



“The Lay Communiqué”

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Magazine



67th Annual Convention Edition
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pensacola, Florida
Cost \$1.00

June 22, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 2

67th Annual EEDLO Gets Down to Business in Pensacola, Florida

And Are We Yet Alive (Mary Silva)

The Laity of the Eleventh Episcopal District came from far and near to gather in Pensacola, Florida for the 67th Annual Lay Convention.

As the delegation began to arrive, the lay brothers and sisters were excited to see members from the other conferences, some who had not been seen since the 66th Convention in Miami. Thus, the words of the Hymn And are we yet alive to see each other’s face was most appropriate as noteworthy information was disseminated regarding friends that did not travel to this convention.

I was pleased to see an acquaintance that I made last year in the person of Mrs. Joan Harper of the South Conference who along with others were part of the Business Center staff on last year.

To all first-timers we salute you and say WELCOME!

Registration concluded on Wednesday, Registrar, Ann McCelvy reported the following as the strength of this convention:

Adults	158
YAR’s	6
Clergy	<u>22</u>
Total	186

Chaplains Corner . . . Pg 2

Health Walk: “Energetic Walkers in Motion”

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

On Wednesday, June 22, at 5:15 a.m., the (10) participants from the North South, East and West, met to begin equipping their whole armor to be servant in God’s kingdom by walking.

The brave participants endured the rainy elements from the Crowne Plaza Hotel to the scenic route of downtown Pensacola and ended the trek on Alcaniz Street. The

walk was approximately 5 miles. After the walk the participants took a group photograph and indulged in light refreshments. Each participant was provided a colorful souvenir bag.

The walking schedule for the remainder of the Convention is as follows: Thursday, June 23 and Friday, June 24, 5:45-6:45 a.m.

Please meet promptly at the above stated time.

Thursday, June 23, 2011

Health Activities

5:45-6:45 A.M.

Devotion 8:30-8:45 A.M.

Bible Study 8:45-9:15 A.M.

General Assembly

9:15—10:10 A.M.

Training Sessions

10:00 A.M. - 3:35 P.M.

YAR Training Sessions and Activities (Concurrently)

Hospitality Room Open 4:30-5:30 P.M. (2nd Floor)

Annual Awards Banquet 7:00—9:30 P.M.

The Right Reverend McKinley Young

Resident Bishop, 11th Episcopal District

**The Right Reverend C. Garnett Henning,
Lay Commission Chair**

**Dr. Dorothy J. Young,
Episcopal Supervisor**

**Dr. Willie C. Glover,
Connectional Lay President**

**Mr. Charlie Nichols,
11th Episcopal District President**

**Mrs. Sharon K. Russell,
11th District Director of Public Relations**

Mary Silva & Rebecca Pittman, Business Center

Delphine Jackson, EC

Deborah Langston, EC

Dorothy Harley, FC

Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, FC

YAR HOUR OF POWER

Ethel Wooten, Florida Conference, Reporting

The YAR Worship Service was called together at 12:05p.m., by YAR, Jai Ingraham. The service was uplifting and motivating.

James Campbell, East Conference gave a soul-stirring prayer as he offered praise and thanksgiving for God's grace for another day.

Bryce Nichols, grandson of EEDLO President, Charlie Nichols

welcomed the delegation by stating that God has blessed us all and only what we do for Christ will last.

Lance Ebron, West Coast Conference rendered a musical selection, "All to Jesus, I Surrender." He also informed the delegation that he moved to the 11th District from the 2nd District a number of years ago.

Psalm 27, was the selected scripture, read by Macy Fields, East Conference.

YAR, Jai Ingraham, gave words of inspiration referencing Isaiah 62:10-12; "It's not what you know, but Who you know." He challenged the delegation, youth and adults to always give the best of your service to God and the Church, never be ashamed of who you are and to remember that we all have a Calling.

Offering totaled \$1,051.00.



Chaplain's Corner—Approved by Katheryn Gillis, EEDLO Chaplain

Don't Look Back

— **Forward March;**

Read, Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 3:6; and 32:8

The journey of life is not a journey if you will remain at the position of attention to the end of time; doing the same old routine. Ask yourself: "Am I letting life pass me by like a summer breeze?" I think not! Situations and circumstances may not be as you projected. OK, let's get real! You are not the "POTTER" nor "MASTER PLANNER, GOD is! He knew you and your destiny before you became an Embryo. So, you are 30, 40, 50, 60 . . . years mature and still not sure what you want in life. Well, I know that most of us have all wanted to be _____ . You just filled that blank with your heart's desire. Don't look Back at what you could have, should have. . . ., the command is now Forward March. There is a path out there just for you and your name is on that path. Name

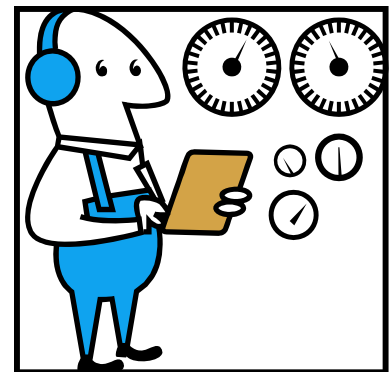
*it and claim it. You must move from the position of inattention to Forward March and step-by-step you will reach your dream, your destiny, and your purpose on this journey called life. **Don't Look Back!***

(From the book, Joy Unspeakable, A Spiritual Jambalaya, Amicitia Maloon Gibson)

Father in Heaven, we thank you for the many blessings that you have provided . We thank you for being a God of more than enough, a God of renewed chances, a God who can take nothing and create life; a God that is ever giving and forgiving. We thank you for seeing the best in us during our less than good times. That's why our hearts are filled with praise as your love bubbles over in our souls. Father we thank you for never moving away from us even though we sometimes move away from you. In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen. Amen, and AMEN!

Commissions at Work

Commission meetings were scheduled by the various Commission Chairs. The Awards Committee had several meetings as they worked towards finalizing the awards during the 67th Convention Banquet.



67th Annual Convention

“Laura P. Robinson Lay Benevolent Auxiliary Program”

Jennifer Lawson, Donald Russell and Mary Silva, Reporters

The Lay Benevolent Auxiliary program was as JJ Evans of the Good Times TV show would proclaim Dyno-Mite!! Sister Dorise Griffin stated with authority that this service would be provided through talents and praise reports of the young people. The Male Chorus of Allen Chapel set the stage for an extraordinary service of worship and celebration. Their opening selection was a prophesy of what was yet in store as they sang It’s Gonna Be A Meeting and Come and Go with me to my Father’s house.

Hurst Chapel’s Male Chorus sang melodious spirituals, their group included their Pastor, Rev. Phillip Russ; they testified in song singing I’m Satisfied, Glad I’ve Got Jesus and I’m Running for my Life.

Troop 3:16 Praise Dancers of Gregg Chapel AME Church, Fort Walton Beach, Florida was established in January 2011 under the dynamic leadership of Natoya Scott. Troop 3:16 consists of six youth, Aaron Smith, 10th grader; Sharine Burns, 10th grader, Sherrell Burns, 9th grader, Tyla Scott, 7th grader, Aron Scott, 6th grader, and Holly Harris, 11th grader. They stepped danced to “I Want It All Back.” Troop 3:16 took 1st place in the Step Competition during the Pensacola-

Marianna District Church School Convention.

One of the two young ladies members of Mount Zion Crestview had a tremendous testimony. Traaneequa Flavors (18) has survived two (2) brain surgeries. God has blessed her with a second chance and she is sharing her story through music and testimony. When she graduates she plans to study to become a psychiatrist. Jenna Renee Lewis (10) is a 5th grader at Rocky Bayou Christian School. God has blessed her with the gift of voice. Singing and speaking God’s word. She wants to save others through her songs. When she grows up she wants to be a scientist and artist. Jenna won 3rd place in a texting competition and took 1st

Tiana Witherspoon a young twenty (20) year old has undergone several major surgeries.

place in the Spelling Bee during the recent Pensacola-Marianna District Sunday School Convention.

New Era Praise Dancers of Bethel-Pensacola were led on by a 20 year old that also had a tremendous testimony. The New Era Praise Dancers of Bethel-Pensacola was started by a young lady who recently formed this team. Tiana Yvonne Diane Witherspoon’s faith in God is so strong that she trusted God as a child through several major heart surgeries. God allowed her to witness to others

on His behalf as an ambassador.

This Praise Team is a product of her witnessing to others; she asks that the delegation continue to pray for her and the New Era Praise Dancers of Bethel-Pensacola.

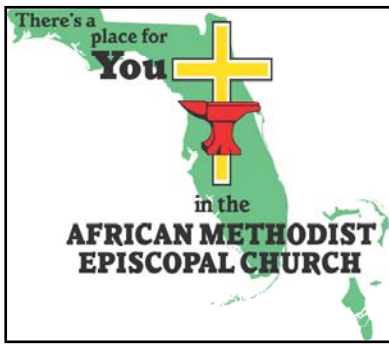
The Lay Benevolent Auxiliary Program was well attended and seemingly enjoyed by all in attendance.

Prayers are asked for Third Vice President, Sister Lothar Cherry as her mother passed on Sunday last and the funeral scheduled for Saturday, June 25, 2011.

Prayers are also solicited for the membership as well as other de-

nomination friends and/or family. Remember we are to love as Jesus did and also maintain the integrity of this great Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

***To God Be the Glory
for a service well planned and
beautifully executed.***



Lay Economic Development Breakfast

Donald Russell, Reporting

The LEDC'S Breakfast and mini worship service was the first agenda item for Wednesday, June 22, 2011. The service set the tone for the remainder of the day. The Call to Commitment was extended by Evelyn Odom, South Conference. Jennifer Lawson, Florida Conference, gave a soul stirring rendition of "He Touched Me." Breakfast was served soon thereafter.

Health Activity Participants



Retired Presiding Elder, Ralph Larry Wilson, read from Matthew 25: 14-30; subject: A Stumbling Block or Stepping Stone. Elder Wilson referenced the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation's statement of purpose, analogizing the statement to our Founder Richard Allen and his economic empowerment principles. He then referenced three points that he believed were of significance to the LEDC.

1. The start of the Florida Conference Credit Union, where some bad or not so pleasant setbacks were had before establishment of the good;

2. EEDLO-LEDC the concept was to have the clergy support the effort, and thus, build membership as the pastors would be in support of the CU; however, the plane never left the gate; and

3. A lack of trust of black owned businesses; thus, black enterprises suffer greatly at the hands of our people. We need to trust each other more.

Opening Business Session & Town Hall Meeting

The second day of the 67th Convention began with Bible Study, followed by the second town hall meeting. Bishop Young entertained a plethora of questions and statements from the delegation.

The questions covered the gamut from local church trustee elections to pastors not being properly equipped to handle the concerns of their congregants. Also included were questions pertaining to funding our colleges and universities.

Bishop Young again informed the delegation of major political accomplishments in the Jacksonville/Duval County area with the election of the first African American Mayor.

He also informed this 67th Convention that the former Sheriff, Nate Glover, now President of Edward Waters College, was also an EWC alumni.

Bishop Young also challenged the delegation to become more diligent in service to God and their church. He reminded the

assembly that we all should take a step back and recall the time when we met the Lord. He further reminded us that we all could appreciate renewed commitment and willingness to serve both God and the church.

