

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Election on-site of the 2019 Quadrennial Convention

Connectional Women's Missionary Society

African Methodist Episcopal Church



Dr. Deborah Taylor King



Candidate for President

Deborah Taylor King has passionately served the WMS-AMEC, in the following capacities: Local President, Area Chairperson, Conference and District 1st VP, District President, Connectional RSBW and Connectional 1st VP. Deborah has traveled extensively throughout the

AMEC Connection, bonding with sisters of the African Diaspora.

Deborah brings over 30 years of management skills expertise acquired through her position as an Area Manager with AT&T/SBC (Austin, Corpus Christi and San Antonio). There, she successfully developed a perceptive sense of the power of teamwork and purpose. She gained unparalleled knowledge and understanding of the corporate trend which helped to frame her extensive background in this domain. As a manager, Deborah demonstrated vision and imaginative insight, while formulating plans and strategies for success. Throughout her tenure, she performed with high energy and always strived for excellence.

As a native of Austin, Texas, Deborah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business from St. Edward's University. In 2018, Paul Quinn College, Dallas, Texas, honored her with an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree. Deborah is also a graduate of Leadership Austin and has received numerous awards for her community involvement.

She is married to Charles E. King, they are the parents of one son, Travis and the devoted grandparents of Dezmond.

Deborah Taylor King's goal is to profoundly use her business acumen and Holy Ghost driven spirit to empower, ignite and motivate others in the advancement of missions.

For she does all things unto the Lord and stands on the unwavering belief that... "only what you do for Christ will last!"

Jeanette Harris



Candidate for First Vice President

In the spirit of honor and joy of life membership, I currently serve as Connectional Treasurer of the Women’s Missionary Society. As Treasurer for two consecutive quadrennials, I have diligently worked to maintain accurate WMS financial records that enhance transparency and render annual clean audits.

My historical WMS work includes local YPD Director, Conference Treasurer and Episcopal 1st Vice President for the 3rd Episcopal District. During these service opportunities, corporate grants were acquired; and corporate partnerships were developed with to provide clean water for Africa, and training for African teachers specific to best instructional practices.

As a candidate for first vice president, my skills are undergirded by a Degree from Southern Illinois University, and Certificates of Advanced studies from Cornell and Harvard Universities. In addition, I hold an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Payne Theological Seminary. I serve on many executive boards of professional and civic organizations. I have development and operated several successful companies, including the first African American owned and operated HMO in the State of Ohio, with gross revenues over 60 million dollars annually. Founder and developer of 7 elementary schools in Ohio and Georgia. It is my executive leadership experience and success in the corporate, for-profit, and nonprofit sectors that positions me for WMS leadership consideration. It is my promise to always put WMS first towards helping God’s people.

Mrs. Charolett Martin



Candidate for First Vice President

Charolett is currently a dedicated member of the Women’s Missionary Society Foundation Board.

She has served as an exceptional servant leader on all levels of the Women’s Missionary Society in the 12th Episcopal District including Episcopal President and First Vice President.

Charolett’s entire professional career has been one of “Extraordinary Service” at the executive level of government in the state of Arkansas. Each assignment has been appointed by an elected Constitutional Officer - namely Arkansas Secretary of State, served as Deputy Director of Business & Commercial Services; Arkansas Auditor of State, served as Director of Warrants Division; and Arkansas Commissioner of State Lands, served as Office Administrator. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, with a minor in Psychology from Henderson State University, Arkadelphia Arkansas. She holds membership with the International Association of Commercial Administrators (IACA) and Beta Pi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Lisa Johnson-Whitham



Candidate for First Vice President

For three decades and counting Lisa continues to be an active and progressive member of historic Big Bethel AME Church in downtown Atlanta, GA. Consequently, Lisa is developing an impressive Christian Social Action legacy of service and support to the church and community at-large.

Service is her passion! While building and maintaining a 23-year career as a Professional School Counselor, Lisa makes time to serve as local President and 1st VP of the Sixth Episcopal District WMS.

Lisa’s beloved Big Bethel resides in the historic “Sweet Auburn Avenue” district where she fosters a strategic collaboration with the Empowerment Resource Center, a non-profit social service organization. In this 10-year partnership as a board member, her leadership provides meaningful educational and prevention programs and initiatives to attack HIV/AIDS and other community challenges. Through participation in marches and rallies she leads her local society and the district in advocating for the community.

To ***Secure the Future*** of the WMS Lisa seeks to ensure that we grow stronger and more effective in the years ahead, preserving our past accomplishments for greater future works in the Name of Jesus Christ. Lisa is married to Bruce Whigham and has one daughter.

“...the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others...”

Ka'Dijah Brown



Candidate for Second Vice President

Ka'Dijah Brown is a proud and active AME, having served as an officer on every level of the church. Ka'Dijah's strong foundation in the YPD, helped her transition into the Women's Missionary Society where she served as an Area Chairperson, Connectional Public Relations Specialist and currently serves as the Connectional 2nd Vice-President. In addition to being a servant leader in the WMS, Ka'Dijah has served on the Episcopal Committee and is a current member of the General Board.

In her community Ka'Dijah serves as a School Board Director for the Board of Education for the City of Berkley. She is the youngest person to be elected to this office. Ka'Dijah is a 5th Grade teacher at Making Waves Academy in Richmond, California, where she also serves as the Co-advisor for the Black Student Union, and the President of the School Site Council. Ka'Dijah dedicates each day of her life giving back to God's people, which is her true passion. Ka'Dijah is a proud graduate of Bennett College, and is currently pursuing her Master's in Education.

Sanjena Clay



Candidate for Third Vice President

As far back as I can remember, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has served as an institution for my spiritual growth, higher learning and leadership training. I worked as a member and leader on every level of the YPD, including Episcopal District President. As a 26 year old, I concluded my term as a YPDer and 2 years later, I was appointed District YPD Director, where I served from 1986-1994. I then served as the Connection Women's Missionary Communications Chair from 1995-1999 and the Site Chair from 1999-2003. My work continued as a South Conference member of the Executive Board from 2004-2010.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 11th District was without a District YPD Director and I was called upon and very honored to be appointed the 11th Episcopal District YPD Director a second time. Through a seamless transition, the District YPD continued to excel.

I am the creator of many innovative programs that have received national and international recognition. As an unapologetically honest, fair leader with integrity and uncompromising values, I am gifted with the ability to inspire, recruit others (especially young adults) as well as, challenge and empower them to perform beyond their imagination.

Tanya Harper



Candidate for Recording Secretary

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY - 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

- .. 6 years as a Connectional Secretary
- .. 8 years Palmetto Annual Conference President, 7th Episcopal District
- .. 8 years as Conference 1st Vice President
- .. 6 years as Standing Committee Chairperson
- .. 7 years as a Local YPD Director
- .. Quadrennial Delegate - 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011, 2015
- .. Quadrennial Observer - 1991, 1995

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- .. Retired Organic Research Chemist
- .. Strong background in gathering, organizing and analyzing data
- .. Experienced in professional, church and community Team Leadership

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, It is the Lord Christ you are serving. "

Colossians 3:23-24

Theresa Ann Baker



Candidate for Assistant Recording Secretary

Currently Serve as 3rd Vice President for the 13th Episcopal District WMS

Past Positions

Historiographer-Statistician 13th Episcopal District WMS
West Kentucky Conference WMS President
West Kentucky Conference 1st Vice President
West Kentucky Conference Recording Secretary
WMS Area Chairperson
Local WMS President
Local WMS Recording Secretary

I will bring to this position 30+ years of Experience in Documentation and Note Taking. In the field of Social Work, if it is not documented, than it has not been done. My years of experiences has allowed me to listen intently without writing, while observing my surroundings and completing detail reports and surveys within 48 hours.

I will bring 30+ years of Experience with my Knowledge of the Computer and Microsoft Office including (Word, Excel, Publisher, PowerPoint) and various Office Equipment.

I have been on this Mission Field since November 6, 1987 receiving My Life Membership April 6, 2015.

Commit to the Lord, whatever you do and he will establish your plan.

Proverbs 6:3

Sharon Banks



Candidate for Corresponding Secretary

I am a former Conference President and former Conference Assistant Recording Secretary. Locally, I serve as Treasurer. I am a WMS Life Member, former President and Former Corresponding Secretary of the Charleston Unit, Church Women United and former President of the Kanawha Valley Interfaith Council. I also serve as Recording Secretary for the Commission on Global Witness & Ministry (General Board).

Sherry Peyton



Candidate for Corresponding Secretary

Conference Branch President 2008-2015, Conference Branch 1st VP 2003-2008, Conference Branch Treasurer 2007-2008, Area Treasurer 2001-2006 Local Historiographer-Statistician 2012 – 2013, Local Worship Director 2017 – Present, and WMS Foundation Trustee 2007-Present. High proficiency in Microsoft Word, MS Excel and MS PowerPoint. On my job. I am responsible for using data to develop presentations for Quarterly performance reports to our Executive Team.

Chandelle Ivy



Candidate for Treasurer

I am honored to serve as the current treasurer of the Second Episcopal District WMS, a position I have held since 2016. Prior to being elected Treasurer of the Second Episcopal District WMS, I was the Member-at-Large for 7 years. In addition, I currently serve as the First Vice-President of Turner Memorial AME Church's local WMS, Johanna Morris Women's Missionary Society and was privileged to have served as the immediate past local YPD Director for 8 years. I hold a Master of Science Degree in Accounting from University of Maryland - University College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Delaware State University. Also, I have over 15 years of professional accounting experience, working for one of the nation's top accounting firms and various senior management positions at publicly traded/S&P 500 companies. I am member of Turner Memorial AME Church where I work as the Chief Financial Officer/Vice-Chair of the Commission on Stewardship & Finance, and a Steward. I believe in accountability, transparency, and reputable reporting when it comes to all financial dealings. Above all, I love God and am thankful for His grace and hand in my life. I strive to give back to God all that He has given to me and use it to glorify His kingdom.

Jacqueline Mitchell Robinson ***Candidate for Editor***



Jacqueline loves the LORD and seeks to serve Him as a writer, editor, educator and missionary in the AME Church. She currently serves in the 4th Episcopal District under the leadership of Bishop John White and Supervisor Penny Hartsfield White.

Jacqueline has been an active missionary in the Earlie Mae Poole WMS (St. Matthew AMEC, Detroit, MI) for nearly 30 years. She currently serves as a WMS NGO Representative to the United Nations. Jacqueline was appointed the 2015 Connection Quadrennial Chairperson, Public Relations Committee and 2015 Connection Quadrennial Bridging Committee member.

WMS Offices held in the 4th District include: Michigan Conference WMS President, 4th District PME Director, Local YPD Director, and other positions on various levels.

She has a heart and passion for journalism, serving as a professional journalist for more than 20 years. She has previously worked as a staff writer for *Forbes.com*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Akron Beacon Journal* and *Kalamazoo Gazette*. She has written for *Essence*, *Time*, *Business Week*, *Network Journal* and *Emerge*.

Currently, Jacqueline is a High School English teacher and Yearbook/ Newspaper advisor.

Jacqueline has a B.A. in Journalism; a Master of Arts in Teaching.

Jacqueline is married to Gregory; they have three beautiful daughters.

Linda H. Mtshwelo



Candidate for Assistant Editor

She has served as Local 3rd Vice President, Episcopal Secretary, Episcopal PME Director and WMS 2nd Vice President. She currently serves as the Episcopal President of MSWAWO and WMS Treasurer on the Episcopal level. Her professional experience includes lecturing in financial accounting, community developer, public speaking, project management, facilitation and coordination skills. She initiated a program to assist students with preparation for end of the year exams and has facilitated developmental seminars for Coca-Cola, Plate Glass, Spornet, Old Mutual and Metropolitan. While humble and sympathetic to people's circumstances, she has learned that teaching people how to improve their situation and do for themselves is more beneficiary. She is a diplomatic, optimistic and God-fearing child of God. Linda is very responsible, hard-working and works well with people. She has strong event management skills with experience across a wide variety of industries. Linda prides her ability to provide thorough service, while maintaining a firm ethical stance at all times.

Margaret Maske



Candidate for Promotion and Missionary Education Director

Washington Conference WMS

- PME Director- 7yrs.

District Level WMS

- PME Director- 9 yrs.

Connectional Level WMS

- PME Director - 4yrs. (2015-2019)

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES:

As Connectional PME Director

- Planned Annual PME Dialogue and Institute.
- Provided writing workshop and training for District PME Directors and others.
- Edited, wrote lesson studies, litanies, prayers, for WMS Yearbook.
- Published WMS Yearbook
- Assisted in planning, facilitating and presenting workshops for Executive Board Meetings.
- Promoted and recruited contributing writers for WMS Yearbook.
- Developed Yearbook themes with District PME Director's.
- Distributed WMS Yearbooks.
- Provided invoices to districts for PME literature and resources.
- Budget

K. Mischell Glenn



Candidate for Director, Young People and Children's Division

God gives everyone a passion and purpose. Since the beginning of my adult life I have affirmed my calling: young people. For the past 25 years I've been directly involvement with young people in church and in the community. For the past 20 years I have been directly involved in YPD Leadership, 8 years as a local YPD Director, 4 years as area director, and currently ending my 8th year as Conference Director in the 11th District. Additionally, I am a 2011 graduate of the Dorothy Adams Peck Emerging Leaders Institute and was recognized as the YWI honoree at the 17th Quadrennial Convention. In my community I can always be found training and advocating for children. Having served multiple terms as PTSA President, School Advisory Council Chairperson, and coaching sports in the Duval County Public School System. As a certified Youth Life Coach I have helped children and young adults overcome obstacles, achieve their goals, and make positive changes in their lives. After spending over 20 years in the healthcare administration arena I am now self-employed. I am a member of Pi Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated where I serve as chaplain.

Wanda Ringgold



Candidate for Director, Young People and Children's Division

Connectional YPD Director, 2015-Present

First Episcopal District YPD Director, 1999-2007

Philadelphia Conference YPD Director, 1988-1996

As Connectional YPD Director, two Episcopal District Director leadership training retreats were initiated. At the 19th YPD Quadrennial two competitions were added, YPD Shark Tank and YPD Got Talent! The attendance has increased at the Annual Spring Leadership Training Institutes. We have strengthened our bonds and communication with directors in Districts 14-20. Over \$100,000 scholarships given through the annual Self Denial Program. Mission outreach projects include: Souper Bowl of Caring, Reading Across America, Haiti Water Project. Increased outreach to children in the foster care system across the US. Expanded programming for Mother Sunbeams and Allen Stars at both Leadership Training Institutes and Quadrennial Convention. I offer myself to serve our children and young people who are the future of our church. To best support them we must provide relevant programming, nurturing, training and expose our children and young people to our global reality as a Zion.

I am **CONCERNED** about the plight, reality of all young people across the globe. I am **COMPASSIONATE** about our young people! We can not sit back and watch! We must do something! I am **CREATIVE** about my work! Outside of the box, energetic, intentional and reaches all of the stages of young people from 2-26. Win with Wanda again!

Monica Dillihunt



Candidate for Historiographer-Statistician

Monica L. Dillihunt, Ph.D., Candidate for International Historiographer / Statistician is an Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Alabama Huntsville. She is a graduate of Howard University, with a Ph.D. in *Educational Psychology* and subspecialties in *Educational Leadership & Administration and Testing & Measurement*. Dr. Dillihunt has broad research interests, with published book chapters and articles focusing on culturally responsive pedagogy, multiple intelligences, differentiating instruction, learning and socialization processes, student motivation, HBCU's and Black males, Girls and social media, STEM and minority student achievement. Her recent research looks at motivational factors in Christian experiences and academic performance. Two of her co-authored papers received international awards. Dr. Dillihunt became the first African American female to receive tenure in the Department of Education in 2010.

With over 25 years of service, Dr. Dillihunt has served the WMS on all levels in the 9th, 2nd, 6th, and 13th Districts. Currently, she is the 9th District Parliamentarian and has served as the *Third-Vice President, Member at Large and Parliamentarian* of her local society. She has presented workshops for the Conference and Episcopal YPD and YWI's. She served as a member of the secretary's team during the 18th WMS Quadrennial and represented her district at the 1st International YAM Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Florine Herron



Candidate for Worship Director

- Worship Director, local church, Presiding Elder and Conference levels
- Worship leader, WMS sister organizations- regional chapters of the World Federation of Methodist And Uniting Church Women, and Church Women United
- Associate Director of Instruments, Music And Christian Arts Ministry
- Church School Educator
- Litanies published in The Anvil Serving Well 2006-2007 edition, and YPD LTI 2006 Conference worship program
- Episcopal District Lay Organization Director, Public Relations
- Director, Lay Activities, Presiding Elder District
- Teaching Certification (life) vocal and instrumental
- Inclusion, Marquis Who's Who Of Women In America 2009 publication
- Owner, Florimusic studios -- music scoring, publishing, recording, workshops and instruction
- American Red Cross Disaster Relief and Communications Specialist
- Faculty and musician, Gospel Music Workshop of America
- Member and musician, Evangelistic Board, Gospel Music Workshop of America
- Music contributor and guest, Operation Outreach For Souls telecast

Wanda Sims



Candidate for Parliamentarian

Wanda is a member of First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Gaithersburg, Maryland where she has served in various capacities for the past 33 years. Over the years she has served faithfully as a member of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) feeding the hungry, donating to the food pantry, preparing and delivering meals, providing school supplies and backpacks, and mentoring young women. As the chair of the Debutant Masters Program for her local church, Wanda attended conference and district meetings assisting where ever needed.

Wanda has been a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians (NAP) since 2008 and currently serves on the NAP Board of Directors as Treasurer. Since becoming a professional registered parliamentarian, Wanda has served as a consultant and conducted training at local and conference level WMS meetings and she currently serves as the parliamentarian for the Connectional WMS.

Wanda has experience serving as a parliamentarian and providing advice on parliamentary procedure, including meeting strategy, developing, revising and amending bylaws, conducting parliamentary procedure workshops for local governments, civic organizations and churches, overseeing elections, electronic voting systems, training presiding officers, boards and committees, preparing meeting scripts, writing parliamentary opinions, and analyzing unique and complex matters.

Sylvia C. Blake



Candidate for Member-at-Large

Sylvia C. Blake (7th District) was born in Stuttgart, Germany. She is currently the Connectional Member at Large, former Conference Branch 3rd Vice President (4 years), Local President (3 years), Local 1st Vice President (4 years). Under her tenure as president, she grew the Local Society from seven to twenty active members.

On the Connectional Level, Sylvia chaired the Theme Outline and Workshop Committee for the first ever Connectional Young Women’s Initiative Empowerment Conference in North Charleston, South Carolina.

In 2016, she transitioned the Connectional Young Women’s Initiative Recruitment Program under the Commission of Membership and Recruitment to active Young Adult Missionaries (YAMs). Under her leadership, the first Young Adult Member Summit was held on the Continent of Africa.

She established The Young Adult Missionaries Blog, SISTERS Speak.

On September 1, 2018, during the 108th Session of the Palmetto South Carolina Annual Conference, Sylvia was approved and issued a certificate of Licensed Missionary Worker of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

She lives daily by her favorite scripture: *“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.” 1 Timothy 2:15*

Janeta Ferguson



Candidate for Member-at-Large

Janita N. Ferguson is a 29-year old 5th generation AME, graduate of Tuskegee University with a B.S. Degree in Sales & Marketing, a marketing teacher and 4entrepreneur. As the current Member-at-Large for the Sixth Episcopal District, she has created a plan for programming and recruitment that has helped increase participation throughout the district with projects such as a Serenity Retreat, creative mission projects and activities, mentoring program for YPDers, quarterly empowerment calls, implemented financial savings and political campaigns, as well as continuously working on ways to increase membership within the WMS. Not only has she increased the recruitment and engagement with the Young Missionaries, but she has also built a relationship between all generations that has made our society in the Sixth Episcopal District stronger. She has not simply focused on the quantity of Young Adult Missionaries but the quality of Young Adult Missionaries- creating a space where young adult ladies do not simply come, join, and disappear. These young ladies come and THRIVE.

The same passion that compelled Janita to remain in local, conference, and district WMS is the fuel behind her desire to run for Connectional Member-at-Large. Janita seeks to implement a plan to assist the various levels with recruitment and retention of Young Adult Missionaries while gaining wisdom from sage missionaries. This will Bridge The Gap!