



The 2024 SEDLO States Meeting Theme:

The Gift of the Shift!

June 21-22, 2024

*****CLO*****

Commission Chair

President

Historiographer

Bishop Stafford Wicker

Brother Matikane Makiti

Brother William Ayers

*****SEDLO*****

SED Presiding Bishop

SEDLO President

Historiographer

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

Brother Keith Britton

Brother Cleveland Frasier

Conference Historiographers

Sister Nell Foxworth - Northeast Conference

Sister Wendy Bouknight - Columbia

Brother Cleveland Frasier - SCCLO

Central Conference - NA

Sister Idella Bradford - Palmetto Conference

Sister Evelyn Wardlaw - Piedmont Conference

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Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
Preaching at the SEDLO Annual Meeting
June, 2023
At Allen University, Columbia, South Carolina



As we approach June 21-22, 2023, we honor Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., recognizing his distinguished service as the Bishop of the Seventh Episcopal District. His tenure has been characterized by visionary leadership and significant contributions. As the 125th elected bishop of the AME Church, Bishop Green's dynamic presence has served as a beacon of change and progress. His unwavering commitment to social justice remains the cornerstone of his ministry.

As he prepares to pass on the mantle of leadership for the 7th District and the Vision Center in the upper Columbia area will stand as a testament to his legacy. This center embraces innovative funding strategies, embodying Bishop Green's enduring impact on our community.

Brother Cleveland Frasier, SEDLO Historiographer



**SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
LAY ORGANIZATION**

A M E C H U R C H



Together We Will

Greetings Seventh Episcopal District:

Learning about our past provides an opportunity for us to gain a greater understanding of where we came from and the foundation on which we stand. As the elected Historiographer for the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization, Brother Cleveland Frasier is passionate about documenting the accomplishments of those who served before us. This publication is his personal attempt to share the works of those who served on various levels of the Lay Organization.

We extend special thanks to Brother Frasier and the Historiographers throughout the Seventh Episcopal District for your efforts. Let us continue to foster a love and appreciation of African Methodism.

Keith E. Britton

Keith E. Britton, SED Lay President

**SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS
BROTHER KEITH E. BRITTON, PRESIDENT**

- Brother Leroy Linen.....First Vice President**
- Sister Debra Darby.....Second Vice President**
- Brother Alphonso Times.....Third Vice President**
- Sister Darlene W. Ravenel.....Director of Lay Activities**
- Brother Lakendric A. Rush.....Young Adult Representative**
- Sister Patty Britt Pooser.....Recording Secretary**
- Sister Cynthia Toland.....Assistant Recording Secretary**
- Sister Barbara Felder.....Corresponding Secretary**
- Sister Brenda F. Bowens.....Financial Secretary**
- Brother Kevin Simmons.....Treasurer**
- Sister Shirley Abraham.....Chaplain**
- Sister Tylaunda Corbin.....Director of Public Relations**
- Brother Lavall Oxendine.....Parliamentarian**
- Brother Cleveland Frasier.....Historiographer**

Conference Presidents

- Sister Gloria A. McClam, Palmetto**
- Brother Ricarldo "Ricky" Washington, Northeast**
- Sister Cynthia Toland, Columbia**
- Sister Jeannie Rivers, South Carolina**
- Brother James Tisdale, Piedmont**
- Sister Shakeia Hampton, Central**



Foreword



When we in the African Methodist Episcopal Church talk about laity and the Lay Organization, we view this as a part of establishing a role for individuals who are not clergy to participate in the governance of the connectional church. Our aim is to be Christ-centered and to strengthen the church. Our concern is for the total church and to maintain a happy working relationship between the pastor and the lay. It includes study, worship, fellowship and service at the local, conference, district, and connectional levels.

The organized lay movement started at the General Conference in Kansas City, Missouri in 1912. Professor Charles H. Johnson, of Wilberforce, Ohio was the first president. It was known then as the “Laymen’s Missionary Movement.” In 1944, the General Conference legislation provided equal representation on all department including the Lay.

Approximately four years later, in 1948, the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization was organized and played an important part in the life of the Seventh Episcopal District since its origin. At the organizational meeting held at Bishop’s Memorial A.M.E. Church, Columbia, South Carolina, the laymen met to concentrate on the needs of the church at that time. Much of the concern revolved around the operation of the church school. Resolutions were made to uphold the thinking of the lay persons, and officers were elected. The election results were as follows: Mr. J. T. Mims of Clinton, president; J. B. Beck, Georgetown, secretary; Daniel Thompson, Columbia, assistant secretary; B. C. Bartelle, of Johnsonville, Treasurer; William Simmons, Charleston, reporter; Mrs. Lois Boyd, Spartanburg, conference chairman.

Activities were stimulating and came into existence because of the presidency, J. T. W. Mims. These programs included the Oratorical Contest: Little Allen Stars; The Layman of the Year and The Miss Seventh Episcopal District Pageant.

The purpose of these activities was to get funds for Allen University and to stimulate growth in the organization. Many of these activities are still active today. The SED Lay Organization has constantly shown a progressive attitude; they adhered to the study of the Discipline and carried out its regulations. The same is true of the Hymnal and Robert’s Rules of Order.

It is with great pleasure that I was asked to write this forward for Brother Cleveland Frasier’s Magazine highlighting the work of some of the finest leaders in the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization past and present who have been the foot soldiers in the Lay Organization. We congratulate them for their unwavering service and their commitment to serving God here on earth.

Sister Abbiegail H. Hugine
Member White Hall A.M.E. Church
Trustee and Lay Organization member



Words of Appreciation



Thank you for sending me your journal. So much history about such outstanding leaders who served the 7th District and some who extended themselves beyond service in the 7th. You, your team members, 7th Episcopal District President Keith Britton, are to be commended for including them in this informative publication.

I also want to commend you for responding to my call for information. Because of your rapid response, I have been able to provide factual information about leaders of the lay movement/organization in the 7th Episcopal District. Because of your prompt actions, folk who read the CLO Historiographers webpage about these outstanding historical leaders were impressed and informed. Thank you, sir.

Again, I thank-you for the opportunity to respond to this outstanding publication you and your team pulled together. It honors those who served this great Organization. My hope is that this outstanding and information publication will serve as a model for the 19 other Episcopal District Historiographers in terms of honoring and telling the story of those who served.

Mr. William "Bill" Ayers, Historiographer, Connectional Lay Organization (CLO)



The Historiographer's Report June 20-21, 2024

To Brother Keith Britton our Episcopal Lay Organization President, to our CLO officer, Episcopal officers, Conference officers, District, and local officers.



I express my gratitude to the members of the Seventh District Lay Organization for entrusting me with this position, which allows me to contribute to the Lay Organization's work at all levels. My heartfelt thanks go to my wife, Valarie, for her unwavering support. I also appreciate the assistance provided by the Historiographer's committee members during the editing process. Sister Pat Parker and Sister Sally Wilson.

I have been in touch with the CLO Historiographer Brother William Ayers he was able to place an article about several of the CLO YAR's from yesteryears. They include Reverend James C. Brown and General Officer John Thomas, III.

Regarding the historiographer's information, I ensured consistent communication across all conferences. We established a sixty-day turnaround time from the date of our Zoom meetings with each conference. All information was due by April 30, 2024, to facilitate the assembly process.

Unfortunately, the Central President informed me that no information would be forthcoming from their conference due to family illness. It appears that the Central conference does not have a designated historiographer.

For this report, I received information from three out of the six conferences: Palmetto, South Carolina, and the Northeast.

I asked each of the conferences to submit information about 18 persons, to include past conference presidents, past district of the Annual Conference presidents and past local presidents. I left it up to the conferences to determine where they would get the information from inside of the conference.

I am excited to propose an initiative that aims to broaden the reach and deepen the engagement with our valuable digital magazine. Here's how we can make it happen:



Hats **off to the Northeast Conference Lay Organization** for going beyond what I wanted and gave me nineteen persons.

Digital Distribution:

1- Let's ensure that every individual who registered for our recent event receives a digital copy of the magazine. This not only serves as a token of our appreciation for their participation but also keeps them informed about our ongoing efforts and achievements.

2-Physical Copies: I encourage each member of our lay organization to embrace the spirit of sharing by printing copies of the magazine.

3- Place these in your church's library and hand out additional copies to fellow congregants.

Summary-This gesture of sharing knowledge and news can foster a stronger sense of community and belonging.

District-Level Advocacy:

4-I urge every district to actively promote this initiative.

5-Local presidents, your role is pivotal; please report back at the district meetings regarding the reception and feedback from your communities. The district presidents when reporting during your conference meetings please share how the digital copies and hard copies are being received. Each Conference Historiographer I will contact you to see how this is being received in your conference.

Your insights are crucial for us to understand how our members are engaging with the magazine and how we can further improve our outreach.

Together, let's ensure that our magazine becomes a bridge that connects and enriches our community.

Brother Cleveland Frasier

Brother Ralph James
Past Episcopal President



Brother Ralph James, a dedicated member of the Bethel AME Church in Saint George, South Carolina, his journey of service and leadership spanned various levels, from local to the Episcopal District.

Family and Legacy:

Brother Ralph James happily married Sister Delores James. Together, they have raised two children and are proud grandparents.

Let's explore his impactful contributions:

Local Beginnings:

Brother James started as a member of the local lay organization at Bethel AME Church. His commitment to the church community was evident from the outset. He collaborated closely with the late President Brother Blease Spell, who held the position of local president during that time.

At Bethel St. George, where he became president, monthly meetings with a full slate of officers became the norm.

These meetings focused on addressing church-related matters and providing training to empower Bethel members.

Charleston District Leadership: 1970?

Later, Brother James was elected president of the Charleston District Lay Organization. In this capacity, he followed the footsteps of his local president.

Under his leadership, the Charleston District lay organization thrived. Their goals emphasized inclusivity, involving both laypeople and clergy.

South Carolina Conference Lay Organization: (1983-1988)

Brother James's dedication extended to the conference level. He served as the president of the South Carolina Conference Lay Organization.

This prestigious position required navigating challenges, especially considering the well-organized Edisto District Lay Organization. Brother James understood the importance of teamwork. An organized lay organization involves collaboration among multiple leaders and officers. Their collective efforts ensure the smooth functioning of the organization. Recognizing the power of collaboration, Brother

James along with the Charleston and Beaufort districts Lay Organizations. Their combined efforts allowed them to achieve remarkable results.

In a pivotal conference election held at Bethel AME Church in Summerville, SC, Brother James emerged as a candidate for change. His opponent had held the conference presidency for over 22 years, and the time was ripe for fresh leadership. His vision and commitment continued to shape the lay organization's impact across multiple districts.

Modeling Success drawing from his experience as a district president, Brother James introduced a successful model to the conference. He organized meetings in different churches, showcasing the essence of the conference organization.

As conference president, he ensured fair representation from each church during meetings, fostering inclusivity and active participation.

Seventh Episcopal District Leadership: **1987-1995**

As his influence grew, Brother James eventually became the Episcopal District Lay Organization President.

Brother James's journey continued upward. He transitioned from conference president to Episcopal president of the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization (SEDLO).

His commitment to service remained unwavering. Under his leadership, the state meeting expanded to include an additional day. This allowed for comprehensive training and meaningful business sessions.

Mirroring Biennial Meetings inspired by the Lay Organization Biennial, Brother James aimed to elevate the Seventh District Organization meetings. The first day of the event became a worship day, emphasizing spiritual growth. Subsequent days focused on teaching and practical matters. Brother James rejected the notion of compressing the program into a day and a half. Instead, he prioritized thorough training, equipping lay members to actively engage in their churches.

Hosting the Biennial: During Brother Ralph James's tenure, the Seventh District Lay Organization had the honor of hosting the Lay Organization Biennial.

This prestigious event brought together lay leaders from across the district, fostering connections, learning, and inspiration.

Strong Relationships: Brother James maintained a positive relationship with Episcopal leaders. His collaborative spirit ensured alignment between lay and clergy leadership.

Brother Ralph James: Pioneering Retreats and Advocacy

Brother Ralph James, during his tenure as Episcopal President, left an enduring legacy within the lay organization. His strategic initiatives and commitment to meaningful change transformed the landscape of lay leadership. Here are the highlights:

Annual Lay Retreat Tradition:

The Lay Organization Annual Retreat, a cherished tradition, owes its inception to Brother Ralph James. As Episcopal President, he initiated this gathering, which continues to this day (2024).

Held amidst the serene mountain backdrop of Sassafras Mountain, the retreat provides a space for reflection, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Connectional Lay Organization Retreat (Convo):

Brother James's visionary leadership extended beyond Seventh Episcopal District boundaries. During his tenure, he hosted a retreat for the Connectional Lay Organization.

Today, this event is known as "Convo," where lay leaders from across the Connectional Church convene to discuss upcoming legislation and share insights.

From District President to DOLA:

Brother James's journey included ascending from the 7th District Lay Organization (SEDDLO) presidency to becoming the Director of Lay Activities (DOLA).

However, this transition posed challenges. Despite holding the position, he felt restricted in making meaningful contributions. His passion for service remained undeterred.

Gratitude and Recognition:

As our interview concludes, Brother James expresses gratitude. Members of the 7th District lay organization recognized his dedication by electing him president for two consecutive four-year terms.

Their trust and appreciation fueled his commitment to advancing lay leadership within the AME Church.

Interviewing Past President Brother Ralph James.

Persons that served with Brother Ralph James

BISHOP F. C. JAMES
Presiding Bishop
RALPH JAMES
President
ROSA LUCKEY
1st Vice President
JOHN RIVERS
2nd Vice President
MYRTLE GORDON
3rd Vice President
GLORIA DeVEAUX
Recording Secretary
AGNES ALEXANDER
Corresponding Secretary

VIRGINIA NIMMONS
Financial Secretary
JOHN SNIDER
Treasurer
CHARLES I. THOMPSON
Parliamentarian
ALBERTHA SHEARES Chaplain
LILA NEDD
Lay Activities
CAROLYN EMILY
Youth Activities
MARIAN SUMTER
Public Relations
BETTY YORK
Editor



Episcopal President (Deceased)

Mr. Norman L. Deas

Mr. Norman L. Deas was a member of St. Mary AME Church in Pawleys Island, SC.

He served as the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization President from June 2003 until 2011. Mr. Deas served with distinction and honor.

Mr. Deas was well known for his quiet gentle spirit. He was a guiding light for many. He had a wealth of knowledge and wisdom which he often shared with Bishops, Presiding Elders, Pastors and laypersons.

Mr. Hewitt Z. Dominick was the Palmetto Conference Lay Organization President during the time Mr. Deas served as the Seventh Episcopal Lay Organization President and Mr. Johnny Wigfall and Mrs. Lou Ethel Grate were the Georgetown District Presidents.

Mr. Deas had a democratic leadership style. He made sure everyone had a chance to express their opinion. He would listen and make a wise decision.

Mrs. Onetta Deas, his wife, was a staunch supporter of Brother Norman Deas and the Lay Organization.

Mr. Deas was active on all levels of the Lay Organization.

This information was obtained from:

Mr. Hewitt Z. Dominick, Past Palmetto Conference Lay President

Compiled by Mrs. Doreen Gallant Green

**GOD'S BLESSING
TO OUR HOST
THE COLUMBIA CONFERENCE**



NORMAN DEAS, EPISCOPAL PRESIDENT

**SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
LAY ORGANIZATION OFFICERS**

President	Norman Deas
First Vice President	Roger Cleckley
Second Vice President	Genell Ruff
Third Vice President	Gilbert Smalls
Recording Secretary	Ila McFadden
Assistant Recording Secretary	Betty White
Corresponding Secretary	Claudia DuBose
Financial Secretary	Brenda Holland
Treasurer	Mary McCullough
Director Of Lay Activities	Patricia Parker
Director of Public Relations	Alphonso Times
Parliamentarian	Amos Wells
Historiographer	Peter Felder
Chaplain	Laura Williams



**Northeast Conference Lay President
1985 - 1993**

**The Late Bro. Samuel Augustus Bradley
“Striving for Excellence”**

St. John AME Church, Marion SC

“Leaders cannot teach what they don’t know, and they cannot lead where they do not go”.

- After each Annual Conference, a planning meeting was held to plan for the conference year.
- Monthly meetings were held throughout the NEC at difference churches.
- Attended all SED, General Conference and Lay Meetings during his tenure.
- Believed in education and giving scholarships.
- Portions of the Lay Constitution and Bylaws were read at a majority of the meetings with discussions.
- Each year the following programs were presented: J T Mims Allen Little Star, Layman of the Year
- Awards, scholarships to attend Allen University, Allen Night at Annual Conferences, Awards Luncheon and the Oratorical Contest for graduating seniors.
- Workshops: “The Relevance of the Lay Organization”, “How to Reach the Masses through the Lay Organization”, “Christian Conversion is the First Step in Christian Discipleship”, “Laymen’s Role in Evangelism”, “Building and keeping a Lay Organization in the Third Century”, “Keys to building a good Leadership Team”.
- Avoided conflicts with the SED and Presiding Elders’ dates.
- Attended eight Biennial Sessions.
- Provided Young Adult (ages 18-30) activities, workshops and training to get young adults involved.
- Hosted the SED Lay Convention in 1989 and attended the Lay Day services of other conferences.
- Initiated the NEC Lay Awards Luncheon in 1989.
- Delegates were elected to Connectional meetings: General Conference and Lay Biennial.
- Music workshops were held.
- Conducted audits and supported local churches.



**Northeast Conference Lay President
1993 - 2001**

**The Late Bro. William M. Jefferson,
Ebenezer AME Church - Mayesville, SC**

- President-WM Jefferson, 1st Vice – Lynwood Lewis, 2nd Vice - C. I. Thomas, 3rd Vice – Chris Davis, Corresponding Secretary - Donna Washington, Recording Secretary – Nell Foxworth, Assist Sec.-Janie Peterson, Finance Secretary – Mary McCoullough, Treasurer – Rufus Simmons, Director of Public Relations – Ronetta Washington, Director of Lay Activities – Irene Page, Director of Youth Activities – Phyllis Reaves, Chaplain- Henry Bryant, Historiographer – Eva Davis, Parliamentarian – James Lighty, President Emeritus – Samuel A. Bradley
- Allen University Scholarship increased from \$1000 to \$2000.
- Hosted the 1994 SED Lay Convention.
- Newly proposed goals and activities: To increase the development of spiritual awareness, evangelism, legislation, and youth activities.
- Held a NEC Lay Banquet annually.
- Organized the NEC Lay Youth Choir.
- Presented a Workshop entitled “Reassessing our Goals” with the idea of bringing a new perspective to the youth.
- Award Luncheon was hosted by each District of the Annual Conference by his persuasion.
- Awarded three \$1500 Scholarships.
- In 1997, SED Oratorical winner hailed from the NEC.
- In 1997, the Districts of the Annual Conference were reduced from four districts (Dillon, Marion, Florence and Sumter) to three districts (Florence-Dillon, Marion, and Sumter).



Dillon District Lay President

1992 – 1997

The Late Bro. Lynwood Lewis

Mt. Calvary AME Church, Hartsville, SC

- Invited ALL pastors to attend the Dillon District Lay Meetings.
- Had address and directions to ALL churches in the Dillon District.
- Spoke on “when the Clergy and Lay work together you will have a better church”.
- The District Lay Budget was divided amongst the churches depending on their ability to pay.
- Invited all officers and their family to a Christmas Dinner at a local restaurant.
- District meetings were held monthly.
- All officers were well-trained in their duties as Laymen.
- Participated in the following programs: Oratorical, Madame 7th, Lay Person of the Year, and JTW Mims Allen Little Star. The Dillon District had several winners during his tenure.
- Held annual Christmas Lay Programs.
- Workshops were conducted by local Lay members, pastors, NEC and SED Laity.
- Certificates of Appreciation were given to all officers and chairpersons for the work they accomplished.
- First, Second and Third place awards were given to Lay members, pastors and churches with the highest attendance for the conference year.
- The Dillon District merged with the Florence District in 1997. The new district was named the Florence-Dillon District. Several churches were reassigned to the various districts for equality.

Note: The Late Bro. Lynwood Lewis served as NEC Lay President from 2001-2009. Information pertaining to his NEC Lay Presidency is forthcoming in the next edition.



**Northeast Conference Lay President
2009-2017
Brother Keith Britton
Beulah AME Church, Sumter, SC**

With God's direction, the following abbreviated list was accomplished:

- Grew membership in the organization and enhanced relationships with clergy
- Implemented annual NEC Lay It Out Sessions, replacing the traditional planning meetings with focus on growing the organization and training.
- Assembled a Power Session Team to provide lay ministry training to districts and local churches upon request
- Launched the NEC Lay Website with downloadable training modules.
- Created the NEC Lay E-Blast and eventually converted it to the Constant Contact System to enhance communication efforts and increase connectivity
- Hosted annual NEC Lay Annual Days where we held the annual oratorical contest, featured our lay toddlers, lay persons of the year, and other activities
- Awarded \$1,000 academic scholarships to a graduating high school seniors annually and provided additional scholarships all Oratorical Contest participants
- Provided financial support to churches throughout the conference to enhance lay ministry
- Held Quarterly Meetings to discuss lay ministry and provide updates on programs and opportunities for growth
- Sent strong delegations to all Biennial Sessions of the Connectional Lay Organization where members played active roles in chairing committees and served in other leadership capacities
- Fulfilled all obligations to the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization, both programmatic and financial and attended all SED Lay events
- Maintained a balanced budget with no required increases from the districts
- Conducted training sessions throughout the Seventh Episcopal District
- Served as chair the Connectional Lay Organization's Disaster Relief Team, providing assistance to persons affected by natural disasters
- Delivered Sunday Lay Messages throughout the Seventh Episcopal District
- Served as a General Board Member for the AME Church, representing the Seventh Episcopal District
- Partnered with Conference District YPD and WMS to conduct College Planning Workshops

Information received from NEC Lay Meetings and Records, Nell Foxworth



Marion District Lay President
2007 - 2015

Ricaraldo "Ricky" Washington
Mt. Olive AME Church
"I did not come to be serve, but to serve."
Matthew 20: 28

The Marion District Lay Organization has truly come a mighty long way. From its inception in June 1951 until the present age, the laity has been teaching, training, and empowering its members to be prepared for lay ministry, leadership and service following of Jesus Christ. During Bro. Washington's administration...

- Programs were strategically planned to include all facets and age groups
- Marion District Lay TRIO Program was initiated: Little Toddlers, Allen Little Stars and the Oratorical contests were combined
- Young Adults and Adults participated in the Madame 7th Pageant and the Marion District won the Young Adult Category
- Adopted Nursing Homes in Mullins and Conway in an effort to brighten the residents' spirit with visitation, playing BINGO and providing various supplies
- President Washington accomplished the goal of visiting every church in the Marion District in the same conference year by attending worship service, Church School, programs and/or Lay meetings
- District Laity and Clergy were truly "on the move" and they worked extremely well together
- All financial responsibilities were adhered to in a timely manner during this administration
- Developed Lay training on the subject, "So You Say You're AME", which included information from the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church
- Strategically planned and partnered with the YPD to engage and re-engage our youth and young adults
- Published a Marion District Lay Historical Journal (2014) featuring Bro. W. L. Foxworth, Sr., organizer of the NEC Layman League, which included the Marion District Layman League (established 1957); also featured Past District Presidents of the Marion District and other actively involved Lay persons
- Thanked and saluted the trailblazers of the Lay Organization, especially those of the Marion District, who thought it not robbery to give of their time, talent, and treasures in order that some lost soul might be saved
- Conducted several Lay Training sessions and speeches throughout the SED

Information received from Marion District Lay minutes and interviewed by Sis. Nell Foxworth



**Florence-Dillon District Lay President
The Late Brother Henry Bryant
“Lay Person Extraordinaire”**

- Trained the members for effective leadership at the local level.
- The Lay membership grew drastically in numbers.
- The relationship between Clergy and Laity drew closer under his leadership.
- Was involved in numerous ministries in the Church.
- Served as Treasurer for the Florence-Dillon District, NEC and SED Lay Organizations.
- Promoted attendance for Lay meetings, seminars, and training sessions.
- Elected delegate to four General Conferences and attended numerous Lay Biennials.
- Mentored and advised persons of eligible age to become effective members of the Lay Organization.

Marion District Lay President

1991 – 1999

Sis. Phyllis Reaves **St. Paul AME Church, Little River, SC**



- Elected First Female President of the Marion District Lay Organization.
 - Served faithfully for eight fruitful years.
 - Implemented the end of year Lay Fellowship Activities: food and activities for entire family.
 - Organized the Marion District C. J. Graves Boys Choir and Odessa Graves Girls Choir that performed at various Marion District events and partnered with the YPD to organize a boys and girls choir.
 - Attended and supported Lay meetings and events on all levels of the NEC Laity.
- Encouraged and financially supported members of the Marion District to attend the Lay Biennials throughout her tenure.
 - Partnered with the Marion District Sons of Allen to host the first Father and Son Banquet.
 - Hosted the first Mother and Daughter Banquet.
 - Sponsored the first theatre play entitled “There’s a Blessing in the Storm”, written by Sis. Phyllis Reaves.

Information submitted by Sis. Phyllis Reaves



Marion District Lay President

1999 – 2007

Sis. Irene D. Page

New Ebenezer AME Church, Mullins, SC

“Marching in the Spirit of Unity”

- Held positions of leadership on various levels of the SED, NEC, Marion District, and local Laity.
- Served as Conference, District and Local Director of Lay Activities.
- Chaired the committee on the History of the Northeast Conference Lay Organization.
- Attended the Lay Biennial and General Conference of the AME Church for many years.
- Local pastors spoke at the District’s Annual Meetings.
- Held workshops on the AME Discipline.
- Disseminated information to discuss from meetings she attended.
- Hosted the J. T. W. Mims Allen Star, the Oratorical and the Madam 7th Programs.
- Supported and attended all the NEC and SED Lay meetings.
- Presented the following workshops: Clergy and Laity Relations, “A Dual Ministry By The Power of Love”, Ten Commandments for Strengthening Clergy and Laity Relations, Resource Materials Related to Nutrition: “The African Natural Foods Gourmet”, Committee Assignments (Descriptions of Duties).

Information taken from conference minutes. Edited by Sister Pat Parker

Piedmont Conference Lay Organization
This is what this conference looked like
in 1991

Lynda W. Bridwell	President
James Butler	First Vice President
Georgia Thomas	Second Vice President
Thelma V. Fair	Secretary
Daisy Williams/Diane Dixon	Assistant Secretary
Bessie Woods	Financial Secretary
Emma Goodwin	Treasurer
Hattie Suber	Parliamentarian
Albert Woods	Chaplin
Rudolph Wise	Director of Lay Activities
Reginald Davis	Director of Public Relations
Dr. Anna T. Mims	Advisor

INSTRUCTORS

Jacquelyn Joggins	Hymnology
James McDowell	Discipline
Hattie Suber/Amos Wells	Parliamentary Procedure
Albert Woods	Bible

P. E. DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Pearlina Morton	Greenville
James Butler	Greenwood
Albert Woods	Abbeville

District President (Deceased)
Mr. Bruce Howard



Mr. Bruce Howard was a member of Bethel AME Church in Georgetown, SC. His Annual Conference District was Georgetown.

Mr. Bruce Howard, affectionately known as “BC.” Was well respected in the church and community. He was a “people person.”

Mr. Howard was the Georgetown District Lay Organization President when Presiding Elder S.A. Brown was the Presiding Elder of the Georgetown District.

Mr. Howard led the Georgetown District as President for more than 25 years. He was active on all levels of the Lay Organization and the AME Church.

During Mr. Howard’s term, Mr. John Seabrook from Morris Brown AME Church, was the Palmetto Conference President. Mr. James Hilderbran was the Seventh Episcopal Lay President.

Mrs. Josephine C. Howard, his wife, greatly supported Mr. Howard throughout his service in the Lay Organization.

Information obtained from:

Mr. Hewitt Z. Dominick, Past Palmetto Conference Lay Organization President
Mrs. Charlesann Buttone, Family friend

Compiled by Mrs. Doreen Gallant Green

Sister Doreen Green
District President



My name is Doreen Gallant Green. I am a lifelong member of Historic Bethel AME Church in the Georgetown District.

I have served as the Georgetown District Lay Organization President since 2022.

Sister Gloria McClam is the Palmetto Conference Lay President.

My leadership style is a democratic style. I encourage everyone to ask questions and offer feedback at every meeting. I often stress that our district works as a team to obtain the goals we have set for the Georgetown District Lay Organization.

As District President, I find that the main challenge is getting all churches to have a lay organization as stated in the AME Book of Doctrine and Discipline. To address this challenge, pastors were contacted and encouraged to have an organized lay in their church.

Information from all levels of the Lay Organization is disseminated to local churches through email, mail, and flyers. Information is also given out during district zoom meetings.

As of today, there are still churches in the Georgetown District without a Lay Organization. This is one goal the Georgetown District Lay Organization will continue to work on. We will also continue to work to increase lay membership in the Georgetown District.

LOCAL PRESIDENT

My name is Cassandra G. Coleman. I served as local president from 2013-2018. I am a member of St. John A.M.E. Morrisville in the Georgetown District.

The Palmetto Conference President at that time was Sister Vergie Tennison. My leadership style was to involve my members, by letting them know when meetings would be held. I would also let them know what the District and the Conference levels discussed.

Some of the challenges that existed were members not attending meetings; members placing items on the chancellor rail; and walking during communion service.

I informed the Pastor and Stewards of the issues that were brought to my attention and addressed them during my local meetings. Information was also disseminated to the local church.

The Lay Organization has grown during my administration.

Local President

My name is Coretta Green. I am a member of Cumberland A.M.E. in the Georgetown District. I served as local lay president since 2021.

The Palmetto Conference President at that time was Sister Vergie Tennison and Sister Gloria McClam.

The Challenges that existed during my tenure were COVID19. A Zoom account was purchased to conduct regular meetings. Information from all levels was emailed to members. It was also shared during Sunday morning announcements.

I keep the members informed of available workshops and meetings held throughout the connection so that we can be an informed church. One of my goals is to attend meetings and training offered on all levels of the Lay Organization whenever possible.



LOCAL PRESIDENT

My name is Eva A Rivers. I am a member of Nazareth A.M.E in the Choppee area of the Georgetown District. I have served as local lay president from 2006-2013 and 2015-2023.

The Palmetto Conference President at that time was Brother Hewett Dominick, Brother Leroy Spann, and Sister Vergie Tennison. Under their leadership I learned a lot.

The challenge that existed during my tenure was accountability of the money that went into the organization. I addressed it by asking questions at the district meeting. Then I informed my church of their answer by bringing back a treasurer's report.

During my administration, information was brought back from the District and the Conference meeting. It was shared at our local meeting each month.

I think that the Lay Organization is still facing the same problems. There are still questions about accountability, low membership, and attendance.

LOCAL PRESIDENT

My name is Lorine Gibson. I am a member of St. James A.M.E. Morrisville in the Georgetown District.

I served as local lay president from 2012-2014. Sister Vergie Tennison was the Palmetto Conference President.

The challenge that existed: the parishioners did not understand the by-laws. This was addressed by having training during our local meetings. Information was also brought back from the district and conference levels to share at the local level.

Yes, I think the Lay Organization is still facing some of the same problems. I think it will continue because people don't like changes.

Greetings And Best Wishes



Central South Carolina Conference Lay Organization Officers

***This is what this conference
looked like in 1991***

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Brother Bernard Walker Past Conference President



Brother Bernard Walker's leadership journey is deeply rooted in his service to the Trinity AME Church in downtown Charleston, SC, and the South Carolina Conference Lay Organization. His family's legacy at Trinity—his grandfather who served as steward and his mother's choir involvement—set the stage for his own commitment.

During his presidency, he held dual roles, actively engaging as a member of Trinity and as local lay president. As a local president, he championed community engagement and supported a prison ministry, reflecting his belief in service beyond the church walls. His leadership also saw the creation of a fundraising committee, ensuring the local organization's financial sustainability.

Upon Brother Ralph James being elected president of the South Carolina Conference Lay Organization, Brother Walker was elected president of the Charleston District Lay Organization. He tackled the challenges of district reorganization, full membership involvement, and economic development with vigor.

In 1987, when Brother Ralph James was elected president of the Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization, Brother Walker was elected as the Conference President. He prioritized educating officers on the AME Church Doctrine and Discipline and fostering a deeper understanding of church issues among members. His tenure was marked by active discussions on economic matters with lay and clergy alike, emphasizing the importance of purposeful fundraising. He is pleased to see that his vision of economic development is coming to the Seventh in the form of the Vision Center in the upper part of the Episcopal District.

When Brother Walker served as our Conference President, he always made sure that the SCCLO was represented at all meetings above the conference level. It was at a General Conference Meeting where we were in attendance not as a member of the General Conference but as a South Carolinian. He was concerned that the right bishop's chances of coming to South Carolina was being challenged. He asked members of the Seventh Episcopal District Delegation to sign a petition that was given to an Episcopal Committee member to help ensure that the right person was sent to the Seventh.

His story is one of visionary leadership, leaving a lasting impact on the community he served."

This version aims to provide a clearer timeline and highlight Brother Walker's contributions and ongoing concerns, offering a narrative that is both engaging and informative.

**Past District President
Sister Mary Alice Waymer**

Sister Waymer's eight-year tenure (2003-2011) as President of the Beaufort



District Lay Organization was marked by her dedication to tradition and innovation. Elected to succeed Sister Betty White, she not only preserved the organization's legacy but also spearheaded new initiatives. Her leadership was instrumental in the consistent publication of a district newsletter for eight years, which celebrated the accomplishments of local lay presidents and supported senior members through the redistribution of funds from the annual lay banquet.

Confronted with numerous challenges, Sister Waymer's resilience was fortified by divine guidance and the unwavering support of the district community. Her devotion to the Lay Organization did not wane post-presidency; she remains an active participant in district, conference, and episcopal meetings. Her service record is further distinguished by her role as Historiographer for the South Carolina Conference Lay Organization and, presently, as Financial Secretary for the Beaufort District. Sister Waymer's steadfast commitment is also evident in her ongoing membership at Zion AME Church in Brownstown, SC.

Sister Sadie Green

I met Sister Green over forty years ago while attending a South Carolina Conference Lay Organization Meeting.

The late Marion Brown was President of the Conference during that time. I seem to remember our meeting in the early 1980's.

I remembered Sister Green serving as one of the Chaplin during the Brown administration. I would later reunite with Sister Green through the efforts of Sister Patricia Parker. Sister Green may be the oldest living person in the SCCLLO today.



This is what her grandson, Brother Robert Campbell has to say about his grandmother.

Mrs. Sadie Susie Green was born in Ravenel, SC on December 25, 1920 and attended the public schools of Charleston County. She is the daughter of the late Rosanna Waring and step father, Johnny Green. Ms. Green reared one daughter, Vermell, and three sons; James, Robert, and Charles, and godson, Wallace. She is the proud grandmother of nine grandsons, and over 15 great-children, and five great-great grandchildren. Her only granddaughter, Sheena, died unexpectedly in 2000.

Sis. Green resided on Kennedy Street in Charleston, South Carolina for nearly 75 years and is still affectionately referred by residents as the "Mayor of Kennedy St." She has been an active member and currently the oldest member of Nichols Chapel AME Church for just as many years as she has lived on Kennedy St. Sis Green held leadership positions during her early years to include treasurer, trustee, steward, and Lay Organization President. She is an original member of the Nichols Chapel Richard Allen and Regional Golden Voices choirs. So beloved by many on Kennedy St., Sister Green was presented a video of both Congressman Jim Clyburn and Senator Tim Scott wishing her a Happy 100th birthday by her neighbor "Captain John" (a SC National Guard member) who was assigned to the Capitol to protect the Congressional delegation after the January 6 insurrection. She has also been featured for 3 years on Channel 5 News as a centenarian.

Sis Green worked as a housekeeper and nanny for two generations of the Pregnall family, and took much pride in assisting Teresa Pregnall, "The Cake Lady" bake over 700 cakes during thanksgiving and Christmas. The Cake Lady named several recipes after Sis Green.

As the oldest resident of Stratford Place Assisted Living facility, Sister Green enjoys several daily walks, playing BINGO, consuming too many macadamia nut cookies and potato chips that are provided by family and friends. She enjoys having visitors, car rides, and eating out at S&S cafeteria and Golden Corral.

Written by Sister's grandson (Brother Robert Campbell)
Edited by Sister Pat Parker

Columbia South Carolina Conference Lay Organization Officers 1991

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Spartanburg - Joseph Walker

"...not as man over man, but as LAY PERSONS WORKING WITH GOD."



Acknowledgements

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity you have bestowed upon me. Your unwavering support and encouragement mean the world to me. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to each of you.

I would also like to express my gratitude to President Keith Britton for his support.

To Sister Nell Foxworth, Historiographer of the Northeast Conference and her President, Brother Ricky Washington; Sister Idella G. Bradford, Historiographer of the Palmetto Conference, and her President, Sister Gloria McClam; and my President, Sister Jeanine Rivers, I offer my sincere thanks.

As the Historiographer for the SEDLO, I am committed to preserving our rich history. It is an honor to serve in this capacity, and I pledge to continue documenting our journey with utmost care.

Special recognition goes to Sisters: Pat Parker and Sally B. Wilson for their invaluable contributions during the editing process. Their strength and commitment have made this acknowledgment even more meaningful.

Finally, to all our members, I urge you to lift our vision in prayer. Together, we can achieve remarkable things for our community and beyond.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Brother Cleveland Frasier