

**8<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Organization  
Lay Leadership and Training Institute  
Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center  
June 12, 2014  
2:40 P.M.**

The first day General Assembly and Business Session of the 8<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Leadership and Training Institute was called to order by President Melvin Davis at 2:40 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the hotel. Sister Delphine Bridgewater, Worship Leader, presented an excellent devotion.

**Sister Davis called the roll of Lay officers:** absent were Dr. Mel Evans, President Emeritus and Bobbie Hollins, Young Adult Representative.

President Davis presented the agenda for the convention after sharing information about the planned entertainment on Friday evening. Sister Gladys Martin (LA) moved to accept the agenda; Sister Betty Holland Stephen (North MS) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Welcome and Greetings were offered by President Melvin Davis, Regina Porter (Baton Rouge Visitors Bureau), and Sister Patricia Campbell (LA Conference Lay President).

Report of the Registration/Credentials Committee:

North MS Conference	26 registered
Central North LA Conference	25
South MS Conference	37
Louisiana Conference	88
Out of District	1 (Candidate for Bishop Rev. Caesar Richburg of the 7 <sup>th</sup> District)

Total of 177 registered.

Sister Ruby Smith (Cent. North LA) moved to receive the report; Sister Vickie Smith (LA) seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Officers' Reports followed – most were PowerPoint presentations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Robert Chambliss (LA) moved to receive the report, with accolades to the president; Sherry Peyton (So. MS) seconded. Motion carried. Hard copies of report were distributed.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF LAY ACTIVITIES– Eddie Pitts (No. MS) moved to receive the report; Darlene Gordon (LA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT – Earline Blackmore (LA) moved to receive the report; Brenda Taylor (LA) seconded the motion. DISCUSSION: *Balance in Treasury as of meeting date: \$34,801.29. Breakdown of Conference payments to the Bonner Campbell Demolition project: North MS – \$11,010; South MS - \$8,559; Cent. North LA – 12,500; LA - \$16,230. Reference to disposition of the \$20,000 CD: President explained that Tax ID needs to be verified/matter is processing slowly.* Motion carried. Hard copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S Report: JoEtta McClain (No. MS) moved to receive the report; Eloria James (So. MS) seconded. Motion carried.

The President reported that the Connectional Lay President is interested in having a meeting in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. He encouraged the Lay to support the hosting, possibly in 2016. So much is happening in 2015.

REPORT OF THE HISTORIOGRAPHER/STATISTICIAN – Delphine Bridgewater (Cent. No. LA) moved to receive the report; Stephanie Burks (So. MS) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**REPORTS FROM CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS....** Central North LA, South MS, North MS, and LA Conferences reported. Robert Chambliss (LA) moved to receive the conference reports; Gladys Watts (LA) seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Upon entry of the Bishop and Presiding Elders, President Davis paused to allow remarks from:  
Rev. Herman Kelly, Pastor of Bethel AMEC, Baton Rouge  
Rev. David J. Campbell, Presiding Elder, Western N.O.-Baton Rouge District

Bishop Julius McAllister, Presiding Bishop of 8<sup>th</sup> District greeted/welcomed, as well as presented the out of District candidate for Bishop and the in-District candidate for Bishop:  
The Rev. Dr. Caesar Richburg of the 7<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District  
The Rev. Dr. Moses Simms, 8<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE: Sister Shirley Davis (So. MS) remarked briefly that the District Lay Constitution and Bylaws had been approved by the Connectional Lay Executive Board; she passed hard copies to the marshals for distribution. William Brown (So. MS) moved to receive the report; Sherry Peyton (So. MS) seconded. Motion carried.

REPORT ON CONVENTION PLANNING – Brother William Brown presented an in depth report on the finances associated with planning for the convention; hard copies were distributed to the members. Barbara Brown (No. MS) moved to accept the report, with accolades to Bro. Brown; Stephanie Burks seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DOLA Stephanie Burks requested email addresses for sending to members the online evaluation survey. Some paper evaluations would be available for those needing them.

William Brown announced the following day's workshops and training sessions.

Other announcements included DOLA meeting with Sister Burks and a Budget Committee meeting following adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Shirley Hopkins Davis, Recording Secretary

Melvin Davis, President