

**EAST CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION  
143rd SESSION OF THE EAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
CONFERENCE YEAR 2017-2018  
NOVEMBER 2018  
PHILLIS FILER, PRESIDENT**



**STATISTICS**

- 3 DISTRICTS OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- 78 CHURCHES
- 66 CHURCHES WITH AN ORGANIZED LAY ORGANIZATION
- 12 CHURCHES WITHOUT AN ORGANIZED LAY ORGANIZATION

**CHURCHES WITHOUT AN ORGANIZED LAY**

**Alachua-Central District**

NONE

**South District**

- Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church, Green Cove
- Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, East Palatka
- Bethel A. M. E. Church, Spring Glenn
- Mount Olive A. M. E. Church, Williston
- New Hope A. M. E. Church, Bronson
- Union Bethel A. M. E. Church, Crescent City

**Suwannee-North District**

- St. James A. M. E. Church, Lake Butler
- Fort Union A. M. E. Church, Live Oak
- Macedonia A. M. E. Church, Fernandina Beach
- Mount Olive/ Mount Zion A. M. E. Church, Padlock
- New Bethel A. M. E. Church, Jasper
- Collins Chapel A. M. E. Church, Baldwin

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Elections were held for the three Presiding Elder Districts Lay and the East Conference Lay. Held Quarterly Meetings in each of the Districts of the Annual Conference wherein there were relevant workshops. Workshops presented have been taken back to the Districts and local churches to further training efforts on all levels.
- Encouraged and facilitated members getting copies of the new *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.
- Updated the East Conference Lay Constitution and By-Laws to reflect the changes made at the General Conference.
- Thirty-five (35) new members joined the Lay Organization.
- Eighteen (18) persons from the East Conference attended the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Retreat hosted by the West Coast Conference at New Bethel A. M. E. Church, Lakeland.
- Forty (40) registered delegates from the East Conference attended the 74<sup>th</sup> Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention held June 19-22, 2018 in Tallahassee. This was an increase of 14 registrants from the previous year. Members of the Conference participated by doing presentations and/or facilitating workshops. Our own Rev. Mark Griffin presented a workshop on the importance of understanding and treating your Pastor well. Presented also at the Convention was a workshop on researching and knowing the history of your church and Lay Organization.
- Two members from the East Conference Lay received awards at the 74<sup>th</sup> Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention: Sister LuCretia McBride from Saint Stephens A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville and Brother Richard Hilton from Allen Chapel A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville were recipients of the Hall of Fame Award.
- East Conference Lay continued to work on all levels to have students to apply for the Scholarships awarded by the Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Organization for students who will be entering Colleges/Universities in the fall 2018. There were 12 scholarships given out at the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Eleventh Episcopal District Lay Convention with two of the students awarded the Selmo Bradley Scholarship being from the East Conference who were Miss Kamaya Bennett from Union A. M. E. Church, Lake City wherein the Pastor is Rev. Ronald G. Williams, Sr. and Miss Kayla Fitz from Greater Grant Memorial A. M. E. Church, Jacksonville wherein the Pastor is Rev. Tan C. Moss. Both received \$2,000 scholarships. To date the Eleventh Episcopal District has given over \$150,000 in scholarships to youth throughout the Eleventh Episcopal District with the East Conference youth having received many of these scholarships. This year's fundraiser "Sweeter the Knowledge" assisted us in raising sufficient funds to give out 2 scholarships per Conference in the Eleventh Episcopal District.
- Assisted Edward Waters College through the Marian Bacon White Textbook/Supplies Award at Edward Waters College which is a continuous financial award by the Episcopal District Lay Organization since 2004. Freshmen through senior students may apply during any semester for this award to aid in the purchase of textbooks and class lab supplies.

- Met all financial obligations to the 11<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Lay Organization.
- The following persons from the East Conference Lay were appointed to Connectional Lay Committees/Boards: Sis. LuCretia McBride – Audit Committee and Sis. Beverly Outler – Proposed Legislation.
- Participated in the LEDP (Lay Economic Development Program) which is designed to assist churches needing assistance. Currently from the East Conference there are two members on the Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Director, Staff Secretary, and Staff Treasurer. This year thanks to dues and events such as the LEDP Luncheon which is held at Mid-Year, assistance was given to Mount Pisgah A. M. E. Church, Archer and Collins Chapel A.M.E. Church, Baldwin to assist with needed repairs at their church. The Luncheon this year honored the Presiding Elders of the Eleventh Episcopal District and their Consultants.
- East Conference Lay have been working with the local churches to ensure that each one has an active organized Lay Organization per the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.
- Achieved 14 of the 14 objectives of the Lay Organization as outlined in the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.

#### **INITIATIVES FOR 2018-2019**

- Acquire histories on the Churches in the East Conference.
- Acquire histories on the Lay Organizations in the Local churches in the East Conference.
- Acquire updated history on the East Conference Lay Organization.
- Have a Gala/Celebration honoring the legacy bearers of the East Conference Lay.
- To strengthen by 10% the work of the Lay Ministry in collaboration with the Pastors.
- Continue to reduce the number of churches that do not have an organized Lay Organization.
- Work on increasing the number of Young Adults in the East Conference Lay Organization.



