

The Tellhergram

Winter Issue 2024 An American Baptist Women's Ministries of Ohio Publication



PRESIDENT - Susan Stotts

So much has happened and is happening! Let's jump right in. Becky Winsley and I went to the Shalom Retreat in October. It was a great retreat with interesting speakers, meaningful worship, good fellowship and a service project for the homeless. There were crafts, a ticket auction and a karaoke evening. Becky and I helped with the auction and service project and participated in everything else. Thank you to Flo Smith-Heizer for auction items and to the board for helping with my expenses. I don't know if you have heard the results of the Popcorn Sale Fundraiser. It did really well. The total sales were \$18,106.00, with \$9,053.00 going to ABWM. 315 people purchased popcorn with 147 essential worker donations. I want to thank any and all of you ladies who contributed to this fundraiser.

On a national level, there have been several changes: American Baptist Women's Ministries congratulates Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain on her historic election as General Secretary of ABC/USA. Rev. Dr. Gina will be an asset to ABC/USA. She will start her new position in February. Rev. LaThelma Yenn-Batah has been called to the position of Interim Executive Director. She has served on the ABWM staff and brings a strong skill set for administration, communication, and program coordination. LaThelma has experience in relationship-building and will be an asset in strengthening relationships with women's ministries and partners. Rev. Yenn-Batah will begin her role on March 1, 2024.

At the same time, Rev. Dr. Chris Smith stepped down as the ABW Ministries President and Lovena Van Haaften is serving as the President ProTem. Lovena was our Mid-West Coordinator (and doing a great job of it), so we are now looking for someone to fill in for her.

I think I sent out the information about looking for participants for the upcoming talent show. Well, ABWM is holding a tel-e-thon fundraiser with these talent videos on March 23 from 5 - 8 PM EST. We will be live on Facebook. The talent videos will help entertain and bring interest to those watching the live Facebook time. There will be a list of phone numbers to call to make a donation. More information and advertising will be coming shortly from staff and I will pass it on to you. This is new to most of us but sounds like a fun way to raise funds for ABWM.

I attended a Presidents' meeting by zoom on January 30. And, of course, our ABWM Ohio Spring Conference is coming! It will again be at First Baptist Church in Newark and will happen on Saturday, June 8 with the board meeting Friday evening. That's a little earlier so we don't run into vacation and other planned meetings. Rev. Jill Smith is our Bible Study Leader. If you remember, the last time she was our leader, I believe she showed us yoyo tricks. And also led us in a thought provoking, inspirational study. I've included a poster in this newsletter. Put the date on your calendar now, watch for the details and join us!

Blessings,

Susan Stotts

stotts@columbus.rr.com

740-454-8446

Some National News

The following is an email received from Lovena Van Haaften, our Midwestern Section Coordinator. She keeps me (President Susan) up with what is happening with national.

“Good day everyone. I pray each of you are well. I will be addressing events in your region/state for the Spring and early summer in the Leader's Reader. This is your opportunity to promote events. Let me know what is happening. The Midwestern Section of "What's Up" will be on Thursday, February 29 at 8 PM EST. Be sure to register.

Also, Saturday, March 23, 5-8 PM EDT, ABWM will be hosting a tele-a-thon to raise money for the organization. I will be responsible for phoning donors for their Best gifts, so add my phone number to your phone. I will be calling you. If I miss you, you may call in your donation during this time. Promotional material will be in your hands very soon.

Thanks for all you do. Be Strong! Be Courageous! You Can Do It! Blessings, Lovena Van Haaften Midwestern Section Coordinator ABWM

If you want to find out what the women in our mid-western states are doing, go to the national website, www.abwministries.org, events and it will tell you how to register for "What's Up". It's a zoom meeting and lasts about one hour. I go, they are interesting.

And from Erin in the national office: "It's that time of year again! Show your sister some love! Submit your nominations for Our annual "Shine the Light" award, honoring exemplary women/ women's groups from local American Baptist churches for how they shine Christ's light in the world. Is there a woman or a women's group that focuses on our mission, vision, and core values that you would like to see recognized? Read the criteria and submit nominations before February 14, 2024." The national website has all the criteria and information on how to make a nomination.



SECRETARY – Paula Duncan

Greetings Ladies!

At the ABWM/Ohio Executive Board meeting in September 2023, I told the ladies I thought I'd wait and distribute new/revised ABWM/Ohio Directories at the September Spiritual Growth Retreat instead of at the June conference. There were no objections and many thought it was a good idea. When I distribute the directories in June, they are not accurate. So I'm hoping that many of your ABWM groups will have all your officers in place by June or July and then will send the information to me for inclusion in the directory to be distributed in September. If you are unable to attend the Spiritual Growth Retreat at First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon on September 26-27, 2024, I will do my best to mail one to your association president.

This is a devotion I recently read from JESUS CALLING by Sarah Young. Our God is an awesome God and I love that I have the peace in knowing that He's always with me and knows exactly what I need.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Jeremiah 55:9-11 (ESV)

APPROACH THIS DAY WITH AWARENESS OF WHO IS BOSS. As you make plans for the day, remember that it is I who orchestrate the events of your life. On days when things go smoothly, according to your plans, you may be unaware of My sovereign Presence. On days when your plans are thwarted, be on the lookout for Me! I may be doing something important in your life, something quite different from what you expected. It is essential at such time to stay in communication with Me, accepting My way as better than yours. Don't try to figure out what is happening. Simply trust Me and thank Me in advance for the good that will come out of it all. I know the plans I have for you, and they are good.

Blessings to all! Stay warm and safe!

Paula Duncan
paula.duncan1948@gmail.com
740-353-2229



TREASURER – Becky Winsley

Greetings and Blessings to all of you. 😊

Hopefully you are busy in your churches promoting the Scholarship Fund, the 2023/2024 State Project, and the other ministries that we support as American Baptist women. The form “Funds Incoming to State Treasurer” lists all the funds that come through the American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Ohio. This form can be found on our website (www.abwmohio.org) or I can mail copies to you. Just leave a message on my phone (740-453-4548) or email me (beckywinsley@gmail.com). I will need your name and complete address.

I will need to receive all monies collected for this fiscal year by the end of May. That way I can have everything deposited and accounts balanced for reporting at our Annual Conference in June. Please make sure you do NOT make out the checks to me personally. The checks should be written to **ABW Ministries of Ohio**, then mailed to me at 1924 Euclid Ave, Zanesville OH 43701. Thank you.

Becky Winsley
beckywinsley@gmail.com
740-453-4548



**CHAIRWOMAN OF CARE AND SHARE –
Tammy Hubb**

I hope this finds you all well. We have finally gotten out of the deep freeze we were in. Please continue to keep all of our Care and Share recipients in your thoughts and prayers. Rev. Vincent Harris of Racetrack Ministries has trouble with the truck he uses. Hopefully he will be able to get it back on the road. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. Early registration for Camp Koinonia will be starting soon. Please consider volunteering to help with summer camp if you can. Please see the following about our State Project.

Hope to see you all soon.

Tammy Hubb
hubbtamara8@gmail.com
419-564-2113

ABW MINISTRIES OF OHIO 2023-2024 STATE PROJECT NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS for WOMEN and GIRLS AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S MINISTRIES REFIT GRANT GUIDELINES

American Baptist Women's Ministries, a not-for-profit organization affiliated with the American Baptist Churches USA, has a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God's purpose for her. ABWM has funding available from its Refit Fund to expand its work through grants to entities providing resources and programming for Women and Girls. ABWM will consider your formal grant request for the following:

- Leadership development /self-esteem development and spiritual growth that addresses issues of oppression and exploitation of women and girls
- Educational scholarships for women and girls
- Churches/congregational ministries

Grants and scholarships awarded are typically in the range of \$500 to \$2000.

Scholarship applications must be submitted to American Baptist Women's Ministries by June 30. All applicants will receive written notification regarding funding decisions by August 30.

We are specifying that our State Project Money goes to Educational Scholarships. Our goal is \$10,000.

Make all checks out to AB Women's Ministries of Ohio. Specify it is for State Project and send to:

Becky Winsley
1924 Euclid Ave.
Zanesville, Ohio 43701

2023-2024 State Project Song

Let's Send Women and Girls to School

(To the tune of Mary had a Little Lamb)

Refi Fund sends girls to school, girls to school, girls to school. Refit fund sends girls to school and it sends women too.

It builds esteem and educates, educates, educates. It builds esteem and educates. Two things we like to do.

Let's help them out with State Project, State Project, State Project. Let's help them out with State Project, with gifts from me and you.

FROM THE EDITOR

Ladies,

I wanted to take a moment to apologize for the lateness of the TellHerGram. I rather unexpectedly had to have surgery on February 2nd and spent the early part of that week getting some things done in preparation to be sidelined for a little while. Thank you for your patience.

I have a couple of housekeeping items to share. I am having trouble getting on of Susan Stotts posters to copy and paste, so will try attaching it to this newsletter. If you don't get it, let me know and I will try again.

If you have any items for the next TellHerGram, please email them to me by **April 25th**. Let us all know what your association or church ladies are doing, especially anything that has worked for drawing ladies to join our groups.

Susan Nicholson
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