

2025 ABW Maine Summer Conference "Beside Still Waters" August 7-9



Presidents Message –Cindy Richendollar

Greetings in Mission,

I pray you are embracing Summer and enjoying the blessings of God's Creation. The ABW Board has been meeting to plan our gatherings and seek The Lord for wisdom to serve the women of Maine. We covet your prayers.

Spring Rally was held @ China Lake on April 26. It was a great time of fellowship, worship, and challenge to wait on The Lord for His timing, His resources, & His plan. Brian & Lynette Smith shared their experiences from working with Haitian & Dominican churches in the Dominican Republic. Cultural influences & priorities must be assessed with every project. Community ownership is necessary to maximize meager resources, and for security of the project. How we take so much for granted and do things our own way. There is a Plan that grows our faith and glorifies God.

Our Mission Theme is " Be Strong, Be Courageous". What is God calling you to ? Are we listening twice as much as talking? Listening is a vital part of communication. Many times, in our prayer & devotion time we pour out our gratitude for Who He is and bring our petitions but fail to "Be Still" and wait for Him to speak into our lives. We need Him & His Word in uncertain times, all the time! Please take time to 'rest in Him' without distraction, allowing The Holy Spirit to grant us Peace & Purpose each day.

Summer Conference planning is well underway with chair Barbara Anderson. It will be a great time of Fun, Fellowship, & Worship with music and sharing from Psalm 23. There will be many opportunities to support our projects through auctions & donations. There are more details in this publication.

The Nominating Committee is busy filling the slate of officers to be voted on in August. If you feel led to serve, please say so.

We're excited to be with you in August. Your input for reaching & serving the women of Maine, is welcome. See you & a friend at China Lake, August 7-9.

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: June 1, 2025 (with possibility of extension if necessary)

For an application or more information, contact lbhansen42@gmail.com or write to **376 Lake Street, Auburn,**

AB Women of Maine
Summer Conference/Retreat 2025
China Lake Conference Center - August 7, 8, 9

“Beside Still Waters”

Based on Psalm 23



Joyce Goldthwaite
Spiritual/Bible Study Leader

Past President, AB Women of Massachusetts in addition to retreat leader, devotional teacher and conference planner. She is a daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother, but most importantly a child of the King.



Music with “Up To God” Music Ministry

Kevin and Pam Rhein have been actively involved in Christian Music Ministry for over forty years. Their mission is “To inspire and uplift the body of Christ and share the Good News of Jesus Christ through musical praise.”

Highlights include:

Welcome Tea, Concert by “Up to God”, Friday Hat Day, Friday evening Mission Palooza, Spa Basket Auction, Being “In the Word” activities including creating a prayer garden, journaling and a prayer walk.

“In the Word”

A time with God as he leads us by Still Waters

REVIVE, REFRESH, RENEW, RECOMMIT

Bring a friend, a silent auction item, Christian books for the book swap!
Silent Auction supports our State Project – Deborah’s House

What to Bring to conference

Comfortable clothing & shoes
Nightgown/robe
Pillow, sheets/pillowcase/or sleeping bag
Toiletries & towels
Jacket/Sweater for cool evenings
Bible/Flashlight/Fan
Bug Spray/Sunscreen
Medications
“Sunday” Hat for Friday

**Registration begins on Thursday on Thursday at 2:30 pm
With a Welcome Tea. Our first session begins at 3:30 pm.**



**Friday and Saturday registration begins at 8:30 am
First Session of the day begins at 9:00 am**

Something Special for Someone Special.

Stephanie Hansen will be moving on with her family from China Lake at the end of August. We would like to say “thank you” for all she has done for AB Women over the past years. We will be collecting money for a “Love Gift” for her at conference if you would like to contribute.



**NOTE: Registration deadline is July 15th.
The food service company engaged by China Lake has imposed
the deadline for us to give them a head count.**

ABWM of Maine Summer Conference Registration Form
China Lake Conference Center: August 7-9, 2025

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Church: _____

Association: _____ First Timer?: Yes ___ No ___

I'd like to room with: _____

Registration Fee: 15.00 (includes directory)	
Accommodations (p. 5)	
Meals (p. 5)	
Day Use (p. 5)	
TOTAL	

Total Due: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____
(20% of the total due with registration form)

Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Contact Cindy Richendollar at 207-214-7338 or cindyrich04766@gmail.com

Registration Deadline July 15, 2025. No refunds after August 1st. (Someone may be substituted in your place if your unable to attend.)

Checks payable to: ABWM of Maine. Mail with both forms (Registration & Accommodations) to Joyce Worden, 25 Tweedie Lane, #64, Ellsworth, ME 04605

Do you have dietary restrictions ? _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Sukeforth: (gym) 4 bunk beds (indicate top/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: 1/2 bath with no shower.

	SUKEFORTH \$35/NIGHT	DILLON \$35/NIGHT	SANDERSON \$35/NIGHT	AMOUNT
THURSDAY				
FRIDAY				

Bring your own bedding, including a pillow, sheets, blanket, towels

Rent bedding from CLC: \$10.00 _____

Total Accommodation Charges: _____

*For those not staying at China Lake Camp, there is a \$10.00 day use charge for each day you attend.

Total Day Use Charge: _____

MEALS

	BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	AMOUNT DUE
THURSDAY	N/A	N/A	\$12.00	
FRIDAY	\$12.00	\$12.00	\$12.00	
SATURDAY	\$12.00	N/A		

Total Meal Charge: \$ _____

Executive Board Meeting Summary -- notes taken by Martha Walker

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Date: March 26, 2025

Location: Home of Martha Walker

Present: Cynthia Richendollar, Barbara Anderson, Lorna Hansen, Judy Ledger, Martha Walker

Absent: Linda Deane, Carolyn Sweeney, Marion Neilson

Opening: Prayer by President Cynthia Richendollar

Officer Vacancies:

Secretary, President-Elect, and two Nominating Committee positions remain unfilled.

Spring Rally – April 26, China Lake:

- Registration: 8:30–9:30AM; Program: 9:30–12:00 & 1:00–2:00PM
- Missionaries: Brian & Lynnette Smith (with son Calen); no housing needed
- Planned by Carolyn Sweeney; dining room setup, no internet, AV needs TBD
- West Bowdoin Church providing refreshments

No preregistrations as of meeting

Financial Report (as of March 25, 2025):

- Starting Balance (Aug 1, 2024): \$45,693.27
- Current Balance: \$43,542.00
- Highlights: \$805 Circle Giving, \$575 to Deborah's House, \$3,000 pledged, \$27,500 from Bea Violette bequest

Envelopes redesigned with treasurer's address

Bea Violette Bequest – Project Proposals at China Lake:

- **Sukeforth:** Repave entrance, add railings, repair west entrance – Est. \$5,655

Dillon: Replace ramps, build south ramp – Est. \$4,825 (not including all items); ADA status unclear

Constitution & Bylaws: Final version approved unanimously

Directory: Now managed by Linda Deane; bylaws excluded

Summer Conference – August 7–9, China Lake:

- Chair: Barbara Anderson | Theme: *"Beside Still Waters"* (Psalm 23)
- Speaker: Joyce Goldthwaite (Massachusetts ABW)
- Elements: Prayer walks, sitterscise, music by Ken & Pam Rhein, garden décor, spa basket auction for Deborah's House, George D. Boardman history, workshops, Mission Palooza, campfire, communion circle
- Silent Auction & Book Swap | Cost TBD | Registration \$15 (includes directory)

Board meets Thursday; setup Wednesday

(E-board Summery continured)

National ABW Update:

- Leadership: Rev. LaThelma Yenn-Batah (Exec. Dir.), plus 4 others
- Board: 2 elected, 4 regional reps, 6 appointed, 7 at-large
- Budget: \$312,071.30 | Cash on Hand: \$163,564
- Concerns: Staffing, unclear Rudd Center details, declining membership/giving
- Fundraising: Goal \$155K; \$13/month Vital Partner ask; upcoming telethon & “a-thons”

Other: AB Men disbanded; boys in AB Girls in some churches; DEI initiatives ongoing

Future Questions:

- Maine ABW’s direction between events?

How to engage younger women? Ideas: Small area meetings, mother-daughter events, child care?

Next Meeting: June 6–7, Maine Youth Camp (Charlotte) — bring bedding, we cook!

Submitted by: Martha Walker, Secretary (for a day)



ABW Board visit to Baptist Youth Camp

Personal Development–Carolyn Sweeny

Hi girls,

I want to close out my term of office with the thought I gave at the Spring Rally. It’s on Praise. Before you pray, think of words describing God, such as all-powerful, great, all-knowing, creator, awesome, ect. This sets the tone as you continue to pray. You must put God in his rightful and proper place; by doing this, you will be in the right headspace for a successful prayer with God. For example, when I say, “all knowing,” it reminds me that God can see around corners that I can’t.

To end, I want to encourage anyone who is thinking of taking this office to trust God and go for it, as he is “all knowing.”

Happy Praise and Prayer,
Love, Carolyn

Global Servants News

Dan and Sarah Chetti: The Chettis have moved back home to Oregon, near their daughter. Before officially retiring, International Ministries requires them to complete a year of visiting churches, sharing their work in Lebanon, and helping establish an Endowment Fund for *Enduring Hope*, their ministry to Arab communities in the Middle East and North Africa. Dan will also undergo cataract surgery this summer.

Kristy Engel: Kristy has returned home for surgery and will need about a year to recover.

Jeni Pedzinski: Jeni, who joined us at last summer's conference, married Eric Martin in April. Eric works at International Ministries headquarters in King of Prussia, PA. Jeni now works with potential missionaries and serves as hostess at Mission House. We're hoping for a wedding photo soon!

Brian and Lynette Smith: The Smiths, along with son Calen, were with us at the Spring Rally. Their older son Ricky is studying at Toledo University. Eight years ago, the Smiths served in Haiti after learning French and Creole. In 2019, they moved to Cap-Haitien, but Brian became seriously ill and was flown back to the U.S. for a long recovery. Increasing unrest prevented their return.

In 2020, they relocated to La Romana, Dominican Republic, where many Haitian immigrants live in "bateyes" near sugar cane fields. These small villages have little infrastructure—no plumbing or electricity. Brian shared how the community came together to raise funds and labor to install solar lights on a church to help children study at night. Now, Bible studies and schoolwork can happen after dark. One woman asked for light in the church bathroom. By that afternoon, community members had found a light and switch, and it was installed.

Brian reflected, "God called me to 'those people'—the poorest in the world. We are here to listen, build relationships, and share the Good News."

The Haitians know that for a project to succeed, they must have ownership and participation—it cannot simply be a handout. This spirit of shared responsibility is best captured in a local Creole proverb: "Ti pa ti pa, zwazo fè nich li." "Little by little, the bird builds its nest."

From the Clemmers in the D.R. Congo: The Democratic Republic of the Congo has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. Bill Clemmer reached out to a Massachusetts team that developed a bubble CPAP machine for infants in respiratory distress. They provided eight machines and trained staff at HEAL Africa Hospital in Goma. Just as the team was preparing to leave, a newborn in crisis was saved by the new machine. That baby is now thriving.

Ann Clemmer also shared the bittersweet news of Emmanuel, a young man paralyzed years ago during a rebel attack. After receiving a wheelchair and support, he rebuilt his life, was baptized, and married. Sadly, Emmanuel suffered a stroke and passed away recently. Ann writes, "His wheelchair is now empty, but his life will not be forgotten."

Embracing strength, courage, and resilience through our

"Be Strong, Be Courageous" ministry focus for 2023 - 2025.

Championing Women's Equity, Wellness, and Wholeness

In 2019, the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) national board engaged in deep reflection to discern a Ministry Focus that would carry us into the future. We longed for a vision that would call us to transformation—spiritually, relationally, and communally. The focus needed to challenge us, unify us, and nurture our growth, both internally and externally. We sought a ministry that would be kingdom-building and life-affirming, rooted in our continued commitment to champion women's equity, wellness, and wholeness.

From 2019 to 2021, our focus was **Sister Seeking Wholeness**, guiding webinars, gatherings, and resources that centered on the holistic well-being of women. From 2021 to 2023, we embraced **Let the Walls Fall Down**, recognizing the need to dismantle the spiritual, emotional, and structural barriers that divide us.

Each season has brought us closer to the kind of sisterhood we strive for—one that is Christ-centered, healing, and boldly inclusive. As we now walk through **2023–2025**, we are journeying together under the theme **Be Strong, Be Courageous**. Rooted in Joshua 1:9, we are called to move forward with unwavering faith: *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

This theme has called us to step into bold leadership, deeper trust, and stronger spiritual connection. It has challenged us to embody courage—not as individuals acting alone, but as a unified body of women answering God's call.

As we now enter the final year of this theme, we do so with persistence in love, grace, justice, and mercy. We will not shrink back. Instead, we reaffirm our commitment to creating spaces where women are spiritually nourished, emotionally supported, and empowered to thrive. We believe in lifting up women—and in doing so, we lift up our denomination.

Let us finish strong. Let us be courageous together, fully embracing the wholeness God has called us to, for ourselves, our communities, and the generations to come.



American Baptist Women of Maine

THE POTENTIAL

abwmaine.org

Summer 2025

Linda Deane
PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

2025 Dates to Remember

June 15 Directory Reports Due

July 15 Summer Conference Registrations deadline

August 7-9 Summer Conference China Lake

Oct. 1 Potential Articles Due

(More Dates will be added after Summer Conference)