



## Northwest Texas Conference Lay Organization

# Newsletter

## Words from our President, Roosevelt Ellis, Jr.

### Special points of interest:

- Word from our President
- State Lay Convention
- Mother's Day is May 8, 2016

As we quickly approach the end of another Conference year, I would first like to thank each and every one of you who have helped me to make The Northwest Texas Conference Lay Organization a viable and visible member of the Tenth District of the A.M.E. Church.

The end is not yet as we still have a few more mountains to climb and a few more miles to sojourn.

I ask that all churches please

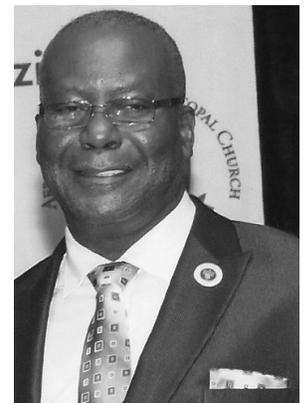
turn in your budgets for the Conference year. Also, we must remember that our Election of Officers is near.

Last, I once again beseech you to contribute to the 200 Club as the time is drawing nigh for our annual presentation at the Annual Conference.

I thank you so much for all that you have done, for all that you do, and for all that you are going to do.

Yours,

Roosevelt Ellis, Jr.



Roosevelt Ellis, Jr.

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## State Lay Convention

The Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites River Center Area, 1309 East Commerce Street San Antonio, TX, 78205, Phone: 210-220-1010 has been select as our hotel for the State Lay Convention June 3-4, 2016. The confirmation group code to make hotel reservations

for State Lay Convention is "AME". Please call and ask for in-house reservations. The rate of \$99.00 applies to all single/double/triple and quad rooms.



## Paul Quinn College Receives \$3.5 Million Gift From Simmons Foundation



Dallas, TX – March 28, 2016– Paul Quinn College (“Paul Quinn” or “College”) announced today that it received a \$3.5 million gift from the Harold Simmons Foundation (“Foundation”). The majority of the gift (\$2.5m) will be used to help finance the construction of the first new building on the campus in almost 40 years. The remaining amount (\$1m) is targeted to support the College’s Work Program.

The Foundation’s contribution further validates Paul Quinn’s remarkable transformation over the last ten years and brings the school one step closer to beginning construction on the Trammell S. Crow Living and Learning Center (“Crow Center”). The Center will address Paul Quinn’s need for additional student housing that has been created by the school’s rapid increase in student enrollment. Since the spring of 2010, the College’s enrollment has grown by more than 180% and by 55% alone from fall 2014 to fall 2015.

The remainder of the

Foundation’s gift continues their strong support of the College’s transition to becoming a federally recognized Work College. Paul Quinn began this conversion process in the fall of 2013. When completed, Paul Quinn will become the nation’s first urban, and eighth overall, Work College. By implementing the Work Program format, the College was able to reduce student tuition and fees from \$23,800 to \$14,275 and reduce student debt.

“We at the Harold Simmons Foundation are very happy to be a part of the Work College Program at Paul Quinn College,” said Foundation President Lisa Simmons. “This innovative model takes up the national challenge to prepare students for successful work lives without the burden of crushing debt that puts so many dreams out of reach. The Harold Simmons Foundation is proud to invest in Paul Quinn because it is an institution leading the way.”

“We continue to be deeply appreciative for the support of the Simmons Foundation,” stated Paul Quinn College

President Dr. Michael J. Sorrell. “The Foundation was one of the first institutions to believe in our vision for creating a new, New Urban College Model, one that prepares students by providing them real world work experiences at an affordable rate. We vow to live up to their faith in us.”

“The Board of Trustees of Paul Quinn is incredibly grateful for the confidence that the Simmons Foundation continues to show in the College,” explained recently installed Board Chairman Don Clevenger, Senior VP of Strategic Planning for On-cor. “Their most recent gift is an excellent statement not only about the school’s vision for the future. A vision that has found a home both locally and nationally.”

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**PAUL QUINN**  
COLLEGE

## CLO BOARD DONATES \$5,000 TO ASSIST FLINT, MICHIGAN WATER CRISES:

The Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) Breakfast Committee is doing everything to ensure a successful breakfast and that our ticket sales are targeted the delegates, the general body of the AME Church, and family and friends as we approach the General Conference. The CLO Breakfast will be held on Sunday, July 10, 2016 at 7:00 a.m. in the Philadelphia Convention Center.

We have engaged social media in our arsenal of tools at these locations: *Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*

The social media sites have been populated with information about the CLO Breakfast including the news release, the flyer and other pertinent material that can be sent to mailing lists or posted on episcopal district, conference and local church websites. People will be able to go online to purchase tickets. We are asking Lay Organization leaders on every level to distribute information related to the breakfast to

your district members as soon as possible.

This Breakfast is being held to support the Connectional Lay Organization Scholarship and Disaster Relief Funds.

The CLO Board voted to donate \$5,000 out of the Disaster Relief Fund toward the Flint, Michigan water crises. The good news is that we could afford to do so because we had funds available in the Disaster Relief Fund. With a successful CLO Breakfast, we will continue to support crises situations around the globe as we have done in the past.

When we started talking about using the CLO Breakfast for raising funds to support the Scholarship and Disaster Relief Funds as we did in 2012, we indicated that we needed to start selling tickets early. The reason was because of the number of ticketed events at this historic General Conference.

In our recent Committee teleconference, the AME Church Event Planner indicated that

we expect upward of 10,000 people at this General Conference. Our goal is to reach 1,500 of those attendees. Hopefully you have successfully started that process of ticket sales. The Committee looks forward to hearing your partial report at our April Executive Board Meeting. By that time, we will have sent you another flyer along with a Breakfast "YouTube" video for distribution.

If you need technical support, please don't hesitate to contact us. We have several Committee members who can assist you. Likewise, if you need additional tickets, please contact Ms. Anna Johnson.

We again thank you for your encouragement and positive feedback.

\*Mr. William "Bill" Ayers and Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell are the Co-Chairs of the Connectional Lay Organization Breakfast



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*"God will hold us all accountable in the end"*

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Remember mothers on Mother's Day 5/8/16

**We're on the web at <http://www.nwtclo.org>**

## **Scholarships Available through Connectional Lay Organization**

Dear Lay Members of the Northwest Texas Conference, The Connectional Lay Organization has established 3 three different scholarships to assist young men and women to obtain a college education. The individuals

who are selected will be awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$ 5,000.00. Please make the young people in your church aware of these scholarships.

The application can be found on the Northwest

Texas Conference Lay Organization website at: <http://www.nwtclo.org>



## **SECURING OUR CHURCHES:**

By Ms. Wenda Brown

In June 2015, the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina changed the course of all of our lives. Not only did it rob us of one of our AME leaders, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney; but also, it robbed us of the Rev. Pinckney's political vision as well as the lives of his faithful congregants who were leaders in their own fields and equally courageous on that fateful day.

When the Rev. Pinckney and his members were gunned down by 21-year-old, Dylann Roof, we were all stripped of the safety and security we feel behind the closed

doors of our churches. We must now adjust our behavior and enhance our Safety and Security Ministries. The Rev. Pinckney's vision led him to have a camera monitoring system already installed at his church. Ironically, it did not serve to save his life. However, he pioneered once again and allowed his life to be the example for change.

While many churches have invested in other material things inside and outside of church doors, security systems have in some instances taken a second seat. We must move their significance to a higher priority. Security comes in many forms. It includes parking-lot guards, entrance and exit guards

during worship, door bells and back-door buzzers; side-entrance peep- holes. We must join our community's neighborhood watch programs and make friends with our community police forces. We must also improve our sanctuary security routines. This will call for more secure collection plates and watchman to secure our Sunday school and child care areas.

No, we will not become prisoners in our churches; but, we will be taking proactive approaches to dismantle the unsettling times in which we live.

Ms. Wenda Brown is a member of St. Paul AME Church in Newport News, VA