

Flaming Fortress



IOWA—NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015

2015 Calendar

- June 1 Mission u (deadline for registration into District Treasurer)
June 5-8 Iowa Annual Conference in Des Moines
July 19-22 Summer Mission u, Marshalltown, DOTE at 1:00 p.m. (2 studies)
August 1 Flaming Fortress article to Communications Coordinator (August 15 newsletter)
August 10 Executive Meeting, Webster City Conference Room
September 25 Executive Meeting, Humboldt FUMC
September 26 North Central District Annual Meeting, Humboldt FUMC
October 10 Iowa Conference UMW Annual Meeting, Council Bluffs, Broadway UMC
October 16-18 Fall Mission u, Marshalltown, DOTE at 1:00 p.m. (2 studies)
December 15 Flaming Fortress article to Communications Coordinator (January newsletter)
December 8 Executive Meeting, Webster City Conference Room - Christmas Luncheon

LOCAL UNIT FORMS DUE:

- April 30, 2015 Program books to District Vice Presidents
June 30, 2015 Reading and Mission Reports to your Chairperson
October 1, 2015 Local Officers to District Secretary
December 10, 2015 Cash Receipts to District Treasurer
January 30, 2016 Membership Reports to District Membership

Save the Date - Mission u 2015
Summer Mission u: July 19—22
Fall Mission u: October 16—18
Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, Marshalltown

Spiritual Growth Study

Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

Geographic Study

Latin America" People and Faith

Issue Study

The Church and People with Disabilities

Registration Form is in this publication

Local and District Scholarships/CEU's Available

Spanish, Korean, Youth and Children's classes at Fall Mission u

Contact your Dean for information on the **Diversity Fund**

Linda Peters 380 12th Ave S.W. Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Lpeters8714@msn.com

319-895-8714

"Like" us on Facebook

Mission u Iowa

GREETINGS from your PRESIDENT, MYRA GOCHENOUE

I am writing this during Holy Week and this time of the church year always astounds me. The fact that Jesus went through so much for me when I am not worthy is mind blowing. In our church here in Belmond, the men reenact the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday night and every year something new jumps out at me. This year the point that struck me was that these disciples are just like us. They were just average men not understanding exactly what they were involved in. Do we understand what we are involved in as we go about our mission work? Are we accepting of our weaknesses and strive to be better? Easter Sunday for me is the best day of the church year because for me it is a time that reminds me to strive on and to do better on my Christian journey.

It is a busy time of year for North Central District also. The mission studies are past. I wasn't able to attend due to recent knee replacement surgery. I heard they went well. Day Apart is coming up in Britt and it is a time to take a day and relax and enjoy the fellowship of other ladies of our district. Linda works all year preparing for this day. It is also the time of year to be thinking about Mission u in July and the fall. The brochure and the form for district scholarship will be included in this newsletter. If you have never attended, think about it this year. It is truly a wonderful event.

Spring is here, the robins are back and the grass is starting to green up. May God bless each of you in this reawakening of our earth. May our hearts and souls be reawakened to His wonderful love for us.

God's blessings,

Myra Gochenouer, President of North Central District

408 7th Street NE, Belmond, IA 50421-1252

Telephone 641-444-7372

Email gochen2@yahoo.com



2015

MISSION EVENTS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
North Central District

MISSION u APPLICATION DUE – JUNE 5, 2015

Mail Applications to:
Myra Gochenouer
408 7th St NE
Belmond IA 50421-1252

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Mission u – July 19-22, Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown, IA
Mission u Fall Event – October 16-18, Marshalltown Community College, Marshalltown, IA

Scholarships include registration and most meals. Recipient supplies own transportation and overnight accommodations.

- ____ Mission u for a first timer
(Applicant would be attending for the first time)
- ____ Mission u for mother and child
(Mother attends Mission u and child (ages 6-10) attends Children’s study)

Choose one:

- ____ Latin America: People and Earth
- ____ The Church and People with Disabilities

My reason for wanting to attend:

MESSAGE from your CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, Barb Trulson and Myra Bowman

Welcome Spring!! Isn't it nice to see sunshine, bulbs popping up and NO SNOW! We don't know about you, but we thought the winter was long enough and cold. As the ground springs forth with new life, we celebrate the Easter resurrection and our new life in Christ.

We hope you went to one of the mission studies in March. We're sure you found them to be very interesting and gave you new insights into disabilities and what we can do to respond to those who need assistance. The spiritual growth sharing was once again renewing and uplifting.

As a reminder, you do not need to send your yearbooks to either of us. We are suggesting that you send your program books to your district friend.

As vice presidents, we are gearing up for our North Central District Annual Meeting. The theme for the day will be "Seeking Justice and Joy—for All." The Humboldt United Methodist Church will be hosting this event on Saturday, September 26, 2015, beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. and end around 2:30 p.m. Mark your calendars now!

The Humboldt United Methodist women will be serving a delicious lunch. Child care will also be available. Plans are coming together with great speakers and our focus for mission will be Shesler Hall in Sioux City, IA. There will also be Local Officer Training (LOTE) taking place over the noon hour. Please encourage your local officers to come and find out all the new details about their office. This should assist in making your local units run even smoother.

We would encourage you to remember that your registrations for Mission u are due by June 19, 2015. Mission u will be held in Marshalltown beginning July 19 and continuing through July 22.

As you save the September 26th date for our annual meeting, please check the summer Flaming Fortress (August) for all the details about the day. A flyer will be in the August issue of the Flaming Fortress.

Blessings to all!

Barb Trulson and Myra Bowman

North Central District Co-Vice Presidents

Barb Trulson

667 6th St. SW

Britt, IA 50423

Telephone 641-843-3387

Email russbarb1946@msn.com

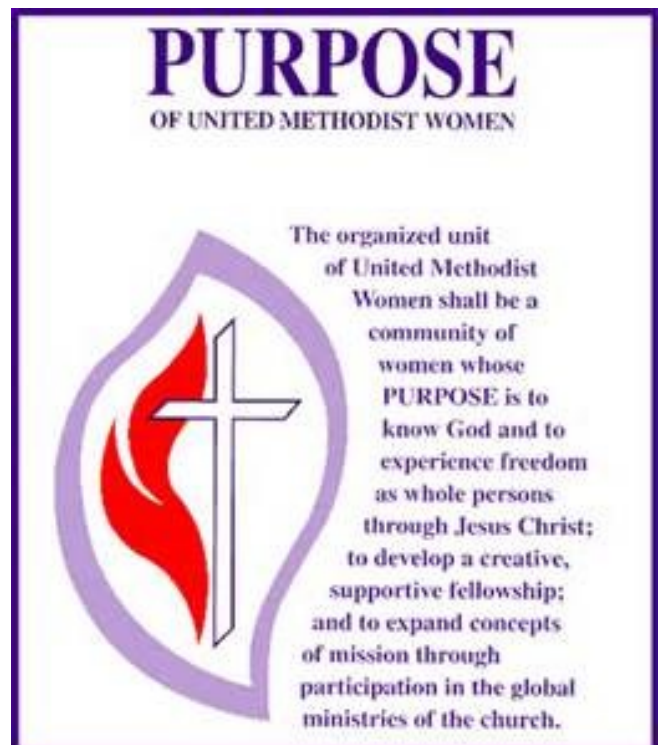
Myra Bowman

911 Golfview Avenue

Britt, IA 50423

Telephone 641-843-4086

Email jlbowman51@aol.com



GREETINGS from your SECRETARY, SHARON BOEN

I am sitting at my computer on a beautiful spring afternoon after spending some time this morning trimming back and cleaning out planters to uncover the tulips, daffodils and hyacinths that are showing new life after the winter. Now I need to get in the spring cleaning mood in my house. I need to clean out and organize some of my “stuff” as the District UMW Secretary and for other organizations I am involved with. Do you need to do the same? Do your UMW files/bags/notebooks, whatever you use, have scraps of paper with notes on them? Are there treasurer reports that need to be put in the correct place? Correspondence that has been read and recorded? Extra copies of minutes? Old agendas and notes from meetings? If so do yourself a favor and do some “house cleaning”. Your files only need one copy of each set of minutes. Once the minutes have been approved, you do not need your notes and supporting documents unless they are of legal or historic value. You do not need to keep all the thank you notes from those Christmas goodies. If you have any questions about this, please contact me.

It was great to meet some of you at the mission study in Gowrie; wasn't that a wonderful day. I took both of the studies during Mission u last July, yet with different leaders you are presented different information. I hope many of you will be at Day Apart in Britt. I encourage all of you to participate in the connectional activities of United Methodist Women as best you can. Mission u is in July, the District Annual Meeting is in September, and the Conference Annual Meeting is in October. As a local officer it is helpful to attend these events if at all possible. If you cannot make it to these events, you can participate in the reading program from the comfort of your home. In addition the district and conference United Methodist Women's newsletters are available on the Conference website if you do not receive them via email already.

Sharon Boen, North Central District Secretary
503 Carr Drive, Ames, IA 50010
Ames, IA 50010

Telephone 515-450-5576
Email boen.sharon@gmail.com



MESSAGE FROM YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

Yea!! I went on a trip south and east and saw quite a few flowering plants and trees, then when I got back to Iowa, YES, my tulips are up (not blooming) and my crocus is blooming. Just seeing new green shoots really helps us get into spring, doesn't it? Our scripture for this month is Matthew 6:6 *"But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."* But even though I haven't been praying for stems and flowers to come up, they did. God sees what my heart desires, and he sees what I do in secret as well as things I do that are not in secret to anyone, but he still loves me and YOU as well. As you read this, I hope you were part of "DAY APART" April 14th in Britt. I hope it was inspiring as well as fun and maybe even a little educational. Even though it hasn't happened yet, I know we had a good day! I sincerely hope you got "refilled".

Linda Stauffer, Mission Coordinator, Spiritual Growth
201 4th Avenue South, Humboldt, IA 50548-2134

Telephone 515-332-5411
Email lstauffer@jumpgate.net



GREETINGS FROM YOUR TREASURER, KATHY SAUTTER

Dear Unit Treasurers,

Thank you to each of you for supporting your unit and conference UMW by doing this job. As I write, my family has had a wonderful surprise. The arrival of our sixth grandchild came a month early! Wow, how a baby changes lives! It got me to thinking, Jesus sure changes things too! He came, served, healed, was crucified (for OUR sins) and rose again. What an amazing story, but that is not the end! He can continue to live with us each and every day in every moment. No matter what our circumstances, he is there to see us through! Our good news is that our grandson is doing well and we expect him home to be with his brother and two sisters very soon. Will you depend on Jesus this post-Easter season to be with you through everything life has to throw at you? I pray you will!

Our District asks you to try to give in these ways: 75 cents per member to Bidwell Riverside, Shesler Hall, and Hawthorn Hill. These National missions are all right here in Iowa and all are in great need. How lucky we are that they are in our backyard serving women, children and youth! We also need 75 cents a member to go to Mission u. I hope you can attend either the summer or fall session, they are life changing! And finally, please give \$1 to the Magazine fund. This gives our missionaries and deaconesses subscriptions to our informative magazines. Don't forget about becoming a Five Star unit. These include giving to Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering.

Next, I will be preparing the District budget for 2016 in May. I need your best guess what your Pledge to Mission amount will be for 2016 by the date below. Either clip this form and send it to me or email me or call. I don't have to have the form, just let me know your unit's name and amount you expect to give for 2016. I appreciate your information.

Your giving report will be coming to you in June. Be watching for it and make sure our numbers match. If you ever notice a check you have sent to me has not cleared the bank, contact me right away. Once in a while a check will get lost. We want to catch any problems early.

Kathy Sautter, North Central District Treasurer
1041 S. Illinois Avenue, Mason City, IA 50401

Telephone 641-423-2742
Email ksautter64@gmail.com

Unit Pledge for 2016

Name of Unit: _____ Town where located: _____

Our Pledge to Mission for 2016: \$ _____

Signed: _____

Send by June 15, 2015 to: Kathy Sautter
1041 S. Illinois Ave.
Mason City, Ia. 50401
Email: ksautter64@gmail.com

Feel free to call or email me with any questions. My number is 641-423-2742.
Thank you for serving women, children & youth through UMW.

In Christ's love,
Kathy Sautter

GREETINGS FROM YOUR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

What a beautiful time of the year! Thank you to everyone who made the trip to Gowrie or Manly for our March Mission events. We had 58 registered at Gowrie and 54 at Manly. I hope you all heard things from our speakers that made you think and sparked some ideas that you can use in your own life or the life of your communities. The weather was nice and the ladies at Gowrie and Manly took good care of us. Thank you again to our hostesses.

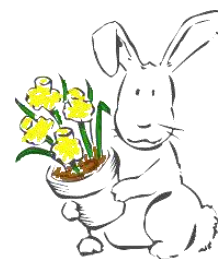
Please remember to work on your Mission Today reports. My new mailing address is shown directly below with my name.

I hope to see all of you at upcoming events. Also remember to register for Mission u.

I will be stepping down from this office at the end of this year. I will be available to help anyone who says YES to this office. The job description is printed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Blessings,

Phyllis Warren, Mission Coordinator, Education and Interpretation
1205 9th Avenue SW
Humboldt, IA 50548
Telephone 515-332-1105
Email pjwarren@q.com



GREETINGS FROM YOUR

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Spring is such a wonderful time of year as we celebrate Easter and have the opportunity to attend our district Mission Event and Spiritual Retreat (Day Apart). We are reminded of new life and new beginnings. This is a great time to invite others to participate in your local unit and share the purpose of United Methodist Women—creating and enjoying fellowship, expanding our understanding and work with mission, and getting to know God. Please talk to someone today about your joy of being a part of UMW. Our enthusiasm can be catching.

I am still working on our membership report for this year, trying to get 100% of the local reports so that we can have a more accurate count of our membership for the past year. Thanks to all who have sent your reports.

On a more personal note, my address will be changing at the end of May as my husband and I will be moving to Boone to be closer to family. So note the change of address below. I will also include my cell phone number as that may be the easiest way to contact me.

Jan Carpenter, Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator

Address after June 1: 510 Linden Lane, Boone, IA 50036

Cell phone # 515-297-0033

Email mcarpenterj@frontiernet.net



MESSAGE FROM YOUR SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Greetings from Algona

It was great to meet so many of you during the recent Mision Study Events at Gowrie and Manly. The speakers were excellent and gave us much to think about.

Although I have attended many such events and always enjoyed browsing the Program Resources display, it was certainly different being on the “other side of the table”! Your interest and the sales made all of the prior preparations worthwhile. Special thanks to LaVonne Shearer for all of her advice.

FYI: While children and youth books count in their category, children’s books only count in Plans III and IV. Bonus books count as 2 books: either 2 in one category OR 1 in two categories.

Just want to note that more than 40 books are currently on loan from our traveling library which is **great**. Help us keep the library “traveling” by returning books in a timely manner. The best time to do this is at a district event—that’s when the “library” is open. Nearly every book returned during the recent mission study events was checked out again by the end of the day!

Reminder: Reading Program reports are due **June 30th**. Please send them to me at 206 N. Roan Street, Algona, IA 50511.

I hope to see you at the District Day Apart in Britt on April 14. In the meantime, **KEEP READING . . . It’s your “window to the world”!**

Blessings,

Iola Chickering, Secretary of Program Resources

206 N. Roan Street, Algona, IA 50511



MESSAGE FROM YOUR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

The Nominating Committee has started searching for the following positions on the district board:

Education and Interpretation Coordinator

Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

Nominations Committee Members (2)

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

This looks like quite an undertaking but with help from all of you, we can do this. Job descriptions of three of the jobs are included in this newsletter. Don’t wait to be asked. **YOU CAN VOLUNTEER YOURSELF!** You can contact me or someone from the committee.

Our numbers and emails follow:

June Erdman, Northwood, Iowa

641-324-2715

jurog@centurylink.ne

Sandy Friesen, Ogden, Iowa

515-275-2385

friesen@netins.net

Lavonne Hoover, Gilmore City, Iowa

515-373-6650

lkhoover@mchsi.com

Marlene Pieper, Manson, Iowa

712-297-7471

sandygrafunder.sg@gmail.com

Many Thanks,

Marlene Pieper, Chair Person, Committee on Nominations, North Central District

6255 Twin Lakes Road, Manson, IA 50563 Telephone 712-297-7471 (No Email)



JOB DESCRIPTION for MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH DISTRICT COORDINATOR

The Coordinator of Membership, Nurture and Outreach works closely with the rest of the Executive Committee. This means attending 4-5 executive meetings during the year. Two of those meetings take place the day before the district spiritual retreat and the annual meeting. District officer training takes place at the beginning of Mission u in July. Attendance at Mission u in July or October is encouraged. This involves 3 1/2 days in July (Sun., Mon., Tues., and Wed.) or 2 1/2 days in October (Fri., Sat., and Sun.) At the district annual meeting she is responsible for leading a local officer training. This often involves a sharing time to discuss how we involve new members and continue to keep everyone involved in the mission of United Methodist Women.

In addition, she is responsible for assigning district friends each year. She receives reports from the other officers and local units about their visits so that she can follow up on any questions. She is also responsible for helping new units and often follows up with units which are deciding to become inactive. She also collects the membership counts from locals to report to the Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator. Local units return a membership count form in January which is given to the local presidents at the district annual meeting.

Working with the other district officers is a great joy and a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends. The district officers work well together as a team.

* * * * *

JOB DESCRIPTION for SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

1. Attend the district Leadership Team (previously Executive Committee) meetings. Two might involve an overnight stay depending on the location.
2. Write an article for each district newsletter. (Three in a year.)
3. Be sure all churches in the district get a list of the Bible Verses in the fall for the coming year. (This comes from the conference Spiritual Growth leader.) Also prepare a flyer to be sent out in the newsletter to give the details of the spring Day Apart.
4. Prepare a display of some kind to remind those attending the District annual meeting of the Day Apart coming the following spring.
5. Conduct the meeting of the Spiritual Growth Coordinators at the District annual meeting (LOTE). (This can be just sharing the information received at DOTE.)
6. Lead devotions at all district meetings as well as the "grace" before the meal.
7. Attend Mission u in July or October and attend the DOTE (district officers training event) workshop.
8. Visit as many units as she can, who she has as their District Friend. This includes sending Thanksgiving and/or Christmas cards to introduce yourself, especially if you haven't visited them in years past.
9. Plan and organize a Spiritual Day Apart in the spring. Usually it is in April. She sets the date for this. Other times she lets the hosting United Methodist Women set the date.

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR

The Coordinator for Education and Interpretation is a member of the Executive committee. Her duties include:

1. Attending all Leadership Team meetings (3-4 per year) and the Annual meeting, Day Apart and North Central District Mission studies.
2. Writing an article promoting events and encouraging each unit's participation in the North Central District Newsletter, Flaming Fortress, (3 per year).
3. Attending Mission u in July or October and attending the DOTE (District Officers Training Event) workshop. Registration is paid by the District.
4. Conducting a meeting of the Education and Interpretation Coordinators at the District annual meeting, sharing any information received from DOTE and helping to answer any questions they may have from their units. This is considered a Local Officers Training Event (LOTE).
5. Responsible for planning two District Studies based on the materials covered at Mission u. This includes:
 - a. Setting dates for District Studies and determining topics
 - b. Finding Leader or leaders (Speakers) for each event
 - c. Contacting churches to be hostesses
 - d. Providing flyers and promotion through the District Newsletter
6. Encouraging each unit in the District to participate in Mission Today and other mission opportunities.
7. Making arrangements to have copies of all units' Mission Today reports sent to you.
8. Compiling a list from these reports and sending a copy to the Conference Education and Interpretation Coordinator, to the District President and presenting the report at the District Annual meeting.

This is a great office for anyone who enjoys reading and learning.