



## Presidents Message - Doris Sherman

In the book of Ecclesiastes 3:1, it tells us, "For everything, there is a season, a time". By the looks of the calendar and the frost outside my window this morning, it's time for fall. For many people, time drags, for others, there's never enough time in a day to do everything they'd like to accomplish. One thing is certain, time waits for no man or woman, and we all have the same amount of time in a day, what we do with it determines the results. So, where are our priorities?

We've no doubt all asked someone to church or to a woman's mission meeting and been told, "I don't have time". Where does God fit into our time? Do we have any time for him? Is He at the top of our priorities or do we just fit Him in "if we have time"? If we treated our best friend like we treat Jesus sometimes, how long would we have a best friend? Hmmmm

Speaking of time; didn't we all have a wonderful time this past conference? Thanks to Judy Ledger for a great job as coordinator. Our "specials" Dr. Bill & Ann Clemmer are always so interesting and this year even more so as I felt we got to know them in a more personal way, thanks to Carolyn for that. The music, the food and everything else as well, made up for a wonderful experience.

I was privileged to speak at three churches this summer/autumn: Lamoine Baptist, United Baptist Church of Greene, and Littleton Baptist. It's times like these I am so happy to be the President of ABWM. What a joy it was to meet new friends and see old friends and talk about their ministries there in their towns and communities and what they are doing in Christ's Name. I am so hoping and praying they will find their way to our spring Association meetings in Auburn and Island Falls in April as well as our Summer Conference in August at China Lake. They are women on fire for the Lord; because I was drinking in all the wonderful activities they were telling me of, I neglected to write them down but let me assure you they are busy in the service of the King.

And my sisters and counterparts in the Lord, I stand ready to come to your church or any of our sister churches, especially those who don't have women's groups, and speak about our ABW work and be an encourager. I pray for us all, that we will be busy for Him, giving Him our talents and time, and be a beacon of light in this dark world and be reflectors of His love.

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## President-Elect –Cindy Richendollar

To the Ladies of ABWM,

I am honored and humbled to be your president-elect. The fellowship I experienced at Summer Conference reminded me of former years, yet many of those ladies were not present.

Thank you to the state officers for their words of encouragement and to the local church attendees for their vote of confidence. The love of the Lord continues in the like-minded, mission-focused, from generation to generation.

We will go forward, as The Lord leads, to serve not only in our own neighborhoods but to support those who go greater distances.

In these uncertain times, we know that God is working His Plan.

We stand strong when we stand together.

## **Assistant Treasurer - Sandra Rhoda**

If you would like to receive our news, POTENTIAL, online, please submit your email to: [sterlin@roadrunner.com](mailto:sterlin@roadrunner.com). This is free though a donation is thoughtful.

If you wish to have a paper copy, or know someone without email who would, send the mailing address and check for \$5, to Sandra Rhoda, 2 Short St., East Millinocket, ME 04430. Checks may be made to ABW of Maine.

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The Clemmer's took 40 dresses back to the Congo. Thank you to all who took the time to sew !

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## **White Cross– Dina Richards**

I will be getting the lists for camp needs out to Associations before the end of the month. The items will be due by end of May. You will also get an end-of-year report sheet with that. I'm on the road to Texas and will get stuff to you when we get settled.

## Secretaries Report –August 11 Board Meeting- Martha Walker

The meeting opened with prayer by Doris. Those in attendance were: Doris, Stacey, Linda, Judy, Sandy, Dina, and Martha. The other officers were involved in the registration process, at this time.

Doris also led devotions based on Psalms 101:1-2 and Psalms 149:1. What makes your heart sing? To sing yourself, to listen to others sing, to listen to birds sing, to experience physical healing, your morning devotions, to see the sunrise or a sunset, or be in the company of another Christian?

Linda asked for prayer for her sister Lisa. Her best friend had just died, and Lisa asked Linda, “Does God hate me?” We prayed.

Reports were given by each coordinator, starting with Dina. Mission work in Maine is still affectionately known as White Cross. There are three levels.

International Ministries support is cash only. Mailing costs are prohibitive and there is no guarantee merchandise will actually arrive. The ABC-USA website has a list of all Global Servants and their financial needs. All purchases are made in the country.

American Baptist Home Mission Societies handles National Ministries, that is all ministries in the United States and Puerto Rico. Again, the website lists all ministries and contact information. Each local ABW group is encouraged to choose the ministry nearest them to support with goods and cash. This is known as Operation Planting Hope. The nearest missions to us are Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries and Teens Alive at Calvary Baptist Church. MBMM was out state project this year. We have received a much appreciated thank you from them.

State Missions is just that, Christian ministries in your state. Strictly American Baptist in Maine are the three summer camps: Baptist Park in Mapleton, Christian Youth Camp in Charlotte and China Lake Camp. These camps will receive the money from the silent auction, basket auction and jewelry sales.

Other ministries in Maine are your local food and clothing cupboards, schools, immigrant ministries, pregnancy resource centers, Sarah’s House in Holden, and the Ronald McDonald House. Those trafficked in Maine remains confidential. Contact is made through the state hot-line.

Marge reported Judy has the Summer Conference ready to go. She also reported that our past president Wanda remains very ill and has plans to go to Boston soon. Her husband plans to bring her to conference for the day on Friday. Her husband has recently been diagnosed with kidney cancer. They both need our prayers.

Treasurer, Stacey reported she is still learning. She expressed a frustration with the ABC Extension and the Foundation. Even having received formal notice, that at the annual convention, Stacey Emery had been elected Treasurer and Sandra Rhoda, Assistant Treasurer, they continue to send interest payment to past treasurers.

Educational Gifts Coordinator Judy Ledger reported three applications had been requested. Theresa Savage never replied. Olivia Washburn submitted her application. She has become ill and withdrew. The third applicant, Cara Jurczak, has received our gift the past two years. She will be a senior at New Brunswick Bible Institute. She remains an A student. She is also spending her summer with campers at China Lake. The vote was unanimous to award Cara the gift of \$1,000.

Also discussed was the need to advertise ourselves. Possible suggestions were: press releases and Christian radio.

Treasurer, Stacey presented a written report. After paying all our bills and expenses as of August 2, 2022. We have \$15,789 in out TD checking account and invested funds in the American Baptist Extension \$5,000 and American Baptist Foundation Educational Gifts \$20,000.

Martha turned in a bill for the publication of the directories and trifolds for \$330.

It was voted to give all proceeds from the auction, basket auction and jewelry sales to out three camps. This vote was unanimous.

Doris read the letter she prepared and had read at Bea Violette’s funeral. She was unable to attend.

Doris reported that she has been advised that the American Baptist Women of Maine have been remembered in the will of Bea Violette. It will take time to settle her estate, but the best estimate is we will receive around \$20,000.

It was voted to continue Zoom Meetings.

The next board meeting will be October 15, 2022, at the home of Martha Walker, in Anson.

The March meeting is on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in East Millinocket.

The meeting adjourned with prayer and following lunch prepared by China Lake, then everyone attended Summer Conference.

## Secretaries Report –Annual Business Meeting- Martha Walker

The meeting was called to order by President Doris Sherman. Fifty-plus women were in attendance, from across Maine.

White Cross Coordinator, Dina Richards, Read the Thank You letter from the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Center. They were our state project. Not only gifts of money but also large quantities of gently used and new household goods and clothing of all sizes, for a large number of new immigrants. Our churches filled their store-room.

We have been advised by the national to continue with the association and state reports; however, to keep all these records in Maine. A much simpler record sheet has been created. The intent is that each lady, in the local women's group, would have a copy. She can then record her gifts of money, purchased goods, and the lovingly handcrafted items she has made, throughout the year. At the end of the year, each church can combine these into a church report, which is sent to the White Cross Association Chairman. Association Reports are then combined into a state report. This report is then kept in ABWM's state records. Hopefully, individual record-keeping will make the process easier and not rely on memory, at the end of the year.

Missions and Service Coordinator, Lorna, put the letter and update of all our special Global Servants into each attendee "Goody bag" to be enjoyed later.

Personal Development Coordinator, Marg Muise, gave a special thank you to Judy Ledger for all the work she has done to make this a special Summer Conference. And to all the ladies who attended. The most in recent years.

Church and Community Coordinator Wandah encourages each lady to continue spreading the love of God not only in her church but where she can serve, in her own community.

Treasurer, Stacey, referred each lady to the written report, included in their "Goody Bag".

Highlights are \$15,789 in our TD Checking Account. We have \$5,000 in the American Baptist Extension Corporation. This is a bequest, from a former member's will, years ago. The interest earned is returned to us. We have \$20,000 in the American Baptist Foundation, designated Educational Gifts. The interest earned is returned to us and given to a student or students studying for the ministry.

Educational Gifts Coordinator, Judy, reported three applications had been requested. One lady has become ill, and her education plans are on "hold". The second application was never returned.

The third application was from Cara Jurczak. We all know her, as she has received our gift for the past two years. She is very active in the summer camp program at China Lake. She is a New Brunswick Bible Institute senior and has earned an "A" average. The vote was unanimous.

It was voted that all proceeds from this year's silent auction and basket sales would be equally divided between our three camps. The vote was unanimous. Sisters, Sandy Rhoda, and Jan Rockwell donated all the proceeds from the sale of their mother's jewelry to the camps.

It was proposed to purchase three, automated external defibrillators. Also known as AED's. One for each of our three camps. Estimated cost is \$1,000 each. This piece of medical equipment is capable of saving a life, in an emergency. It was suggested, to use donated funds, to purchase these. A letter would be sent to every family who had donated this money, telling them how the money was used. The vote was unanimous.

It was announced that Zoom Meetings would continue, starting in October. The date to be announced and to request an invitation, prior to the meeting, contact Wandah or Stacey. Previous attendees will be sent an invitation to join, a few days prior to the date.

Dates to remember. Write them in your directory and/or trifold. Specific dates were unknown at the time of printing.

Monthly Zoom Meetings to be announced.

Oops – Correct your trifold. Easter is April 9

ABCOM Annual Meeting – October 21-22, 2022

Spring Rally South - April 22, 2023, at Court Street Baptist Church, in Auburn

Spring Rally North – April 29, 2023, Location to be announced

Summer Conference – August 10, 11, 12

Doris reported that she has been advised that the American Baptist Women of Maine have been remembered in the will of Bea Violette. It will take time to settle her estate, but the best estimate is we will receive around \$20,000.

Newly elected officers were installed by Doris.

Personal Development – Carolyn Sweeney

Secretary – Barbara Anderson

President-Elect – Cindy Richendollar

Nominating Committee – Andrea Dresser





New Officers



Rev. Al Fletcher



Carolyn interview with Ann and Bill

**Plan now for the 2023 ABW Maine Summer Conference August 10-12 at China Lake.**

**You don't want to miss the fellowship and fun.**



Summer Conference 2022 Attendees



Communion



Hansen Family  
Donation



Skit



## Mission and Service - Lorna Hanson

Weren't we blessed by the presence of Dr. Bill and Ann Clemmer at our Summer Conference at China Lake Camps in August! It seems like they were an extra special blessing to us for the two and a half days we were together. Many of us have heard the Clemmers share their ministries, many of us receive their letters either by email or snail mail, and many of us watch the videos Ann posts weekly from Goma, DRC. However, having them close at hand helped us to know them and their journey even better. Carolyn Sweeney conducted an excellent interview with the two of them where they shared personal information from their earlier days prior to becoming global servants. Continue to pray for them as Ann works with children and women in Goma and as Bill travels from Sierra Leone, Uganda (there is another Ebola outbreak), and other trouble spots in the Middle East.

Does your church participate in and promote the World Mission Offering? This special annual offering supports the ministries of our global servants who serve throughout the world. How did the Clemmers, the Chettis, the Kaltmans, Kit Ripley, and so many others end up in foreign countries? They heard **a call from God** to share the love of Jesus in dark, needy places of the world. Answering God's call meant leaving the comforts of living in America, learning a new language and adjusting to a different diet, living in areas not always welcoming to Christians, and working with the poorest of the poor in dangerous places.

Our global servants heard **God's call**, answered it, and are living it out. We might not be on a mission field, but **God calls us** also. He **calls us to pray** faithfully for our global servants. He **calls us to communicate** with our special servants with words of encouragement. He **calls us to adopt one of their special projects** that will be shared and perhaps life-changing to folks they serve. And He **calls us to share our blessings** by supporting them financially. **God is calling American Baptist Women** to be involved in the lives and journeys of our global servants. **God is calling us!** God blesses us! How will we answer His call to us?

If you are reading this article and you have questions about our global servants, how to find more information about them and their ministries and projects, etc. please give me a call and I will try to answer your questions.

A newcomer from another state to ABWM of Maine Summer Conference stated on the last day of the conference, "Now I know what has been missing from our ABW gatherings: a focus on our missionaries." Let's keep our support and focus on these dear Christian servants who depend on us to do our part.

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### Treasurer— Stacey Emery

Greetings to my Sisters in Christ; We had a lovely time at our ABWM of Maine Summer Conference this past August. We were very pampered by everyone at China Lake Camp. The friendship, food, and accommodations were simply lovely!

Ladies at the conference were so gracious with their donations of items for the silent auction, gift baskets, and jewelry sale. We raised a total of \$1,679 for our State Project missions through the sale. In addition, President Doris Sherman's rummage and bake sale at Oakfield Baptist Church raised an additional \$1,514. We also collected an additional \$480 through the summer conference envelopes. The grand total for this summer's State Project has allowed us to send each of our designated camps \$1,224! This includes China Lake, Mapleton Baptist Park, and Baptist Youth Camp.

Our total donations collected in this summer's conference envelopes totaled \$2,270! In addition, the love offering taken up during the conference totaled \$2,265 for the Clammers and \$2,195 for the Hansens.

Deuteronomy 16:17 states, "Everyone shall give as they are able, in accordance with the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you."

It is evident our ladies adhere to this Bible verse with complete sincerity and commitment!

Thank you all for all you do, Ladies! You are truly a blessing!

## **Personal Development - Carolyn Sweeny**

Hi Girls,

Well, I'm back in the saddle again and it feels good.

First, I want to thank Judy Ledger for the smashing summer conference. It was a lot of hard work and it showed, so thank you, thank you, thank you, Judy, and the committee.

The next summer conference is on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> at China Lake. As this year's conference chair, I am excited to announce that the theme will be Christmas. I am looking forward to the three hands-on workshops we will be having and bringing back the conference choir.

Now to my thought as Personal Development Coordinator. Unlike previous years, our church continued our Tuesday morning bible study throughout the summer and the theme was the Holy Spirit. There is a song with lyrics that go, "if you have a chance to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance, I hope you dance." So, stand up and curtsy to your partner and dance with the Holy Spirit, JUST LET HIM LEAD.

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## **Church and Community - Wandah Clark**

During the pandemic, it became difficult to reach out to our individual communities, so we began meeting together virtually. ABWMaine joined the crowd and found that it helped us become "community" through our computers or phones. For over a year now, we have endeavored to meet periodically, via ZOOM, from wherever we are. We began with 10-12 each month and now we have 12-15 each time we meet. We are "community!"

Initially, I sent an email to all ladies for whom I had an address. Some replied that they don't/can't do ZOOM. But, still, we have more than 100 addresses on the list, and about half of those have interacted with us this past year. For security reasons, only ladies responding positively to the "invitation" are provided with access to our meetings.

I know there are still some women in our state who would benefit from joining our "community." If you know one, please invite her to join us. If you are one, please let us know of your interest in joining us by sending an email to [WandahClark@gmail.com](mailto:WandahClark@gmail.com) or a text message to 207-641-9132.

As my health has deteriorated this past year, I have appreciated the opportunity to continue to serve ABW-Maine by facilitating these meetings.

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## **Educational Gifts - Judy Ledger**

I was incredibly pleased to meet the young lady who received our 2022 Love Gift, Cara Jurczak, I believe she will be finishing her schooling next year. We were able to give her a \$1,000.00 gift.

If you are going on to school or know of someone who is, you can apply for this ABW Maine gift. The applicant must be a member of an American Baptist Church of Maine. Enrolled in a Christian College or seminary. Believe it is God's will that you enter some kind of Christian Service. Submit a letter of recommendation from your Pastor.

The deadline for applications and pastor recommendations is June 1

For an application or more info email me at [jaledger11@gmail.com](mailto:jaledger11@gmail.com)

# **American Baptist Women of Maine**

## **THE POTENTIAL**

abwmaine.org

**October 2022**

*Linda Deane*

PO Box 76

Livermore Falls

Maine 04254

### **Dates to Remember**

**October 21-23 ABCOM Annual Meeting**

**Watch for Monthly Emails announcing ABW Maine Zooms**

**November 1 American Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer  
2023**

**February 1 Potential Articles due**

**March 2023 ABW Maine Executive/General Board Meeting**

**April 9 Easter**

**April 22 Spring Rally South Court Street Baptist Auburn**

**April 29 Spring Rally North ( TBA )**

**May 30 White Cross Reports Due**

**June 1 Potential Articles Due**

**June 15 Directory Reports Due**

**August 10, 11, 12 Summer Conference China Lake**