

SIGNAL FOR HAYS DISTRICT UMW FEB. 2022

PRESIDENT - Cheryl Metcalf, President

My personal information: Sid and I have been married for 55 years. We now live in Oberlin, but lived on the family farm, NE of town, for 40 years. We have three sons: Shannon, who lives and manages the farm. He has 2 boys, Aden and Axel, 10 & 9 who live in McCook with their mom, but they spend a great deal of time with dad. Second son Shad and Jody live in Colby and he is manager of "Pathways AG" and Jody is an elementary school Counselor. Their children are Bryson, a K-State sophomore, Seanna, a Colby HS Senior, and Jude, who is 6th grade. Our third son, Chris lives in Austin, TX and owns several businesses including irrigation systems and deck and driveway lighting. He is married to Nina, a medical receptionist, and his step-daughter, Madolyn just graduated from HS last May. She plans to attend a Junior College soon.

I have taught Piano and Organ for 45 years, and still enjoy doing that! I am Organist/Pianist for the Methodist Church, and recently have filled in once a month with the Faith Lutheran Church, as their organist at 84 wanted to retire. I am so grateful that one of my former students now shares the church pianist duties. This year I have 17 students, some home schooled, which makes scheduling much easier! I belong to the PEO Sisterhood and Oberlin UMW, and have served offices in both through the years.

I have two sisters that live in the area, and love to attend their grandchildren's sports activities, as well as my grandchildren. Seanna belongs to HS Dance Team and they recently performed at the AutoZone/Liberty Bowl game in Memphis, TN. I love K-State Football, and hope to attend a game in 2022. Jude, Aden and Axel play football and basketball, and have tried to make it to some of their elementary games as well.

A former UMW Hays District Officer, Judy Davis, passed away in Norton in December. Her Celebration of Life will be held February 12, at 10:30, at the Norton Methodist Church.

VICE-PRESIDENT Greetings from Hays District Vice-President, Teresa Albert.

My husband, Tim and I have been married nearly 54 years and made Smith Center our home. We have two daughters, their husbands and 5 grandchildren ages 14-23. I served on the Concordia Dist. UMW for 2 yrs. as Youth Activities Chair and 7 years in Hays Dist. on Nominations, Standing Rules and Vice-President.

I hope everyone who attended our Annual District meeting in Atwood enjoyed the day. Most expressed happiness in the face-to-face fellowship again. It was nice to visit at our tables and share ideas.

The Atwood ladies did an outstanding job of hosting and accommodating our needs. I appreciated the schedule, songs and responses on screen, especially since I failed to print enough programs. We had 43 in attendance. Our In-gathering was for Camp Lakeside. Our speaker was unable to be there as her father had passed away and she was unable to find someone to fill in for her. If you have never seen Camp Lakeside, join us April 7&8 for Spiritual Retreat. It is an uplifting experience in a lovely, peaceful setting.

This year's District meeting will be in Quinter on October 8. We will need a unit to host in 2023. Please consider hosting. You can find a list of responsibilities in the Annual Directory in Standing Rules section or contact me with any questions.

Don't forget to check the Directory for your Connecting Link and invite her to join a meeting. I would appreciate having a copy of your program books to share ideas and display at the fall meeting.

Take care and stay well.

Teresa Albert

HAYS DISTRICT UMW 2022 OFFICERS

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OPEN

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SECRETARY

Please check your 2022 Hays District Directories that were either hand delivered to you by a district officer or mailed to your president. If you have not received your copy please contact me. If you find information that needs to be updated please let me know. Following are the corrected listings of the Connecting Links:

CONNECTING LINKS – SHEPHERDESS

Cheryl Metcalf	Jennings, St. Francis
Teresa Albert	Bunker Hill, Hays
Janae Tuttle	Norton, Hoxie
Deanna Castle	Colby, Atwood
Coralee Thornburg	Otis
Phyllis Stull	Ellis, Bison
Deanna Nech	Long Island
Dolores Romeiser	Ness City
Janet Reynolds	Paradise
Kathy Koehn	Sharon Springs
Deanne Ficken	Utica, Healy
Dawn Thomas	Smith Center
Roberta Schlaefli	Kirwin, Lebanon
DeAnna James	Downs, Osborne
Glenda Rothchild	Alton
Crystal Stapleton	Hill City, Stockton
Susie Buckley	Quinter
Margaret Thomas	Oberlin
Carolyn May	Goodland

TREASURER Hello Local UMW!

I hope each of you have had a wonderful start to 2022. Having survived Covid twice I am alright with being finished with 2021!

I want to welcome any new Treasurers to the local units. I would appreciate it if any new ones would contact me with your information including email address and phone # best to contact you. I also want to thank the treasurers I worked with this past year for your patience with me as I am learning this position. I know that the team in each unit is a great bunch of ladies that truly have mission in their hearts and are willing to put in the time and effort to make things happen! That's what United Methodist Women do.

Please remember to send me a copy of your 2021 Audit when it is completed. Just a reminder to plan to work toward your 5-Star or 7-Star status this year. It was another "off" year because of Covid, so we again did not meet our Hays District pledge to Conference, but hopefully 2022 is going to be better. I am still missing a few 2022 Pledge amounts from some units so will be emailing reminders out to those which I have not heard from. For those units that did not order a SMR (Special Mission Recognition) pin this past year, we have a new provider and they do not send a certificate along with the pin as in the past. We do have a template available for each unit to download and use if desired or another option available is to contact Janet Mainor at jmainor@unitedmethodistwomen.org and she will mail blank ones to you. Just let me know if you want further information when the time comes.

I hope each of your units have received your Hays District Directory, a wonderful resource. Connect with me or the other District officers for help and information about whatever questions you may have. The upcoming events for the year are on the Conference website www.greatplainsumc.org/umw Check them out! Don't forget another great source of connection is our Hays District UMW Facebook page.

Our annual Spiritual Growth Retreat will be held April 8-9 at Camp Lakeside. I hope many of you will be able to attend. This has always been a truly blessed time of renewal. It is lots of great fellowship and always incredible food. If you have not been, please consider attending this year to get to know better some of the amazing women that are Hays District UMW as well as to make or renew acquaintances in the Dodge City District.

In His Service,

Deanna Castle, Hays District Treasurer 785-475-7253, dmc7432@msn.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH In Colossians 4:2 - Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with Thanksgiving Everyday as we continue our work in Hays District, let us always be reminded of the greatness shown to each one of us. We have our ups and downs, but help us remember that God is with us all of the way.

Hays District makes it extra special for each of us. We can fellowship with each other and know God is guiding us all of the way. As you know happiness is part of the goodness God has shown us.

Covid has certainly kept us distancing, but we know God cares about us and will provide.

Let's remember, doing our best in UMW, praying for others, and keeping your faith, will make a big difference in this world.

We are scheduled for our Retreat at Camp Lakeside on April 8-9. Our theme is "Fill My Cup" by Billy Blaire. We will have great food, snacks, singing, laughing, and learning about our faith to the Lord.

A registration form is included in this Signal. Please share it with your local unit members. There will be another group at the camp that week-end, so keep that in mind. Put this date on your calendar, come, and be renewed.

Spiritual Growth Leader of Hays District

Coralee Thornburg, 785-731-6728

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, OUTREACH New Year Greetings,

Are you ready for a fresh start? It's always refreshing to leave an old year behind and look forward to a new year with hope. 2021 wasn't an ideal year by any means but in looking back there were numerous blessings. Most units were able to keep in touch one way or another but we all have missed being able to meet together in larger numbers. Hopefully this situation will improve. In going over the membership numbers there is a marked decline because our older population is decreasing and we are still looking for ways to attract younger members.

After our executive meeting at the end of January I will be able to send out information about deadlines for reporting memberships—good news, there is not a survey to be filled out!

Since we haven't been able to see one another in person for awhile it was suggested that we write a "blurb" reintroducing ourselves. I live in Ness City with my husband Richard of 39 years and a 4 year old Shih Tzu who responds to Lucas when he feels so inclined. I have been retired from being a school counselor for eleven years. I have always enjoyed being a part of United Methodist Women groups and getting acquainted with so many wonderful ladies; that also includes my duties as the Growth designee for the Hays District. I'm looking forward to hearing from all of you in this new year.

Blessings,

Phyllis Stull

SOCIAL ACTION

Deanna Nech—Social Action

Board members were asked to tell a little bit about ourselves so that new members could get to know us. I am a retired English and social studies teacher who taught 34 years at Smith Center and six more at Phillipsburg. I live in Kensington, so I just had to train my car to drive west rather than east. My husband Bruce and I have two adult children, a daughter-in-law, three grandchildren, a dog, and two granddogs. I enjoy reading, but I probably listen to more books than I read in print. Great for multitasking! I love to bake a little too much, and I enjoy knitting, and of course, spending time with family. The past two years have been challenging, but I try to remind myself that life is a precious gift, and that growing old is a privilege denied to many.

UMW campaigns for 2022 focus on Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration, which is a somewhat wordy way of saying that we need to treat our physical world and our fellow human beings, especially those who are denied a good life on the basis of color, with kindness and care, and awareness of what needs to change. I found this Bible study on the United Methodist website and thought it was worth sharing. An idea for a circle lesson or mission moment:

Choose Life:

A Bible Study on Sustainability

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live.”

~Moses-Deuteronomy 30:19

Intriguingly, Moses had just retold the history of the Israelite people, and throughout the Book of Deuteronomy repeats over and over warning and cautions about their need to remember the God who had brought them up from the land of slavery. He repeats over and over that the Israelites must Love the Lord their God with all their heart, mind and strength and Love their neighbors as themselves. He warns the Israelites that when they cross over into the “promised land” of Israel from the wilderness, they will be tempted to forget the sustenance that God has been for them in their poverty. He retells their history in deep ways — the water from the rock, the hoarfrost from heaven — and warns them that when they enter the Promised Land, they might begin to consume too much, and will, if they’re not careful, create idols. He told them as long as they made sure these two principles (Love God and Love neighbor) were part of everything they were about, it would go well for them and their grandchildren.

This verse:

“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live”

is almost the last sentence before he dies. The rest of the book is his “farewell address.”

Reflection Questions:

As you think through U.S. history, where are the obvious points that come up where we loved something more than our neighbors?

What did we love?

Where is our love of something other than our God and our neighbor still happening?

What are the consequences?

As you think about our present day, what are our idols?

What damage have those idols done to the earth and her people?

In order to Love God and Love neighbor as ourselves, what spiritual disciplines do we need to have deep in our practices?

How have your United Methodist Women friends and family been a support system for you as you struggle to love God and love your neighbor (along with God's creation and your neighbor's environment)?

Can your United Methodist Women friends and family become a better support system for an upswing in care for neighbor, God and the created order that sustains us?

Kansas Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF) will be held February 20 and 21. It will be virtual at no cost to you. A flyer about it and how to register is online at the Great Plains Conference UMW site.

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

A reminder to all local units that the Mission Do forms for the past year's activities are to be sent in by January 15 BUT if you haven't sent yours in you can still send it. The form can be found on the Great Plains UMC website under the United Methodist Women's pages.

Dolores Romeiser

PROGRAM RESOURCES

All information on the reading program is online now. You can locate information and book title listings at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram. The report due to from the previous year's reading can be found at www.greatplainsumc.org under the Women's page. Please send that ASAP.

Janet Reynolds

COMMUNICATIONS

Kathy Koehn here. I live in Quinter, KS with my husband Ron of 47 years. We have 3 grown children, all married that have blessed us with 2 daughters-in-laws, a son-in-law, 8 grandchildren, a granddaughter-in-law soon to be and a great granddaughter! We are both retired and spend lots of time with family here, at their homes and in Colorado where we like to spend the summers. I'm a former teacher, veterinarian assistant, and phone tech for a computer company. I currently "work" as Lay Leader in our local church, Lay Speaker in the UMC, Local UMW Vice-President and Co-Chr Treasurer, Hays District Communications and just recently became a member of the Great Plains UMW Nominations team. I enjoy all types of crafts, gardening, reading, cooking and spending time with family. My 98 year old mother lives nearby in an independent living facility in Quinter and a large amount of my time is spent with her.

The Signal is one of my responsibilities as communications on the district level. Currently it will be located on the Great Plains website under the women's page – Hays District – Newsletters. Plans are to publish by Feb. 15, May 15 and Aug. 15. Once it is actually put on the website by conference personnel, I will send a postcard and email to each unit with instructions on how to locate it. If your unit needs a physical copy mailed to you please contact me for those arrangements.

If any local unit ever has information regarding a meeting or activity you feel would be of interest to the other local units in our district please send it to me for publication in the Signal. Just know that the Signal deadline for each of those dates is the 15th of the month prior to allow consolidation of the articles and conference to get the Signal posted.

(Since I'm on the Conference Nominations Team keep me in mind when looking around at your unit – or yourself – for those wishing to take a position at conference level.)

Kathy Koehn

HISTORIAN

Louise Schultz held this position for over 20 years and the collection of her books will be on display at the Hays District Annual Meeting Oct. 8 in Quinter. Any local units wishing to bring books of their history are welcome to do so. Please remember to get a copy of your local unit's program book for the year 2022 to Teresa Albert.

NOMINATIONS My name is DeAnna James. I am co-chair of the Nominations Committee. I have served at the District level for 5 years. My job is filling offices that become vacant by a term ending or other reasons. This can be a difficult job at times and that is why I appreciate the great help of my co-chair Glenda Rothchild. It is great working with her. Here's a little bit about me. I am a mother of 2 and grandmother of 3. I am from southwest IA and have lived in KS for 30 years. I am currently employed at Logan Manor in Logan, KS in the housekeeping/laundry dept. I have worked there for 7 years. Jeremiah 29:11 is my favorite verse, because he always has a plan for us every day.

DeAnna James

Nominations Committee

Here's a way to get in touch with ladies in the Hays District UMW**

— Go to Hays District UMW Facebook page and click join

NOMINATIONS NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

My husband and I live in Smith Center. We are parents to two grown children and a blessed Nana and Papa to seven. I am a retired elementary teacher. I stay busy substitute teaching, camping, traveling and reading. I am a long time member of our local UMW, and play the piano when needed at church. Susie Buckley

Pray for others in Gratitude

Great Plains Standing Rules Committee Chair, Carolyn May

The Standing Rules were updated and approved at the Annual Meeting last Fall. There were also changes made to the Addendum to the Standing Rules and the Policies and Procedures. Those documents are found online at the Great Plains Conference UMW site. Please contact me if you have questions.

Great Plains Conference Winter UMW Leadership meeting, Carolyn May

The Conference UMW Leadership Meeting was held on January 15. A few updates are:

Conference Pledge: The Great Plains Conference UMW paid 110% of our pledge. Only 79% of the pledge was collected from the districts. The other percentage was taken from the funds not used in 2021 because of Covid (i.e., virtual meetings in place of face-to-face meetings).

Kansas Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF) will be held February 20 and 21. It will be virtual at no cost to you. A flyer about it and how to register is online at the Great Plains Conference UMW site.

METour: Because of Covid, it has been decided there NOT will be a METour again this year. The concern is for the safety of the girls since they would be in close quarters.

Mission u: Because of Covid, it has not been decided how Mission u will be taught. Check online for updates.

Prayer Calendar: Save your 2021 or prior prayer calendar for contact information of those you may wish to celebrate their birthdays, etc. The 2022 Prayer Calendar left out addresses. Mary Ellen

Kilmer, Deaconess from Nebraska, encouraged UMW members to show support to persons listed in the prayer calendar through email correspondence.

Census Report: There will be no census report requested for 2021 at conference level

Margaret Thomas and I attended this meeting via Zoom from the Hays District. Please contact either of us if you have questions or comments.

Local Unit News

Quinter UMW will be hosting a ladies Friendship Tea Sunday, March 13, 2022 at the Quinter UMC at 3 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Lisa McGrath, Hays, and author of one of the 2021 Reading Program books – “The JOurneY Between US: My Faith Walk: Overcoming Grief to Finding JOY in the JOurneY” which is in the Spiritual Growth category. Please join us if you are able.

2022 Calendar of events for Hays District UMW:

Feb. 12: Norton UMC Celebration of life for Judy Davis

Feb. 15: Reading Reports due to Program Resources Janet Reynolds

Feb. 21-22 L.E.A.F Virtual online – register online at Great Plains Conference UMW site

March 30: Local Unit Membership Census Report due to Phyllis Stull

April 8-9: Spiritual Growth at Camp Lakeside. Registration forms included in this issue of Signal

METour: Cancelled for 2022 due to continuing COVID 19 concerns – check conference website

Mission u: TBA how it will be taught. Check online for updates

Oct. 1: List of Local Officers from Local Unit Secretaries due to Janae Tuttle, District Sec. **PLEASE**

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

Oct. 8: Hays District Annual Meeting at Quinter

Spiritual Growth Retreat Information and Registration

Camp Lakeside United Methodist Center – North of Scott City on HWY 83

April 8-9, 2022 Hays District - Hosting Dodge District – Guests

Billy Blair, Leader “Fill My Cup”

Billie Blair, retired United Methodist Clergy women, graduated from Kansas Wesleyan in 1995 with degrees in Religion and Christian Education. She received her Masters of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL in 1998. She also trained with the Institute of Spiritual Companionship, received a Certification in Spiritual Formation from the UMC, and was certified as a Soul Collage R facilitator.

Billie grew up in Topeka, then lived in Salina from 1976-1995. She was a member of Salina FUMC from 1981-1995. She has been a telephone operator, cake decorator, inventory taker, jewelry engraver, and a bookkeeper, among other occupations in both Topeka and Salina. She considers herself a "Jill of all trades."

Billie was the founder and director of Tallgrass Spiritual Retreat Center, located near Matfield Green, Ks for 12 years. She also served Derby Madison Ave. UMC, Attica UMC, and Lecompton UMC. Her daughter Andi Dale, lives in Protection, Ks. with her husband, Kurt. Billie has three darling grand girls, Allison Groco (22), Natalie Joy (16), and Anna Faith (14).

Rev. Billie Blair, With You on the Journey, Pratt, Ks 67124, 620-842-7001

Due to Covid outbreaks in the area the Leader requests participants wear a mask, however it's not mandated.

Worship Leader, Melody Stutz Accompanist, Cheryl Metcalf

Friday 2 p.m. – Hays District set up

Registration of Dodge and Hays District participants 5-5:45 p.m. and 7-7:30 p.m.

5:40-5:50 Worship with Melody 6:00 p.m. Dinner in the cafeteria

Leader: Session 1 - 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Fellowship, snacks, games, and singing to follow
SATURDAY – at the lodge 7:30-7:45 a.m. Worship and Prayer with Melody
Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Session 2 – 9:00-10:00 Break 10:00-10:15

Leader: Session 3 – 10:15-11:15 Worship with Melody 11:15-11:30

Comments and Prayer with Coralee Lunch 12:00

Worship at the Lodge with Melody 12:45-12:50

“Sharing My Cup” 1:00-2:00

Chapel: 2:00-3:00 Worship and Communion Dismissal: 3:00 with Hays District cleaning up

Items to bring: Bible, notepad, your SPECIAL CUP TO SHARE ITS STORY and to use for your drinks at the lodge, jacket, toiletries and bedding. Hays District will bring snacks. Reservations are due payable to Hays District UMW for both districts by March 31 to Hays District Treasurer, Deanna Castle, 409 W. Elm, Oberlin, KS 67749. Her phone number is 785-475-7253. Checks should be made out to Hays District UMW Treasurer.

Questions? Direct to Hays District Spiritual Growth Leader – Coralee Thornburg cell 785-731-6728, 785-391-2263 or cthornburg37@yahoo.com

Clip here and send bottom portion to Deanna Castle, 409 W Elm St., Oberlin, KS 67749

Registration includes: Lodging Friday night \$40.00 _____

Friday evening Dinner: \$11.00 _____

Saturday Breakfast: \$10.00 _____

Saturday Lunch: \$11.00 _____

Lodging and three meals: \$72.00 _____

Mark if you are a District Officer: Dodge _____ Hays _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Church _____

Special Needs, please indicate _____

P.S. Please send check made out to Hays District UMW Treasurer with your registration