

## **FUNNY BUSINESS 2009** **“WNCC News”**

**Story:** WNCC News is reporting on a big celebration at Lake Junaluska. Mark is the anchorman and Sandy is the field reporter. Mark is at the station/podium and Sandy is the field reporter with a hand-held microphone. She calls each officer forward for an interview and they give their 2008 reports. After each report, the **whole group** will pretend to sing and play “Celebration” by Kool and the Gang as it is played over the sound system. The band will begin singing as the District President is getting GTM card/reward from Amy. **Dress:** Rock band - crazy/hip hair, make-up and clothing (use imagination). You may carry a real or toy instrument.

**Stage/Props:** The podium is the station/anchor desk. The risers will be left up so the band may sit or remain standing. Mark is at the podium. Sandy, wearing funny hat, and Amy are standing off to side in front of stage. The band (Program Committee) is off stage. (DVD or PowerPoint of WNCC News, channel 3)

**Mark:** Good morning. I'm Mark Marker bringing you the mid-day news from WNCC, your station with up-to-date mission news. This just in: Women have invaded Lake Junaluska. That's right. The United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference are having Annual Meeting. For the latest, let's go to Hattie Hopper, who is on assignment for this event. Hattie.

**Sandy:** Thanks, Mark. With me is Amy Johnson, Conference President of the United Methodist Women. This is a big celebration. Please tell us about this celebration, Mrs. Johnson.

**Amy:** (Sandy holds mike as she speaks) Each year the United Methodist Women holds its Conference Annual Meeting the weekend after Labor Day here at Lake Junaluska. It's a time of celebrating our accomplishments as well as being challenged for future mission work. This is a special year, as we are celebrating 140 years in mission. The Program Committee has even formed a Celebration Band for this occasion. They'll be arriving shortly.

**Sandy:** Thank you. I have a listing of officers who will be reporting and giving awards. I plan to interview those officers. I understand you will be giving the District Presidents special cards.

**Amy:** That's right. Gift to Mission Cards are a wonderful way to honor anyone. We will be honoring districts that have excelled in various areas.

**Sandy:** (“Celebration” music starts softly, then louder as the band comes on stage) I think I hear the band coming now. Thank you, Mrs. Johnson. (Amy goes off stage to floor area to present cards. Music stops as soon as the band is on stage.)

**Sandy:** First on my list of officers to report and present awards is Linda Baity, Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach.

### **Linda gives MN&O report:**

We have 2 accomplishments to celebrate in membership. There are 3 districts that chartered a new unit in 2008 and thanks to those 3, at Regional School in Owensboro, KY, the WNC was recognized and presented with a Certificate of Achievement by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries for organizing at least three new units. They were the Marion, North Wilkesboro, and the Statesville District. The Statesville District also held a Membership Fair in 2008 with great ideas to promote membership.

The districts with the highest percentage of new members for 2008 and presented with a Gift in Mission Award are: 4th place the Marion District; 3rd place the Gastonia District; 2nd place the

Charlotte District. Myers Park in The Charlotte District had 82 new members. This is a large church, but 82 new members is something to celebrate, regardless of the size of the church. First place and the district receiving the Membership Trophy is the Salisbury District!

**All sing/play:** "Celebration" (only about a line is played)

**Sandy:** The next officer is Betty Swarthout, Chairperson of Leader Development, with a LUV report. Tell us what LUV is?

**Betty gives LUV report:**

DISTRICT WITH HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF LOCAL UNITS VISITED -

1. Waynesday District (97%)
2. Marion District (93%)
3. Greensboro District (85%)

DISTRICT WITH HIGHEST TOTAL VISITS -

1. Marion District (83)
2. Gastonia Ddistrict (64)
3. Lexington District (62)

**All sing/play:** "Celebration"

**Sandy:** Virginia Robinson is Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. I understand that you are very good at counting and loading the Mission Response Center truck.

**Virginia gives E&I report:** Oh yes, and I am still counting...we are up to 1,187. I can't say enough about the Western North Carolina Conference. These ladies know how to give, and give, and give!!! Just like the little bunny!

Now, let's get to the important business! Western North Carolina has 842 units. But we can add many more. Spread the word about MISSION and what Mission means to Western North Carolina. 51% of the 842 units gave in all 5 channels, 40% were Mission Today units and 33% participated in mission studies. I know that everyone is working in their local unit to be a Mission Today unit, to participate in a mission study, and to give in all five channels. Our goal for 2009 is 5% above 2008. It can be done! Let's bring up our percentages for 2009. You still have plenty of time!

- The districts with the largest percentage of units participating in mission studies are: Winston Salem with 42% - Charlotte with 53% - Waynesville with 55%
- The districts with the largest percentage of units that gave in all 5 channels of giving are: Winston Salem with 68% - Greensboro with 69% - Albemarle with 71%
- The districts with the largest percentage of units that were Mission Today units are Salisbury and Gastonia with 48% - Winston Salem with 56% - Asheville with 60%

**All sing/play:** "Celebration"

**Sandy:** After this short commercial break, we'll continue to talk with three more officers. Back to you, Mark.

**Mark:** Wow! What a celebration! We'll have more right after this message. (Show taped commercial on DVD) [If not using DVD say: There's a way everyone can give those Gift to Mission Cards that have been given out. (PowerPoint of GTM Cards on screen if possible) The proceeds from the sale of Gift to Mission Cards go to UMW Mission Giving. You not only honor someone, but reach out to the needy through Mission Giving. The cards are a minimum of \$5, but more may be given. They may be purchased from District or Conference treasurers. Buy those cards for mission!] By the way, buying Gift to Mission Cards is this year's Annual Meeting hands-on mission project. Back to you, Hattie.

**Sandy:** That's right, Mark. Speaking of Mission Giving, Sharon Smith, Treasurer, will tell us about the finances of this organization.

**Sharon Smith gives Treasurer's report:**

Districts - largest percentage increase in Mission Giving  
3rd - Asheville (3.7%)  
2nd - Gastonia (4.1%)  
1st - High Point (5.9%)  
Overall for conference -3.5%

Districts - greatest percentage per capita Mission Giving  
3rd - Waynesville - \$34.22  
2nd - North Wilkesboro - \$37.26  
1st - Asheville - \$43.51  
Overall for conference - \$28.69

**All sing/play:** "Celebration"

**Sandy:** These United Methodist Women give both from the heart as well as the pocketbook. Next on my list is Linda Young, Mission Coordinator of Social Action.

**Linda gives Social Action report:**

"That's right Hatti. It takes a heart of love for justice to accomplish what the Lord requires of us and that is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. You heard in an earlier report of our Conference Social Action priority-PUBLIC EDUCATION. The letter writing campaign on the No Child Left Behind was launched and successful. We believe our efforts have contributed to the continued examination of the law. We envision a world where Public Education names core values that serve individuals, communities, and the nation in the future.

Now Hatti, on a sad, sad, sad note no District reported having an individual or group to submit an application for the Social Justice Award in 2008. I know, I know we have bridge builders in Western North Carolina with a commitment to human welfare and social reform.

But, Hatti, we introduced in 2008 criteria on how to become a Charter Club unit. We had 10 Districts reporting a total of 43 Gold units, 33 Silver units, and 54 Bronze units. All of these units were or will be recognized at their District's Annual Meeting. Today, we want to congratulate the District that had the most overall Charter Club units and that is the LEXINGTON DISTRICT".

**All sing/play:** "Celebration"

**Sandy:** The Coordinator of Program Resource is Kim Keyes.

**Kim gives Program Resource report:**

- Highest % of units participating in the Reading Program: 1) WS 2) Waynesville 3) Charlotte
- Highest % of participants in the Reading Program: 1) Albemarle 2) Charlotte 3) Lexington
- Highest # of children participants: 1) Albemarle 2) Salisbury 3) Statesville

**All sing/play:** "Celebration"

**Sandy:** It has been interesting hearing about this organization that has been active in mission for 140 years. That's the news from Lake Junaluska. Let's hear from the Celebration Band one more time to close out this newscast. Back to you, Mark. ("Celebration" is heard as band exits the stage. Music gets softer as the band leaves and music stops after all are off stage.)

**Mark:** WNCC News will continue after this short break. The Mission Session is next on the program in Stuart Auditorium. Please clear Section 6 for the missionary guests. Thank you.

(recorded news tag on DVD or PowerPoint)