The Potential

Message from the ABW E-Board

The executive board has received two resignations—both because of medical issues. They are, President Barbara Wilbur, and Mission and Services Sharon Ashley. Please keep these ladies in your prayers. The Board will be meeting in March to address this.

Also, in case you haven’t noticed the ABW web page is having problems. Linda is in contact with Jim Lufkin with hopes to have this resolved soon. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Education Gifts of Love—Deb Kiker

Our educational gift student, Cara Jurczak, was home for Christmas break. Her first semester grades were excellent. She spoke at the ABW meeting in Topsham on January 11, before returning to school. This spring she is part of a singing ministry and plans a mission trip. Please keep her in your prayers!

Treasurers Report—Sherry Cates

Reclaiming Childhood Dreams, our special project involves raising money for the three Christian camps that serve our Maine children. I was privileged to serve as camp nurse during winter camp this January. I was as excited and as apprehensive as a new camper. I didn't know what experiences would come my way. There are always the emotions of being in a new environment and for some of being homesick even before the parents leave. For parents the apprehension of leaving their child with strangers. Each staff member builds a relationship with each camper, but the counselor is the one the camper builds a close bond with. It is amazing how God then connects the campers to other team members. It might be through games, puzzles, worship, or during mealtimes or nightly devotions. By the end of the weekend, New campers were asking about summer camp and expressing their desire to be part of this experience. Campers came from all walks of life, with many different needs and moods. God opened hearts and allowed hope, caring, laughter and love in. These camps make a lifesaving and changing difference in all who participate. Please support the Christian camps as you give this year to the special project.
Secretaries Report—Martha Walker

Full Board Meeting, United Baptist Church, Oakland  Oct 5, 2019

Those present were: Treasure, Sherry Cates; Assistant Treasurer, Andrea Dresser; Secretary, Martha Walker; White Cross, Pauline Chase; Mission and Service, Sharon Ashley; Personal Development, Marge Muise; Nominating Committee Chair, Janet Kane, and Administrative Assistant, Linda Deane. Absent: President Barbara Wilbur, Church and Community, Carolyn Sweeney and Educational Gifts, Deb Kiker.

Following a phone call with Barbara, Sherry conducted the meeting. Pauline opened with prayer.

We all received the following email from President Barbara Wilbur. “Due to my hospital stay and still not completely back to normal I will not be able to do any activities other than work until after the new year. I realize that this puts a strain on ABWM but I must abide by my doctor's advice so as not to relapse. I am not even able to keep up with correspondence at this point. I still have an active infection and am on antibiotics.”

The Secretary's Reports of the Board Meeting on August 15, 2019 and the Summer Conference Business Meeting on August 16, 2019 were read. The motion to accept the reports as read, were made by Andrea and seconded by Linda. The vote was unanimous.

The written Treasurer's Report was given to everyone. Discussion followed with questions asked and answered. The motion to accept the report as presented was made by Linda and seconded by Andrea.

Continuing on with financial matters the following budget received much discussion ending with a motion to accept the budget as written by Andrea, seconded by Pauline, and a unanimous vote.

### 2020 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Rally North and South</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Conference</td>
<td>750.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publications</td>
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<td>National Conference at Green Lake for president to attend</td>
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<td>National Conference for Board members two first timers scholarships</td>
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<td>Summer Conference Scholarships (4)</td>
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<td>Board Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retreat 2020</td>
<td>500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift of Love</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
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Additional discussion followed on a Retreat Fall of 2020 or Spring of 2021. Possible locations: The Senator in Augusta, Bear Conference Center in Orono and Point Lookout in Northport. Point Lookout would be off the I-95 corridor, but very beautiful. Andrea has been in touch with contacts in the Massachusetts ABW concerning speakers. They do have some who would be available and are good. Final decisions were tabled until the March Meeting.

Marge is the chair for Summer Conference 2020. She asked specifically what her duties included and suggestions. Attendees shared ideas and suggestions from former conferences.

Officer reports: White Cross – No New information. Gifts of Love – Scholarship Application is now online. Church and Community – Women's Day of Prayer York Association at Sanford First Baptist Church Saturday, November 2, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM. The Nomination Committee presented: Janet Kane ’21 Chair; Alice McInnis ’22; Darlene Crummet ’23. A motion to accept the nominations was made by Marge, seconded by Linda and the vote was unanimous. Three officers will be going off the board in 2020. They are Church and Community: Carolyn Sweeney, Secretary, Martha Walker and White Cross, Pauline Chase.

Continued next page.
Mission and Service chair, Sharon Ashley reported the international mission fields around the world are becoming very dangerous. Haiti is violent and dangerous with riots in Port-a-Prince, their capital city. The university has closed and sent students home. Brian Smith at Cap Haitian in the north of Haiti is very ill. The family was evacuated, September 26, to Miami where Brian is in the hospital with Dengue Shock Syndrome. Since the board meeting, according to their recent newsletter, Brian has been discharged from the hospital and will require a long recovery. When and if the family returns to Haiti is unknown. The Clemmers report the Ebola epidemic has gotten worse, with people burning clinics and killing health care workers. Ann's Sunday School classes have 600-700 kids. Kristy Engel has been on an Asian tour of our medical facilities and medical and nursing school. A two-month tour starting with Bangladesh only to be deported to Thailand. While there, she was able to visit with former colleagues in Chiang Mai. On to Brisbane, Australia. On to northeast India, where she was hospitalized with typhoid. She will be speaking at the ABCOM annual meeting.

Future Board meetings are scheduled for March 14, 2020 in Auburn, Summer Conference August 13, 2020 and October 3, in Saco.

Church and Community: Carolyn Sweeney

These past three years I have tried to give you a sense of what various groups have been doing around the state. In this Potential I want to promote sending cards. At a recent bible study, the topic of receiving cards was discussed. The consensuses was that getting cards was much appreciated.

Most groups are good at sending cards and staying in touch with our missionaries. Our Sunday school offering goes to the Smith boys, along with cards for their birthdays.

But how good are you at sending cards to your church family? This doesn’t mean just when one is sick, this means birthdays, thinking of you, etc. The easiest way is to use a blank note card and send along a personal handwritten note.

Although I love cards, I don’t send any and the reason for this is because I don’t know addresses, and nor do I take the time to call the church to ask for these addresses. When it comes to the topic of mailing card’s I am negligent however I am changing my ways and will challenge myself to mail one if not two handwritten letters a week.

I find it very helpful that my church puts weekly birthdays in our bulletin.

I’ve always told you that church and community is about taking time to stop and really see what is going on around you and how you can help those in need.

“Happiness is receiving a handwritten letter”

A message from our Assistant Treasurer Andrea Dresser

First I have to apologize to everyone that paid for the Potential for the upcoming year as I did not know about a second sign-up for Potential. So, moving forward I would like to have those who paid for Potential at summer conference last summer to just drop me a line at my email address of celticmist50@gmail.com and I will make sure to mark you paid. For those who did not pay, please send $5.00 to me at Andrea Dresser, 30 Highland Avenue, Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064. There will be opportunities at the Spring Rallies to also pay. I am just trying to make this as easy as possible and again apologize for all the confusion at Summer Conference, I look forward to hearing from you. Andrea Dresser, Asst. Treasurer- 347-0500. God Bless!
Spring Rally - South
April 4, 2020
Topsham United Baptist Church
1 Elm St Topsham
Registration and Refreshments 9:30 - 10:00
Morning Program 10:00 - 12:00
Lunch 12:00 - 1:00
Afternoon Program 1:00 - 3:00
Lorna Hansen will share what she learned and experienced in modern day India – the results of American Baptist missionary involvement over the last 200 years, today, and the story of the first woman to be appointed as a foreign missionary by any church or mission.

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Spring Rally - North
April 25, 2020
Oakfield Baptist Church
72 Ridge Rd Oakfield ME
Registration and Refreshments 9:30 - 10:00
Morning Program 10:00 - 12:00
Lunch 12:00 - 1:00
Afternoon Program 1:00 - 3:00
Lunch provided by the host church will be a pas- ta bar, salad, breadsticks and dessert.

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**Please contact the registrar, Deb Kiker, (207) 725-7389 at least one full week prior to the rally with the number of attendees from your church and information of any special needs.**

**Registration $2.00 and lunch $5.00 are to be paid on arrival at the church.**

**Please contact the registrar, Doris Sherman, (207) 757-8344 at least one full week prior to the rally with the number of attendees from your church and information of any special needs.**

**Registration $2.00 and lunch $5.00 are to be paid on arrival at the church.**
White Cross: Pauline Chase

Greetings from your Maine White Cross coordinator. We finally put together 15, Baby Birthing kits from what we started at Summer Conference. Thank you to all who contributed your time and talent. For those filling out the report this was a White Cross training.

As our theme “Sisters seeking Wholeness” implies in 2 Corinthians 5:20 Therefore we are ambassadors for Christ as though God was making an appeal through us to be reconciled to God. In the ministry of reconciliation, God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Pray and do your best.

Your White Cross packets should be available soon.

As always there are missionaries who still don't have full support and are working on projects. You can find this information through International Ministries or ABW.

Personal Development – Marge Muise

As we develop in our Christian walk, we learn to rely more on God and to seek His will in all situations. It is not an afterthought to go to the Lord in prayer. This is our first thought. To understand God is to develop our relationship with Him. We need to recognize the voice of God. How do we do this? We spend time with Him studying His word and praying with Him.

Many times our prayers are requests to God. We speak but do not listen. Have you ever been in a situation when someone is speaking to you and you “zone out”? Perhaps you think you do not need the advice of someone so you do not listen. Prayer is a conversation with God. Not only do we speak but we listen. How else will we know God’s voice?

Psalm 25:4-5 states: “Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.” Psalm 27:11 continues in this thought. “Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path.” We need to spend time with Him to know the right path.

We currently have a transitional pastor at our church. He challenged us to strive to be superior Christians and not settle on being lukewarm. I do not want to settle on being “Not Bad” in my walk with Him. I choose to become a superior Christian. I choose to listen to His voice. I choose to spend time with Him in study of His word and in prayer.

I will leave you with one last scripture as found in James 4: 8, “Come near to God and He will come near to you.”

Upcoming Events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Spring Rally – South</td>
<td>Topsham United Baptist Church</td>
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<td>Spring Rally – North</td>
<td>Oakfield Baptist</td>
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Program for Spring Rally: Who were the first missionaries from America who traveled to India, a Hindu country, to share the gospel? When was the gospel first introduced in India? What is the result today of these servants of God who endured hardships on land and sea? In what ways did women missionaries improve life in India?

These and other questions will be answered in the program planned for Spring Rallies in both Topsham and Oakfield. Lorna Hansen will share what she learned and experienced in modern day India – the ongoing needs, the results of American Baptist missionary involvement over the last 200 years, the work of Indian Baptist churches today, and the story of the first woman to be appointed as a foreign missionary by any church or mission.
American Baptist Women Of Maine

The Potential

Linda Deane
PO Box 76
Livermore Falls
Maine 04254

Winter 2020

2020

March 14 ABW Board Meeting—Auburn
April 4    Spring Rally South—Topsham
April 25   Spring Rally North—Oakfield
May 30     White Cross Reports Due
June 1     Potential Articles Due
June 15    Directory Reports Due
Aug. 13-15 Summer Conference—China Lake