

Springs first heartbeat honors winters last breath.



Presidents Message –Cindy Richendollar

Are you thinking Spring, yet?

Although it remains cold and somewhat snowy, daylight is increasing, and it will soon be time to make your gardening plans.

We will be together before you know it ! It's February and April is coming !

Our Spring Rally, yes, there will be one on April 26 @ China Lake. There is more information in this issue from Carolyn Sweeney. Hope to see you there !

Barbara Anderson is busy planning our Summer Conference. The registration info will be in the June Potential. Be sure to plan to attend with your church ladies & friends.

Please be thinking about how you can support the work of Deborah's House, our state project, this year. That could mean as an individual, your women's group, or your church.

There will be offerings at the Spring Rally & Summer Conference. Martha Walker has the information about their programs supporting women & children.

The Nominating Committee will be looking for volunteers to fill openings on the executive board. Please be seeking God's will for your participation at the state level of ABWM.

Treasurer Barbara Anderson

Greetings! At the end of summer conference, our state project to our 3 Maine ABC camps came to a close. The money we raised through the auctions etc... at summer conference amounted to \$1140.00 which we distributed 3 ways to the camps. Each camp received \$340.00. Our new State Project is Deborah's House in Mexico with a goal of \$3,000.00 To date, we have raised \$575.00. All monies to ABW Maine can be sent to me at 623 Durham Road, Brunswick, ME 04011.

Update from Ann Clemmer



As many of you know, the Clemmer's had to evacuate Goma due to the fighting. On February 6, Ann shared on FB that it was deemed safe for them to return. Her exact words: "Crossed into Goma today. Nice to be back with the team... but too many sad and tragic stories." Let's keep them, and all those affected, in our prayers.

Easter/Spring Rally 2025

North and South

Saturday April 26

283 Neck Road, China

Registration and Refreshments 8:30-9:30

Morning Program until 12:00

Lunch 12:00-1:00

Afternoon Program 1:00–2:00

Let's come together to renew our spirits, share in fellowship, and celebrate the sea-

Featured Speakers and Interactive Workshop

Global Servants Brian and Lynette Smith



Brian and Lynette serve among Haitians and Dominicans with Mission Maranatha Inc., building sustainable ministries on the island of Hispaniola. Drawing from their experiences in Haiti, they focus on empowering communities through strong relationships, business management, and Community Health Evangelism (CHE), all grounded in the principles of Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD).

Our workshop will explore: Discipleship through capacity building; Empowering individuals and communities holistically; and Hearing God's call and discerning how to help.

Bring your questions and join the discussion as we seek to follow the Great Commission and embrace being Called To More!

****Please call registrar, Judy Ledger 207-746-3765, at least two full weeks prior to the rally with the number of attendees from your church and if you wish to bring our own lunch or purchase from China Lake**

****Registration \$2.00, China Lake provided lunch (Soup/Sandwich/Beverage/Dessert) \$10.00 are to be paid on arrival.**

Missions and Community Service -- Martha Walker

Dan and Sarah Chetti

Dan and Sarah returned to Lebanon on December 29, 2024.

At 4 AM on November 27, a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israeli forces took effect, sparking spontaneous celebrations in Beirut. People hugged, shared sweets, and fired guns in the air—a customary gesture of joy.

Refugees packed cars with mattresses, blankets, and suitcases, returning to homes likely marked by destruction and suffering. The brutal conflict left 3,800 dead, thousands injured, and over a million displaced in Lebanon, with hardship also felt in Israel.

In response, Resurrection Church and Ain Zhalta Baptist Church have tirelessly provided relief—distributing meals, blankets, hygiene kits, medical care, and trauma support. Volunteers meet urgent needs daily, bringing God’s provision through each food parcel, blanket, and visit.

The Warm Meals program serves about 600 displaced people daily. By December 9, 2024, 13,669 meals had been provided. One elderly Lebanese woman shared, “I’m too tired to cook, and we barely have food. These warm meals sustain my family, especially my grandchildren.”

Fawzi and Sivine at Resurrection Church continue ministering to Kurdish believers, translating sermons and devotionals into Kurdish and expanding outreach through social media and online courses.

Sarah’s INSAAF Center serves Lebanon’s 250,000 migrant domestic workers, many of whom have their passports seized upon arrival. The center provides food, medical care, legal aid, and skills training, along with prayer and Bible studies for all.

Pieter and Nora Kalkman

They serve with the European Baptist Federation across Europe and the Middle East. Please pray for ministry partners affected by war in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon.

Last fall, they joined an evangelistic campaign in Moldova, organized by three small churches at a sports arena near Chisinau. When the invitation to follow Christ was given, hundreds responded—praise God!

Kit Ripley

Flood Recovery & Renovations: Our flood recovery is progressing well after the September and October floods. Mud has been cleared from all three facilities, and thanks to generous support, we have funds for necessary repairs. Contractors are fully booked, but work is scheduled to begin in February, including fixing floors, repainting, and replacing doors, windows, and air conditioners.

Christmas Celebration in Doi Chang: In early December, New Life Center staff and residents traveled to Doi Chang Mountain for a special Christmas celebration. We played games, sang carols, and shared a message on John 3:16. A gift lottery, karaoke, and a dance party rounded out the night. Despite a drizzle and chilly temperatures, the weekend was filled with joy. The next morning, we visited a sheep farm, where many of our girls saw real sheep for the first time—deepening their connection to the shepherds in the Christmas story.

Fighting Human Trafficking: January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. In Thailand, trafficking victims are exploited in industries like agriculture, construction, domestic labor, fishing, and cybercrime schemes. Thai authorities recently conducted 255 operations, apprehending 695 individuals involved in illegal call centers forcing victims into fraud under brutal conditions.



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Bill and Ann Clemmer

After spending Christmas in Maine with their children, spouses, and five grandchildren across the U.S., Bill and Ann have returned to Goma, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Goma, the capital of North Kivu Province, is home to two million citizens and 500,000 displaced people. The M23 rebel fighters and Rwandan rebels are causing devastation in North and South Kivu.

Families are being forced to flee, leaving destruction behind. From January 1-6, 150,000 displaced people arrived in Goma, with the number rising to 230,000 by January 25. This crisis is being called one of the world's most alarming. Rebels have now reached Goma, controlling three of the city's four roads.

Bill and Ann are always prepared to leave at a moment's notice. As of January 29, the Clemmer's have been evacuated and are safe in Africa.



The Clemmer's are also sorting 2,000 pairs of shoes by size for distribution.

Follow Ann Clemmer on Facebook for updates, photos, and ministry news. If you're not on Facebook, ask your children or grandchildren to help you stay connected. Other Global Servants also share updates online.

ABWM of Maine's Women's Summer Conference & Retreat
August 7-9, 2025 at China Lake Camp & Conference Center

"Beside Still Waters" (Based on Psalm 23)

Meet our Spiritual/Bible Study Leader for Conference



Joyce Goldthwaite, Past President ABWM of Massachusetts

Many of you might recognize Joyce if you attended Green Lake in years past. Her many roles within ABWM include devotional teacher, retreat leader, conference planner and past Mass. ABWM State President. Stay tuned to learn more about Joyce and save the date for our conference/retreat.

Friday Night will be a Mission Palooza Event you won't want to miss!

Conference scholarships are available!

Detailed summer conference Information will be in June Potential

Personal Development -- Carolyn Sweeny

This report is all about the Easter Spring Rally, which is on April 26th at China Lake Conference Center. We are only having one Rally this year. I am so excited to extend the Easter Season by sharing the day with all of you, that's why I'm calling it the "Easter Spring Rally".

I want to start first with the luncheon. Stephanie has graciously offered to make the lunch herself to keep the cost at \$10. The lunch includes, soup and sandwich, drinks, and dessert. Stephanie said it would be fine for those who want to bring their own lunch, like we do at the association meetings. When you call Judy (207-746-3765) to register, she will ask you which lunch option you have chosen. Stephanie will need two weeks in advance so she can plan accordingly for lunch numbers.

Next, I want to talk about our Speakers, Brian and Lynette Smith. Linda has put a great write up in our Potential about the Smiths. What I really need to promote is the opportunity to have your churches invite Brian and Lynette to come and speak. They are available April 24th – May 2nd, however on May 2nd they need to be in the southern part of the state as they must be in New Hampshire May 3rd. Brian and Lynette asked if anyone would be available to be the main point of contact and help arrange a schedule for their time in Maine. Brian's number is, (814-660-8295). Please text Brian if you are interested. The interesting part for me is that they travel in a motor home. No one has to house them, they might just need a plug in.

Our lineup for the day consists of:

Cindy Richendollar will lead the meeting.

Lorna Hansen will lead the music.

Lena Kanda and **Joyce Worden** will have solos.

Sherry Cates will be doing a three-part interactive devotional.

Offices Reports

Barbra Anderson will give an update on the Summer Conference.

This will be an exciting day, let's not miss this opportunity to celebrate Easter together! Please be ready to share something special about your Easter.

Educational Gift of Love—Lorna Hansen

Are you or someone you know heading to college or seminary? You may be eligible for the **ABW Maine Educational Love Gift!**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Member of an American Baptist Church of Maine
- Enrolled in a Christian college or seminary
- Committed to pursuing Christian service

Letter of recommendation from your pastor

Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

For an application or more information, contact lbhansen42@gmail.com

American Baptist Women of Maine

THE POTENTIAL

abwmaine.org

Winter 2025

Linda Deane

PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

2025 Dates to Remember

March 27 ABW Board Meeting N. Anson

April 26 Spring Rally North and South China Lake

June 1 Potential Articles Due

June ?? ABW Board Meeting TBA

June 15 Annual Reports Due

August 7-9 Summer Conference China Lake

Check out: <https://abwmaine.org/events>

(More dates will be added after Summer Conference)