

Area IV President Report for 2017 Fall Rally and After Fall Rally

In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:11-12 NIV



Our Spring Rally was hosted by the ladies of Crainville Baptist Church on Saturday, April 22, 2017. There were 10 churches represented with 34 ladies and girls present. Our guest speaker was Vivian May (Becky Stanton's Mother). Vivian reported that Larry and Becky Stanton will be in Illinois for six to eight weeks this summer. After lunch, several ladies rolled over 100 bandages.

The offering included:

General Fund	\$ 140.00
Region Project	\$ 80.00
Student Aid	\$ 65.00
Stanton's	\$ 151.00
Love Gift	\$ 83.17
Total	\$ 519.17
Penny Project	\$ 14.32 (Donated to Crainville Baptist Church special project)



Our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of Area IV AB Churches was held at Mattoon First Baptist Church on April 30, 2017. Dr. Molly Marshall was our speaker, Paul Gibson welcomed Area IV members, Muriel Johnson delivered the message, and Patty Bilyeu was introduced as our Regional Minister for Areas IV and II. This was an excellent opportunity to visit with many church members in Area IV.



Our 49<sup>th</sup> Annual GRR ABW Ministries Conference was held on June 2-4 in Effingham. Area IV ABW Ministries Societies were well represented. The Community of Churches Table displayed small buildings representing each church report of Marks of an Active Women's Ministries in Great Rivers Region. Our guest speaker was Sarah Becker, Missionary Speaker was Sharon Buttry, and Rosalyce Grubbs installed the officers for Great Rivers Region. Our 2018 Annual Conference will celebrate 50 Years.

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Our Great Rivers Region Board Meeting was held August 25-26 at Lake Springfield Baptist Camp. Pastor John and Kelsey Parrish, Resident Managers greeted us. Devotion by President Lori Hill was on *Characteristics of a Good Leader*. The two days were filled with Working Group meetings (Church & Community and Mission & Service) and reports from secretary, treasurer, nominating committee, ABGIRLS, Student Aid, Special Project, Communicator, White Cross, and Area Presidents. The board discussed and planned events for the 2018 Annual Conference. The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual GRR ABWM Conference will be held on June 8-10 at Northfield Inn & Suites in Springfield, IL.



Our Area IV Executive Board meeting was held on September 9, 2017 at First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon. Georgianna Schultz always has a fantastic White Cross Bulletin Board. Following devotion by Shirley Pressgrove, reports were received. The board finalized 2018 calendar, directory, nominations, and proposed Bylaws.



The Installation for Patty Bilyey as our Regional Minister for Areas IV and II was held on September 17, 2017 at Greenville Baptist Church. Special music was by the Highland First Baptist Church, Nokomis First Baptist Church, and Rev. Cana Roth. Several ministers participated in prayer and Laying on of Hands





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Our 2017 Fall Rally was hosted by ABWM societies from three churches: Arthur FBC, Sullivan FBC, and Mattoon FBC. There were nine churches and 51 ladies attending. Our GRR President, Lori Hill reminded everyone to Save the Date for our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual GRR ABWM Conference next year. Jon and Amanda Good were our missionary speakers. They will leave for Hungary in November.

We are becoming a smaller Area IV as Calvary Baptist of Eldorado informed me that they had closed. It is important to maintain communication with our ABWM Societies in Area IV and offer suggestions that will encourage active participation.

These are a few suggestions we do in Area IV:

1. Communicate with mailings in order to keep an up-to-date data base of church contacts and addresses. Make certain church secretaries or pastors set up an ABW mail box in church office!
2. View Church Web Sites and look for web pages with information about ABW Ministries groups.
3. Encourage Area IV ABWM societies to establish and update their web pages.
4. Pictures are valuable communication techniques.
5. Church bulletin boards are a tremendous way to inform your church family about the activities of your ABW Society.
6. Update and distribute (in mailings) a list of Area IV Executive Board Officers. Include the term of office, address, and contact number.
7. Review the Bylaws for Area IV ABW Ministries. We adopted the revised Bylaws at our 2017 fall rally.
8. Maintain and distribute the Area IV Directory at each rally. The directory is also mailed to each church with an ABW Ministries Society.
9. The Area IV Executive Board meets once in spring and fall. Dates are set, spring and fall rallies are finalized, nominations of new officers are prepared for election at spring rally, directory is revised, budget is prepared, and officer reports are presented. The information from these meetings is sent by mail to each church in Area IV.
10. Encourage Area IV attendance at spring and fall rallies, Annual Conference, and AB Gatherings.
11. Provide GRR information to Area IV Churches: Area IV assigned Missionaries, Special Project for GRR, important GRR and National dates, White Cross, Student Aid, and forms such as Marks of an Active Women's Ministries in Great Rivers Region.
12. Encourage churches to form clusters for rally hosting. Our 2017 Fall Rally was hosted by three churches: Arthur, Mattoon, and Sullivan.
13. Patty Bilyeu is our Area II and Area IV Regional Minister from GRR. Invite Patty to one of your events.
14. Encourage support for our American Baptist Girls (Girls In Relationship, Leadership, and Service). Many churches provide financial support for their girls to attend conferences and rallies.
15. Next year, we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Annual GRR ABWM Conference. Save the date! Let's have 50 ladies and girls from Area IV in attendance. June 8-10, 2018.
16. Linda Driesner, President of ABWM at Highland FBC brought a very interesting display of cookbooks to the fall rally. This is a good way to earn money for the many projects our ABWM societies have during the year.

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1: 7 NIV

Blessings,  
Linda Watson  
Area IV President