



“The Lay Communiqué”

11th Episcopal District Lay Organization Convention Magazine



67th Annual Convention Edition

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

Convention Nears the End...

By Mary Silva

As the 67th Convention nears its close, now is the time to take inventory of the positives and negatives of this Convention. To assess and evaluate programs and training sessions that are worth repeating, improving or letting go.

This is also a time for self inspection to candidly review our effectiveness as leaders within the Church and our allegiances to the various organizations, auxiliaries, clubs, boards, etc., of which we claim membership.

We have all heard the adage that “time is winding up;” thus, we all can do our very best to continue to walk in the pathway of duty and to keep our lights bright to lead others to Christ.

We can also continue to do our very best as trainers within the Church and the body of Christ to teach, witness and enlightened as we work out our soul salvation with fear and trembling. I

know that I can strive to do better with Christ being my helper.

So, we will see you again in 2012 somewhere in the West Coast Conference, when we meet and greet friends old and new.

BE BLESSED!

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

As we depart this 67th session, let us challenge ourselves to increase the number of registered delegates in 2012. “We can Do It!”

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Health Walk:

“Energetic Walkers in Motion”

Reporter & Tour Guide:

Connie E. Jenkins-Pye, Florida Conference

On Thursday, June 23, at 5:45 a.m., the dedicated group of health enthusiasts assembled with master walker, Connie E. Jenkins-Pye. Connie and the crew walked a different area of Pensacola, as she shared the sites and history of “The City of Five Flags.”

The health enthusiasts and seasoned walkers will assemble tomorrow morning, June 24, 2011, 5:45 a.m., for the final health walk of the 67th Convention.



The Right Rev. McKinley Young

Resident Bishop, 11th Episcopal District

The Rt. Reverend C. Garnett Henning, Lay Commission Chair

Dr. Dorothy Jackson 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 TRAINING SESSIONS

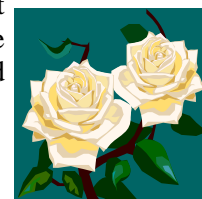
YAR, Jai Ingraham and the registered youth and young adults of the 67th Annual Convention held training sessions concurrently with the Adult Program.

Today's Training Sessions dealt with the following: 1) "The WORD of Prayer;" 2) "The WORSHIP in Music;" and 3) "The WITNESS OF Our Service."

Though there was a limited number of Youth and Young Adults registered as delegates for the Con-

vention, nevertheless the discussions were lively. The WORD of Prayer session was conducted by Jon Ingraham and began with his asking all attendees to draw a line down the middle of the paper; one side titled "What I want to Do (in my lifetime)" and the other side, "What God wants me to Do." He gave 30 seconds for listing items that God wants and 20 seconds listing What "I" want. Needless to say the "I" want side listed more items than the God wants side. He then explained that it al-

ways appears that we readily know what we want out of or from life as opposed to knowing what God wants, or better yet our knowing the things that are pleasing to God. Four adult delegates to the Convention were part of this Training Session. A lively dialogue ensued regarding some of the life choices that we've made. The session concluded with prayer.



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

Sometimes, in the emotion of the moment, our minds play tricks on us. We think our loss is worse than it is. We may feel like the songwriter David who, in the confusion of the moment, thought God had forgotten him.

When David later recalled what he knew rather than what he feared, his sense of loss turned into a song of praise (Ps. 13:5-6). His renewed joy foreshadowed what is now ours to recall: Nothing can rob us of what is most important if our life is "hidden with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3).

Disappointed because you have not broken into the more elite group in your church or neighborhood? Stuck down on rung two (2) when you'd rather be on rung eight (8) or at least climbing the social ladder? Listen to what Jesus said: "Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Luke 14:11). That's the radical and upside-down way of God's kingdom!

The hope we read about in Scripture is not vague, wishy-washy optimism. Instead biblical hope is a strong and confident expectation that what God has promised in His Word He will accomplish. Tribulation is often the catalyst that produces perseverance, character, and finally, hope (Rom. 5:3-4).

The word gospel means "good news." The gospel of Christ is that God Himself loved us enough to send His own Son into this world to rescue us from ourselves and our sin (John 1:1-4; 3:16).

The good news is that Jesus lived the quality of life that God intended for us to live. Without flaw, He loved His heavenly Father with all of His heart, soul, and mind. Without fail, He showed us what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Then, to solve the problem of our lost relationship with His Father, Jesus died in our place, offering Him-

self as a perfect sacrifice to pay the price of sin. Because He was not only man but God our Creator as well (John 1:1-14), His death was of infinite value. When He rose from the dead, He proved that He died in our place to pay the price of all sin—past, present, and future. With one sacrifice, He paid for the least—and the worst—of our sin.

Father in Heaven, we thank you for this 67th Convention, for the leaders of this Episcopal District, for willing workers, delegates and participants. We come humbly asking You to forgive us of our sins. We have sometimes ignored Your commands. We waste precious time doing unproductive things that we could have spent working for You. Help us focus on and obey Your commands. We know You have called us to specific work within the church. Reveal to each of us how to accomplish Your will so by faith we can move forward. In Jesus' Holy Name, Amen. Amen, and AMEN!

67th Annual Convention

“Photographs”

**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 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.

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

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 denomination 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.***





Health Activity Participants



Adult Training Sessions concurrent with the YYA'S

The third day of the 67th Convention was a day of training sessions. Presenters were: Sister Francine Postell, Central Conference, "The WORD of Prayer."

Session 2, "The WORSHIP in Music;" Presenter, James E. Robbins, Jr., Music Director for the Eleventh Episcopal District.

Session 3, Presenter, Lionell Merritt, "The WITNESS of Our Service." Brother Merritt is the Director of Lay Activities for the Bahamas Conference.

All presenters are and have

been outstanding Lay persons working for God for many years.

