



ALERT

ANNUAL DAY OCTOBER 25 Yvette Richards, president of United Methodist Women, Inc. guest speaker

COME AND BE FILLED: VESSELS FOR THE MASTER'S USE



An Important Message from the Registrar!

Greetings to my sisters in Christ,

Isn't it amazing how time flies? We have had a fantastic year with all our United Methodist Women events so far and I know that the last conference event for 2014 – Annual Day is going to be amazing! I don't want anyone to miss the opportunity to gather together with a common PURPOSE and be blessed by Yvette Richards' message.

Registration deadlines are extremely important. I know we are all busy and want to be flexible to changes in our schedules but—do not procrastinate in registering for any event. There is much planning that has to be done and most of it hinges on how many people we can expect at any event. Programs cannot be printed, meals cannot be planned, rooms cannot be booked, and supplies cannot be purchased if we don't have a good idea of the number of people planning on attending. We have tried numerous ways to entice you to register on time but they haven't worked very well. We, of course, do not want to turn anyone away because we are about bringing women into our fellowship – not turning them away but we also have to manage a very tight budget and don't want to waste one penny of what God has provided by overspending or wasting food.

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2014 Conference Officers

President	Betty Helms
Vice President.....	Pat Dodge
Secretary.....	Sheila Hare
Treasurer.....	Margaret Larson
Prog. Resources.....	Margie Outlaw
Communications.....	Laurel Akin
Nominations Chair....	Cynthia Brown

Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth.....	Nancy Shealy
Social Action.....	Zan Jones
M.N. & O.....	Cheryl Mothershed
Ed. & Interp.....	Margie Miller

Committee on Nominations

Julia Norton.....	Jennifer Swee
Toni Broughton.....	Cynthia Brown
Ruth Ann Powers....	Imogene Martin
Lynn Hamric	

United Methodist Women Program Committee Representative

Clara Ester

FROM THE PRESIDENT



ALL ABOARD FOR OUR UNITED METHODIST WOMENS' MINISTRY.....

Right now, today, this moment, does my to-do list of life align with God's purpose, or does it instead, satisfy my personal preferences? Do the things I spend the most time, energy and money on have eternal value –

significance that will last beyond this world?
[excerpt from *Simply Salsa*, a book from the 2014 Reading Program list by Janet Perez Eckles]

As we continue to move our Mission Train around the conference possibly making a whistle stop near you, remember your conference and district officers are just a telephone call or email away. Reach out to them with any questions, suggestions or comments.

Come on ladies...climb on board! Support this wonderful organization known as United Methodist Women! Joyfully and passionately claim the name United Methodist Woman! For every single United Methodist Women in the Alabama West Florida Conference, our individual giving makes the difference between a world of hunger, hurt and desperation or a world of love in action. We are members of the largest and strongest women's mission organization in the world! **LET'S ACT LIKE IT! LET'S GET PASSIONATE ABOUT OUR MISSION GIVING!**

Each of us can help our local organization make or exceed their pledge. All of the local organizations make it possible for their district to make their pledge. The eight district pledges make possible our conference pledge to our National Organization of United Methodist Women. You are the root of all the mission work of

United Methodist Women. Pray about your individual giving! Is it greater than it was ten years ago? Have you denied yourself some "stuff" and given an extra amount to mission? Let's get behind each of the eight district pledges and support them mightily! Giving is a matter of faith. Let us pray that our pledges will be in abundance this year. Prioritize United Methodist Women in your Mission Giving! We must remember our history and continue the legacy of the organization. My prayer is that this time next year, we will be celebrating because we made our 2014 conference pledge to mission of \$120,000. We can do it! We are strong United Methodist women!



In order to make our conference the very best, it is going to take all of us working together. We must go forward in hope and not take a step back in fear. What we do today becomes the history of tomorrow. **If we don't take care of ourselves, who will? Think about that!**

Always remember.....DON'T LOOK BACK!.....WE ARE NOT GOING THAT WAY!

Betty



P.S. This is my last article for the Alert as your conference president. Thanks for allowing me the privilege to serve as your president. It is an honor I will treasure for the rest of my life.

From the Vice-president

Mission u was a big success at Dothan First UMC on July 12th and 13th. We had a total of 130 people registered for the two days. If you missed our mission studies, look for them next year in your district. The 2014 studies are Spiritual Growth – “How is it with Your Soul?”; Social Issue – “The Church and People with Disabilities”; and Geographic – “The Roma of Europe”.

Your UMW Conference Mission Team is now preparing for District Officer Training and Conference Annual Day on October 24th and 25th. Our theme is “Vessels for the Master’s Use” and our guest speaker is Yvette Richards our current UMW, Inc. president. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

If you have questions or comments about our conference organization, please contact me. If you have suggestions for speakers and/or musicians for future programs, I would love to hear from you.

In HIS service,

Pat Dodge



From our Webmaster, Vera Moore

**ANNOUNCING
AWF-UMW on UMWOnline.org**

You may be asking, “Why do we need **another** web space?” Good question, and the answer is:

At UMWOnline.org, you can upload files you’d like to share, contribute to forum discussions, create blogs, arrange private chats, and much more. This may be done with United Methodist Women in our conference and around the world. This is unlike the website at <http://www.awf-umw.org/> where you must wait on Vera Moore to upload items you provide. UMWOnline.org is a do-it-yourself group. In this age of instant communication, it is important that we make use of all areas in order to reach women where they are: Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, etc.

All United Methodist Women in AWF should go to <http://UMWOnline.org> and register to open an account - it’s free and secure. If you are already a member, login with your user name and password using the login form.

If you need help, send an email to: umwonline@unitedmethodistwomen.org to receive assistance with any matters concerning the online community.

We think you are going to love it there and encourage you to make full use of all that is offered!

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Tapestry II: The Journey will be held on February 20 and 21, 2015 at the Enterprise United Methodist Church. We are excited about our speaker, Dr. Laura Early, and the focus groups on going green, technology and social media, tai chi for health, praying the labyrinth, and a craft project.

We will also have a special service project to help with linens and kitchen items for Sybil Smith Village at Dumas Wesley Community Center in Mobile. More details will follow and a list will be posted in each district newsletter. A nursery will be provided for all the events and a list of the hotels will be available in the brochures at Annual Day.

I hope you are planning to attend Annual Day. The Nell Chance special recognition award winner will be announced.

If you have any questions please contact me

@ c.mothershed59@gmail.com or call [251-604- 7026](tel:251-604-7026).

In His Service,
Cheryl Mothershed



Mission Education

Save the dates this Oct. 24 for leadership training and Oct. 25 for Annual Day meeting at Blue Lake. Please register early and plan to have lunch with special UMW friends.

The guest speaker is a serious and fun-loving United Methodist Woman. She uses the gifts that God has given her for missions for women, children and youth who are among the most vulnerable in the world. We need Yvette Kim Richards, president of United Methodist Women, Inc., to feel the love and support of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of United Methodist Women.

All district presidents and district E & I coordinators should have the templates for the awards given for the Mission Today Units. The Mission Today reporting form and the mission study report breakdown form that you have copies of should be completed and returned to conference E & I coordinator (Margie Miller) by September 15, 2014.

Response magazine for July-August 2014, has an article from Harriett Jane Olsen, General Secretary, United Methodist Women, titled "Pass On the Legacy". Please, all UMW members of our conference need to read this article. Legacy is a topic we all need to understand and support. We will be discussing Legacy between 2015 and 2019.

It has been my honor and pleasure to have served as your E & I Coordinator for the past four years. I love United Methodist Women and I am so proud to be a member of a community of women whose purpose is to know God through missions.

Thank you to our president, Betty Helms,
for being a strong, helpful and loving president.

God Bless,
Margie Miller
Education & Interpretation Coordinator



Report of Committee on Nominations for 2015

President: Lynn Hamric
 Secretary: Charlotte Hobson
 Communication Coordinator: Laurel Akin
 Social Action: Zan Jones
 Coordinator of Education and Interpretation: Shirley Hodges
 Two (2) year term (2016) Committee on Nominations: Betty Helms

Cynthia Brewer

Committee on Nominations, Chair



Spiritual Growth

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them"

Matthew 18:20

When I feel the need for a companion in following Jesus, I call on my sisters in my United Methodist Women's circle. I find encouragement and affirmation and help to grow in my relationship with God, self and others. We pray for one another and search for answers in God's Word. I find my time with these sisters is like heaven on earth. Am I inviting others to join in this journey? God is calling all of us to invite everyone to become a part of our PURPOSE..."To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ." We are planning our next Spiritual Growth Event, March 20-22, 2015 at Blue Lake. Please join me in planning this special time together. Our theme is "Sing A New Song".

Remember
 INVITE...INVITE...INVITE.

Blessings,
 Your travel companion,
 Nancy Shealy



PROGRAM RESOURCES NEWS.....

Greetings:

It's hard to believe that this year more than half over. It has certainly been a wonderful year. If you missed Mission u , you missed a great time of learning, communion, great food and fellowship.

With the end of the year coming we need to set our sights on our officer training and Annual Day. It is time to start getting your reports ready and sent in. Please get your reading list to your District so they can get it to me by September 15.

The District that won the reading worm last year, please bring it to Annual Day. We will see who gets to keep him this next year!

If you would like for me to order any books or material for the Annual Day sale, please call me

(334-299-6877 or email me
moutlaw200@centurytel.net)

In HIS Service,
 Margie Outlaw



Social Action: Domestic Violence

In the United States and more than 80 countries, domestic violence is a crime. It is defined as a pattern of abusive tactics perpetrated by a spouse, partner or significant other, with the goal of establishing or maintaining power and control over the victim. Domestic violence takes many forms such as **psychological** and **emotional**, **social**, **financial**, **physical** and **sexual abuse**.

One in every **four women** will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. An estimated **1.3 million** women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year. Thousands of victims go under reported. Many suffer in silence and never share their abuse. I challenge you the **United Methodist Women of the Alabama West Florida** to get involved.

We must speak out against Domestic Violence. The month of **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. The month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the **National Coalition against Domestic Violence**. The Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday in October. Each year they encourage organizations to take part in diverse programs such as mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting with those who work to end violence. Share and partner with other units in your district the works you're doing to combat this ever growing problem.

Raise awareness in your churches, units and communities. Contact the women's shelters for victims of domestic violence in your communities and volunteer. Post the number to **National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799-SAFE)** in your churches. Victims are our co-workers, neighbors, friends and even church members.

As we continue to move forward in mission, know that our positive actions will aid those in need.

Let's make it Happen.

FAITH . HOPE. LOVE IN ACTION



From the Treasurer

It was good to see most of the treasures and presidents at Blue Lake July 18 and 19.

I need all the Candle Burning and Love Offerings to me by September 13th to be included in totals for Annual Day in October; 3rd Quarter money by 15th September; and end-of-year money by December 10th.

Some districts have been doing well with "Candle Burning for Missions." For the districts that have sent in very little, your candles will go out quickly on Annual Day.

An idea one unit is doing is giving for one thing they are thankful for on that day. Each day has something to be thankful for. A hug one day is worth a quarter, having food in the house is a dime another day and so on. Funds can be raised how you like but this is a suggestion. We all have reasons to be thankful even on our worst day.

Everyone, not just treasurers, remember to deposit checks I send you within 30 days. The check will be voided after that time unless I know the reason it was not deposited.

Margaret Larson,
Conference Treasurer



ALERT! . . . Are you a Subscriber?

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to *Alert* today!

Send your name and address and telephone number to Laurel Akin, 104 Windwood Lane, Enterprise AL 36330. Enclose a \$ 4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women (AWFCUMW). You may receive a copy of *ALERT* free by email. Email laurel36330@gmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list. **Please include a telephone number! With each issue that is sent, several mailed and emailed copies are returned!**

Alabama West Florida Conference UMW

Proposed 2015 Budget

District Administration and Membership Funds	12,500	
Alert Printing and Mailing	1000	
Audit	800	
Conference Directory	150	
Conference Assembly/Jurisdiction Scholarship	300	
President to other Meetings	200	
Officer Expenses	700	
Total		15,650
Program Committee Expenses		
Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	5550	
UMW Expenses to Mission U	3000	
District Leadership Development	500	
Annual Day Meeting	5000	
Tapestry	2000	
Total		16,050
Executive Committee Meetings	5000	
Leadership Development Training	1100	
Assembly/Assembly Travel	2000	
Mission U Budget Offering	3000	
A & MD Funds to Jurisdiction (1% of Pledge)	1237	
Alabama Arise dues	300	
Church Women United of Alabama	75	
Church Women United of Florida	25	
World Federation Of Women	25	
Florida Impact	100	
Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory Cards	75	
Retiring Officer Pins	120	
Miscellaneous Expenses	493	
Total		13,550
TOTAL		45,250
2015 Alabama West Florida Conference Pledge	\$123,700	

Margaret Larson, Conference Treasurer

ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REGISTRATION FOR 42nd ANNUAL MEETING

Workshop & District Officer Update: October 24, 2014

Annual Day: October 25, 2014

“Vessels for the Master’s Use”

Special Guest Speaker: Yvette Richards, President of UMW, Inc

Who should attend?

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Oct. 4, 2014

*All United Methodist Women

*Bishop, District Superintendents, and Ministers

*Each unit has ONE voting delegate and MUST pre-register

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY REGISTRATION: Begins @ 3 p.m. in Lodge

ANNUAL DAY REGISTRATION ONLY: Registration begins @ 8:30 a.m. in GYM

All participants must pre-register

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ District _____ Unit _____

Conference Officer ☐ District Officer ☐ If so, office: _____

Local Unit Voting Delegate ☐ District Superintendent ☐ Clergy ☐ Youth (under 18) ☐

NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER OCT. 4, 2014.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PREFERENCE: (includes registration, lodging & meals)

Friday and Saturday

Saturday Only

LINWOOD WING by 09/27 by 10/04

CENTER SECTION by 09/27 by 10/04

_____ Double Occupancy \$60.00 \$70.00

_____ Triple Occupancy \$45.00 \$55.00

_____ Single Occupancy \$85.00 \$95.00

_____ Double Occupancy \$55.00 \$65.00

ROOMATE:

_____ Single Occupancy \$65.00 \$75.00

SATURDAY ONLY by 09/27 by 10/04

\$20.00 \$30.00

ROOMMATES: _____

ROOMMATES MUST MAIL REGISTRATION FORMS & FULL PAYMENT TOGETHER

ATTENDEES WHO WISH TO REGISTER AT THE DOOR ON SATURDAY WILL NEED TO
BRING A SACK LUNCH!

Registration is not complete until all fees are received.

CONFERENCE AND DISTRICT OFFICERS PAY ONLY \$10.00 (Add \$25 for single rooms and if registering after 10/04 add an additional \$10.00)

Make checks payable to AWFUMW -

Mail to: Sheila Hare, Registrar @ 4074 Lafitte Rd Saraland, AL 36571 s.share13@gmail.com

FRIDAY WORKSHOP BEGINS @ 4 p.m. DINNER @ 6:00 P.M.

OFFICER TRAINING and OTHER OPPORTUNITIES @ 7:00 P.M.

Special Needs: _____ *Child Care Needed:* _____

HEALTH FORMS SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND MAILED WITH REGISTRATION OR PRESENTED ON DAY OF REGISTRATION IF ONE HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED FOR 2014.

ALABAMA/WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HEALTH FORM FOR _____

Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form

Name: _____ DOB _____

Home Phone: _____ Work # _____ Cell# _____

Physician's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Health Insurance Company: _____ Policy# _____

Allergies to medications: _____

Current medications: _____

In the event of an emergency, contact:

Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone# _____

Name: _____ Relation: _____ Phone# _____

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize **AL/WF UMW** to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.
2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.
3. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date: _____ Consent Signature: _____

Consent Plan

This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication and any treatment procedure deemed "life saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) above is unable to be reached. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date: _____ Consent Signature: _____

Non-Consent Plan

I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:

I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date: _____ Consent Signature: _____

Date: _____ Witness Signature: _____

An important message from the registrar continued from page 1

The cost to put on events such as ours can be quite significant. Your registration fee of \$10.00 for Annual Day and \$15.00 for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat must cover the cost of the speakers, musicians, supplies for focus groups, printing program books, and the list goes on and on. The meals and room charges from Blue Lake are the remainder of what you pay for. United Methodist Women does not make any money on these events.

If you need special accommodations, have dietary needs or just have a request for a specific room, please note it on your registration form. If we don't know about it ahead of time, we may not be able to accommodate you. Registering early will also ensure that you get a room in the specific wing or floor of your choice. The later you wait, the less likely the rooms you want will be available.

There have been requests for confirmation of registration and sending out tentative agendas. We will try to implement these suggestions in the near future.

After each event, we ask that the participants complete an evaluation. I know some of you don't think we even look at them but let me assure you each one is read and every compliment, suggestion or criticism is taken and evaluated. We do not take them lightly and appreciate each of your responses. We work hard on these events and will always try to make each one better than the last. Many of the comments were around the food, beds, temperatures of room, etc but we have very little if any control over those things. We do have control over things like music, program books, speakers and registration processes.

If there is anything else I can do for you, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email.

I hope to see you at Annual Day and bring a guest with you!

Sheila Hare, Registrar and Conference Secretary



Coming Attractions

October 24, 2014

October 25, 2014

February 20-21, 2015

March 20-22, 2015

Leadership Training @ Blue Lake

Conference Annual Day @ Blue Lake

Tapestry II: The Journey @ Enterprise

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat @ Blue Lake

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida
Conference
Laurel Akin
104 Windwood Lane
Enterprise, AL 36330

