



Lay News

Newsletter for the West Tennessee Conference Lay Organization

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WTN Conference Lay Organization President - Dorothy Ealy

From The President's Pen



Greetings My Fellow Laity,

Happy Birthday Connectional Lay Organization!

It has been one hundred years since Charles Jordan was elected as the first Connectional Lay Organization President at the General Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1912. What a glorious time it must have been! I would love to have a "rear view mirror glimpse" of what really happened at that first meeting. We can let our imagination take us back to 1912. In his pamphlet, Professor R.J. Gardner states that the "Organized Lay Movement" started at the General Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1912, with Professor Charles H. Johnson of Wilberforce as the first president. It was known as the "Laymen's Missionary Movement." Professor Johnson traveled extensively through Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, etc. He wrote pamphlets, Men at Work and Laymen's Missionary Movement."

Local lay presidents are encouraged to use their creative juices to celebrate the centennial birthday in your own way. You may want to do some research to locate information on the history of your own local church lay organization. Discover the persons on whose shoulders you stand and publish that history for future reference.

As we embark on the General Conference, let's approach it with Great Expectations! Let's pray that God will continue to move in a special way to bless our Zion and enable the Church to move to develop programs to encourage ministries that are relevant today. Additionally, we should seek to build stronger lay leadership to assist in planning spiritual worship experiences that will enable our churches to develop into the types of edifices that welcome new participants that may ultimately become members of our churches.

I thank you for what you are doing and all that you will do in the future to continue in the support of the West Tennessee Conference Lay Organization. We invite you to share with us in our fundraisers. Sis. Donna has assisted in launching our silent auction. We encourage you to save those items that were given to you but did not quite fit into your décor. We will accept gently used designer purses, Christmas decorations, art prints, that you no longer use. Please contact businesses to secure gift certificates to spas, nail shops, hotels etc. We look forward to share with you in the fellowship and the fun. We pray that God will richly bless you as you continue to internalize our theme as **"Building on our Global Legacy of Christ Centered Leadership and Training"**.

Yours in Christ,
Dorothy L. Ealy



The West Tennessee Conference Lay Organization Attends Henry Logan Starks 25th Anniversary Celebration

Members of The West Tennessee Conference Lay Organization reflected on the Legacy of Dr. Henry Logan Starks together with over 800 guests including community leaders, past recipients, special guests, Memphis Theological Seminary students, faculty and staff at the 25th anniversary celebration of the Dr. Henry Logan Starks Scholarship Dinner and Awards Presentation ceremony at the Memphis Hilton Hotel. The event honored the legacy of Memphis Theological Seminary's first African American professor, Dr. Henry Logan Starks, and saluted individuals who embody his spirit and service. Dinner proceeds benefited the Henry Logan Starks Scholarship Endowment Fund, which provides scholarships for African American students at MTS. Dr. Starks was the proud pastor of St James African Methodist Episcopal Church, Memphis, TN. His daughter, Rev. Almella Umoja, who is also a minister, reflected on some of her past experiences with her father and expressed gratitude for the overwhelming attendance at the dinner.

Rose Flenorl, Manager of Social Responsibility at FedEx and Tony Dungy, former head coach of the Indianapolis Colts served as honorary co-chairs for Memphis Theological Seminary's celebration. *Dungy was the featured speaker for the evening. Dungy served as an inspiration as he reflected on the wealth of experiences during his coaching career, as well as, his personal life. The message was that even during your darkest days, your faith will sustain you. There is a master plan for your life and God will see you through. Those who were in attendance left with the motivation to pursue their goals in life.*

The Dr. Henry Logan Starks Distinguished Service Award is presented to an outstanding leader who is a role model and inspiration for others, an advocate for the oppressed and one who gives personal and sacrificial service to better the global community. Rabbi Micah D. Greenstein, Senior Rabbi of Temple Israel, received the President's Humanitarian Award, and Dr. Jerre Freeman, founder of the World Cataract Foundation, received the Distinguished Service Award. Organizers also announced recipients of the Outstanding African American Alumni Awards: Dr. Inetta F. Rogers, president of Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship, Inc., and Dr. Travis Robinson, retired Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) pastor and USAF Chaplain. In celebration of the 25th anniversary, The Legacy Award was presented for the first time to the Concerned Women of Memphis, a group who crossed racial and socio-economic lines to promote civil rights.



Saint Andrew AME Church Lay Organization Annual Shredding Event Saturday, March 31, 2012

The Annual Shredding Event was a tremendous success. The YPD collaborated with the Lay and assisted with getting the paper from the cars and trucks to the shredder. It was a beautiful day and people were thanking the Lay for this community outreach. The event began at 9AM, but cars were lining up at 8:30AM. The event shredded 12,000 pounds of paper or the equivalent of 6 tons. With this type of event, we are helping to not only fight identity theft and other crimes, but also give back to the environment by recycling paper, saving oil, water and trees! Thanks to all that participated and those that took advantage of this opportunity to shred.

Michael Steward
St. Andrew Lay President



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UPCOMING AME ACTIVITIES

May 3, Thursday, 6:00pm-9:00pm,"Meet & Greet" Ms. Debra Sigee, Millington's first African American Woman Mayoral Candidate at Kobe Japanese Cuisine, 8510 Wilkinsville Road, Millington, TN.

Cypress Middle School & Rhodes College May Day Festival.

When: **Saturday, May 5, 2012, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

Where: Cypress Middle School Parking Lot, 2109 Howell Avenue & University Park
It's a Family Fun Affair! Food, Music and Games! Contact: Chloe Bootstaylor @
boocc@rhodes.edumailto:boocc@rhodes.edu, Dorothy Cox @
coxd@rhodes.edumailto:coxd@rhodes.edu, 901-843-3073 or 901-233-0563

May 6, Sunday @ 4:00pm, The Bowser-Gray Missionary Society of Galilee AMEC celebrates Annual Missionary Day with speaker Rev. Pasty Brown, Associate @ Mt. Olive AME, Millington, Tn, who is a dynamic and spirit filled saint. Please come and be blessed.

May 20, Sunday @ 4:00pm, The Bowser-Gray Missionary Society of Galilee AMEC will sponsor "Fill My Cup Tea", at St John AME Church Fellowship Hall, 4862 Millbranch Rd, Memphis, TN, ticket donation \$10. Come and be guided by a gifted and entertaining emcee, Mrs. Carolyn Whitney. Don't miss it. Please contact Mrs. Carolyn Hightower at 901-679-9947 if more information is needed.

May 23, 2012 is the Official Birthday of the CLO and Lay Organizations - local churches and groups of churches, Annual Conferences and Episcopal Districts are invited to include in their schedules

CLO activities and programs such as:

- ✠ Founders Day Programs
- ✠ Proclamation Ceremony
- ✠ Birthday Party
- ✠ Witness & Ministry Program
- ✠ Prayer Event
- ✠ Town Hall Meeting

Lay Organizations are invited to undertake oral history projects, develop photo montages and use creative ways to tell the story of lay ministry and witness in the African Methodist church worldwide.

UPCOMING LAY ACTIVITIES

- ✠ Monthly Conference Meeting - May 26th - 2:00pm
- ✠ 13th District Lay Organization Annual Convention - June 7th -9th @ Crown Plaza (Campbell House) Lexington, KY ; Hosted by St. Paul AMEC, Rev. Roderick Belin, Pastor;
- ✠ Monthly Conference Meeting - July 28th - 2:00pm

PURPOSE OF THE LAY ORGANIZATION

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

To accomplish this purpose, the following objectives were adopted:

- To create a love and appreciation of the history and principles of African Methodism;
- To keep the memory of Richard Allen alive;
- To respect constituted authority;
- To study the Discipline and learn the laws of the church;
- To encourage financial support of the church's programs;
- To teach and practice stewardship and work with the youth to Teach them Methodism.

These objectives can best be met when one works to understand the program of the church; to relate the church to the world around us and become involved in social action. The church is then our community, our job, our school. Everywhere many assemble, the church is there also.