

## **A Message from our President** Doris Sherman.

Greeting from the County. I just want you all to know I think American Baptist Women are wonderful, generous, kind, prayerful, and always striving to be more like Jesus. Matt 10:30 There are many reasons God saves you; to bring glory to himself and to demonstrate His sovereignty. If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen. He could live anywhere in the universe, yet he chose your heart. Face it friend, He's crazy about you! He even etched your name on the palm of His hand as the hymn, "O how He loves me and you." says. We are His daughters and that should make us smile. (Paraphrased from Grace for the Moment by Max Lucado)

I hope everyone is enjoying the Zoom meetings as much as I am. They are very informative, fun, and the fellowship while not as great as face to face, is still pretty darn good.

Our next Board meeting will be Mar 26 in E Millinocket 10 AM. Spring Rallies will be in April, North in Caribou, South at China Lake.

For those of you who didn't attend the last Zoom meeting, I had announced two gifts ABWM had recently received. A \$500 dollar gift from the Lamoine Baptist Church, and a \$2000 gift from the family of Ruth Masteller; former ABW President 1975-1980. What an unexpected blessing!

We are still in need of a Nominating Committee Chair. If the Lord speaks to your heart, please say yes. I hope you don't look at it as a chore but an opportunity to serve. I will be looking to hearing from you soon. (That's exercising my faith).

Bless you all, stay well and in His Word

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## **Treasurer** Stacey Emery

Hello to my wonderful ABW Maine friends! I bring you glad tidings from the financial side of our organization. It has been a wonderful and interesting few months of learning things as the new treasurer for ABW Maine. Over the past few months, we have had several thoughtful and loving donations made on behalf of our white cross mission, along with a few sizable, general donations made to further our mission. The budgeted scholarship money has also been sent out to our chosen scholar recipient. I spoke with her on the phone to congratulate her on her very fine grades, and to let her know the scholarship check had been mailed. She expressed such deep gratitude at being the chosen scholarship recipient and passed along her heartfelt thank you to our organization. Isn't it simply wonderful when we can bless others?

We are told to not only look out for our own personal interests in Philippians 2:4, but also the interests of others. Our amazing group of ladies do this each and every day! What a blessing it is for me to be part of this beautiful organization that follows Paul's sage advice to treat everyone with humility and selflessness. The ladies of ABW Maine exemplify this core value day in and day out. Thank you for all you do!

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## **White Cross (Operation Planting Hope)** Dina Richards

I will be getting the lists for camps 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.

“...to bring good news to the poor...proclaim release to the captives...let the oppressed go free...” (Luke 4:18-19)

**Let the Walls Fall Down**

What does it mean to “Let the Walls Fall Down”? This is our ministry focus for American Baptist Women until 2023. Even if we have been Christians for a long time, there may be things in the way that affects our fellowship with Christ – our wall.

Over the course of many months, I have heard the song “Woman at the Well” by Olivia Lane. I have thought about the words in that song and how God accepts us just as we are. But, as we walk through life, we need to identify what causes our separation from God. In this song, it is named as alcoholism but it could just as well be gossip, unforgiveness or pride to name a few.

During the next couple of years, I think we each need to face the wall that we have built around us to “protect us”. It no longer is a protection; it is a hindrance to our walk with Him. Can we be bold enough to look at ourselves, not in condemnation, but to determine what is blocking our path? What do we need to change?

The last verse of the song says: “Just like the story from the Bible I heard when I was just a girl, I’m the broken-hearted woman who met the Savior of the world”.

**Upcoming National Events**

**Webinars**

03/03/2022 Identifying & Managing Bullying Behavior

03/17/2022 Sustaining Sisterhood

**Virtual Tea**

03/26/2022 Let the Walls Fall Down Virtual Tea

**Sectional Meeting**

05/17/2022 Eastern Sectional Meeting – What’s Up with ABWM (via Zoom)

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**Church and Community** Wandah Clark

Have you joined one of our ZOOM meetings yet? We are having them each month to keep our ABW Maine community connected. This year we’re hoping to make them more accessible by holding them on different days of the second week of the month: Mon., Tue., Wed., or Thur. You can get ZOOM on your computer, smartphone, tablet or any other device with internet access. It’s not hard to use and we can help you if you have difficulty.

I usually send the initial “invitation” over the weekend preceding our meetings so that you will have time to respond. *Why don’t we just send the link to everyone?* For security reasons. We prefer to not have “meeting crashers” and the best way to prevent that is to only send the link to women planning to attend.

Our numbers have been increasing, but we still have room for more. So, watch for the “invite,” respond and join the conversations. If we don’t have your email address, send it to [wandahclark@gmail.com](mailto:wandahclark@gmail.com) and I will be glad to add you to the list.

Looking forward to seeing you at our March meeting. Watch for my invite.

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**ABW Zoom Meeting Reports**

ABW Maine started Zoom meetings October 25th 2021 and they have been informative, engaging, and a convenient way for us all to connect on a regular basis. To receive an invite to attend you can sign up on our webpage or email Wandah Clark or Linda Deane to be added to the list. Here is a list of meetings: October 25, 2021 —Operation Project Hope; November 15, 2021—ABW World Day of Prayer; December 7, 2021—Missionary Ann Clemmer; January 8, 2022—Laughter: Devotions and Play; February 8, 2022—Missionary Jeni Pedzinski.

**To read full reports of these meetings go to [abwmaine.org](http://abwmaine.org) —resources—Board Meetings and Zooms**

## **Oct. 16, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes** Martha Walker (condensed)\*

Lorna Hansen graciously opened her home, in Auburn, for our meeting. Attendance: Doris Sherman, President; Stacey Emery, Treasurer; Sandra Rhoda, Assistant Treasurer; Martha Walker, Secretary; Marg Muise, Personal Development; Wandah Clark, Church and Community; Lorna Hansen, Mission & Service; Dina Richards, White Cross; Judy Ledger, Educational Gifts; and Linda Deane, Administrative Assistant.

Lorna led devotions titled “Reading as Jesus Talks” based on Psalms 73 and Matthew 11, concluding with the song “Walk Me Through” by the Perry’s.

Linda presented our new website. ([www.abwmaine.org](http://www.abwmaine.org))

The secretary read an abbreviated report of the meeting at Summer Conference.

Our new treasurer, Stacey Emery, reported all records have been transferred to her and Assistant Treasurer Sandra Rhoda. And she will be transferring our records to a spreadsheet format.

Personal Development Coordinator, Marg reported Global Servant Jennifer Pedzinski has volunteered to hold a Zoom Event at next year’s Summer Conference. 2021 Summer conference and evaluations were discussed. For Summer Conference 2022 there will have a Tri-chair: Allison Vanderlinden, Lena Kanda, and Judy Ledger. Michelle Lilley has volunteered to help Joyce Worden with registrations. There have been requests to have the Directory available online; this would have to be password protected. In the future, the directory will cost \$10 a copy. The trifold remains free.

Missions and Service Coordinator, Lorna reported October is World Fellowship Offering month. The Clemmer’s report one of their Sunday School students has been killed while crossing the street. Bill is still in Yemen. It is a dangerous place where there are many shootings.

The American Baptist Churches of Maine’s annual meeting will be virtual. Our President, Doris Sherman is scheduled to open the meeting with prayer.

Church and Community Coordinator, Wandah believes as the Constitution and Bylaw Committee reviews and updates the constitution, this office should be eliminated with its duties being added to other offices as they overlap.

Educational Gifts Coordinator, Judy reported that she is in a learning process concerning this office

White Cross Coordinator, Dina read her report for The Potential asking for additions and corrections. Communications with the Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries has revealed their needs for the new Afghan immigrants. A motion, to reimburse Dina for the cost of display and publishing materials for summer conference, carried.

The next issue was the Nominating Committee. Doris is going to try to get Alice McInnis to remain on as committee chair. In order to maintain the practice of having a member from each region, the new member must be from the south. It was suggested to contact Carolyn Sweeney.

Doris suggested we create a new ABM quilt. Judy will work on the instructions.

We then discussed was the monthly Zoom Meetings.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 26th in East Millinocket, at the Baptist Church.

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**\*Find secretaries meeting minutes and Zoom reports in entirety at [abwmaine.org/resources/meeting minutes and zooms](http://abwmaine.org/resources/meeting-minutes-and-zooms).**

# Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries MMBA Donations

The ladies from Oakland Baptist Church and Court Street Baptist in Auburn collected donations and made several trips to the MMBA in Lowell Massachusetts. Oakfield Baptist Ladies made a large monetary contribution.

Below is the Court Street MMBA Thank you.



## Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries

99 Church Street, Lowell MA 01852  
978-455-3340 | [www.mbmm.org](http://www.mbmm.org) | [mbmm@mbmm.org](mailto:mbmm@mbmm.org)

ABW/Maine  
c/o Wandah Clark  
45 Taft Ave.  
Auburn, ME 04210

December 16, 2021

Rev. Mar Imsong  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Barbara Drauschke  
PRESIDENT

Rev. Robert Paiva  
VICE PRESIDENT

Ms. Marilyn Glover  
SECRETARY

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Rev. Veronique LaPaix

Mr. Ifeanyi Okeke, Esq.

Dr. Claudia Kassen Banks

Rev. Nathaniel Burnes

Dear Sisters in Christ,

On behalf of MBMM, I thank you for your generous donation of \$70 for our refugee programs. Especially combined with all of the used and new items sent by individual churches, this is very useful to us as we seek to help our communities. You are a blessing to New Americans here in Lowell.

We have prepared bags to deliver to families as part of our New American Christmas Program. We have also stocked our "ACE Shoppe" where refugees and immigrants can choose needed items free of charge. Because of your generosity, we have a storeroom full of items from which we can restock the shop for months to come. We are grateful that you have partnered with us in this.

Best regards,

  
Mar Imsong  
Executive Director

## **Educational Gifts** Judy Ledger

Hi, my name is Judy Ledger, I am your new Educational Gifts Officer. Being new to this office I am not quite sure what my roll is but I will learn as I go, so to speak.

I did receive the grades for Cara Jurczak and sent that on to the treasurer so she can send out the \$1,000 educational gift to her.

If you know of someone who is planning on furthering their education in some sort of mission work, there will be forms they can fill out to apply. If you know of someone have them get in touch with me

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## **Educational Gift Recipient Update** Cara Jurczak

Hello ABW friends,

I am Cara Jurczak, a student at New Brunswick Bible Institute whom you met this summer. It's been a while since you've heard from me so here's an update!

Fall semester was a good one! Classes consisted of the main bulk of our activities here on campus. Due to restrictions, we were unable to hold events like the Ladies' conference, teen retreats, or college for a day - but we still found ways to enjoy the semester.

My favorite part of the semester was helping to put on an on-campus ladies' weekend for our small group of girls. Our dean, Mrs. McMahon shared in a couple sessions from I Corinthians 13. It was awesome to have a cute space and guy-free time on campus to worship God together.

First semester classes included Theology II, Galatians, Missions II, Youth Ministries (with Word of Life teachers), Children's Ministry (with CEF staff), and Old Testament Survey.

This semester our class has Expository Teaching, Pastoral Epistles, OT Survey, Acts, and Ephesians. Our practical work with our youth groups and kids' clubs have been postponed, unfortunately.

My time at home over break was crazy and busy, but I loved spending time with my siblings and parents. I returned to school a week early on January 14th due to border restrictions. At that point, I was finally able to rest for a week before the next semester started.

As the semester continues, our class will be planning a banquet in April for our seniors. It will be beautiful to see a lovely night come together for our small group of faithful graduates. Please keep my peers and I in prayer as we work together to put this evening on and make it special despite our limitations!

It has been an encouragement to hear of multiple peers planning to serve God over the summer across the world. From Maine and New Brunswick to Alaska, Germany, and Italy; God will use them in great ways! Where borders have been getting tighter, students are depending on God to make a way to get the Gospel abroad!

In a quick sneak peek into summer plans, I am praying and planning on God opening the right doors so I can work at China Lake Camp May-August.

As I close my update, I pray that God is working in each of your hearts and encouraging you to keep on with your local or abroad ministries. News headlines may be discouraging but the Holy Spirit

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## Mission & Service Lorna Hanson

The Pandemic has really impacted our lives for almost two years. Churches, schools, restaurants, etc. have closed, reopened, and closed again. Epic numbers have been hospitalized and many have died. These are definitely difficult times. Yet, our missionaries continue to “remain on the field”, dedicated to their call, and serve passionately in their ministries shared with people in places such as Lebanon, the Caribbean, and Congo.

Sarah and Dan Chetti have remained in Lebanon and serve in the volatile Middle East. Sarah’s ministry is with Insaaf that serves among one of the most vulnerable populations in Lebanese society: migrant workers from Asia and Africa. They have no worker rights and are often considered “strangers” in Lebanon. Not only is there a huge economic crisis in Lebanon, but there are also hungry and sick among their population of citizens and refugees.

Insaaf helps repatriate women back to their home country.

Insaaf provides medical care for migrant domestic workers.

Insaaf assists in providing hard to find affordable medicine and treatment

Insaaf distributes monthly vouchers and food parcels as well as sets up medical appointments for the migrant workers

Ketly and Vital Pierre have been based in Massachusetts during most of the pandemic so Ketly could receive treatment for cancer. They have remained active virtually in order to share updates of their ministries with Haitians in the Dominican Republic. Recently Ketly received wonderful news. She is cancer free!

Do you receive Ann Clemmer’s frequent posts on Facebook? If so, you may search the trombone section to find a woman playing her trombone. Donna Sweetser from Auburn, looked forward to these posts and suddenly one day thought, “I wonder if they could use my 70-year-old trombone in the Heal Africa Praise Team.” She asked me, I asked Ann, and the answer was “yes”. In late December, when the Clemmer’s returned to Goma, DRC, the trombone and slide oil were among the items they packed. In the meantime, a Congolese woman expressed interest in joining the Praise Team, but she didn’t have an instrument. However, she knew how to play the trombone. Image Donna’s excitement to know that the trombone that was no longer useful to her was now in the hands of someone who wanted to praise God. And halfway around the world!



February is celebrated as the month of Love. How about if each one of us thinks of a way to express love and thanks to one of our missionaries or makes it possible to touch a life of someone we don’t know in another part of our world? Let’s share our blessings.

# Spring Rally-South

April 23, 2022

China Lake Conference Center

25 Neck Road, China

Registration and Refreshments 9:30-10:00

Morning Program 10:00-12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program 1:00–3:00

*Speaker to be announced soon*

**\*\*Please contact the registrar, Lorna Hansen 376 Lake Street Auburn 04210, or call (207) 783-1510, lbhansen42@gmail.com, at least one full week prior to the rally with the number of attendees from your church and inform her of any special needs.**

**\*\*Registration \$2.00 and lunch \$10.00 are to be paid on arrival at the church.**

# Spring Rally-North

April 30, 2022

United Baptist Church of Caribou

74 High Street, Caribou

Registration and Refreshments 9:30-10:00

Morning Program 10:00-12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program 1:00–3:00

*Speaker to be announced soon*

**\*\*Please contact the registrar, Mavis Williams, 376 Woodland Corner Rd. Woodland , ME 04736, or call (207) 493-3162, ramawilliams@maine.rr.com, at least one full week prior to the rally with the number of attendees from your church and inform her of any special needs.**

**\*\*Registration \$2.00 and lunch \$5.00 are to be paid on arrival at the church.**

# American Baptist Women of Maine

## THE POTENTIAL

*Linda Deane*

PO Box 76  
Livermore Falls  
Maine 04254

Winter 2022

### 2022

March America for Christ Offering

March 9 : Zoom 6:30PM

March 26: ABW Board Meeting @ East Millinocket Baptist Church

April 17: Easter

April 23: Spring Rally South @ China Lake Conference Center

April 30: Spring Rally North @ Caribou United Baptist

May 30: White Cross Reports Due

June 1: Potential Articles Due

June 15: Directory Reports Due

August 11-13: Summer Conference China Lake Conference Center