



NORTH EAST DISTRICT

“The Shofar”



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2024 Volume 9 – Number 3

JULY



United Women in Faith

Our NEW logo and NEW name



United Women in Faith

We are now United Methodist Women/doing business as United Women In Faith. (UW Faith)

“WHATS IN THIS SHOFAR??”

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TEAM MEETING SCHEDULE: (CONTACT US IF ATTENDING MEETING)

**AUGUST 3RD. in person 10:00 AM
Algoma Blvd., 1174 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901**

“WHAT IS NEXT IN DISTRICT?”

Conference Events:

**August 16-18 Executive Team Meeting
Pine Lake Camp**

**WI CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING
IN PERSON EVENT ONE DAY
OCTOBER 12TH 8:30 am
EAU CLAIRE LAKE STREET UMC
(information will be forwarded when
available)**

**District Event: September 21, 2024
Registration form: due Sept. 10th**

**Annual Day of Celebration
Oshkosh Algoma Blvd.
1174 Algoma Blvd.
Oshkosh, WI 54901**

President's message

Happy 4th of July!

As we move into an expanded district. The Conference has reduced our districts to 4. After all the changes, North East District, will inherit 14 units from the North Central District which is being removed. So, here we go again... North East District is looking forward to having the units from North Central District joining us and sharing different ideas that they are bringing to NED. Change always brings new friends and new ideas both are always welcome.

We cordially invite you to join us at our Annual Day of Celebration on September 21st at Oshkosh Algoma Blvd. They have a vast collection of Nativity sets and have set up some tours with information at sign-in table. We will have tables set up for units that want to share information about their projects. Let us know if you want to share.



Vice-President's Message

A Time to Pause and Reflect”

A recent newspaper title referring to a memorial celebration caught my eye. We, human beings, have made special days and times in our lives to recognize the importance of stopping and remembering people and events in our lives. The North East District UMW\UWF Board has been talking about and planning our District Day of Celebration that will be held on September 21, 2024, at the Oshkosh Algoma Boulevard Church.

Plans are being made to pause together and sing, pray, meditate, and review the last year with officers and members. There will be reflection time of past members. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Ellen Rasmussen who will, also, lead us in communion. Put September 21 on your calendar. Send registrations in and join us to “pause and reflect” at our Annual Celebration.

Secretary's Message

Please take the time to read the minutes of the last NED Board meeting held in June. We will be sending you the minutes after each meeting and including them in the Shofar. We want to encourage you to share the minutes with your unit and follow up with the NED team if you have questions or suggestions. Remember, you are always invited to join us on our teleconference meetings or our in-person meetings. Your input is highly valued by the NED team. **Roberta Gale, Secretary**

Northeast Wisconsin District United Women in Faith Minutes for June 1, 2024, Team Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Present: Sandy Butcher, Yvonne Fuller, Betsy Johnson, Sandra Klein, Rogene Moore, Barb Mamerow, Jan Stanko, Ruth Wiersma, Chris Worrall, Connie Meyer
Excused: Hazel Christopher, Roberta Gale

Connie Meyer, acting secretary took the roll call.

Barb Mamerow's devotion was on freedom, the personal freedoms we enjoy as Americans, and, as Christians, our freedom from sin.

Barb Mamerow shared the evaluation results from the April 27 Retreat at Kaukauna Peace (see reports below)

Connie Meyer shared CEO Sally Vonner's article from the Inspire section of the latest issue of *response Magazine* (see report section for details).

The minutes were approved as emailed.

Finance/Treasurer's report: Rogene announced that she will email the quarterly report at the end of June. Income in April and May was \$2,704 and \$1,125, respectively. She shared the need to remind our units to complete five categories to qualify for the Five Star Unit award.

President's Message:

- Jan asked for a roll call of officers announcing their willingness to remain in their position for another year. She reported that our board will welcome officers from the district being dissolved.
- Jan reminded the team of Bishop Jung's retirement and provided an overview of her email regarding the steps needed to donate to the campaign to purchase a printer for Bolivia.
- Jan reported that the General Conference did not approve of our organization's name change and will continue using the same EIN tax number.
- Jan reminded the team that in preparation for the Annual Gathering, our August meeting is at Oshkosh Algoma Blvd., which will host the event. Registration for the Gathering is due to Sandy Klein by **September 10**.
- She announced that all articles for the July Shofar are due to her by June 17-22.
- Team members, the following reports for the celebration booklet are due by August 17: Reading Program, Local Mission Projects, Five Star Unit Award, and additions to the Memorial List. Sandy Butcher will contact units about their participation in the special mission project completion reports. The new units will join our district on the weekend of June 7-10, and, as required, we will mail the completed Slate of Officers to all units 30 days before the Gathering.

Vice President's Report on Annual Day of Celebration:

Ruth announced that the Annual Day of Celebration theme is "Faith in Our Lives," our guest speaker and Communion officiant is Ruth Rasmussen, whose afternoon message will be "Quadrants of Our Faith." Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the church's nativity collection. Activities planned for the day include a business meeting with board position reports, recognition of outgoing officers, and a vote for a new slate of officers. New this year will be thirty-minute SWOP (an acronym for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities) sessions that two team members will facilitate and take notes at. Plans are to publish the results of the SWOP sessions in the Shofar. Displays of Local Mission Projects will be available.

District team meeting: August 3 at Algoma Boulevard, November 2nd teleconference.
Retreat: April 27, Gathering: September 21.

Reports:

Program Resources: Sandy Klein shared that she and members of her unit are reading *Women Rise Up* by Katey Zeh. This book is about biblical women and their stories from a feminist perspective, held side by side with women today. She highly recommends it.

Education & Interpretation: Sandy Butcher reported that twelve units have returned local mission project reports. She also shared that the nativity collection at their church is on permanent display and open to the public during office hours.

Social Action: Connie reported that this month's important calendar dates of June 5, World Environment Day, and June 7, World Oceans Day, require us as Christians charged with advocating for God's planet to act by urging the U.S. Congress to prioritize climate action in ongoing budget and appropriations decisions. She will email a 'Take Action' link to team members. Connie announced she will speak to the Manitowoc Lakeshore unit about Racial Justice on June 19. As part of that discussion, she has prepared a list of movies to watch to gain insight into the Black experience in America. She'll share that list with anyone who wants a copy.

Membership, Nurture & Outreach: No report.

Historian: No Report

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Submitted by Connie Meyer

The next team meeting will be on August 3 at 10:00 at Oshkosh Algoma Blvd, 1174 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh.

Send Off: As we leave our phone conversation today and get on with the busyness of our lives, I leave you with one of my favorite passages found in Philippians 4:4-8 NIV

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Jesus said "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.

And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. John 14:27 NLT

MINUTES CONT. REPORTS:

Barb Mamarow: **Evaluations from District Retreat:** 22 evals

Overall: 1 - 9 the rest 10

Meal: 3 -8, 3-9, the rest 10

Location: 2-8, 2-9 the rest 10

Cost: 2-8, the rest 10

1) did you learn something new all - YES

2) did you find a take away all - Yes

3) Favorite part of day - Many said singing the psalms, some Spoons concept, some liked the district update, some liked the social justice segment

4) least favorite part of the day - almost all were blank a few said none, it was all great !

5) Many positive comments: wonderful, good variety, very good, liked the fellowship, enjoyable, interesting, meeting some wonderful women, well planned, refreshing, uplifting, spiritual day, organized, educational, excellent, lots to think about, a growing experience, loved the format, whole day was great

6) all positive, with one negative - microphone was touchy

response moment, Connie: CEO Vonner highlighted what the women before us have accomplished by being bold decision makers and ended up listing what we as part of the 4th generation have done including the bold step of “refreshing our organizational brand with a new name, new website, and new pathways to membership and giving”. We adapted and changed to answer God’s call.

To me this article said more between the lines than in the lines. I came away feeling that we as a district and we as units must stop trying to explain or justify our name change AND all the other changes that some have been reluctant to accept.

In the spirit of our new name and logo (as directed by our organization) I encourage you to use the logo on all unit reports and church newsletters. I also encourage us to use it more in the Shofar newsletter and will email those suggestions to Jan. These are important steps especially now with the reorganizing of the districts.

Treasurer’s Report:

Well, it’s hard to believe we are finally getting summer weather and I am really enjoying it. I hope you are also.

I want to welcome all the units that will be joining the North East District. I look forward to meeting everyone. We extend a warm welcome.

As the treasurer for the district, I will try to help make this move as easy as possible for everyone. If there are any questions pertaining to finances I will try to answer and if I don’t have an immediate answer, I will get one for you. You can contact me at the information below:

Rogene Moore, **NED Treasurer**
1232 Arlington Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220
rogenemoore@gmail.com 920-682-0235

Program Resources

This month I read *Women Rise Up* by Katey Zeh. Connie Meyer generously gave our Lakeshore unit 3 of these books and we are all reading them. It is about women of the bible and their stories from a feminist point of view. She also holds stories of these women in the Bible side by side with current issues facing women today. Katey speaks the truth of the abuse, oppression, and erasure women have endured in the stories told about us. I highly recommend this book for study. Please remember to get your reading lists to me by the first part of August. No later than the 17th.

Sandy Klein Program Resources coordinator

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Hello, Everyone! Hope everyone is enjoying Summer! Welcome to the new units that are joining the Northeast District. We are so glad that you are here.

In the last Shofar, I was encouraging your unit to plan for a "Special Local Mission Project" during 2024. I heard from many units about the projects that you have planned. We would love to hear how your projects went. I will be emailing you a post project form and asking you to fill it out and return it to me. Then when we get together in September for our Annual Celebration there will be display areas to show off your projects. Please let us know if you will be bringing your crafts to display.

Remember Mission u's one-day overview day is July 13, 2024 at Winding Heights UMC in New Lisbon, WI.

Be aware of the Mission Today Unit forms, (pg. 9) and use it to guide your unit plans. What about including the response magazine at unit meetings? Does your unit participate in the five avenues of giving? If your unit is aware of what is on the Mission Today form, your leaders can plan for success.

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church in Oshkosh is planning for the Annual Celebration in September. We are very excited to host this event, and to highlight our amazing Nativity Collection from around the world that is on permanent display year-round. There will be time throughout the day to see this incredible exhibit. If you have any questions, please contact me at 920-426-3114 , or email at zonianangel@aol.com

Thank you, Sandy Butcher



ABOUT



BEES

BEES are essential for the health of people and the planet. There is so much talk about **BEES** and the crucial role that **BEES** play in our lives. **BEES** are responsible for pollinating 71% of the world's 100 crop species, which provides over 90% of the global food.

According to the laws of aerodynamics, the **BUMBLE BEE** cannot fly. Its body is too heavy for its wings and that the simple reason why. But the **BUMBLE BEE** doesn't know this fact and so it flies anyway, for all to see.

Remember this when you're losing faith or hope –
God's proof that the impossible can **BE!!**

In this land of opportunity, where you can **BE** anything...

BE...Kind

BE...Gentle

BE...Good

BE...Joyful

BE...Faithful

BE....Loving

BE....Patient

BE....Peaceful



And let the Holy Spirit **BE** in control (Galatians 5:22-23)

As Christian women our goal is to **BE** more like Jesus
in our thoughts, our words and our deeds.

BE all that you can **BE**, for the Glory of God.

Submitted by Barb Mamerow, Spiritual Growth



SOCIAL ACTION Message:

Congratulations Northcott Neighborhood House!

On June 19, 1865, the Union Army, led by Maj. General Gordon Granger, rode into Galveston, Texas, the last state in the Confederacy to grant independence to enslaved African Americans and declared that “all slaves are free.”

Juneteenth, now a federal holiday, is celebrated across the United States, but Milwaukee holds the record of hosting the longest-running Juneteenth celebration in the country.

Northcott Neighborhood House received the Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion Award at the 2024 Governor’s Dinner and Awards Celebration which was held at Geneva Resort on Tuesday, March 12. The Milwaukee Courier reports the “the Milwaukee community organization was honored for its commitment to the community for organizing Milwaukee’s Juneteenth parade and celebration for over five decades”.

This year’s celebration theme was “Our History, Our Culture, Our Village”. “We’ve tried to ensure that there’s something on Juneteenth for everyone,” says Tony Kearney, Sr., executive director at Northcott Neighborhood. The Juneteenth parade and festival occurred at the Northcott Neighborhood House on June 19, 2024.

Northcott Neighborhood House, started by Methodist Women who saw a need, is one of 90 National Mission Institutes across the United States supported by United Women in Faith.

Social Action, Connie Meyer

Mission Today Unit

Criteria for a Mission Today Unit: *Check items unit has completed.*

SILVER Mission Today Unit – complete a minimum of 8 of the following criteria, including 4 of those marked with asterisk (*).

GOLD Mission Today Unit – complete a minimum of 12 of the following criteria, including 4 of those marked with asterisk (*). (PLEASE file your report even if you do not qualify for Silver or Gold.)

- *1. Unit will use **Prayer Calendar** at each general meeting to pray for persons in mission work with women, children and youth.
- 2. Members will write to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least once a year.
- *3. The unit, circle or subgroup will conduct at least one **mission study** per year.
- 4. At least one member of the unit (not conference/district officer) will attend **Mission u**
- 5. Celebrate **United Women in Faith Sunday**.
- 6. Unit, circle will have program about **history** of United Methodist Women
- 7. At least two members (not conference/district officers) will attend **District/Conference Annual Meeting**.
- *8. Unit will add at least **one new member** to its roll.
- *9. Unit will have at least two members subscribing to **Response** magazine.
- 10. Unit will include a **Response Moment** from *Response* magazine to tell mission story.
- *11. Unit will use two programs from the **Program Book** during the year.
- 12. At least two members will complete any level of the **Reading Program**
- 13. Unit will co-sponsor with the local church, A **Children's Sabbath**, worship service highlighting needs of children.
- 14. Unit will participate in a **local project** that supports children & youth.
- *15. Unit will select a project from the **United Women in Faith Resource Catalog** and contributed the needed materials to the mission project.
- *16. Unit will implement the **Charter for Racial Justice Policies**, one way during the year.
- 17. Unit will have a least one person join the **United Methodist Women's Action Network** to receive and respond to legislative information. (United Methodist Woman Washington Office, 100 Maryland Ave NE Room 530, Washington, DE 20002.)
- 18. One or more members will become involved in one of **Social Action** Issues: **Climate Justice, or Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color**.
- *19. Unit will make and meet its **pledge to missions**.
- 20. Unit will be a **Five Star Unit**, contributing to all five channels of undesignated giving.
- 21. Unit will participate in the **"Call to Prayer and Self-Denial"** offering.
- *22. **Unit met its Pledge to Mission for prior year.**

Use this Criteria at your meetings which will make it much easier to file your report when we send it to you. PLEASE MAKE A COPY OF THIS SHEET AND USE IT AT YOUR MEETINGS for next year.

SEND REPORT FOR 2023 COPY TO: Sandy Butcher, 1631 Thornton Dr., Oshkosh, WI 54904
or E-mail to: zonianangel@aol.com

NORTH EAST DISTRICT
“FAITH IN OUR LIVES”

ANNUAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

September 21, 2024 Registration 8:30 – 9:00 AM



United
Women
in Faith

Guest Speaker: Rev. Ellen Rasmussen

Presenting: “QUADRANTS of OUR FAITH”

Oshkosh Algoma Blvd., 1174 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh, WI 54901

Offering for: Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Shelter

-PRINT-----CUT HERE and MAIL.... **Deadline: September 10** -----

Nativity tours available sign-up at sign-in

Unit:_____ Pres./V-P,/other,/member_____

Name:_____

Address:_____

E-mail:_____ phone:_____

Food allergies:_____

Emergency contact: (name & phone)_____

Emergency phone:_____

Make check for \$25.00 payable to North East District UMW.....

Mail to: **Sandra Klein, 6303 Riverview Dr., Two Rivers, WI 54241** 10

WELCOME TO OUR NC SISTERS: IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

NORTH EAST DISTRICT EXECUTIVE TEAM:

President & Editor

Jan Stanko, phone: 920-745-2067: jan@northeastdistrictumw.org

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Nominations:

Hazel Christopher: phone: 920-731-7760: Hazelc228@aol.com

Betsy Johnson: phone: 920-265-0216: Betsyjohnson58@gmail.com

14 UNITS INHERITED FROM NORTH CENTRAL:

ANTIGO, BERLIN, MATTOON, MINOCQUA, PLAINFIELD, PORT EDWARDS,

RHINELANDER, SOUTH BURR OAK, TOMAHAWK, WAUSAU FIRST,

WAUSAU WESLEY, WAUTOMA, WILD ROSE, WISCONSIN RAPIDS

(in respect of our new sisters, I only listed the church names and did not include any personal information.)

NORTH EAST DISTRICT SHOFAR
Jan Stanko, President/Editor
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BRILLION, WISC. 54110

