to create uniformity & consistency so the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization can be Intentional in Recruitment, Reclaiming & Retaining. We will hear more about this tomorrow when 1st Vice President John Love report.

President Wright presented the Executive Board with a Scholarship Project as follows; this year we will create a book of College ads, tentatively titled, "The Sweeter the Knowledge". Each full page is \$100.00 and the book will be distributed at the Planning meeting. The ads & funds are due by September 30, 2017. Your ads will be sent to Loretta Coppock or her designee. Funds will be sent to Priscilla Salter.

Biennial Updates with DOLA Teresa White on the Committees selection/ Black Tie (VP John Love)/ The Christian Recorder subscriptions (Pres. Wright), Biennial Dress Plan (Teresa White), the shirt (\$30) was presented with an appeal to place order by today (20 June 2017) to receive by CEYLC 20 July 2017).

THE CHURCH IN TRAINING / LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

Leadership Training Day Whole Group Training Session, The White Ministerial Team & Sons

*Reaching People Under 40 but
keeping People over 60*

Topics of interest included: Do we really know each other and what makes us who we are? Are we in the category of Boomers, X's, Y's and/or Millennials.

What is your/our biblical foundation: Are we a New Testament Church, are we in sync with the Kingdom Connection.

The White team left the delegation with a thought provoking challenge: to embrace ideas to retool, rethink, retrain, refocus and reinvent systems to reach people over 40 and keep people over 60 in our various churches.

Works cited for training included: Who moved my pulpit—Thomas Rainer; Autopsy of a deceased church—Thomas Rainer; The Divine Conspiracy—Dallas Willard; and Ragamuffin Gospel—Brennan Manning.

The R & B in AME, Presenter, Rhoshonda L. Herring

The workshop training presented a new spin on age old beliefs and customs as the presenter shared that R & B could very well include many things within our Christian experience, and also included rhythm and blues songs. The real

meaning included such ideas as "Remember and Become, Respect & Believe, Recognize and Bestow, Review and do Better, and Reach Out and Bring In."

The delegation was asked to think of other R & B words that are crucial in the life of the church and in our training and understanding as members of the Laity.

The presenter then provided and testified to her beginning as a member of the Lay Organization, (My Lay Story); her AME Soundtrack title and her theme song. Some of the attendees told their Lay Story including their Sound track title and theme songs. The training was interesting and thought-provoking.

Program & Activities Commission Chair, Loretta S. Coppock, recipient of the 2017 Solider of the Cross Award.

Taking Off the Spiritual Mask, Presenter, Dr. Cindra Taylor

As you entered the room Dr. Taylor encouraged each person to pick up a mask for this segment and she began by stating that at different times in our lives we all may hide behind a mask that was believed to hide our true feelings or true self. She shared scriptures that evidenced the use of masks or some other type covering that would purportedly hide or shield you from hurt, pain, sad-

ness or loneliness. Those scriptures: Luke 12:1; Matthew 5:17-20; she encouraged the laity to read Psalm 119 and II Corinthians 4. She shared a couple of her life's stories of how at one point in her life she too was using a mask as a shield for loneliness. She further shared that sometimes we forget or lose the true meaning of some of our rituals; members were asked to describe or talk about some of the losses, as the response was given, your mask could then be removed.

As the class concluded, members were encouraged to confess any hypocrisies, confront your real issues and construct your testimony. In other words, a spiritual revival was needed. The class ended with prayer.

Due to technical difficulties, we are unable to print quality photos; however, we plan to produce a CD of Convention photos. Should you wish to purchase a CD, \$5.00; please email me at mabs03@aol.com. Advance payments only, mail to Priscilla Salter, Financial Secretary 953 Crawfordville Trace, Tallahassee, Florida 32305. Thanks!

Minutes Cont'd

President Wright gave an update on moving forward with the 11th Episcopal District Lay Organization supporting the Christian Recorder subscription and contact maybe Joyce Pink so our channels will be open to the Connectional Director John Thomas (Lay person). VP Love will give more details in his report on Wednesday, June 21, 2017. He will include plans for future activities and events for all ages and an action plan to stimulate more Youths & Young Adults (18 ~ 35).

Questions/Concerns/Relevant Issues of Concern to the Growth of the Organization; Executive Board, Leadership, Agenda, Constitution and by Laws, Notes, and a recommended book given to all Conference Presidents ("Heart of Leadership"), can be found on Amazon.

The Chaplain, Deborah Langston prayed for the following members: Iva Major, Phyllis Filer, Ella Wilson, Cloy Wormack, Marian B. White, Janet Jacob, Dorothy Reid, & Jesse Burns.

The Adjournment

Lay Benediction

Submitted by Secretarial Staff



Scholarship & Awards

Matthew Lucas (Florida)	\$2,000.00	Scholarship
Daria Settles (South)	\$2,000.00	Scholarship
Dylan McPhoy (Central)	\$2,000.00	Scholarship
Alexia Faison (West Coast)	\$2,000.00	Scholarship
Jade Freeney (East)	\$2,000.00	Scholarship

Outstanding Community Service Award
Beverly Perkins Moody

Hall of Fame Inductees

Johnnie Hill	(Florida)
Shepherd Myrick	(Florida)
F. Craddock	(West Coast)
Michael Jackson	(West Coast)
Ella Hill	(East)

Anvil Award

Sharolyn Wood (Florida)

Soldier of the Cross

Loretta S. Coppock (East)

Outstanding Lay Person of the Biennium

The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year A

Fourth Sunday of Easter May 7, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	*Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
Fifth Sunday of Easter May 14, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	*Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
Sixth Sunday of Easter May 21, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	*Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
Ascension of the Lord May 25, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	*Acts 1:1-11	Psalm 47 or Psalm 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 28, 2017 (If Ascension not observed here) ART -- PRAYER	*Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth May 31, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	*1 Samuel 2:1-10	Psalm 113	Romans 12:9-16b	Luke 1:39-57
Day of Pentecost June 4, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	*Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39
Trinity Sunday June 11, 2017 First Sunday after Pentecost ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8		2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Proper 6 (11) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 18, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Proper 7 (12) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 25, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
Proper 8 (13) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost July 2, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
Proper 9 (14) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 9, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 or <i>Song of Solomon 2:8-13</i>	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Proper 10 (15) Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 16, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Proper 11 (16) Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 23, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 or Isaiah 44:6-8 Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year A

Proper 12 (17) Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 30, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 128</i>	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Proper 13 (18) Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 6, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Proper 14 (19) Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 13, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	1 Kings 19:9-18 Psalm 85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Proper 15 (20) Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost August 20, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 45:1-15 Psalm 133	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Proper 16 (21) Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124	Isaiah 51:1-6 Psalm 138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Proper 17 (22) Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 3, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 3:1-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
Proper 18 (23) Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 10, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Holy Cross September 14, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 98:1-5 <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38</i>		1 Corinthians 1:18-24	John 3:13-17
Proper 19 (24) Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 17, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 <i>or</i> Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Proper 20 (25) Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 16:2-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45	Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16
Proper 21 (26) Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost October 1, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Psalm 25:1-9	Philippians 2:1-13	Matthew 21:23-32
Proper 22 (27) Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 8, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Psalm 19	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46

The Revised Common Lectionary ~ a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library ~ Year A

Canadian Thanksgiving Day October 9, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 **	**	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 17:11-19
Proper 23 (28) Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost October 15, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23	Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Proper 24 (29) Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 22, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99	Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9, (10-13)	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Proper 25 (30) Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost October 29, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46
All Saints Day November 1, 2017 (Sometimes observed on first Sunday in November) ART -- PRAYER	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22		1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12
Proper 26 (31) Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost November 5, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Joshua 3:7-17 Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	Micah 3:5-12 Psalm 43	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13	Matthew 23:1-12
Proper 27 (32) Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost November 12, 2017 <i>(If All Saints not observed on this day)</i> ART -- PRAYER	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 Psalm 78:1-7	Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24 Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 or Psalm 70	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Matthew 25:1-13
Proper 28 (33) Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123	Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8, (9-11), 12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Matthew 25:14-30
Thanksgiving Day, USA November 23, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65		2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Luke 17:11-19
Reign of Christ - Proper 29 (34) Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 26, 2017 ART -- PRAYER	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a	Ephesians 1:15-23	Matthew 25:31-46

Military BIO



Master Sergeant Nicola Silva Jr. enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1989, after four years he enlisted in the Army in 1994 as an Automated Logistical Supply Specialist. He served two overseas tours, one to Korea with the 70th Brigade Support Battalion, one to Germany with 127th Aviation Support Battalion. Master Sergeant Silva served five combat deployments, one to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance, United States Marine Corps, one to Bosnia with 127th Aviation Support Battalion, three to Iraq, one with 52nd Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion, one with the Iraq Assistance Group/National-Special Police Transition Team, and one with 1st Battalion 66th Armored Regiment. His most significant contribution to the military was serving as the Operation Sergeant Major for 2nd Battalion 18th Field Artillery, coordinating and supervising the simultaneous unit deployment by rail, vehicle convoy, and bus for a 30 day training event and training troops as a First Sergeant for 15th Transportation Company, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 100th Brigade Support Battalion, and Alpha Company 70th Brigade Support Battalion.



During his 27 year career he was the recipient of Bronze Star Medals(2), Meritorious Service Medals(3), Army Commendation Medal(4), Army Achievement Medal(4), Marine Corps Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal(1 star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal(3 stars), Iraqi Campaign Medal(4), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Sea Service Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon(3), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal(Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal, and unit awards Valorous Unit Award(2), Meritorious Unit Award, and Naval Unit Citation

Connectional Lay Organization

African Methodist Episcopal Church

4681 St. Paul Road
Woodlawn, TN 37191

Bishop E. Earl McCloud
Commission Chairman

Dr. Willie C. Glover
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Episcopal District Lay Presidents
FROM: Darwin K Eldridge, Treasurer/Registration Chairperson
DATE: January 20, 2017
RE: Electronic Registration Process

Greetings and Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Attached is the Electronic Registration document for this 35th Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO). We pray that we are all prepared to work diligently toward having a successful meeting in Columbus, OH. Please enter your data using a Windows 98 or later Excel spreadsheet. Each delegate should be entered with a Registration Code. Please pay particular attention to the code and enter the correct code for each delegate type. The information should be listed with the Episcopal District Delegation first, followed with Conference Delegations, Presiding Elder Districts (where applicable), and then Local Churches. It is most important that we have these designations correct. Remember, there is only one delegate per local church; however, we want the church to register as many Observer (lay and clergy) persons as they can encourage to attend. Don't forget to register and pay for your Presiding Bishop and Episcopal Supervisor, along with any General Officers, and AME Church Connectional Officers in your Episcopal District. CLO officers must be listed on the registration form; however, they do not pay the registration fee.

ALL Registration fees include a 1 year subscription to ***We Speak***. We would like to have your first Pre-registration report by March 15, 2017, but no later than March 31, 2017. This will allow the Committee to have a preliminary report ready for you by the Spring Board meeting in early April. Late registration (\$350.00) begins **June 1, 2017**. All pre-registration reports are to be e-mailed to Mrs. Faye E. Walker at CLORegStaff11@gmail.com as soon as you complete it. All pre-registration monies should be received by the April, 2017, Executive Board Meeting. After that time and all Onsite Registrations will be \$350.00. Please DO NOT MAIL any registrations after June 30, 2017. All others will be processed on site.

Episcopal District Lay Presidents Memorandum

Page 2

Upon completion of your data entry, print/save a copy for your records. Send along with the appropriate cashier's check to cover the total delegates, alternates, observers, clergy, and all other registrants listed on your registration report to Mr. Richard Bowden, 1908 Vaughn Lane, Montgomery AL 36106 (334/467-7358). **The Delegate/Alternate Fee is \$250.00 per person for registrations received by June 1, 2017, and \$350 thereafter and for On-Site registration. This registration type includes Bag, Badge, Agenda, Awards Banquet, Ticket, and entrance to training sessions.** Email a copy of the electronic document to CLORegStaff11@gmail.com as indicated above.

Observers and anyone age 16 and above may register for \$150.00. This registration type will receive the Observer Bag, Badge, entrance to training sessions, and Agenda only. There are no Event tickets included with this type of registration, however event tickets may be purchased separately.

You will note that the registration form does not contain the list of Committees for this Biennial session, the Committee process instructions will be handled separately from registration. On-site changes will be made as in the past by the District President or a person designated by the District President only. Changes in the interim of the Biennial can be made on a separate registration form and submitted through the District President/Designee to Darwin Eldridge with the appropriate fees and a copy to the Registration Staff at CLORegStaff11@gmail.com. We will add them to our computerized composite registration to generate nametags for distribution with the kits. Preliminary copies of each District's preregistration will be available at the April Executive Board meeting if we have received your information.

If you have any questions about the registration procedures, please email the Registration Staff at CLORegStaff11@gmail.com, which is the preferred method for tracking purposes. Any calls should be directed to the Chief Registrar, Faye Walker at (615) 429-6241 or Darwin Eldridge at (931) 648-4720.

Be Blessed

Registration Staff 2017

Attachments

cc: Dr. Willie C. Glover

11TH Episcopal District Lay Organization
2017 Biennial Attire Order Form

Name: _____
Address _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

Navy Harrington Long Sleeve Buttoned-down Shirt

Sizes

Women—Small- 3XL--\$30.00

Men—Mediuim-6XL---\$30.00

Men (Tall)—XL Tall-3XLTall--\$37.00

_____ Quantity

_____ Size

Total _____

Due date: April 21, 2017

Make checks payable and Mail to:

Teresa White P.O. Box 1745 Wauchula, FL 33873

Email: whitehouse957@yahoo.com Cell: (863) 832-0406

[illegible]

Open Letter to the Eleventh District

Re: Senator Audrey Gibson

Dear Co-Workers in Missions and Ministry,

As you are well aware by now of the debacle in Tallahassee over the profane, sexist and racist language of Senator Frank Artiles in addressing Senator Audrey Gibson of Jacksonville. While Senator Artiles I had been allowed to offer a formal apology to Sen. Gibson on the floor of the Senate, no mere apology seemed sufficient, something more stringent seemed more appropriate. It had been the intent of our office not to let this matter go without expressing disdain for his attitude expressed in his despicable speech. We have a special affinity for Senator Gibson. Her Jacksonville office happens to be located in the Enterprise Center. She is a member the AME Family; a member of St. Paul, Jacksonville, Dr. Marvin C. Zanders is her pastor.

Four actions were being proposed:

1. This morning, from my hand, a letter was being penned to express our collective displeasure at the unprofessional behavior of Sen. Artiles; his crude speech in addressing Sen. Gibson; his disrespect for the rules of decorum in the Senate; his foul language referencing the Senate President; and his use of the "n" word referencing voting constituents in South Florida. These were all quite reprehensible. The letter would have demanded the resignation of Senator Artiles, or at a minimum that he be sanctioned/disciplined/censured by the Senate. My letter was a follow up to a press conference called by Dr. R. B. Holmes of Bethel Baptist in Tallahassee with permission to call my name among other denominational leaders in Florida. Dr. Julius McAllister and Dr. Anton Elwood were expected to be present, along with members of Bethel, Tallahassee. The press conference was held yesterday at Bethel Baptist in Tallahassee.
2. As an idea of Dr. McAllister, in collaboration with Dr. Holmes in Tallahassee, a "Prayer in and Sit in" was in the process of being planned and organized. Presiding Elders, Pastors and Lay Persons from North Florida were expected to assemble at the Old Capitol Building at 11:45 on Tuesday and march to the office of Sen. Artiles for the actual "Prayer in and Sit in."
3. Similarly, the same kind of event had been planned for Monday for those in South Florida and Miami in particular, led by Dr. Alphonso Jackson of Shiloh Baptist. We asked that Dr. Robert Jackson would represent the AME interest, along with the Presiding Elders of the South Conference. Regarding both locations, my input would be to notify pastors and lay persons from both ends of the State through our electronic network.
4. The Social Action Ministry and the Rev. James T. Golden had been in collaboration with the Rev. Russell Meyer and the Florida Council of Churches; and Brother Reginald McGill and others calling for appropriate actions along the same lines.

Thankfully, these proposed operations and writings are no longer necessary; Frank Artiles has resigned from the Senate, effective immediately; today! It seems that these grassroots, organic initiatives were necessary, but midnight hour politics held sway. Mr. Artiles did the right thing, allowing the Florida Legislature to go on with its work without further distraction.

God bless you all. Stay in the fight; keep up the good work in social action.

Yours in His Service,

A. J. Richardson

West Coast Conference Lay Organization Annual Lay Witness Service

By Brother Hugh Yancy, President (West Coast Conference)

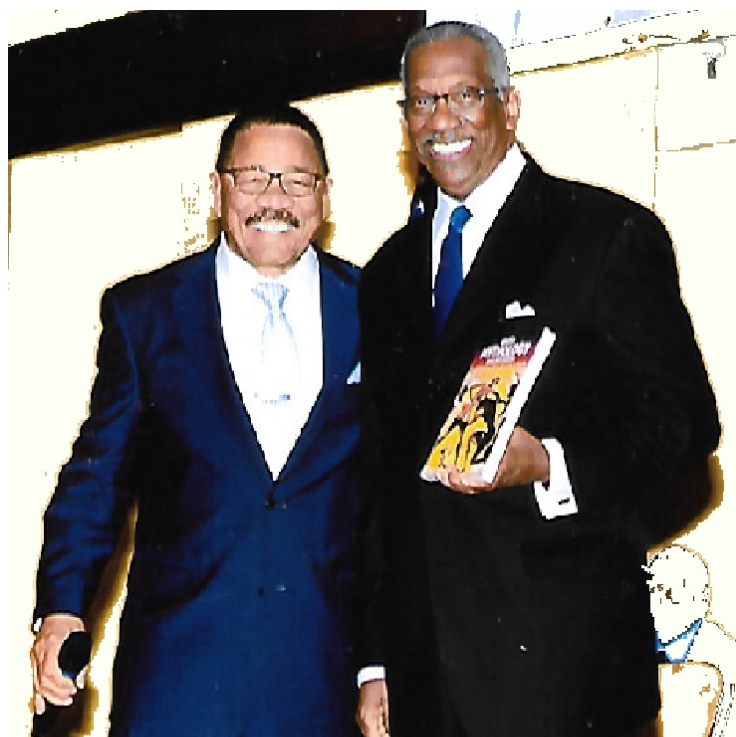
The West Coast Conference Lay Organization held its Annual Lay Witness Service at the Seventy-Sixth Session of the West Coast Annual Conference at the Double-Tree Hotel Tampa, Florida, hosted by New Bethel, Lakeland Florida on Thursday, October 13, 2016. The service featured "A Salute to Senator Arthenia L. Joyner."

The anointed service was special as it featured all male participants with one exception. The melodious singing from the three male choirs from Greater Mt. Zion AME, St. Petersburg, St. Luke AME, Tampa and St. James AME, Bartow set the atmosphere. The messenger of the evening, The Reverend Laura White, pastor of Greater Mt. Zion, Sebring preached a powerful word from Ezekiel 37, proclaiming "It Ain't Over until It's Over."

During the service a "Tribute and Recognition of the Honorable Arthenia Joyner, was presented by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr. What a special evening to recognize "An Extraordinary Woman Doing An Extraordinary Work."

Other presentations included The President's Awards. President Hugh Yancy, West Coast Conference Lay Organization presented the Lay Person and Pastor of the Year. The recipients respectively were Sis. Teresa White and The Reverend Clarence Honor.

A reception honoring Senator Arthenia Joyner was held at the close of the service.



Photographs by: Sis. Marian Delores Allen Redding

Florida Conference Lay Organization ~ Lifetime Achievers Award Banquet

By Sister Mary Silva, Episcopal Lay Director of Public Relations (Florida Conference)

The Lifetime Achievers Award Banquet was the brain child of the late "*Sister Eileen S. Warner.*" The 2016 banquet marks the fifth year that the Florida Conference has continued this Annual event. Sister Warner instituted this activity to serve a four-fold purpose: 1) recognition of members of the laity who have worked tirelessly down through the years within the Florida Conference; 2) a Dressy formal or semi-formal affair as we prepare and await the Christ-child's birth; 3) a means of fellowship with friends across the vast Florida Conference which encompasses 260 miles over 16-17 counties and four Presiding Elder Districts; and 4) as a fundraiser to replenish the Florida Conference treasury.

This year's event was as spectacular as the first year as the Awards were presented to four outstanding persons, three gentlemen and one gentlewoman. The new DOLA, Sister Judith Hollinhead added new flavor in the person of Brother Donald Russell, the speaker. Brother Russell sang, talked and taught from the scripture John 3:16, "*The things we do for love.*" It was uniquely presented as he began with singing Yes, Jesus Loves Me.

We were all blessed by the experience. Until next year....

OFFICERS

President.....	Mr. Shepherd Myrick
1 st Vice President.....	Mrs. Dorothy Harley
2 nd Vice President	
3 rd Vice President	
Recording Secretary.....	Ms. Delbra McGriff
Assistant Recording Secretary	
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mrs. Jennifer Lawson
Treasurer.....	Mrs. LaDonna Hogue
Financial Secretary.....	Mrs. Catherine Johnson
Chaplain.....	Mrs. Norma Merritt
Historiographer.....	Mrs. Beverly Lettinhand
Parliamentarian.....	Ms. Erika Dotson
Director of Lay Activities.....	Ms. Judith E. Hollinhead
Director of Public Relations.....	Ms. Vivian Cromartie
Young Adult Representative.....	Ms. Ashley Blakely

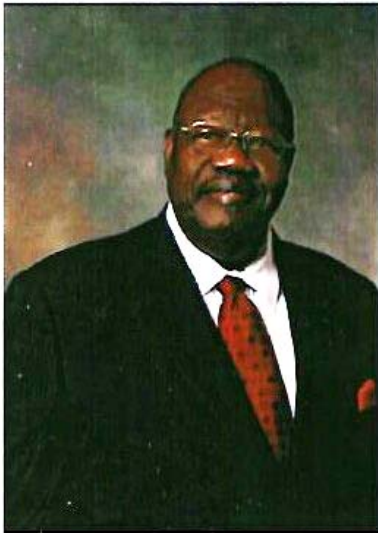
District Presidents

Quincy-Monticello District.....	Ms. Sharolyn Wood
Marianna District.....	Ms. Patricia McAllister
Pensacola-Panama City District.....	Mr. Joseph Johnson
Tallahassee District.....	Mrs. Beulah Gregory

The Honorees' information pages from the Banquet Programme follow...

Jesse Hughes

TALLAHASSEE DISTRICT



Brother Jesse Hughes has been actively engaged in the African Methodist Episcopal Church's Lay Organization on the various levels (Local, District, Conference, Episcopal and Connectional) since the 1980s. He has been committed to the organization by sharing his time, talents and treasures to promote the vision and goals. Additionally, he has attended the A.M.E. General Conference, Connectional Lay Organization's Biennial Conventions, Episcopal District Lay Organization Conventions, and Florida Conference Lay Organization Annual Convention.

Brother Hughes is the Immediate Past First Vice President (1980-2013) for the Tallahassee District Lay Organization serving under the leadership of four Presidents (Alice Mitchell, Donald Russell, the late Eileen S. Warner and Mary B. Silva). He has served as chairman of the Budget and Finance and Annual Lay Day committees.

Brother Hughes is the President of the Local Lay Organization at Saint Phillips A.M.E. Church (Monticello, Florida) and has provided leadership for the organization at this level from 1980- until present. Currently, he is the Superintendent for the Tallahassee District Church School Convention and has provided leadership in this capacity for thirty years.

He has a great love and compassion for his God, Family and Community. He is the Secretary of the Board of Directors Jefferson County Water System. He is always willing to serve and consistently makes himself available to help others. He is the loving husband of Rosa Mae, and the proud father of four children and grandfather of five.

The Tallahassee District Lay Organization proudly presents this God fearing man as our Life Time Achievement Award winner.

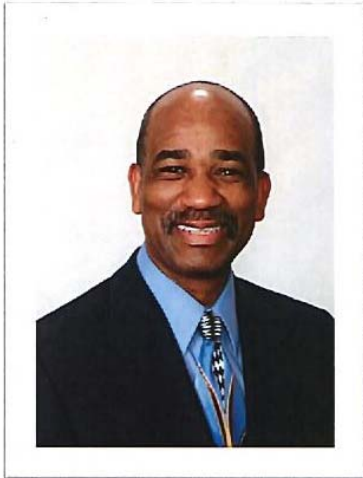
John W. Love

QUINCY-MONTICELLO DISTRICT

*"Commitment Through Ministry
and Service"*

A proven Lay Leader ♦ A servant of God
A servant of the church and community

Service to the Lay Organization of the A.M.E. Church



First Vice President - Episcopal District Lay
Organization

Treasurer - *Eleventh Episcopal District Lay
Organization*

Past Financial Secretary - *Eleventh Episcopal District
Lay Organization*

Past President - *Florida Conference Lay Organization*

Past Third Vice President - *Florida Conference Lay Organization*

Past Director of Lay Activities - *Florida Conference Lay Organization*

Past District President - *Gadsden County District Lay Organization (Quincy
District*

Past First Vice President - *Quincy District Lay Organization*

Past Director of Lay Activities - *Steward Temple AME Church, Quincy*

Past Local Lay President - *Steward Temple AME Church, Quincy*

Service to the Florida Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Third Vice President - *Florida Conference Trustees*

Delegate to the General Conference

Past Secretary - *Florida Conference Trustees*

Service to his local church Steward Temple AME Church, Quincy, FL

- Member of the Steward Board (Chair Pro-Tempore)
- Member of the Male Choir
- Church Financial Secretary
- Member Lay Organization
- Member Sons of Allen
- Church Treasurer (1986 - 1989)
- Church Secretary (1989 - 1999)

Service to the Community

- President of the Fellowship Mass Choir
- Gadsden County Schools Mentor Volunteer Program
- Gadsden County Senior Citizen Volunteer (Computer Orientation for Staff)

Charlie Nichols

PENSACOLA-PANAMA CITY DISTRICT



Family Information

Spouse, Dr. Joyce C. Nichols, University of West Florida, Professor, Retired

Children: Sharanda Anderson, Keisha Greenidge, C. Eli Nichols, Julius S. Nichols, Destiny Nichols, Kiara Nichols

Education

University of West Florida

Master's Education Leadership
June 1986

University of South Alabama

B.A. Elementary Education
June 1979

Pensacola Junior College

A.A. Degree Elementary Education
June 1976

Administrative Experiences

School Administrator for 23 years

President of the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization

General Conference Lay Leader

General Board Member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

United States Army

United States Army Reserves

2008-2016

2012, 2016

2016 - Present

1971-1974

1974-1991

Community Involvement

Kappa Alpha Psi, Fraternity, Inc Life Member

Member of the Escambia Education Association Bargaining Team

Gubernatorial Appointment Health and Human Services Board

Children Services Center, Board of Director Member

Gubernatorial Appointment Judicial Nominating Commission

Northwest Florida Girl Scout Board of Directors

Child Abuse, Death Review Team

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority Citizens Review Advisory Council

Guardian Ad-Litem

Big Brothers and Big Sisters

City of Pensacola, Recreation Advisory Board

1975 -Present

1984-1986

1994-1998

1998-2000

2000-2004

2004-2006

2006-2008

2008-2012

2011-2014

2012-2015

2013-2016

Dorothy "Barbara" Patterson

MARIANNA DISTRICT



Mrs. Dorothy Barbara Patterson is a resident of Chattahoochee, Florida where she is an active member of Friendship African Methodist Episcopal Church where The Reverend Samuel E. McGlockton is Pastor.

Mrs. Patterson serves as the Adult Church School teacher, a Steward, church organist, president of the Lay Organization and member of the Women Missionary Society.

After graduating from high school in Gadsden County, she continued her education at Florida A&M University Tallahassee, Florida, and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology/Social Work and a Minor in Public School Music; she also continued graduate studies at

Virginia State College, Petersburg, Virginia and the University of California, Berkley, California, received a Master of Science Degree from the University of Miami, is a retired educator of Dade County School Board, Miami, Florida, where she taught on the Elementary and High School levels in Washington, Bay and Gadsden Counties.

Mrs. Patterson is a national instructor in Disaster Preparedness Courses and "*Serving the Diverse Community*" (Cultural Diversity) of the American Red Cross. She has served as a volunteer of the Capital Area Chapter American Red Cross in Tallahassee, FL as an instructor and Family Case Worker; she is also a member of the DSHR (Disaster Service of Human Relation), the DAT (Disaster Action Team of Gadsden County and has traveled throughout the United States and abroad as a national instructor and Human Relation Liaison Specialist when the President of the United States and the Governor made a disaster declaration, and on the Eleventh Episcopal District she served as Coordinator as Disaster Relief Services, a representative of FLVOAD (Florida Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) and also wrote the Disaster Plan for the Eleventh Episcopal District.

Mrs. Patterson also served as the Episcopal Coordinator and representative of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) for the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization and has been an active member on all levels of the Women Missionary Society and the Lay Organization, she has also served as a Conference Trustee. In 1998 she went to New York, City to work in the Department of Mission as an assistant to Dr. Fred Harrison, the Secretary of Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was elected twice as an Alternate to the General Conference. Presently she is the Director of Lay Activities for the Marianna District Lay Organization.

Mrs. Patterson was married to the late Mr. Marcel Patterson of New Orleans, Louisiana. She has two beautiful daughters Reverend Dr. Patricia F. Patterson (M.D.) of Eastman, GA and Angela Russ of Chattahoochee, Florida. Three grandsons, Brandon, Montez and Adrian and a beautiful great granddaughter, whose name is Apple.

The Florida Conference Lay Organization Banquet

Reflections through pictures... "One picture is worth a thousand words..."

Photographs submitted by Brother Robert Jackson



The Florida Conference Lay Organization Banquet
Photographs submitted by Brother Robert Jackson



The Florida Conference Lay Organization Banquet
Photographs submitted by Brother Robert Jackson

