

## **Presidents Message - Doris Sherman**

This will be my last letter to Potential as your President. I will be passing the reins to Cindy Richendallar, a capable leader who will serve you well. I feel privileged to have served as President these past 4-5 years, traveling from Greene, Lemoine, Caribou, and other places in between empowering women to confidently uphold the values of being an American Baptist Woman and stand tall with the banner held high.

We had remarkably interesting rallies this spring, both North and South were well attended. Our own Barbara Anderson, and ABWMaine's Secretary, presented a program on Human Trafficking that was very thought-provoking, educational, and interesting. I am grateful for the churches that hosted us and made us feel so welcome. This year, East Millinocket First Baptist Church and China Lake Conference Center hosted. Thank you all again.

By the way, our new theme will be revealed on June 23.

We have been blessed with two large gifts of money from former members Ruth Marstaller and Bea Violette. We will continue to seek God's guidance in being wise on how to use this.

I am personally looking forward to our Summer Conference August 10-12<sup>th</sup> at China Lake. Remember, invite a friend. So many blessings await us, sweet fellowship, devotions, good food, catching up with women you perhaps haven't seen since last year and the list goes on. Bring a book or two for exchange and something nice for the Silent Auction.

Till then, have a wonderful summer, remember God loves you...and so do I.

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## **President Elect - Cindy Richendallar**

Dear ABW of Maine

I am looking forward to our time together at Summer Conference, August 10-12. We will be coming together in the Spirit of Christmas, celebrating the reason we have Hope & Trust in The One Who came to "dwell among us" and show us The Way to The Father. It is important to keep our eyes, hearts, & minds focused on Him. The culture of the day seems to be turning what we know upside down.....even in the church.

There is concern among your executive board that ABW National Ministries is proposing by-law changes that may impact our relationship at that level. The national ABW Ministries annual meeting/ Vote takes place on June 23 beginning at 9AM. (register for virtual attendance at: <https://www.abwomensministries.org/eventDetails.aspx?EventId=62>).

Please be praying with us for clarification of the proposals and seeking God's will & wisdom in discussion & voting.

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## **Treasurer - Stacey Emery**

Hello, Sisters in Christ!

The generosity of our women in attendance at the spring rallies has been joyfully overflowing! We know that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) and giving is just what our sisters do with a loving heart! The gifts given at these rallies, along with various church contributions, have allowed us to provide more than \$1,200 to our state project (3 Maine Baptist camps), in addition to our other important areas of Christ-centered services. Our total collected to support our missions was approximately \$2,400!

## Personal Development - Carolyn Sweeny

In this article, I will address the Summer Conference because my job is to help you personally develop and we do this by learning. Two of the speakers are from our staff at International Ministries, how many chances do we get to have a face-to-face with these special people? One of these speakers is the head of short-term missions and the other works in development. Two other speakers are a couple that have worked for five weeks at the Distribution Center for Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoe Box Ministries. We often don't know what goes on after these boxes are dropped off at the church, however, they are going to give us an inside look at what goes on at the distribution center. Hearing from all these speakers will allow us to learn more about different ministries happening all around us.

### Extras to bring to Summer Conference:

Something for our silent auction tables that we will have in the back

Baby Jesus (in any form – on a glass, a figure, a painting ect.)

Items for the shoe box ministry (you can bring one item or many items)

Things that you can include:

School items

Small toys

Personal note

Personal hygiene items – hair brush, toothbrush , hair-ties, wash cloth

Small Stuffed animals

Please **do not include the following:**

Candy or Food

Toothpaste/ Liquid

Used or damaged items

Scary or war-related items (toy guns, knives, military figures)

Medicine

Glass or aerosol cans

### **Reminder:**

The theme is Christmas so get out your Christmas attire and your ugly sweaters!

If you were at Spring Rally there was a Christmas card made out to an officer and should be mailed out ASAP

Start reading your little booklet from Spring Rally July 10th How Do They Celebrate Christmas?

Banner workshop - \$10 a person (only 12 spots available)

We will be bidding on Christmas Cookie Bowls; all offices should bring one and anyone else that would like to donate is more than welcome to do so!

This consists of:

Large Bowl

Wooden spoon

Cookie mix

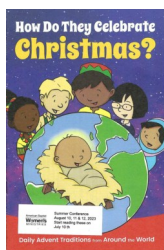
Can of frosting

Sprinkles

Any other topping

\* Barbra Anderson will be making cookies and we will be putting them into Christmas cans to be sold at the conference. Thank you, Barbra!

**Come to Summer Conference and get INSPIRED !**



In preparation for Summer conference, Start reading the booklet you received at Spring Rally July 10th . If you didn't receive a booklet ask someone you know that attended Spring Rally to share with you.

# ABW Maine Summer Conference 2023

August 10,11,12

Theme: Christmas!

China Lake Conference Center



Rev. Sandra Dorsainvil  
IM Director  
Short Term Missions

Discover global short-term mission opportunities and hear inspiring stories of how staff and volunteers can make an impact.



Pastor Wayne  
& Barbara Wallace

The Wallace's will share their volunteering experience and provide an overview of the Christmas Shoe Box ministry, and how we can help.



Joyce Bagiraneza  
IM Donor Advisor

Discover Joyce's inspiring story of resilience in surviving the Rwandan genocide, and her work fostering relationships between donors and congregations.

Experience the ultimate summer gathering at the American Baptist Women's Conference: Fellowship, Singing, Workshops, Bible Study, Readers Theater, Campfire, and Fun. Don't miss it!

## Summer Conference Request

- \*Baby Jesus for opening program.
- \*Christmas attire & ugly sweaters
- \*Items for Christmas Shoe box

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>

## Banner Workshop

### 2023-2026 Ministry Focus

Make your banner with the 2024 Ministry focus (to be announced prior to Summer Conference)

The workshop is limited to 12 participants.

The cost is \$10.00 to cover supplies.

\* RSVP on the registration form.

### What To Bring to Summer Conference

Comfortable clothing Comfortable shoes

Nightgown and robe

Sleeping bag or blanket

Twin sheets to cover your mattress

Pillow/pillowcase

Fan

Towels

Toiletries

Swimsuit (optional)

Jacket

Sweater for evenings and/or mornings

Pen/pencil, & Note pad

Bible

Flashlight

Bug spray

Sunscreen

Medications

**Your Talent** – there will be a time to share your talent on Friday evening.

Items for the **Silent Auction** -proceeds go toward our state project.

**Christian books** for the book swap table

### Carolyn's Requests:

Baby Jesus (from nativity, picture etc.) for my opening program.

Keeping with the theme of Christmas wear your Christmas attire and your ugly sweaters.

Start Reading Booklet from Spring Rally July 10th

### Registration Times:

Registration: Thursday 12 PM program starts at 1 PM.

Registration: Friday 8:30 AM program starts at 9 PM.

Registration: Saturday at 8:30 AM program starts at 9 PM.

**ABWM of MAINE SUMMER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

**CHINA LAKE CAMP AUGUST 10-12, 2023**

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY THEME: CHRISTMAS!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

ASSOCIATION: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST TIMER? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I'D LIKE TO ROOM WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

**Worksheet**

Registration Fee \$10.00	
Printed Directory \$10.00	
Accommodations (from page 6)	
Meals (from page 6)	
Day Use (from page 6)	
*Banner Workshop \$10.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Total Due: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Amount enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please enclose 20% of the total due with the registration form)**

Scholarships may be available to those who have never attended and cannot otherwise afford to attend. Contact Doris Sherman

PLEASE FILL OUT THE CHARTS ON PAGE 6 TO INDICATE YOUR OVERNIGHT AND MEAL CHOICES AND MAIL THEM WITH REGISTRATION.

**Registration must be in by July 31 to satisfy China Lake Camp's requirements.**

**No refunds after August 1. You can send someone else in your place.**

Make your check payable to **ABWM of Maine** and mail it, with both forms to: Joyce Worden, 11 Holt Drive, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Please remember to tell us about any special dietary needs when you send in your registration, be specific.

The conference begins on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 1PM.

## \*ACCOMMODATIONS

	SUKEFORTH \$35/NIGHT	DILLON \$35/NIGHT	SANDERSON \$35/NIGHT	AMOUNT DUE
THURSDAY				
FRIDAY				
**Bedding Rental Fee (Sheets, Pillow, Blanket, Towels) \$10.00				

\*\*Bring your own bedding, including a pillow, or rent for \$10.00 from CLC

**TOTAL ACCOMMODATION CHARGE: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* For those not staying at China Lake Camp there is a **\$10.00 day use charge** for each day you are attending the conference.

**TOTAL DAY USE CHARGE: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

## MEALS

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	AMOUNT DUE
THURSDAY	-	-	\$10.00	
FRIDAY	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
SATURDAY	\$10.00	\$10.00		

**TOTAL MEAL CHARGE: \$**\_\_\_\_\_

## \*ACCOMMODATIONS

**Sukeforth:** (gym) 4 bunk beds (indicate top or bottom bunk) – meetings will be held in this building. Bathroom down the hall – Shower room on other side of building

**Dillon:** 15 dormitory-like rooms – 2 women per room – Rooms are located upstairs from the dining hall. It is closest building to the Sukeforth building. Toilet/Shower rooms down the hall.

**Sanderson House:** 5 bedrooms with 1-3 beds per room. Across from chapel. Downstairs: full bath with shower. Upstairs: ½ bath with no shower.

## **Secretarys Report - Barbara Anderson**

### **Spring Rally South, April 22, 2023, China Lake Baptist Camp & Conference Center.**

The South Spring Rally began at 9:30 am with worship led by the women of Court Street Baptist Church. Devotions on the parable of the Good Samaritan were led by Marj Muise.

There was a brief welcome and business meeting led by President, Doris Sherman. The Roll Call of churches led by Secretary Barbara Anderson showed 50 women were in attendance. Reports by Personal Development, Mission & Service, and Educational Gifts of Love were presented by the state officers. An offering was received.

The morning program was presented by Barbara Anderson, Coordinator for the Bridges to Blessings Program, the anti-human trafficking initiative of the Salvation Army of Bath/Brunswick Corp. "In Her Shoes" explained the problem of human trafficking here in Maine and the United States in addition to sharing stories of survivors. We ended the morning with a prayer walk to various prayer stations to pray for exploited women and girls. The morning program ended and we were dismissed for a lovely lunch at the China Lake Dining Hall.

Barbara Anderson began the afternoon program with "Bridges to Blessings" sharing information about the Salvation Army program for women survivors in Maine. In addition to physical needs, their emphasis is on the spiritual healing and growth of exploited women and girls. The program ended with a blessing stroll to various stations lifting up blessings for vulnerable women.

The day ended with the Court Street Baptist Church women leading us in closing worship.

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### **Spring Rally North, April 29, 2023, East Millinocket Baptist Church.**

The North Spring Rally began at 10:00 am with worship led by the women of East Millinocket Baptist Church. Devotions on the book of Daniel were led by president-elect Cindy Richendallar.

There was a brief welcome and business meeting led by President, Doris Sherman. The Roll Call of churches led by Secretary Barbara Anderson showed 33 women were in attendance. Reports by Mission & Service and the Treasurer were shared. An offering was received.

The morning program was presented by Barbara Anderson, Coordinator for the Bridges to Blessings Program, the anti-human trafficking initiative of the Salvation Army of Bath/Brunswick Corp. "In Her Shoes" explained the problem of human trafficking here in Maine and the United States in addition to sharing stories of survivors. The morning program ended, and we were dismissed for a lovely lunch downstairs made by the women of E. Millinocket Baptist Church.

Barbara Anderson began the afternoon program with "Bridges to Blessings" sharing information about the Salvation Army program for women survivors in Maine. In addition to physical needs, their emphasis is on the spiritual healing and growth of exploited women and girls. The program ended with a blessing stroll to various stations lifting up blessings for vulnerable women.

The day ended with a song and a special prayer for "Satancon" happening this weekend in Boston.

Another Summer Conference Reminder.

Bring Baby Jesus from your manger scenes for Carolyn's Opening Program.





## Church and Community - Wandah Clark

Greetings ladies, I trust that your summer is going well and that you are planning to join us at Summer Conference in August.

Change is on the horizon. Both state (ABWMaine) and national (ABWMinistries) organizations are proposing bylaw changes. By the time you read this, some decisions may have been made that affect this position (Church & Community), how your church relates to mission/missionaries, and how our region connects to the national organization.

If you have not already, please read Lorna Hansen's (Mission & Service) article and pray for your church's ABW, ABWMaine, and ABWMinistries. We all need God's guidance to navigate these troubled waters.

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## Assistant Treasurer - Sandra Rhoda

### *The POTENTIAL Reminder*

If you choose to receive this via email, please be sure Linda has your current email address. To update, contact Linda using [sterlin@roadrunner.com](mailto:sterlin@roadrunner.com). There is no charge for the digital Potential but donations are a thoughtful way to lend support.

If you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to your home address the charge is \$5.00 annually to help with printing and mailing costs. The money may be mailed to me, Sandra Rhoda, 2 Short St., East Millinocket 04430. If you are joining us for Summer Conference, please remember to leave at least \$5.00 and your current mailing address at the designated spot there.

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## Vital Partners (White Cross) - Dina Richards

Well ladies this is my last report for White Cross. I know it has been very confusing with all the changes that have been made for you and me. It might take a while to get in a groove with these new ways of doing things. I'm very sorry that I couldn't get it all together so it was less confusing. I have loved serving you as White Cross chair.

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## The Women of the Christmas Story

### **Eve, the mother of Promise.** (Genesis 3:14-15)

The Story of Bethlehem started in the Garden of Eden. After the Fall, God proclaimed that Eve's offspring would crush the serpent, initiating the plan of salvation. Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise to Eve.

As we celebrate Christmas, we need to remember that He secured the victory of Satan and purchased life for all who would believe in Him.

### **Elizabeth, the mother of the Baptist.** (Luke 1)

Elizabeth and Zechariah were promised something incredible. In her old age, Elizabeth would have a son who would be great in the eyes of God. Both she and her cousin Mary were blessed.

According to God's providence, John the Baptist was born at just the right time for just the right ministry.

### **Mary, The Mother of Our Redeemer (Luke 1)**

With her lineage and character prepared by God, Mary received incredible news: she was to bear the Messiah. She probably felt afraid and bewildered, but she submissively carried out God's will, even though her motherhood came at a heart-breaking price.

### **Anna, The Woman Who Saw Jesus (Luke 2)**

Anna, the prophetess, doesn't appear on more than one page of Scripture, yet her long life was marked by worship—frequenting the Temple and fasting before God. When she met Jesus, she knew that He was the Redeemer.

Whether we are young or old, God has a role for us.

(Exert from moodymedia.org)



## Mission and Service - Lorna Hanson

The office I have held with American Baptist Women's Ministries of Maine is titled Coordinator of Mission and Service. As long as I have been involved with ABWM, a similar office has existed on the national level: Mission and Service.

### **What is the Mission and Service job description in the Maine by-laws?**

- \*Identify and promote resources that provide opportunities for women to serve God's world.
- \*Study and promote ABC outreach mission
- \*Meet physical and spiritual needs in our nation and God's world
- \*Encourage inclusion of these ministries in programs and activities
- \*Assign special interest missionaries to strengthen the relationship between women and missionaries.

Over the last two years, a small group of Maine's American Baptist Women have prayerfully and diligently reworked Maine's ABWM by-laws. While some offices were removed, perhaps to be more in line with our national organization, the by-law committee kept Mission and Service and recommended few changes in the current job description. We have yet to vote on our states' new by-laws.

**What comes to your mind when you hear Mission and Service?** Is the job description just a bunch of words or are Maine women practicing the intent of Mission and Service? Do you feel it is an important office and are Maine women focused on Mission and Service in their local groups and on a state level? Obviously, our current by-law committee recommends keeping this office and keeping a focus on mission and service.

Recently, our national ABWM published their new proposed by-law changes. Below are some of the **proposed changes**.

- \*Encourage and empower women and girls in the U.S. and Puerto Rico  
(no longer world)
- \*Elected officers will be President, Secretary and Treasurer  
(no mission & service)
- \*White Cross not an ABWM project  
(“don't advertise as such”)
- \*Give total Love Gift offerings to national ABWM directly  
(not to United Mission)

In my mind, recently, I have played over the number of missionaries who have been a vital part of our rallies and annual conferences over the years. For example, if you attended last summer's conference, you know how blessed we were by the Clemmer's sharing of their ministries in Goma and the Middle Eastern world. How many of our local groups have raised money for education scholarships, goats, shoes, chickens, etc. to improve living in Africa? If the new national by-laws pass, our programming must connect to the new ministry and mission of national ABWM and National expects to be the recipient of a fundraising project every other year.

Another Summer Conference Reminder.

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Make your check payable to **ABWM of Maine**

Mail with Forms (pg 4 & 5) to: Joyce Worden, 11 Holt Drive, Ellsworth, ME 04605

# American Baptist Women of Maine

## THE POTENTIAL

[abwmaine.org](http://abwmaine.org)

June 2023

*Linda Deane*

PO Box 76  
Livermore Falls  
Maine 04254

## Summer Conference 2023

August 11-13

Theme: Christmas!



Information/forms: pages 3-6