

American Baptist

Women's
 MINISTRIES

The Lamplighter

The President's Corner ...



Hi Ladies,

I hope that you are enjoying our beautiful Colorado weather. I know we are in for more snow but I sense Spring in the air! A week ago I drove from my home in Sterling with a friend through a snowstorm to attend the Colorado American Baptist Women's state board meeting followed by the "Women's Wellness Retreat."

Did we ever have a great time. Our board conducted business in a timely way with great ideas and plans going forward. If you've ever wondered what our board does, I suggest you consider attending a board meeting or taking a position to serve on the board. We consider it fun to serve and always want fresh ideas.

And about our Women's Wellness Retreat held at Cherry Creek Baptist Church in Denver - W.O.W. We had a variety of speakers who gave us wonderful information. On Friday evening we heard from Kristen Harness with Extended Hands of Hope. She talked to us about Human Trafficking. We had a quilt, afghan, bracelet and receiving blanket with burp cloths donated for women to place bids. The money raised will go to Extended Hands of Hope. Also there were delightful knitted caps available for a donation. Cherry Creek Baptist Church is giving the funds raised from the caps to Extended Hands of Hope also.

On Saturday, we heard from Thomas Hoag, of Arapahoe County Sheriff's office about personal safety. Chris Oldham followed with a message about detoxing your mind. And also we had break out sessions ranging from Self Care, From Fear to Joy, Benefits of Coloring to Managing Grief. There really was something for everyone during this 24 hour retreat.

Saturday afternoon Deb Allen, Master Nutritionist spoke about Detox Wellness. And talk about the food, we had a great chef. (Best Chef Ever). Ntxuam Vang prepared delicious meals. In the afternoon we had an ice cream social. And then had more breakout sessions - Be a Blessing!, Psalms, Essential Oils and we met a service dog!

We ended with Rev. Kay Farley giving us an excellent message and praying for the requests that came in during the weekend. I must say it was one of the best (if not, the best) retreat I've ever attended. The sweet spirit of the Lord was evident from start to finish. I came home refreshed and revitalized and ready to work for the Kingdom of God!

And now, I'm looking forward to our Colorado American Baptist Women's state conference to be held June 8-9 at Calvary Baptist Church in Denver. The quality of our conference will be every bit as good as retreat. I hope that you will make plans to attend and find out what American Baptist Women are doing this year with our

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resources, missions, scholarship, state project . . . and the list goes on. American Baptist Women's mission statement says "*AB Women's Ministries is a Christ-centered ministry with a commitment to encourage and empower women and girls to serve God.*"

I'm so privileged and honored to be serving as your State President. I hope that you will join in the activities in your church. If you have questions, feel free to contact me or any of our board members. We need you, and united we can accomplish great things for Christ!

Blessings,

LaRose

LaRose Karr, President

970-580-4717

larosekarr@gmail.com

Letter from Virginia Holmstrom, outgoing national AB Women's Ministries Executive Director

Dear presidents of Region/State ABWMs,

The transition time this month with Gina Jacobs-Strain has been rewarding. You have chosen a gifted leader. I leave these ministries in good hands when I depart on the last day of February.

It's time for me to ask you to do some necessary tasks to ensure that Gina Jacobs-Strain, our new executive director for AB Women's Ministries, is included in your information loop.

- Please ask whomever it is that distributes your region/state ABWM newsletter to add Gina's name to the distribution list, and remove my name. I have enjoyed browsing through the newsletters I have received by email or through the mail. I learn a great deal about the initiatives and events happening in the regions and I become somewhat acquainted with your officers through the articles and information they share. Thank you for having included me on your distribution list. It is time now to replace my name with Gina's name.
 - If your newsletter is emailed to readers, please add to the distribution list: Gina.Jacobs-Strain@abc-usa.org.
 - Assure that Wendy Clemmer, ABWM Business Manager/Project Manager, is on your distribution list, too. Wendy.Clemmer@abc-usa.org.
 - If your newsletter is mailed, please mail a copy to: Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain, American Baptist Women's Ministries, P.O. Box 851, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851.

- Replace my name in your region/state ABWM directories with Gina's name and contact information:

Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain, Executive Director

American Baptist Women's Ministries

P.O. Box 851

Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851

Office phone: [610-768-2284](tel:610-768-2284)

Email address: Gina.Jacobs-Strain@abc-usa.org



Angel and Gina are in conversation about the agenda for the National ABWM Board Meeting on July 16-19 on the campus of Judson University, Elgin, Illinois. You'll have the travel arrangements information a full 2 months ahead of time and the agenda soon after.

In Christ,
Virginia Holmstrom



Colorado AB Women's Ministries Conference

June 8-9, 2018

Calvary Baptist Church ~ Denver, Colorado

Theme: *Feel God's Spirit — Be Free of Fear*

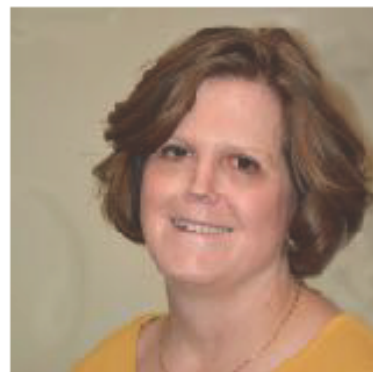
"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7 (KJV)

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."
1 John 4:18a (NRSV)

Featured Speakers:

Nola Crooks served as Mid-Western Section Representative to national AB Women's ministries, 2014-2016. She has been active in local and Central Region AB Women's Ministries, and was a representative to the Baptist World Alliance Women's Leadership Conference in South Africa in 2015.

Nola is the wife of an ABC pastor, mother to a blended family of six and has been a creative elementary school teacher. She enjoys working with technology, cooking, and traveling. She will share with us how God has prepared her for each unexpected step of her life's journey.



Rev. Sharon A. Buttry serves alongside of her husband Dan Buttry, a global consultant for Peace and Justice Ministries through American Baptist Churches' International Ministries; Sharon specializes in community and conflict transformation. Sharon is also Associate Director of Training and Education at the International Hope Center based in Hamtramck, Michigan, where she has been active in interfaith relationships and serves as a voluntary police chaplain.

Sharon and Dan are parents of three adult children and grandparents to two granddaughters. Sharon will be our Bible Study Leader and share her missionary experiences.

Several breakout sessions are planned, as well as a conference mission project that will benefit people who are homeless.

We hope YOU will plan to attend and bring a friend or two!!

SAVE the DATE! More detailed information to come in the near future.

Mission and Service

I am so excited to tell you about the two mission projects that were decided upon at our board meeting in February.

First, our proposed State project for 2018 - 2019 will be Puerto Rico. We believe that although the National Project for Baptist Women's Ministries in Puerto Rico is taking place this year, we felt that it would be beneficial for us to make it our State Project for 2018 - 2019. Our Baptist sisters in Puerto Rico are going to continue to need our help. They have generously supported American Baptist Women Ministries through the years and now it's our turn to support them. Our goal is to raise \$2,000, but I have faith that as a state, we can raise more.

Our State Conference project is helping the homeless. In the box below, you will see a list of items that can be brought to the Conference. You choose the items that you would like to bring. I will collect them and we will sort them and put them into one gallon bags to be handed out to the homeless. We can either give them out individually or give them to a shelter. My hope is that each church represented will bring some of the bags home and continue this ministry in their own city or town.

I look forward to working with you on both of these projects.



Becky Worford Mission and Service Coordinator
8644 East Dartmouth Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80231
(303) 751 - 8823
beckygene@comcast.net

Items for the Homeless Bags

(Conference Project)

Travel size

Food and Drink

Instant oatmeal packets
Tea bags
Energy drinks
Dried fruit
Fruit leathers
Trail Mix
Nuts
Granola bars
Crackers stuffed with
peanut butter or cheese
Fast food gift cards

Toiletries

Multi purpose wipes
Chapstick
Facial wipes
Lotion
Comb
Toothbrush & toothpaste
Sun screen
Wash cloth & hand towel
Deodorant
Shampoo & conditioner

Survival

First Aid Kit
Water bottle

Treats

Fruit snacks
Cookie snack packs
Candy (individually wrapped)
Mints
Chewing gum

Bylaws Document

The Board has approved proposed changes to the American Baptist Women's Ministries of Colorado Bylaws.

Please review the separate document of the proposed Bylaws in preparation for a vote at the Annual Meeting during our State Women's Conference - June 8-9th.

Treasurer

I've noticed that many ABWM groups in Colorado are financially active in the spring, and that's worth celebrating!

One ABWM group held a bake sale last month to raise money for this year's State Project ("Meals for New Life Center Girls"). Their gift was sent to me, deposited and it has already been forwarded to our American Baptist missionary in Thailand.

Another ABWM group sent a check last week with a request that it be used partially for the State Project, and partially for National Support and for our Colorado ABWM. As Treasurer, I'm delighted to allocate the funds as you direct!

During the Retreat held last month, monies were given for Love Gift, and those monies are being sent to American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains (ABCRM) to be administered there with other Love Gift offerings.

From past experience, I know that additional generous gifts from local churches or from active Associations will reach my mailbox in the next two months. If your Association is active, please make sure your local gifts reach your Association treasurer before April 30th, so that she can send those funds to me and I can distribute them as directed in May. If your Association is not currently active, your local church group can send its gift directly to me, preferably by the first week of May.

If you have Love Gift monies, those should be sent directly to American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains, rather than to me.

If you have any questions about ABWM financial procedures or details, please contact me and we'll figure it out!



Sharon Murphy
P. O. Box 866
Castle Rock, CO 80104
Phone: 303-708-1300 x 206 (work)
or 303-688-3443 (home)
Email: Murphy@SMurphyLaw.com

Remembering Kay Lopez

Kathleen Chandler's Mom, Kay (Kathryn Jean) Lopez died Tuesday, Dec. 12th. Her Obituary can be found at <http://www.newcomerdenver.com/Obituary/151754/Kathryn-Lopez/Denver-Colorado>

Kay was a life-long loyal American Baptist, who was active in Colorado ABW work and events over the years. In her last years she lived with her daughter in Aurora before entering a care facility in Parker last December. She grew up in Canon City, graduated from Eastern College, and depending on their employment, Kay and her husband Conrad lived in various parts of Colorado, including Denver, Estes Park, Boulder, Canon City. Conrad was a cook/chef and sometimes owned restaurants; in Boulder he cooked for a sorority house while Kay was the house mother; then they bought and operated a bed and breakfast in Canon City. Both had significant health issues; Conrad died in 2010 and Kay moved to live with Kathleen's family.

Condolences may be sent to:
Kathleen Chandler
21415 E. Mansfield Dr.
Aurora CO 80013
[\(303-766-9058\)](tel:303-766-9058) Home

Personal Development



The 2018 ABWM of CO retreat happened on Feb 23 and 24. It was a great time spent with lots of great women! Kristen Harness, CEO/Founder of Extended Hands of Hope, talked to us about the safe house they have for victims of sex trafficking. It was interesting to hear how prevalent this issue is here in our own backyard.

Thanks to our fantastic women at the retreat for auctioning/donating items (such as in the picture), we were able to send a check to Extended Hands of Hope for \$275 to help them with the expenses of this much needed safe house in the Denver area. You can check out their website at www.extendedhandsofhope.org to learn more about this wonderful organization.

We had beautiful music from Angela Faison with Old Landmark Baptist Church. Other fantastic speakers included Chris Oldham talking to us about detoxing our minds, and a nutritionist Deb Allen reminding us to read labels to watch what goes in our bodies and what chemicals we are using in our homes. We even had one male speaker, Tom Hoag, Arapahoe Deputy Sherriff (and retired Air Force), reminding us of personal safety. We were blessed by the closing speaker Rev. Kay Farley talking about the woman at the well, and then having us all pray over the concerns put on the prayer wall.

I could go on and on about all the wonderful speakers and people at the retreat! I do have to thank Noosa Yogurt and Bonnie Brae Ice Cream for their donations to give us great treats at the retreat! Thank you to everyone involved in putting this together and to everyone that attended to make this such a great experience! I am already looking forward to next year's retreat!



Thanks,
Suzanne Johnston
303-549-0397
Suzanne@johnstonmail.com
Personal Development Coordinator

Remembering Marj Musil

I am sad to tell you that Marj Musil recently passed away. She was our State Treasurer before Sharon Murphy and was the White Cross Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Region for a number of years. Marj was an active member of ABW Ministries at Calvary Baptist Church as part of her circle and the board. There will be a Memorial Service for her at Calvary on March 17th at 10:00 am. Please be in prayer for her husband, Virgil and their daughter, Laura and other family members.

Thanks, Becky Worford



Dear Region/State ABWM Presidents,

At the ABWM board meeting in June 2017 at Portland, Oregon, the board chose "Homelessness in the U.S. and Puerto Rico" to be the 2017-18 national mission focus for ABWM.

To help you be a resource to women and ABWM groups in your region or state, read the information on ABWM's website at <http://www.abwministries.org/page.aspx/contentId/79/17-18-Mission-Focus-Homelessness/>, use the information in your presentations, and steer other AB women and groups to the website page for information and activity ideas.

During the October meeting of the ABWM executive committee at Valley Forge, Wendy Hoke Witmer (a social worker with the ministry organization called Bridge of Hope) resourced the national officers with facts about homelessness in the U.S. and Puerto Rico and its effect on single mothers and their children. She has provided us with the PowerPoint of her presentation. You can view it (and/or download it for future reference) on Yammer, using this direct link: <https://www.yammer.com/americanbaptistwomenandgirls/#/files/111177904>. Because the PowerPoint was designed specifically for her verbal presentation, a few slides lack the context for the stories she shared about individual women. But the statistics in the PowerPoint are invaluable.

A mission focus is relevant only if leaders talk about it and engage others in study and action.

We're vital partners for vital mission and ministry.... Pass it on.

Virginia Holmstrom
Executive Director
American Baptist Women's Ministries

National 2018 Events:

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Human Trafficking Day | January 11 |
| World Day of Prayer (1st Fri. of March) | March 2 |
| International Women's Day | March 8 |
| UN Commission on the Status of Women <i>New York, NY</i> | March 12-23 |
| Ecumenical Advocacy Days conference <i>Washington, DC</i> | April 20-23 |
| May Fellowship Day - CWU (1st Fri. May) | May 4 |
| AB Women's Ministries national women's conference <i>Elgin, IL</i> | July 19-22 |
| ABWM Annual Meeting | during women's conference |
| National Gathering for Girls <i>Elgin, IL</i> | July 19-22 |
| AB Women's Sunday (3rd Sunday) | September 16 |
| ABWM/ABWIM Wellness Retreat <i>Camp Canonicus in Exeter, RI</i> | September 28-30 |
| World Community Day (CWU - 1st Fri) | November 2 |
| Baptist Women's Day of Prayer (1st Mon) | November 5 |
| Human Rights Celebration (CWU) | December 10 |

Scholarship

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus

This year brings about new changes in the Jane Loring Jones scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year. The scholarship committee voted on increasing the scholarship amount to \$4,000 for an ABC related school and \$3,000 for a non-related ABC school.

The Jane Loring Jones scholarship assists Christian young women to further their education, to prepare for their position in life as Christian leaders in the home, church and community.

The scholarship committee also decided to increase the student grant amount to \$2,400. Student grants of the American Baptist women's Ministries of Colorado are available to women who are seeking education for ministry purposes and seminary education.

Ladies, let's give God all the praise and glory for being able to offer scholarships and grants to women who desire to further their education.



Both applications will be available to download March 15. Use this link: <http://abcrm.org/ministries/abwm/colorado/> to locate the form.

Dr. Jamie D. Johnson
915 S. Division Ave.
Sterling, CO 80751
jljscholarship@gmail.com
720-879-2700

Love Gift

Hello Fellow ABW Ladies!

Do you wake up every day with which there is at least one thing you are extremely grateful?

As you get out of bed, look up to the heavens.... take a moment and reflect.

Through out the day, I make myself aware....and when I find that gratitude, I place a coin into my Love Gift box that sits on my kitchen counter.

I am on my 3rd box now...and as I lift the little box, I feel the weight and realize the many coins represent the many good things happening each day in my life.

So take those moments, however small, to put a strong meaning to your day. Your Love Gift will go far to brighten someone else, with your gratefulness!



Aleta Purcell
303-665-3298
blondealeta@msn.com



Calling All Colorado American Baptist Women Students

- + Are you an active member of your church?
- + Will you graduate with a high school diploma?
- + Will you be a full-time undergraduate at an accredited university, college or community college?

If you answered yes to these questions, apply for the

Jane Loring Jones Scholarship!

Dr. Jamie D. Johnson, Chair

jljscholarship@gmail.com

To apply for the Jane Loring Jones application, click on the following link <http://abcrm.org/ministries/abwm/colorado>

Application will be available March 15 and due May 15.