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United Methodist Women Purpose
The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.
President’s Message

Greetings UMW Sisters!

“And endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:4-5)

I pray that you and your family are safe and well as we continue to be in lockdown due to the pandemic situation. We’re going through a variety of emotions as we live through these challenging times. For many of us it is a time to reflect, to draw closer to our families, deepen our faith, to reach out, and to connect. Although we are still not allowed to gather physically; we are provided with ways to connect virtually, with technical equipments and with the help of those with technical talents. (However, we do realize that these technology tools might not be available to all, so we find other ways (i.e., drive-by visits, letter writing, etc.) We are resilient people, and God provides us with ways to connect with one another. Most of us now seem to have adapted to online church services, online bible studies, online conferencing – through Zoom or Messenger, etc.—finding alternative ways. However, on those times that we need to venture out, let us be cautious and practice safety for our health (i.e. wearing face masks, social distancing, …) And so, during these times, we pray and put our faith in the Lord— as the verses in Romans 5:4-5 above states, we “endure”. “Endurance produces character, and character produces hope…” United Methodist Women—Faith, Hope, Love in Action—once again, we apply these words of our organization as we endure.

EAST DISTRICT UMW ANNUAL CELEBRATION – September 26, 2020, 10:00 am

We thank you, our local organizations, for your continued support of United Methodist Women for our Purpose and our missions still continues. Our East District UMW Annual Celebration, will VIRTUALLY take place on September 26, 2020. We will be meeting through ZOOM and will contact you with link and further details. We will be asking for meeting registrations to be completed so we know who to send links to, sending out pledge forms ahead of time, providing you with the Slate of Officers (2020-2021), and we will send the Program through e-mail and/or post mail for those without e-mail.

Theme: “God is Our Light”
Guest Speaker: Mele Faiva Blagojevich
Host Church: New Beginnings UMC (to broadcast remotely – 10:00 am)

We thank the generosity of New Beginnings UMC for kindly volunteering to host “remotely” from their facility for this event. We will be announcing our Slate of Officers before hand and installing our new East District UMW Officers for 2020-2021 at that time. “Roll Call” of units will be taken from the registrations we receive of those participating in the Zoom meeting. We will be asking for each Local Unit’s Pledge for 2021 prior to the celebration – details will be given by e-mail and by postal mail for those that do not have e-mail. We will
keep you posted on additional information and updates. We thank you for your patience and understanding and we pray for God’s guidance as we proceed with the program.

**Other UMW Information UPDATES**

**Western Jurisdiction**
- Voting of UMW National Directors (July 25, 2020 – Virtual)
- Installation of new Western Jurisdiction Officers (September 17, 2020 – Virtual)

**Mission u**
- Will be a District Event – Virtual (Details TBA)

**Cal-Pac Conference UMW**
- D’LTE
- October 23, 2020 – Virtual (Details to be announced)
- October 24, 2020 – Virtual (Details to be announced)

**Sharing**

**Called to Action.** During this challenging time, our Cal-Pac United Methodist Women responded to calls of action for helping our local communities

- Volunteers were asked to sew face masks and head gears which were urgently needed by the health care providers at Arcadia Methodist Hospital, our local mission. Many of our UMW ladies stepped up and went to action. To date, our UMW women have contributed approximately 500 face masks and 750 headgears to the Methodist Hospital. Currently, they have also asked for the sewing of hospital gowns which we are helping with. (UMW Coordinator: Julie Asuncion)

- Cal-Pac women assembled Hygiene Kits in addition to providing monetary donations to Crossroads UMC under the direction of Rev. Adriene Zachery and Conference Social Action Coordinator, Brenda Tuita. These Hygiene Kits were distributed to approximately 3,500 persons who will be released early from custody to avoid the COVID-19 infection.

These two projects were well received, and we wish to thank those Local Organizations and caring volunteers who donated their time, skills, financial and other resources for support.

Keeping you all in my prayers as we continue to be of service to the Lord, be with our families, friends, churches, and communities. May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Blessings,

Julie Asuncion,
East District UMW President
juleton@sbcglobal.net, 626-862-2756
Dear UMW Sisters,

As we continue to stay at home with this Coronavirus not knowing when this will end, we have put things on hold that were planned 6-12 months in advance. How things can change our lives in a matter of a few days. But we will all get through this with the Grace of God.

In the last newsletter local organization were recognized that meet the 5 Star and/or 60/40 requirements. There was an oversight on Yoba Linda UMW. We would like to Congratulate Yorba Linda UMW for meeting the 60/40 requirements.

Our District Annual Celebration in September will be held virtual this year. As we prepare for this event most of you may know this is the time that I would request for the Pledge Cards for 2021. Treasurer’s, you should have received an email with the form to complete.

The Conference Annual Celebration will be in October. This is the time to honor people by the Candle of Commitment for $21.61 per minute. Deadline to receive the form to your District Treasurer is October 1, 2020. Attached is the form to complete.

Here’s the update on Methodist Hospital Rehab…… Pledge is $100,000 and we need approximately $7,000 to reach the goal.

Lastly, during this difficult time most of us had to cancel our Fund Raises which would have been money raised for Mission Giving. Let’s keep in mind that any amount that your organization sends in will help the Mission for United Methodist Women.

As always feel free to email or call at the information below if you have any questions.

May God continue to keep your families healthy and safe.

Blessings,
Freda Low, East District Treasurer
Email: Freda.umweast@gmail.com
Phone: 626.572.7540
Candle of Commitment
2020

The Cal-Pac UMW Candle of Commitment represents the cost of our mission work to women, children, and youth in the U.S. and countries around the world. The candle will burn at the Conference Annual Meeting on October 24, 2020 as a way of honoring the Mission-Minded Men and Women in Our Life.

The candle will burn for one minute for a minimum gift of $21.61 per honoree.

Gifts can be given by a Local Organization or an Individual.

Forms must be received by October 1, 2020

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Cut here and keep the top half for your records. One form per person to be honored, please print clearly

[ ] In Honor – Person Name,__________________________________________

[ ] In Memory – Person Name,________________________________________

Person or Local Organization submitting name, Amount,____________________

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PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR UMW DISTRICT TREASURER ALONG WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO,

East District UMW

Mail to – Freda Low, 8437 Village Lane, Rosemead, CA 91770
News from your District Secretary,

Happy Summer Everyone! I am praying that this finds all of my UMW Sisters and their families in good health and avoiding the COVID Virus. I know several people who have had it and am thankful that they are recuperating and doing well. It saddens me that they have had to suffer from this virus.

I missed all of you as we were not able to have our East District UMW Social Action Retreat in April, but am looking forward to seeing you online at our Annual Celebration in September. I am also hoping to attend Mission u online as this will be the first one I have missed in a decade, but am waiting to see what happens. I always enjoy meeting new UMW friends and catching up with old ones. Not only do I enjoy meeting with all of you, I enjoy taking the classes where I always learn something new. Last year’s class was about Racial Justice. Who knew that I would need what I learned in my class to really understand the events which have occurred this past month. The teachers always work so hard and do a wonderful job.

I have learned to Zoom on my IPad through all this which keeps me connected with my Church Family as we worship on Sunday and have daily devotions together. We will come through all this, and we will be stronger. First, I need to ask all local Unit Presidents to please send me the number of members from their unit who will be attending our first Virtual Annual Celebration on September 26th. I need this for the Roll Call. I also need to ask my local unit Secretaries to send any address changes they may have for their officers--my e-mail address is margieschriener@yahoo.com. After Annual Celebration in September, I will send forms to fill out with their 2021 Officers information.

Have a good Summer. Continue to spread the Good News and Love One Another! That is our Mission.

Margie Schriener
East District UMW Secretary
EAST DISTRICT UMW – VIRTUAL – ANNUAL CELEBRATION

“God is Our Light”

(Broadcasted from New Beginnings UMC – September 26, 2020 at 10:00 am)

GUEST SPEAKER: MELE FAIVA BLAGOJEVICH
(Former UMW Conference President)

Registration Form

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

E-mail address: ___________________________ Phone _______________________

(Zoom link instructions will be sent to your E-mail address to Join the Meeting; those without e-mail, information will be sent by postal mail to dial in.)

Local unit: ___________________________________________________________

Send information to: (Registrar) Liz Roark – lizumc94@gmail.com or
Mail to: Liz Roark, 695 Sequoia Street, San Bernardino, CA 92407

(No registration fee. Any donation, in lieu of, will be appreciated for the Methodist Hospital Rehab Pledge. Check payable to: East District UMW, Memo line – REHAB, send Freda Low)

Deadline: September 16, 2020

To give an offering for this event, please make your check payable to East District UMW and send to: Freda Low, 8437 Village Lane, Rosemead, CA 91770
Social Action Message

Education Equity was the title of the June 11th faith talk. As a retired educator and intrigued by the title, I joined in, via zoom to hear a moderator, an attorney and an educator discuss removing obstacles to learning.

The panelists discussed fixing conditions that lead to poor educational outcomes. Great attention was paid to the use of police in school. Districts will hire their own police force or contract with their city to have police on campus. The funds that could have been used on nurses or counselors instead go to policing. This has resulted in the criminalization of tantrums and other sometimes age-appropriate misbehaviors. The presence of law enforcement can create an escalation of incidents as police bring law enforcement tactics inside the school.

Some advocates for school policing say these officers may be the only opportunity students have to interact with police and could be a positive measure to build trust. One panelist disagreed, saying, “White schools have counselors; black schools have cops.”

What can you do? Panelists recommend Teaching for Change (www.teachingforchange.org). Teachers for Change have books and other resources for teaching civil rights, cultural histories, as well as programs to connect the school and community. Recommend this site to your teacher friends. Also ask your local school board to reinvest in teachers and counselors instead of the police. The action is at the school board. Hold your school boards and school administrators accountable.

Faith Talks are a monthly conversation that help explore themes to put our faith, hope and love into action. Learn more about Faith Talks at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks.

Blessings,
Lyn Knowles, Social Action Coordinator
Greetings,

For our UMW Sisters and Family,

May the Lord bless you and your family as we go through these uncertain times. Be strong and keep the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. God is always near. Amen.

Leah Paule
East District UMW, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Spanish Language Coordinator
Greetings,

Dear Miriam,

Thank you for your service as a nurse, caring for others, your family, and your UMW Sisters. Even with all your busyness, you found time to be the Guest Speaker at the June Limitless Event. We are blessed to have you in the East District Leadership Team. Sending you our heartfelt THANKS for your dedication and support for UMW. We pray for your health and safety.
Program Resources Message:

Hello, sisters in Christ! Do I miss hugging you in -person but I can virtually hug you! I hope and pray that you are adjusting well with lockdown or quarantine or “house arrest”! It could be boring but as UMW we can invent ways of coping! Our prayer calendar offers daily lectionary reading to inspire us during the day and our reading list presents a long list of interesting and challenging books besides being very informative! I am finally reading "Born On Third Base " by Chuck Collins as recommended by our guest speaker, Ms. Carol Barton, Executive for Community Action, at the Mid-Winter event. Someone in our district finished more than 20 books just during this lockdown. I challenge you, avid readers, to keep on reading. You know that we can count those books listed from 2015 until 2020. We still apply 4 plans, namely: Plan I (5 books, one from each category), Plan II (10 books, 2 from each category), Plan III (15 books (3 from each category) and Plan IV (4 from each category). Submission of list of books read will be by December 15 to give me time to submit to our conference to make your certificates. You know, we can order books from Amazon or Kindle and we can borrow some of the books from our local libraries. We can also swap with other local organizations near you. Some local organizations form book clubs that meet regularly, thus, each member is able to read as many as the others. Be creative! Please share your great practices thru e-mail or FB. Did you know that we have our own page in Facebook? It is named East District UMW!

District reading room managers met virtually with our Conference RRM, Liz Martinez, last May 14. We were reminded that our Conference Annual Celebration would be virtual in October. That means Liz will meet us virtually as well a day before the celebration.

She reminded us to continue to promote the reading of the Response magazine and explore the use of audio-visuals. Amazon buyers are encouraged to utilize smile.amazon.com to help raise funds for UMW.

On June 2nd, our district team leaders met virtually and decided that our district annual celebration in September might as well be virtual. New Beginnings UMC volunteered to host the taping for that day. Our theme will align with our Program Book theme: God Is Our Light! One more thing, I hope when we go in-person worship, we can continue to use our Program Book for our Bible Study and themed programs during our general meetings.

Meanwhile, let us continue to focus on our mission of global involvement in helping and supporting the needy and the marginalized and to embrace Proverbs 8:11: “For wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.” May our light shine upon the road to justice and peace for all regardless of race, color, religion, and culture!

Aurora P. Garcia
East District UMW, Resource Room Manager
Several of you will agree that you do not necessarily have to be physically present and/or see each other often to know that you care for one another, belong to a group or to be friends. In fact some organizations do not require your presence. We keep our friends for years even if we have not seen them for a long time. How do you keep such relationship?

It has been several months that we are not allowed in our churches to have corporate worship, meetings and activities that involve a large number of people. Our yearly Mission U had been cancelled. I was disappointed because I really looked forward to seeing you all and my friends from other districts. What do we do so we do not miss each other too much?

This is the time when I am so grateful of social media and technology for allowing us to get in touch with one another as UMW. We can see and worship together, hold meetings, bible study, prayer groups and celebrate special occasions through ZOOM. You can even use your landline if you don't have computer, laptop, Ipad or smart phones to listen just by calling a specified number. You can visually see each other as a group or individual through Messenger, Skype or other digital means.

Regardless of Covid-19, we continue what we do as UMW. We get in touch by calling each other by phone, write a note, send cards, email, text, talk or drop by to see a member, friend or neighbor but now just in front of the house or with social distancing with a mask. Continue also to read daily your bible, prayer book, meditation materials(Upper Room/Daily Bread. Etc.), and do your reading program books.

For your information, there are 34 units who completed the Census 2019 compared to 18 last year—good job. (See list on the following page.)

I thank God every time I think of you all. Take care and be safe.

Melinda Songco (Membership)
626 552 6332)
Hello to all the women of the East District. I pray that you are doing well and staying healthy. The Nominations Committee has been busy with filling the slate for the upcoming year. We are proud to present the slate to you, which you will find in this newsletter. We still have one opening and will continue to work on filling that position.

Being on the district level as an officer may seem like a big task. I am not going to tell you that it is not. But being a district officer is extremely rewarding, you work with some great women, and you have fun doing it. So, I would like to challenge you to pray about stepping up and be a district officer. You do have training that happens and the support of all the women on the leadership team.

Contact a member of the Nominations committee and let them know you are interested in becoming an officer. Just because you ask does not mean you are committed. You can also fill out the Gift and Graces form and send it in. I really want to challenge you to step up and be a part of the district leadership team.

Your sister in Christ,
Liz Roark
Chair of Nominations Committee
909-227-6919, Lizumc94@gmail.com

COMMITTEE OF NOMINATIONS
Annie Solomon, 760-245-7902, annsolo1029@netscape.net
Sandi Harris, 626-201-6491, sanderella01@live.com
East District United Methodist Women
Slate of Officers Nominated for 2020-2021

Officers to be elected to the first year of their first term:

Vice President: Liz Roark
695 Sequoia St., San Bernardino, CA 92407
(909) 227-6919; lizumc94@gmail.com; New Beginnings UMC

Communications Coordinator: Karen Eagans
2847 Vine St., Norco, CA 92860
(951)313-1017; keagans@aol.com; Corona UMC

Class of 2021: Annie Solomon (first year as Chairperson of CON)
73027 Sun Valley Dr., Twenty-nine Palms, CA 92277
(760) 221-6650; annsolo1029@netscape.net; Twenty-nine Palms UMC

Mission Education Coordinator: open

Officers continuing to serve the second year of their first term:

President: Julie Asuncion
2116 S. 7th Ave., Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 862-2756; juleton@sbcglobal.net; First Filipino-American UMC of SGV

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Leah Paule
13240 Yellowwood St., Moreno Valley, CA 92553
(951) 656-8272; (951) 563-3180; bpaule46@gmail.com; New Beginnings UMC

Officers to serve the first year of their second term:

Social Action Coordinator: Carlyn (Lyn) Knowles
12843 Tehama Circle, Riverside, CA 92503
(951) 737-3541; daselwonk@aol.com; Riverside First UMC

Membership Coordinator: Melinda Songco
1817 S. Monterey St., Alhambra, CA 91801
(626) 552-6332; damelin_23@yahoo.com; Rosemead Mission Community UMC
Program Resource Room Manager: Aurora Garcia
3348 Tannencrest Dr., Duarte, CA  91010
(626) 524-2841; babybulagat@hotmail.com; First Filipino-American UMC of SGV

Officers to serve the second year of their second term:
Secretary: Margie Schriener
79605 Camelback Dr., Bermuda Dunes, CA  92203
(760) 772-7475; margieschriener@yahoo.com; Shepherd of the Valley UMC

Officer to serve the second year of their third term:
Treasurer: Freda Low
8437 Village Lane, Rosemead, CA  91770
(626) 572-7540; freda.umweast@gmail.com; Shepherd of the Hills UMC

Positions appointed by the President:

Serving the first year of their first term:
Filipino Language Coordinator:  Lina Marbella
804 Sandlewood St., Colton, CA  92324
(909) 809-1058; linagracemarbella72385@gmail.com; Moreno Valley UMC

Serving the second year of their first term:
Spanish Language Coordinator:  Miriam Hernandez
142 S. Esplanade St., #210, Orange, CA  92869
(657) 271-6094; chocolate4healthyyou@gmail.com; New Beginnings UMC

Limitless Young Women’s Coordinator:  Lesieli Vao
15787 Fontlee Ct., Fontana, CA  92335
(909) 244-7702; hualofaia3129@gmail.com; Colton UMC

Serving the second year of their second term:
Limitless Mentor:  Taufa Tenisi
1673 Vine St., San Bernardino, CA  92411
(951) 429-2189; (909) 763-2773; klct6enisi@gmail.com; Colton UMC
Committee on Nominations:

Class of 2022: Sandi Harris
346 N. Sunset Ave., #141, La Puente, CA  91744
(626) 201-6491; sanderella01@live.com; La Puente First UMC

Class of 2024: Zeni Casimiro
1703 Tonopah Ave., West Covina, CA  91790
(626) 991-4396; zncasimiro@gmail.com; First Filipino-American UMC of SGV

Class of 2024: Sandra Jelinek
9534 Flaherty St., Temple City, CA  91780
(626) 287-5452; sjelin2@aol.com; Church of the Good Shepherd, Arcadia

Class of 2024: Liza Mendoza
1109 Manley Dr., San Gabriel, CA  91776
(626) 272-0288; cyberliz77@gmail.com; Montebello UMC
Mission Education Message

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. Right now you may be questioning what is my role as we face this time of change. As our Cal-PAC UMW Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator Sophia Blackburn said, “Mission Education and Interpretation is to help our members connect to God and mission opportunities around us and worldwide. This can still go on during our shelter at home time.”

How can we accomplish this? On a local level look to those who need our prayers and assistance. Those alone, the homeless, those facing losses or experiencing health issues. Those facing loss of jobs or going back to work in an uncertain environment. I am sure there are other fears and concerns. Your pastor can help identify some of those in need for you.

On a worldwide level pray for the mission projects that United Methodist Women are doing in our 99 mission projects around the world. Keep in touch with missionaries. You can find their information in the Prayer Calendar. Let them know you are praying for their safety, health, and success as they conduct their missionary work. Remember them on their birthday and other special days.

I know we are not able to meet together at this time but take advantage of the opportunities available to stay in touch. On line meetings, emails, phone calls, cards, and notes. Just let them know you are thinking of them and keeping them in your prayers. As it says in First Thessalonians 5:11 “Encourage one another and build each other up”

Please know that each of you are in my thoughts and prayers. I have faith that we will once again be able to join together and celebrate our precious Lord. Remember the words of Marian Wright Edelman: “Lord make our hearts bigger, our love deeper, our faith stronger, our hope unwavering, our strength greater, our efforts unceasing, our voices unflinching, our vision yours”

Barbara Grode
East District Mission Education Coordinator
Message from Limitless Young Women’s Coordinator – Lesieli Vao

God is Great, everyday! And every day, God is great!
It is an honor and a blessing for me to be in this year Limitless team. Not only does it teach me things in life, but it also helps me to see how Great our God is. I thank Him for his love and guidance thru this blessing time of pandemic.

Limitless is great, we had our first event this year in June, a bible study. This event was thru Facebook live. Our guest speaker was our very own Miriam Hernandez our East District Language Coordinator. The theme for the event was, “If God is for us, who is against us” and the scripture was Psalm 127. It was such a blessing and I felt the holy spirit moving in me thru out this whole event, from start to finish. You had to be there to know the feeling that I felt.

In July we also had our Limitless conference event, which was thru Facebook live too. We had 3 guest speakers, Rev. Allison Mark, Rev. Monalisa Siofele Lolohea, and Ebony Diaz. They were each given a part to speak about empowering our community by engaging, igniting and transforming our lives. The theme was “God is within her” Psalm 46:5. If you missed out on both events, it’s still on the Cal-Pac Limitless Facebook page, or if you don’t have a facebook account just go to www.facebook.com/calpacumclimitless and you can view the program there.

I would like to thank our guest speaker Miriam Hernandez for the beautiful message that you shared with us. And, to those that helped put together the program, to Valerie Tamboan and her family, Angela Lopez, Rose LaRiviere, Meletonga Niu’ila and Nicole Nonies. I thank you all for sharing your time and talents to do God’s work. May He continue to bless you and your family in whatever you go thru in life. Last but not the least, I would like to thank our East District Leadership Team for the support and love that you all give for our Limitless Team. May we continue to walk hand in hand in doing the Lord’s will.

Thank you again to everyone for your love and support. Without your help, we would not be able to continue moving forward and upward. I pray God blesses you all in this time and I’m looking forward to another successful year with you all.

Lesieli Vao