

WV American Baptist Women's Ministries Board Meeting
Parchment Valley Conference Center, Ripley WV
Saturday, November 3, 2018 9:00 am

The WV American Baptist Women's Ministries board met at Parchment Valley Conference Center. Those in attendance were Debbie Higginbotham, Kathy Hudson, Sue Hamric, Karen Nicholson, Linda Carpenter, Kim Pickrell, Carrie Gasaway, Kim Mack, Lou Ann Nicholas, Lisa Simmons, Koreen Villers, Margaret Pratt, Kathy Wince, Sandy Currey, and Dee Lallemon. Those not able to attend were Jane Mullen, Lois Casto and Yvette Shafer.

President Debbie Higginbotham opened the meeting with introductions, followed by the reading of Matthew 10 and prayer. She reminded us Jesus invites us to travel light, to focus, and to gather our thoughts about getting back to the basics as a board.

To continue, we began discussing our respective job descriptions, our working officer books and duties. Each book should contain the duties of the officer in the front. We are to work on our individual books and include a detailed job description and a timeline for organizational purposes. We will revisit this issue in March as we compile and update information. Outdated information may be purged, but we are asked to keep formats/templates for future officers. ******Job descriptions and timelines are to be sent to Karen Nicholson, Secretary, for record keeping and reference.***

During the morning, we broke into three working groups and switched twice with a brief break in between. These groups were designed to plan for the upcoming year's events, projects, finances, scholarship girl applications and nominations for new officers. After our three sets of group work, we gathered for lunch. (Linda Carpenter, representing the Finance Team, visited several working groups and discussed finances for events and gave each chairman a list entitled "Consideration of Financial Guidelines for Events". This will aid each committee in decisions concerning speakers, decorations, workshop leaders, food and other special requests.

Sandy Currey opened the afternoon business session with prayer. Carrie Gasaway shared a newspaper article about her future daughter-in-law, Beth Slack. Beth needs our prayers for a double lung transplant.

Debbie called the business meeting to order at 12:59 pm. She asked for the reading of the minutes from October.

- ***MI-2018 A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of those minutes as they had been sent out electronically. Motion carried.***

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer, Linda Carpenter shared the Financial Report from January 1, 2018-October 3, 2018. Questions were asked and answered.

PROPOSED 2019 BUDGET

Linda presented the proposed 2019 budget. She asked that we turn in ALL expenses, even if they are “in kind” (donated). This will help those coming behind coordinators/officers to get a stronger hold on what events and projects actually cost. After some discussion, parts of the proposed budget were adjusted.

- ***M2-2018 A motion was made and seconded to accept the adjusted 2019 budget. The motion passed.***

Linda also handed out vouchers to be filled out and returned for reimbursement and record keeping.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Lou Ann Nicholas, Personal Development Coordinator, and committee members shared resources and ideas to enhance the promotion of women’s personal growth. Ideas were given to reach out through social media, webinars and other areas.

2019 WOMEN’S DAY

The 2019 Women’s Day committee met to review Women’s Day 2018 and plan for 2019. Lou Ann will be the chairman for the 2019 Women’s Day. The theme is “The Woman God Sees”. It will be held at Alderson Broaddus College, Friday, October 18, with the dinner/board meeting on the 17th. The theme is based on Isaiah 62:4.

MISSION OUTREACH PROJECT 2019

The MOP project for 2019 will be “Rice for Students in Thailand”. This is through the House of Blessing, an early childhood education center in Chiang Mai. Children go out at night to beg for money when their family runs out of food during the month. The children end up not going to school or are too tired when attending.

- A. \$30 provides one family with enough rice for a month
- B. \$360 provides one family with enough rice for a year
- C. \$6000 provides 16 families rice for a year

Dee Lallemon will be going to Thailand with Lisa Simmons on November 25. Dee’s daughter, Kylie, wrote a song for MOP—“Rice, Rice Baby”. A video is in the works for the song’s debut.

The goal for this MOP project is \$6000.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Dee Lallmont, Coordinator of Mission and Service, and her committee discussed ways to educate our churches about what our missionaries are doing and how God uses them in their respective fields. It was suggested to make videos or power points to share with the churches with the theme “A Day in the Life of (fill in the missionary/missionaries’ names).

CONFERENCE 2019

Kim Mack, Conference Coordinator, and her committee began making plans for the 2019 Conference. This event will be **one day only**--June 1st --in Hill Hall at Parchment Valley Conference Center. There will be a Pre-Conference on Friday preceding the event for anyone wishing to come and stay overnight for fellowship. Several activities are being planned for Friday. Board members are encouraged to come.

The working theme is “Rock the Boat” based on Hebrews 13:21. (Nautical items will be used to decorate). Lisa Simmons will be the speaker. She will be sharing how to include all ladies/girls in our churches under the umbrella of women’s ministries, and moving back to the original purpose of Conference which was leadership skill building. She hopes to develop several break-out group sessions and include board members within each group. Suggestions for groups/leaders were made for those sessions. Conference and Spiritual Growth Retreat are similar events at the moment, and the committee is trying to separate the purposes to give strength to each event.

Each board member is asked to have a display for her respective position.

Childcare is being worked on for this event.

We were encouraged to target one young woman to attend Conference. Also to promote, promote, promote it!

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT 2019

Kim Pickrell, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and her committee began plans for the retreat. It will be at Parchment Valley September 20-22. The theme is “In the Quiet” based on Psalm 46:10 (“Be still and know...”) The committee plans to turn Hill Hall into a coffee shop with the idea of one being alone in the morning doing her devotions. The speaker is not definite at this time.

A photo booth and craft are being planned also.

The committee has asked that we promote by using emails, inviting association presidents, using Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and a BIG promotion within our own churches.

WOMEN’S CAMP

Even though this is not an American Baptist Women’s Ministries event, we are helping our young women promote this event. It will be April 5-7, 2019, at Camp Cowen. Please promote this to the young women in your church.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Carrie Gasaway, Registrar, filled in for Lois Casto, chairman for this committee, as Lois was not able to attend the meeting.

There are 6 positions to fill—First Vice President, Love Gift Coordinator, White Cross, Spiritual Growth Retreat Coordinator-Elect, Mission and Service Coordinator-Elect, and Church and Community Coordinator-Elect. Several names were presented. The committee will consider these names, and contact the ladies nominated.

SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN PROGRAM

Lou Ann Nicholas reported the scholarship committee met and had received applications to date for review. They will meet on Friday, March 15, 2019 to make final decisions concerning the candidates for the scholarships.

LOVE GIFT

As of October 8, 2018, we have collected \$66,931.87 for Love Gift. Our state goal is \$120,000. The final total for 2017 was \$109,491.

Percentages for the areas where Love Gift is received: (Pie charts were to be sent to the board).

- 8% Global/National Ministry/Ministry Organizations
- 15% ABWM
- 23 % ABCUSA
- 55% West Virginia Baptist Convention

We discussed the goal for 2019. Lisa Simmons mentioned that if Love Gift goes down, it could affect staff salaries at the Convention office.

- **M3-2018** *A motion was made and seconded to set the 2019 Love Gift goal at \$110,000. The motion passed.*

It was mentioned that November is “Thankful Month” and churches could promote Love Gift as a way of giving for what one is thankful for in one’s life.

GOOD SAMARITAN

It was reported there have not been any more disbursements since October, and none are expected before the end of the year.

SEASONS

Sue Hamric, Editor, will be giving out writing assignments for the January issue. She will be promoting Special Project and MOP in said month. There is currently not a Resource Team, so that type of information will no longer be included.

Discussion followed about registrations (as the forms are included in the publication) for events, deadlines, and whether to charge more if registrations come in after the deadline. The consensus was no.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY/SPECIAL PROJECT

Margaret Pratt, Church and Community Coordinator, reported the 2019 **Special Project** is supporting Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM). There are 7 college campuses in WV. The goal is \$12,000. This goal is the same as last year.

A rough draft of a letter to be sent to associations was made. A flyer for the January issue of Seasons is complete and was given to Sue.

Promotional activities include having BCM speakers attend association meetings and church services to share their experiences and how BCM has helped them grow.

The committee also decided to leave the association/church quotas the same.

REGISTRAR

Carrie Gasaway, Registrar, asked the board to encourage our ladies/girls to get registrations in early for events.

LIAISON FROM THE WV BAPTIST CONVENTION

Lisa Simmons, current Liaison, passed out a brochure about M.E.E.T. (Mission Encounter Education Training). M.E.E.T. “strives to help participants encounter mission in partnership with an International Ministries missionary unit.” Education and training are provided. (Participants are responsible for the cost of travel, food, lodging and other expenses.) Mission support is provided for the young adults through a structured program, and is built on relationships with the participants, the International missionaries, and the WV Convention staff.

Two people have already applied and have been matched with a missionary. Seven placements for 2018-2019 are open. Lisa will come and speak if anyone would like to spread the word at their church. For more information, go to wvbc.org and click on “M.E.E.T.”

The 2019 theme for the convention is “Bearers of Hope”.

After these announcements, Lisa shared some personal remarks as she will be retiring December 31, 2018.

Beginning January 1, 2019, Koreen Villers will be our liaison from the convention.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS

Debbie announced we need to do a yearly evaluation on events, board positions and a financial audit in March.

For March, the board decided we need more time to plan and discuss. We will meet on Friday night and Saturday for this meeting.

A **Resource Team** is interwoven within the constitution's bylaws and policies. We will leave this in our constitution/bylaws/policies for now even though the team has dissolved at this time.

White Cross was dropped from the National ABWM two years ago. If one goes online now, most of the White Cross ministries are asking for financial support and not specific items.

The question to the board was "Do we still want to keep White Cross alive in WV?" Discussion ensued for a "White Cross Remix". The board decided to keep White Cross. Debbie and Kathy Hudson will work on it together for 2019 to develop a protocol. Debbie will send a summary to churches, and a description will be presented at Conference.

The **National ABWM** has asked for our continuing support for their ministry as **Vital Partners**. We were honored to hear WV is the leading supporter of this ministry in the nation. Also, as a group, it was decided not to send extra monies for the **Dig for Digs** campaign (to purchase office furniture, computers, etc. for the new office).

A discussion about putting the Constitution and other data on a central **laptop** was held. This move would help to keep items all in one place and up to date, give easy access to information, forms, minutes, templates, job descriptions and timelines rather than keeping up with flash drives and other ways of storage. We will discuss more on this in March. Koreen suggested using Google Docs.

Debbie proposed dividing the state into 3 groups in order to get to know officers from around the state and share information quicker and easier. This is part of the new structure for **President, First and Second Vice Presidents**. Each will cover 1/3 of the state—making contact with ABWM groups and churches that do not have a "formal" ABWM group. Discussion followed about how to divide the state and who would monitor this. More information will be shared at our March meeting.

A proposal to appoint a **treasurer's assistant** was discussed. If an assistant is added to the board, she would be asked to get a recommendation from her pastor and a background check would be performed. After some discussion, the board agreed it would be in our best interest to appoint such a person. This would NOT be an elected office. Two names were offered for consideration.

SCHOLARSHIP/LOANS

As Jane could not be present, Lou Ann reported that scholarship/loan applications are not available online.

A fundraising idea is to have a purse auction with our ladies, with all proceeds benefitting the program.

The committee spent the remainder of their time discussing and reviewing five items from the scholarship policy.

The following motions for changes in our constitution policies for the Scholarship/Loan Program were made. (Article IX, beginning on Page 4). Coming from the committee, seconds were not needed.

- M4-2018 In Article IX, Section 1, Item #2, Page 4: The motion was made to change the wording to read “Scholarships will not be available for graduate work or part-time studies” (omitting the words “out of state schools”). After some discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed.
- M5-2018 In Article IX, Section 1, Item #4, Page 4: The motion was made to amend this item to read “The amount of the annual scholarship/loan shall be approved by the Executive Board and may be awarded for a maximum period of four years (leaving out “as long as funds are available in the scholarship/loan fund.”) Add: “A new application must be submitted each year”. The vote was taken and the motion passed.
- M6-2018 In Article IX, Section 1, Item #5, Page 5: This policy reads “Applications for fifth-year seniors will be considered by the committee based upon funds available and specific circumstances.” The motion was to delete this item all together. The vote was taken. Motion passed.
- M7-2018 In Article IX, Section 1, Item #10, Page 5: The policy currently reads “All schools chosen for training must be West Virginia accredited schools”. The motion was to amend this policy by taking out “West Virginia”. After discussion, a vote was made and the motion passed.
- M8-2018 In Article IX, Section 1, Item #12, Page 5: This policy currently reads “The scholarship/loan may be revoked at the end of any semester or term for unsatisfactory academic achievement or improper conduct. A 2.5 grade average is required.” The motion was to amend it to say “Unsatisfactory academic performance of less than a 2.5 grade point average or substantiated improper conduct will result in disqualification for the applicant the following year.” The board discussed this matter, and then voted. The motion passed.

SEASONS EDITOR

It was discussed that Sue Hamric’s position will be now be known as “Communications Coordinator” as opposed to “Seasons Editor”. Sue has developed an ABWM Facebook page,

keeps the WV Baptist Convention ABWM website current as well as putting together the SEASONS publication. The Facebook page can be accessed at WV American Baptist Women's Ministries. The website can be found at www.wvbc.org under "Partners".

BOARD MEETINGS/MINUTES

Any time an electronic vote is taken between board meetings, the results will be shared with the next meeting's minutes to the board.

It was discussed about putting the board minutes on the ABWM website, or a summary thereof. The minutes would be accessible to anyone and could be copied and shared with the associations or local churches as an extra way of communication from the state board.

As Debbie closed the business meeting, she called Kathy Hudson, President-Elect, to lead us in a devotion. It was based on Matthew 5 and Luke 14—Being the salt of the earth. She gave us glass "salts" for the Master salt we can use at our family tables. Salt is an earthly resource that will never run out, and she shared that "God is enough". We are to "flavor" our ministries as we are leaders. She challenged us to "Be Salty".

Kathy also encouraged us to be mindful of Denise Aragon's challenge to us at Women's Day—to fast on the first Saturday of each month. We are to be appreciative of what we have, and be mindful of our heart attitude.

Our next board meeting will be Friday-Saturday, March 15-16, 2019 at Parchment Valley.

Respectively submitted electronically,

Karen Nicholson
Secretary