

- Ballot
- Flyer for September 13 District Meeting in Seward
- Needs for Della Lamb
- Annual Meeting Information

Inside this issue:

President	1
Spiritual Growth	2
Education and Interpretation	2
Treasurer	3
Secretary	3
Social Action	4
Nominations	4
Reading Program	5
Communications	6

Blue River Ripple

News From the President

Blue River District has held three district executive committee meetings this year. Following are the agenda items for the two meetings.

February 11, 2014

- Adoptive Unit List
- One day Mission u
- Assembly Update
- Update on Conference Leadership meeting in Concordia KS
- Update on UMC Annual meeting/ UMW Dinner
- Update on BR Spring Event

May 6, 2014

- One day Mission

u report

- Spring Event report
- BR Annual meeting update
- Assembly report from attendees
- Eunice Harrington Award nominee
- Adopt 2015 budget
- Nominations committee report

July 1, 2014

- BR Annual meeting update
- Nomination committee report
- Forms and Deadlines

- Blue River District -- Looking Forward

One other meeting will be held this year: November 18, 2014

Forms were discussed by Esther Hay who attended the July 1st meeting. She announced that units should use the Nebraska Conference Forms and send them to the Esther. She will make sure they get to the correct conference officer. At the July 11-12 UMW Great Plains Conference Executive meeting decisions will be made on new forms and they will be posted on the GP Conference website on the UMW link as soon as they have been created.

Meeting Updates

Much discussion occurred around the subject of how our structure will continue in the future in the Blue River District. Stay tuned and be sure to attend the Blue River Annual meeting in Seward to hear more about our journey

to continue to evaluate our structure at the district level. Your input matters and you will have the chance to let your voice be heard. This is an exciting time for UMW. Bring your ideas and help us move forward!

We had numerous women from the Blue River District attend the Assembly in Louisville, KY. The BR District officers that attended reported on their experiences at the May 6th meeting.



Eunice Harrington Award

The Blue River District Eunice Harrington Award nominee was Donna Dornbusch who is the Social Action Coordinator. We were very pleased that Donna was represented the Blue River District and she was recognized as a nominee at the UMC Annual Conference Meeting/UMW Dinner.

Vicki Leech
Blue River District President
5255 Goldenrod Circle
Lincoln Ne 68512-1301
wpqc5@windstream.net
402-420-5518

In Loving Memory



Report of Deceased Members - A memorial time will be included at the September 13 District meeting in Seward. If your Unit hasn't submitted the report, please do so as soon as possible. The form is attached and can be sent to Lynette Broderick, 2229 Alvo Road,

Seward, NE 68434 or email to Lynette.Broderick@connectseward.org with name(s) and date of death. We certainly hope to include all of our UMW saints, and count on you to help us have a complete roster. Thanks so much!
Lynette Broderick

Blue River District
Spiritual Growth
Coordinator
2229 Alvo Road
Seward Ne 68343
Lynette.Broderick@connectseward.org

Mission Report

Dear friends I am sure you have all been looking for the Mission Report form to fill out. I understand at this time that the top leaders are meeting on July 12 and will be discussing this. Hopefully we will get the final word about the Report.

It will cover until the end of 2014, so it won't have to be sent in until the end of the year. Bless you all for your patience.

Agnes Morris
Blue River District
Education and Interperation
5851 Wolff Ln
Lincoln NE 68521-1035
amorris4@neb.rr.com
402-742-3568



Deadlines from the Treasurer

In the first six months of 2014, the Blue River District has submitted 55% of our District Pledge for 2014. Please continue the timely contributions for the next six months and we should meet our pledge for this year. **Just remember that the last deadline for submitted your 2014 pledge is December 10, 2014.** Your organization's pledge for 2014 must be paid on or before the deadline in order

to qualify for the 5 and 7 Star Award in 2015. Any other monies that you want to be included in the 2014 calendar year must also be received on or before the December 10th deadline. Remember that the time frame for the 5 and 7 Star Awards in 2014 runs from July 1, 2013 through December 10, 2014. If you would like your unit's dedicated light to burn at the

District's annual meeting in September, this remittance must be received by September 1, 2014.

For the 7/1/13 through 6/30/14 time period, the units have requested 35 Dedicated Light minutes and 35 Special Mission Recognition Pins so far. If your unit has achieved the 5-Star or 7-Star award by September, the Ribbons Award and the Dedicated Light Certificates will be in your



Corsages for Missions and Gift to Mission Cards

UMW Organizations packets at our District Annual Meeting (if you have not already received the certificate in the mail). The District Annual Meeting will be held on September 13, 2014 at Seward United Methodist Church.

I will have Corsages for Missions and Gift to Mission Cards available for sale at our District Annual Meeting. If you have a large order, please call or email in advance so I can have your order ready for you. Hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on September 13th.

Any questions? Please call or email me.

Carol Wilhelm –
Blue River District
Treasurer

P. O. Box 247
Elmwood, NE 68349
402-310-6627 (cell)
cgewiss@gmail.com



Notes from the Secretary

I am looking forward to preparing the Blue River District 2015 Directory, but I will need the help of every unit if I am to make it the best possible resource for connecting UMW members across the district. The goal is to have copies available for each unit at our District Annual Meeting in

September, and the only way I can do that is to have 2015 unit leadership lists by no later than September 5. You will find the form for reporting your officers. Completed forms may be sent to me via email at JoyceGettman@blue-river.org or by mailing to

Joyce Gettman
18800 Midway Rd.,
Walton, NE 68461.
Joyce Gettman
Blue River District
Secretary



Social Action



"If you want peace, work for justice" said a bumper sticker on the car in front of me as I stopped for a red light. For the next several blocks as I followed the car, I wondered if the person inside was a member of the United Methodist Church or some other denomination. What justice issues did this person espouse or work towards? If not Methodist, were those justice issues similar to ours?

Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) the car turned in another direction so I wasn't able to jump out of my car and ask those questions at the next stop light.

As we educate ourselves on the broad social issues designated by the United Methodist Women (environmental justice; economic justice, including human trafficking and poverty; health care; and immigrant/civil rights) we then stand

prepared to work for changes in our neighborhoods, communities, states, nation, and throughout the world.

Jesus' mission was undoubtedly a controversial one. It was a challenge to the social order. He aligned himself with the captive, the blind, the oppressed, the poor, the widowed, and the weak. John Wesley placed strong emphasis upon the Christian life as a combination of faith and love put into practice. In the



Takes Effort

United Methodist Book of Discipline, is one of the best known Wesleyan phrases, "There is no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness."

As we put together the agenda and programs for our units in the coming year, study what your unit is doing to build a just world. Are you edu-

cating yourselves on the social issues embraced by UMW? Are your members attending the Blue River District meeting in Seward September 13 and the Annual Great Plains UMW Conference in Lincoln October 17 and 18 at St Paul United Methodist Church to learn more about the social issues facing our

world today? Are you standing up and speaking out for justice? Think about the bumper sticker "If you want peace, work for justice."

Donna Dornbusch
Blue River District
Social Action Coordinator



Time to Vote

The new conference charges us with the task of organizing ourselves in ways that best fulfill our PURPOSE as United Methodist Women. Dialogue is the beginning and will shape the focus that will emerge in the next couple of years, and dialogue has begun. Whenever you have an

opportunity I hope you join in the dialogue. We are United Methodist Women and we do make a difference.

While some positions are filled for 2015, we still have openings for next year's executive board. Right now, there is good news in the fact that we are reaching out to

churches in Lincoln who do not have their own active UMW units, and are hopeful that the women in these churches will take a leap of faith and decide they want to learn more about us. If the phone tag ends, we may have an answer soon.

Say YES to an office!

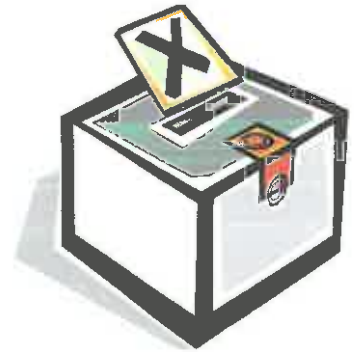
In the meantime, there is great urgency in getting these nominations filled as a deadline is rapidly approaching. While efforts will continue on the committee's part, please speak up if you know of any women who may want to serve. You may contact members of the nominating committee listed below:

- Carol King
402-435-7050

- Bev Gish
402-946-4891
- Lavina Schwaninger
402-787-2265
- Pat Grimes
402-761-2823
- Rayma Delaney
402-464-0325

Carol King
Nominations Chair
402-435-7050

(See the ballot as an insert in the newsletter.)



“Good Old Summertime”

It's the “good Old Summertime”! Has it been a busy summer for you as well? I'm enjoying it, however.

Praise to all of you who sent your names to me for the books read during the 2013-2014 Reading Program. I even received some back from groups who didn't have

readers. Congratulations to all of you that completed a Plan. In the event you didn't get your list to me yet please send soon so it can be listed in the program booklet at the Fall Event on September 13, 2014. Remember reading is one of God's great gifts. I've learned a lot about

the plight of others and understand other cultures by reading even a short list. Please continue to encourage persons to read even if they are not participating in the Reading Program. The Recognition certificates will be in the packets that will be picked up at the Blue River District



Reading is a Gift From God

Meeting in Seward. Please be sure to let me know in the event the certificates do not reach you.

Keep in mind that there will be a shorter time this session, June 1 to December 31, 2014. Then we will begin the next session on January 1—December 31, 2015.

The Great Plains Conference has asked us to change to the calendar year so the Districts will all have the same time frame. Please plan to send your lists to me once again by February 1, 2015.

The 2015 reading lists and books should be available at the District

Meeting as well. I'm looking forward to seeing

Many of you in the Reading Room at this event. Let's talk about the books we liked best and encourage each other
Ellie Quiring
Program Resource
ellieq2@yahoo.com
608 S 25th Beatrice Ne 68310
402-223-1477



Blue River District UMW

Denise Larsen
902 S 25th ST
Beatrice NE 68310

Phone 402-223-9203

E-mail: umwblueripple@gmail.com

*Our Journey to
Wholeness*

www.greatplainsumc.org/umw



Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BEATRICE, NE
PERMIT #208

Address Changes and Blue River News Flash

Please be sure and send, call or email your address changes to Joyce Gettman and me. After sending out the last Ripple, I received 19 back with change on the address since today. More may be coming. I will be in the Reading Room at the District Meeting in Seward if you would like to change your address, check to see if I have your address, check on the status of your email, or sign up for next years Ripple mailing list.

Please note that there are not a lot of forms yet. We are waiting for the Conference to decide how they would like the forms. Please make sure that

someone from your Organization has an email address so we can get the information to them quickly when we receive it.

Blue River News Flashes will be sent as soon as possible. Please make sure to send them seven to ten days before you want them published. If you do not hear back from me in two days please call me to make sure I got the email.

Email:
umwblueripple@gmail.com
Phone
402-223-9203

Denise Larsen
Blue River District
Communications Coordinator
902 S 25th St
Beatrice Ne 68310
umwblueripple@gmail.com
402-223-9203

NOMINATIONS

2015 Blue River District Mission Team 2015 Leadership Ballot

Vice-President

Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture & Outreach
Jan Hauser (Raymond UMC)
11505 N. 14th St., Raymond, NE 68428

janmhouser@gmail.com
402-438-9103

Mission Coordinator for Social Action
Stacey Brandenburg
9118 W. Middle Rd., Raymond, NE 68428

brandenburgs@yahoo.com
402-783-2106

Committee on Nominations 2016
Sarah Shively
127 S. 1st St., Seward, NE 68434

eggbee32@yahoo.com
402-643-3036

Committee on Nominations

Committee on Nominations

Previously Elected Leadership

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Communication Coordinator
Mission Coordinator for Program Resources
Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth
Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation
Chairperson of Nominations Committee 2015
Committee on Nominations 2014
Committee on Nominations 2014
Committee on Nominations 2016
Committee on Nominations 2017

Vickie Leech, Lincoln
Joyce Gettman, Walton
Carol Wilhelm, Elmwood
Denise Larsen, Beatrice
Ellie Quiring, Beatrice
Lynette Broderick, Seward
Agnes Morris, Lincoln
Carol King, Lincoln
Lavina Schwaniger, Martell
Bev Gish, Dorchester
Pat Grimes, Milford
Rayma Delaney, Lincoln

Unit Report of Deceased Members

July 1, 2013—June 30, 2014

Name of Local Unit _____

Person Completing Form _____

Mailing Address _____

City/ST/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check here if you have no Deceased members this year
(July 1, 13 –June 30, 14_Please list your deceased mem-
bers below

Name of Deceased Member	Date of Death

Mail to: Lynette Broderick
2229 Alvo Seward NE 68434 or Lynette.Broderick@connectseward.com

2014 Local Organization Officer Report Form

Please return this form to *your District Secretary* by September 5, 2014.

PLEASE PRINT! Thank you! ☺

Joyce Gettman
8800 Midway Rd
Walton NE 68461-9632
jgettman@windstream.net

Unit Name _____ Church Name _____
No. of Members _____ Mailing Address _____
Day of Unit Meeting _____ Town & Zip+4 _____
Time of Unit Meeting _____ Church Phone _____

- Officers -

President – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Vice President – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Secretary – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Treasurer – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Required Office / Information

(over)

- Mission Coordinators - PLEASE PRINT! Thank you ☺

Spiritual Growth Coordinator – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Social Action Coordinator – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Education & Interpretation Coordinator – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Secretary of Program Resources – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Chairperson of Nominations – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Clergy – Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Town & Zip+4 _____

E-Mail Address _____ Phone _____

Required Office / Information

Blue River District
United Methodist Women

Eighth Annual Meeting

Seward United Methodist Church

1400 N. 5th St., Seward

Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014

Keynote Speaker
Judy McGonigle Akers
 Executive Vice President
 Della Lamb Community Services
 Kansas City, MO

Registration & Coffee at 9:30
Meeting begins at 10:00
Pre-paid lunch
Closing at 3:00

Mark 6:37
 But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."

Directions to Seward UMC

From Highway 15
 Turn east on Northern Heights (which is in the north part of town.)
 Will see the High School.
 Go 1 block east to 5th St.
 Go 1 block south on 5th St.
 The church is on the east side of 5th Street.

Holy Communion * Election of Officers
 Praise Music * Displays
 UMM & Epworth Village Updates
 Program Resources * Training and Brainstorming



On a Path for Mission



Reservation Form

Blue River District Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 13th

Lunch Reservation must be prepaid - \$6.00 per person – generously prepared by Seward UMW.

Make checks payable to Blue River District UMW. Send check and names by Wednesday, September 3rd. Attn: United Methodist Women, Seward United Methodist Church, 1400 N.5th St. Seward, NE 68434.

For questions or more information, contact Ann Cerveny, anncerveny@yahoo.com, 402-440-2420.

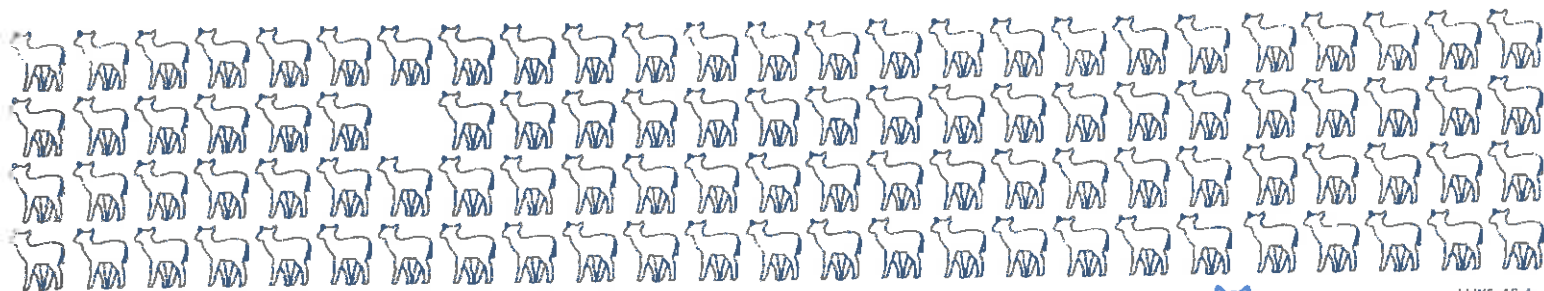
* * * * *

This is how we *MAKE IT HAPPEN* for Mission.

Training and Brainstorming. For a short afternoon session, please check one box that matches your interest or activity. (You do not need to be an officer.)

- President**
- Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- Journey In Faith** – a focus on organizing retreats, providing resources for Bible Studies, devotions, etc.
- Journey In Action** – a focus on social/racial justice issues, advocacy, prison ministries, service work days, Legislative Days, participation on ways to change the world.
- Journey In Growth** – a focus on innovative ways of “telling our story” as we reach out to new members
- Journey In Learning** – a focus on Mission u at all levels, the Reading Program, assist local United Methodist Women understand our history, finances, mission at all levels.
- Journey In Planning**—a focus on special events planning such as Annual Meeting and other conference events and be a resource for district and local events.
- Journey In Giving**—a focus on the financial mission giving, National Mission Institutions and stewardship.

We'll be learning more about our Great Plains UMW Conference's creative and innovative structure.



LUKF 15:4

ONGOING NEEDS

DELLA LAMB COMMUNITY SERVICES is a United Way, United Methodist Church, sponsored 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation; serving low-income Kansas Citizens of all ages since 1897 with programming designed to meet immediate need and to prepare clients to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.



500 Woodland Ave., Kansas City, MO 64106-9908
(816) 842-8040 Fax (816) 842-7727

www.dellalamb.org

"Serving Low-Income Kansas Citizens since 1897"

DLCS is sponsored by the United Methodist Women, National Office, as an NMI National Mission Institution of the United Methodist Church, and is among the top-10 largest of 101 NMI's throughout the U.S. 2,000+ Low-Income Families are Served Daily through Della Lamb services.

MISSION - *DLCS exists to empower its clients to meet the Challenges of Education, Employment, and Self-Sufficiency, in an ever-changing world.*

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GROCERY NEEDS

100+ Families served per Month; Items Needed Each Month

Personal Hygiene Items

- Toothpaste
- Kleenex
- Deodorant
- Sanitary Napkins
- Bath Soap
- Baby Wipes
- Shampoo
- Diapers
- Laundry Soap
- Adult Multi-Vitamins
- Dishwashing Soap
- Children's Multi-Vitamins

Groceries

- Peanut Butter
- Canned or Fresh Vegetables
- Canned Chicken
- Canned or Fresh Fruits
- Canned Tuna
- Pasta / Rice
- Instant Potatoes
- Frozen Chicken
- *Financial gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

YOUTH RECREATIONAL ARTS & CRAFTS PROGRAM

400-450 Children Daily

- Glue
- Crayons
- Glitter
- Scissors
- Paint
- Markers
- Paint Brushes
- Pipe Cleaners
- Construction Paper
- Wooden Craft Sticks
- Drawing Paper
- Egg Cartons
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

YOUTH PROGRAMS

1,200+ Youth served per Year; 200-350+ Youth Per Sport

New and Used Equipment Needed

- Baseballs
- Volleyballs
- Baseball Gloves
- Soccer Balls
- Baseball Uniforms
- Golf Balls
- Footballs
- Golf Clubs
- Football Shoulder Pads
- Tennis Balls
- Football Helmets
- Tennis Rackets
- Football Uniforms
- Skates
- Pitching Machine
- Basketballs
- Basketball Uniforms
- Batting Tee
- *Financial gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

EARLY EDUCATIONAL CHILD CARE PRGM

75 Children served Daily, Ages 6-weeks to 5-years

- Fat Crayons
- Glitter
- Fat Pencils
- Paint
- Fat Paint Brushes
- Glue
- Construction Paper
- Finger-Paint
- Finger-Paint paper
- Blankets 40" x 50"
- Children's Storybooks
- Sheets for Infants
- Children's Clothing
- Sheets for Pre-K
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM**135+ Refugees served Daily**

- Furniture (sofa, dinette-table/chrs, bed-frames)
- Grooming items (bath soap, deodorant, toothbrush/toothpaste, etc)

- Household items (dishes; pots/pans; linens - bath/bed; cleaning supplies)
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

YOUTH CAMPING PROGRAMS**450+ Children Served; Items Needed by May**

- Toothpaste
 - Toothbrush
 - Deodorant
 - Bath Bar Soap
 - Shampoo
 - Children's Vitamins
 - Playground Balls
 - Children's Books
 - Children's Games
 - Children's Swimsuits
 - Children's Short-Sets
 - Puzzle Books
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS**100-150 Adults Served Daily**

- English Dictionary
 - Spanish Dictionary
 - French Dictionary
 - Arabic Dictionary
 - Vietnamese Dictionary
 - Bibles (easy to read)
 - Biographies (easy to read)
 - Bath Soap
 - Toothpaste
 - Shampoo
 - Thesaurus
 - School Supplies
 - Pens
 - Notebooks
 - Children's Books
 - Parenting Books
 - Grooming Items
 - Toothbrushes
 - Deodorant
 - Laundry Soap
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

OPERATION BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**1,300+ Children Served – New Items Needed Aug-5**

- Rulers
 - Backpacks
 - Fat Pencils
 - #2 Pencils
 - 24- Pack Crayons
 - Blunt Scissors
 - Sharp Scissors
 - Big Chief Tablets
 - 3 Ring Notebook Paper
 - 3 Ring Notebook
 - Combination Lock
 - Geometric Compasses
 - Geometric Protractors
 - New Underwear / 3 Pair
 - New Socks / 3 Pair
 - New Sweat-suit
 - Kleenex
 - Toothpaste
 - Toothbrush
 - Bath Soap
 - Shampoo
 - Deodorant
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated*

OPERATION THANKSGIVING PROGRAM**1,700+ Families Served – Items Needed Nov-1**

- 14-lb Frozen Turkey
 - Canned Cranberry Sauce
 - Potatoes
 - Turkey Gravy Mix
 - Stuffing Mix
 - Chocolate Cake Mix
 - Chocolate Frosting Mix
 - Canned Corn
 - Green Beans
 - Canned Apple/Cherry Pie Filling
 - Pie-Crust Mix
 - 1 Dozen Eggs
 - 1 lb Butter
 - Other Staples
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

OPERATION SANTA CLAUS PROGRAM**1,700+ Families served; New Items Needed Dec-1
2,800+ Children**

- New Toys; All Ages; Boys / Girls
 - New Children's Sweat-suits
 - New Children's Underwear
 - New Children's Socks
 - New Gloves – all sizes Children and Adults
 - New Hats – all sizes Children and Adults
 - New Children's Storybooks
 - New Adult Gifts for Moms / Dads / Elderly
 - Filled Santa Stockings
 - Holiday Gift-wrap
 - 14-lb Frozen Turkey
 - Holiday Groceries Identical to Operation Thanksgiving
 - New Blankets
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*

OTHER CHRISTMAS NEEDS**600+ Elementary Children Served; 75 Infant – Pre K Children
125+ Adults; 100 Sr Citizens; New Items Needed Dec-10**

- New Toys – 40 Infant / Toddlers 6 weeks to 2 years
 - New Toys – 75 Pre-K Children 2 years to 5 years
 - New Toys – 600+ School-Age Children 5-years to 14-years
 - Filled Santa Stockings 40 Infant / Toddlers
 - Filled Santa Stockings 75 Pre-K Children
 - Filled Santa Stockings 600+ School-Aged Children
 - New Adult Gifts for 200 Adult Education Students
 - Filled Santa Stockings for 125 Adult Education Students
 - New Adult Gifts for 100 Senior Citizens
 - New Elderly Gifts for 100 Homebound
 - Filled Santa Stockings for 100 Homebound
- *Financial Gifts to help purchase items not donated.*



Done

2014 Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting and Celebration Announcement

Lisa Maupin <lisamumw@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Lisa Maupin <lisamumw@gmail.com>
To: umwblueripple@gmail.com

Tue, Aug 5, 2014 at 11:46 AM

[View this email in your browser](#)



Great Plains UMW E-Blast Announcement
Are You Excited? We Are!
The 2014 Great Plains UMW Annual
Meeting and Celebration is a Can't Miss
Event

2014 Is All About Putting the Pieces Together at the Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting Celebration

The Great Plains United Methodist Women are pleased to announce that Jorge Lockward, Director of Global Praise at the General Board of Global Ministries as the keynote speaker at the 2014 Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting and Celebration. The event will occur October 17-18, 2014 at Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Lincoln, NE. Registration

begins at 10 am on Friday with opening celebration and worship beginning at 1 pm.

The theme of the event is "Putting the Pieces Together" and Lockward will utilize his skills in weaving learning, listening and experiences into creating a worship environment that embraces our past, present and future. He will be leading worship, workshops and a plenary session that will allow participants to experience and learn new ways to build a worship setting that connects spirituality to cultural awareness and mission and justice initiatives around the world. Many United Methodists would recognize Lockward's work as a worship leader at National UMW Assembly, General Conference and Missionary Commissioning services.

The Annual Meeting and Celebration will also include opportunities to learn about mission and justice initiatives currently being addressed by the United Methodist Church, resources for spiritual growth and leadership training. District officers should plan on attending training for their offices as part of the event.

The In-Kind/In-Gathering project for the Annual Meeting and Celebration will be UMCOR Birthing Kits. The gathering of kits is part of the Great Plains UMW commitment to the new UMW initiative on maternal health. Birthing kits are one of the least collected kits at the UMCOR depot and makes a dramatic difference in making healthy and safe births around the world a reality. A goal of 2014 kits collected by the Great Plains UMW membership has been set. Local organizations and districts are encouraged to bring their collected birthing kits to the meeting.

Everyone is invited to attend this event. It is open to all United Methodist Women, clergy and church lay members. This is a great opportunity to learn new ways to invigorate the worship environment in congregations and methods to incorporate worship in all aspects of spiritual life.

To make things simple and easy, attendees are encouraged to register online for the event utilizing the links below. Conference and District Officers must use the link that says "Conference and District Officers Only." A paper registration is available on the website.

[Registration for 2014 Annual Meeting and Celebration](#)

[Registration for Conference and District Officers Only](#)

SPREAD THE WORD! Share this email with your friends, district and local organization. Let's make the first Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting and Celebration a packed house filled with energy, fellowship, learning, prayer and action!

For more information about the meeting, promotional materials and hotel information visit the Great Plains United Methodist Women website at **www.greatplainsumc.org/2014annualmeetingcelebration**.