



## **2014 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UMW LOUISIANA CONFERENCE**

### **President's Report: Dr. Barbara Ferguson**

We, the members of the UMW Conference Leadership Team, look forward to serving you in the 2015 year! Our primary responsibilities are “1) to coordinate the educational and mission emphases in the Conference, and 2) to work with the Districts and Local Units in fulfilling the Purpose.” (*UMW Handbook, p. 131*)

#### Report on Accomplishment of our Six (6) 2014 Goals:

FORMS were compiled by Vice President Sandy DeCelle and placed on website by Anita Hansberry to make reporting easier for our Districts and Units. DELT/LELT was held prior to meetings and during some meetings to include more members in training. MISSION pictures were sent, and are still being sent, to Margery Manuel for development of a video for use by all Districts and Units. EDUCATION of members occurred by encouraging members to attend either Mission u at the Wesley Center or the one-day District Mini - Mission u event. NON-UMW CHURCHES were encouraged to learn more about UMW by inviting the respective Pastors in the District to attend our Annual Meeting. VISIBILITY was promoted by partnering with other agencies, especially, during the Social Action Retreat coordinated by Laura Salguero. Our Goals for 2015 will be developed by the Conference Leadership Team at its first meeting. Please give your input to any member of the Leadership Team as to any Goal we should consider that would better assist you.

#### Report on Annual Meeting of 2014

At the Annual Meeting, the following business was conducted: Presentation of the 2015 Budget which was subsequently adopted at the District Meetings; and Election of the following New Officers: Social Action Coordinator- Melinda Graham; Secretary of Program Resources- Linda Trouard; Treasurer- Jeanette McCalman; Committee on Nominations-Vickie Bollinger. Certificates were awarded, retiring Officers were honored, and nearly the entire Saturday morning was dedicated to hands-on mission activities. It was a wonderful event and the entire Annual Meeting Program Booklet can be found on our website.

### **Vice-President's Report: Sandy DeCelle**

The role of the vice-president is not only to work with the whole leadership team in upholding the United Methodist Women's Purpose, but especially to support the president and the Annual Meeting Task Group in program planning and setting and accomplishing goals. A quadrennial opportunity was afforded to United Methodist Women in 2014. To speak to the goal of education, those who were able to attend Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky returned home with a renewed spirituality, enthusiasm for mission, and opportunity for sharing with other leadership team, district, and local members.

During the Annual Meeting week end, District Elected Leaders Training (DELT) offered training by the conference leaders, to be taken back to each district in order to better serve each local



UMW in fulfilling the Purpose and goals. For the first time, at least in recent years, the business of the Annual Meeting was all conducted on Friday. This was planned to enable more working women who had a desire to be involved in hands-on mission activities to participate in those on Saturday. Members who were able to attend on Saturday were also blessed with a special communion message from Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey and a most meaningful communion celebration.

### **Treasurer's Report: Georgie Lee Roberson**

As your Conference Treasurer for the past two years I would like to express my thanks for giving me this opportunity. It has definitely been a learning experience. It has been difficult at times, but thanks to everyone for your help and input, I believe we have accomplished the goals that were laid out for our conference for these years. We still have not met our pledge, but we and our District Treasurer have been tirelessly working toward this goal. We got a little closer each year, so we can give ourselves a pat on the back. All the District Treasurers have been great as we have helped each other. Also many thanks go to Barbara Ferguson and Jeanette McCalman for their help in helping to get the previous years in prospect. Jeanette has been a great help, I could not have survived without her help. She was Conference Treasurer when I was a District Treasurer, and I certainly appreciated her leadership. She will be your Conference Treasurer for 2015, you are in good hands. Thanks again for putting your trust and giving me this opportunity. Sincerely and loving wishes for a great 2015.

### **Spiritual Growth Coordinator's Report: Marjorie S. Franklin**

As Spiritual Growth Coordinator for the Louisiana Conference, I have been active in many activities. The more you become involved, the more you can accomplish in reaching our goal as United Methodist Women. In January, 2014, I had the opportunity to speak for UMW Sunday at Boynton UMC in Gretna, Louisiana. This was a wonderful experience. The ladies of that church were very kind and welcoming. In March, I had an opportunity to serve as the music leader for the Bishops Laity retreat held at the Wesley Center. In April, I spoke at Mallileu UMC for their UMW celebration. In July, I was honored to serve as both the music and worship leader for our Annual Mission U. In my local unit at Warren UMC, I enjoy leading worship and developing programs for our UMW meetings. Setting up Alters is one of my favorite things to do. I enjoy working with all programs, not only in the church but in the community as well. It is my belief that the more we get involved, the more opportunity we have to spread the word about Jesus and to hopefully not only win souls, but to get others excited about UMW.

### **Education and Interpretation Coordinator's Report: Joyce Thibodeaux**

The past year was my first as Coordinator for Education & Interpretation, so I was learning what is involved in this job position. Thanks to Myrna Freeman for her help in getting started. I attended Leadership Development Days at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina in January. I enjoyed meeting UMW members from other parts of the country, and learning more about United Methodist Women. I spoke to UMW members at the First UMC in Lake Charles, La. about our UMW mission agencies in Louisiana. On April 25-27. I attended the UMW Assembly



in Louisville, Kentucky. That was a great opportunity to learn, worship, and hear inspirational speakers. I attended the UMW Mission u in July. Since I serve on the Board of Directors of the Dulac Community Center, I represented that agency. I set up a display about the Community Center, and gave a brief update to the UMW members about Dulac. During the year, I received reports from District E & I Coordinators for the mission studies certificate and the “Mission Today Unit.” At the Conference UMW Annual Meeting in October, I handed out certificates to units who had sent in reports. I was responsible for organizing a “hands-on” mission activity for the Annual Meeting, assembling health kits for UMCOR Sager Brown. We put together 221 health kits, and Kathy Kraiza from UMCOR Sager Brown also received additional supplies for health kits. I was honored to be one of the four women who received the Women In Mission Award.

### **Communication Coordinator’s Report: Anita Hansberry**

The Communication goals for this year were centered around the continued efforts to disseminate information throughout the conference by electronic news/letters and to update the information on our United Methodist Women’s website. In reviewing the communication goals for this year, I feel the dissemination of information has been achieved and remains a work in progress. At the onset of this year, information from the directory was used to create mass emailing lists [the LA Conference Leadership Team and the six districts Acadiana, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans and Shreveport]. Information regarding the following conference events: a) the Social Action Conference held in Lafayette, b) Mission u, and c) the 2014 Annual meeting held in Baton Rouge was disseminated before and after the event in the form of:

- Save the date information/announcements/ registrations etc.
- Highlights with details and pictures following the events

The conference communication process is still a work in progress. Communicating across the conference in a cost-effective manner remains a challenge. Thus, communication by electronic means remains the system of choice for many entities and UMW as well. With this factor in mind, a plea for help in disseminating information is constantly made... asking units that have access to the electronic media to help pass/share the information with units and individuals that do not have access. The Leadership Team is currently exploring options for establishing its own website.

### **Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator’s Report: Margery Manuel**

With our new restructuring and streamlining, this year flexibility and the freedom to make changes and have become our new by words! My goals for 2014 were:

- Meet and nurture members and support units throughout the La. Conference, especially supporting District M, N, & O Coordinators
- Encourage district M, N, O leaders to contact and nurture local units
- Attract new members by making our organization and mission work visible



I served as registrar for our Social Action Event on Poverty in January and again for Mission u in July. While this is not an official part of my duties as M, N, & O Chairperson, I feel that it afforded me the opportunity to get to know many of our members, which in turn, helps me to carry out my official duties. I displayed our materials at the United Methodist Annual Conference in Shreveport. This provided the opportunity again to make UMW visible throughout the conference.

We were able to award 5 Estelle Dameron and 3 Doretha Brown Scholarships this year, allowing 8 first timers to attend Mission u. Out of that experience we gained a new La. Conference Leadership Team member! This was very exciting and proves the difference you make when you contribute to these scholarship funds.

Instituting our new flexibility, our La. Conference UMW this year named 4 outstanding women as Women in Mission of the Year for 2014 at our Conference Annual Meeting. Delores Denton, Angelyn Morgan, Becky Poor, and Joyce Thibodeaux were each recognized for their outstanding mission work. Our Conference Annual Meeting was also restructured this year, providing time to do some mission activities. I organized and led the group writing and sending cards to support our many missionaries around the world. Hands on mission work often encourages new members to become more involved.

In the furtherance of my last goal, I continue to collect pictures of mission opportunities carried out by units throughout our conference. I am especially interested in showing ways we carry out our purpose. As we approach our 150<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration, I am working with others to collect information about the roots of the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women and the history of mission work done here from the earliest days, showing how our Conference Mission Agencies came into being and how our mission work carried out into the present day continues to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth. I plan to produce a DVD that can be distributed to the districts which can be used to show new members how UMW continues to Make It Happen!

### **Social Action Coordinator's Report: Laura Salguero**

In February of 2014, LA UMW and LA Board of Church and Society collaborated on our second Social Action Event. The first one we did a few years ago was on Domestic Violence and this one was on Poverty. The event was held at First United Methodist Church in Lafayette and would not have been possible without the support of this church and their UMW unit. We also received help from COSROW and UMM. I think we had excellent speakers and breakout workshops, and my hope is that attendees will be inspired to carry on both mercy and justice work back in their districts. LA UMW has decided to sponsor a Social Action Event every other year in the even years (hopefully, in partnership with other LA UMC organizations or boards).



In April, I was privileged to attend UMW Assembly in Louisville, KY, where Hillary Clinton did an outstanding job as the keynote speaker. While there, I was able to participate in an advocacy march on the issue of poverty.

In July at Mission u, we signed &/or personalized letters to Senator Landrieu asking for adequate funding for international family planning. I personally delivered these letters to Senator Landrieu's office in Shreveport and spoke with her aide. These letters are part of the Healthy Families, Healthy Planet program of the GBCS of the UMC.

In October at Annual Meeting, I conducted a Bread for the World Offering of Letters advocating for making foreign aid more efficient and effective. I was very pleased with the amount of participation in this activity.

I again enjoyed reading the social action reports from all the districts. I am so humbled and impressed when I read about all the worthwhile activities in which our units are involved. Approximately 80 Social Action certificates were awarded this year.

All through the year, I continued to pass on information and action ideas regarding a variety of social issues. I am now completing my fourth year as your LA Conference Social Action Coordinator. I have found this to be a very educational and enjoyable experience, and I have, hopefully, made progress toward achieving my goal of increasing knowledge and involvement in social action.