



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Women's Missionary Society - African Methodist Episcopal Church



New Life Members
Mother Davis and Connectional
WMS President Deborah Taylor
King with new Live Member
Donette "Dee" Boyd-Yates
(Baltimore Conference)



Objective

Upon completion of the overview, each attendee should be aware of the Life Membership Process

QUESTIONS: Enter in the Q/A box

What's New?

Episcopal Presidents have been tasked with ensuring that all applicants meet all of the criteria for Life Membership before the application is submitted (i.e., when the Letter of Recommendation is submitted going forward)

Article VIII- Life Memberships

Section 1. Life Member. **After** twenty-five (25) years of **continuous meritorious service** in the Women's Missionary Society, a member is eligible to apply for Life Membership.

Article VIII- Life Memberships

(section 1 continued)

An applicant for Life Membership shall

1. Be **actively** serving in the Local, Area (if applicable), Conference and Episcopal organizations at the time of submitting the application;
2. Exemplify **continuous meritorious service**;
3. Be recommended by the **Local Women's Missionary Society; and**
4. **Remain active at levels of service as long as life and health permits.**

Life Members Are...

- Members of the voting membership of the Conference Branch WMS
- Members of the voting membership of the Episcopal District WMS
- Members of the voting delegation of the WMS Quadrennial Convention (with sustentation from the WMS)
 - Registered 59 and 55 attended the 2019 Quadrennial Convention
 - An additional 7 attended, but were not registered as Life Members

Number of Life Members

- 1 per Conference per quadrennium
- Replacement of deceased Life Member
- TOTAL: 106

The Problem

**There has been a
misunderstanding of
the criteria and the
process!**

The Problem

People only see
25 years
of service

The Problem

People do not see
25 years of
continuous meritorious
service

The Problem

**25 years of continuous
meritorious service is
not the same as 25
years of service**

Continuous Meritorious Service

Continuous: without interruption

Meritorious: deserving reward or praise, praiseworthy

Article VIII- Life Memberships – Meritorious Service

Section 2

- a. **Meritorious service** may be defined as **continuous significant** contributions through demonstrated **leadership** at the Local, Conference, Episcopal, and/or Connectional levels.

Continuous Meritorious Service

Continuous meritorious service may include, yet not be limited to:

- Demonstrated continuous service at the Local level;
- Distinguished services as an officer (elected or appointed) at one or more levels (Conference, Episcopal, or Connectional);
- Recruited and encouraged new members;
- Developed or initiated programs to promote missionary education; and
- Directed or chaired significant missionary programs at one or more levels of the Women's Missionary Society, etc.

What is NOT Continuous Meritorious Service?

- Ushering, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School
- Giving gifts to your Pastor, church member, neighbor
- Giving gifts to plumber, mail man, garbage man
- Just attending WMS meetings
- Just paying WMS dues
- Being Dorcas Queen

Meritorious Service

Service

- Attended or financially supported the event
- Donated clothing etc. to the drive
- Served on a committee and brought refreshments
- Served on the membership committee
- Brought food for the shelter, etc.
- Cooked food for the shelter
- Attend meetings
- Led the study

Meritorious

- Initiated and implemented the program
- Spearheaded the drive
- Chaired the committee and defined programs, etc.
- Developed membership campaign that increased membership
- Led the meal team(s)
- Coordinated shelter visits, food pantry
- Led meetings
- Devised/implemented the curriculum

Meritorious Service

Meritorious Service

- Organizing the choir or ushers for a missionary event
- Teaching Sunday School during a missionary event
- Organizing the gifts for a missionary event

NOT Meritorious Service

- Singing in the choir, ushering, teaching Sunday School or VBS
- Giving gifts

Letter of Recommendation vs. Life Membership Application

The Letter of Recommendation

- Local WMS recommends
- Local WMS President submits letter of recommendation with documentation of service, etc. attached to
 - Episcopal Supervisor
 - Episcopal President
 - Episcopal Third Vice-President
 - Conference President

The Life Membership Application

- Provided when a slot is available or at the beginning of a new quadrennium
- Must be signed by
 - Missionary
 - Local Pastor
 - Conference President
 - Episcopal President
 - Episcopal Supervisor
 - Bishop
- \$250.00 fee payable to the WMS
 - Life Member card, pin and stole

SEDWMS Process – Existing Roster

- Effective November 1, 2019
- Each person on the pending roster must validate her eligibility by submitting
 - Supporting Documentation that is now attached to the Letter of Recommendation
- Names of missionaries will be removed from the roster if:
 - The supporting documentation is not submitted
 - The missionary does not meet all criteria as defined in the 2016-2020 WMS Constitution and Bylaws will be removed from the roster immediately.

SEDWMS Process

New Recommendations

- Effective November 1, 2019
- Going forward, each person to be recommended for Life Membership must:
 - 1. Complete a checklist with the Local WMS President
 - 2. Complete the Supporting Documentation if all criteria is met
 - 3. Be presented by the Local President to Local WMS
- Upon approval, the Local President submits the Letter of Recommendation with the Supporting Documentation attached to the names listed per Constitution & Bylaws
- Upon approval by the SEDWMS and Conference Branch President, the name is added to the Conference Life Member Pending Roster

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WMS-LIFE-MEMBERSHIP-ELIGIBILITYCHECKLIST¶

¶
 The local WMS has the responsibility of ensuring that the missionary is compliant before submitting a letter of recommendation for Life Membership. If there are questions upon completing the following, the local President should contact the Conference Branch President.¶
 ¶
Dates are required for any officer or service rendered.¶
 ¶
 (Local Presidents should complete with the Missionary prior to submitting a Letter of Recommendation for Life Membership)¶

NAME OF MISSIONARY: _____ ¶
 LOCAL CHURCH: _____ ¶
 DATE JOINED CURRENT SOCIETY: _____ ¶
 (If you served at another church, please include)¶

PREVIOUS LOCAL CHURCH: _____ ¶
 PREVIOUS LOCAL SOCIETY: _____ ¶
 DATE JOINED PREVIOUS SOCIETY: _____ ¶

_____(NOTE: If fewer than 25 years, the missionary is not eligible for Life Membership in the WMS.)¶

____ 1. Active in the _____ Local Society WMS.¶
 ____ 2. Active in the _____ Area WMS.¶
 ____ 3. Active in the _____ Conference WMS AND¶
 ____ 4. Active in the _____ Episcopal District WMS.¶

If ALL of the above are not met, the person is not eligible for Life Membership.¶
OTHERWISE, THE MISSIONARY SHOULD COMPLETE THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION FORM.¶

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS - Rev. 7/20/2020¶ 11

.....Article VIII- Life Memberships.¶
 (2016-2020 WMS Constitution & Bylaws)¶

¶
 Section 1. Life Member. After twenty-five (25) years of continuous meritorious service in the Women's Missionary Society, a member is eligible to apply for Life Membership. An applicant for Life Membership:¶

a. Be actively serving in the Local, Area (if applicable) Conference and Episcopal organizations at the time of submitting the application;¶
 b. Exemplify continuous meritorious service;¶
 c. Be recommended by the Local Women's Missionary Society; and¶
 d. Remain active at levels of service as long as life and health permits.¶

¶
 Section 2. Continuous Meritorious Service.¶

a. Meritorious service may be defined as continuous significant contributions through demonstrated leadership at the Local, Conference, Episcopal, and/or Connectional levels.¶

b. Continuous meritorious service may include, yet not be limited to:¶

1. Demonstrated continuous service at the Local level;¶
 2. Distinguished services as an officer (elected or appointed) at one or more levels (Conference, Episcopal, or Connectional);¶
 3. Recruited and encouraged new members; developed or initiated programs to promote missionary education; and¶
 4. Directed or chaired significant missionary programs at one or more levels of the Women's Missionary Society, etc.¶

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROCESS - Rev. 7/20/2020¶ 11

LIFE MEMBERSHIP CHECKLIST

(Local Presidents should complete prior to submitting a Letter of Recommendation for Life Membership)

NAME OF MISSIONARY: _____

LOCAL CHURCH: _____

____ (NOTE: if fewer than 25 years, the missionary is not eligible for Life Membership in the WMS.)

Supporting Documentation

- Once the checklist has been completed by the prospective Life Member and the Local President, and the Local President certifies the eligibility, the forms should be completed by the Prospective Life Member.
 - Letter of Recommendation will not be accepted without the “supporting documentation.”
 - Documentation will be reviewed with Local WMS President prior to submission of the Letter of Recommendation.
 - Documentation must be attached to the Local Society Letter of Recommendation
- Validates eligibility

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NAME: _____

OFFICES-HELD/OTHER-PARTICIPATION (dates-are-required)

LEVEL	CHURCH	OFFICE/PARTICIPATION	DATES
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
AREA	☐	☐	☐
AREA	☐	☐	☐
CONFERENCE	☐	☐	☐
CONFERENCE	☐	☐	☐
EPISCOPAL-DISTRICT	☐	☐	☐
EPISCOPAL-DISTRICT	☐	☐	☐
CONNECTIONAL	☐	☐	☐
CONNECTIONAL	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐
☐	☐	☐	☐

NAME: _____

MERITORIOUS-SERVICE (dates-are-required)

LEVEL	CHURCH	SERVICE	DATES
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
LOCAL	☐	☐	☐
AREA	☐	☐	☐
AREA	☐	☐	☐
CONFERENCE	☐	☐	☐
CONFERENCE	☐	☐	☐
EPISCOPAL-DISTRICT	☐	☐	☐
EPISCOPAL-DISTRICT	☐	☐	☐
CONNECTIONAL	☐	☐	☐
CONNECTIONAL	☐	☐	☐

Supporting Documentation

- Supporting Documentation for Life Membership

- **NAME:** _____ **YEAR JOINED WMS:** _____

- **CHURCH:** _____ **CONFERENCE:** _____

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>PASTOR</u>	<u>DATES</u>
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- **NAME OF MISSIONARY:** _____ **DATE:** _____

- **SIGNATURE:** _____

- **NAME OF LOCAL PRESIDENT:** _____ **DATE:** _____

- **SIGNATURE:** _____

Supporting Documentation

- OFFICES HELD/OTHER PARTICIPATION

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>OFFICE/ PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>DATES</u>
LOCAL			
LOCAL			
AREA			
AREA			
CONFERENCE			
CONFERENCE			
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT			
CONNECTIONAL			

Supporting Documentation

Meritorious Service

<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>DATES</u>
LOCAL			
<u>LEVEL</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>DATES</u>
LOCAL			
LOCAL			
LOCAL			
LOCAL			
LOCAL			
DISTRICT			
CONNECTIONAL			

What does this accomplish?

1. Ensures eligibility for Life Membership
2. Names are eliminated prior to leaving the local church as opposed to name being on the roster for years and finding out when completing the application that one was not active on all required levels
3. Helps to identify missionaries who may be eligible for conference recognition
4. Back and forth with the application to substantiate membership is eliminated
5. Loss of time having to gather the information once a slot is available is eliminated

What's Next?

1. Once forms are completed, the Local President attaches to Letter of Recommendation and sends to Episcopal Supervisor and Conference Branch President via certified mail and to the Episcopal President and Episcopal Third Vice President via regular mail.
2. The letter will be date/time stamped, reviewed by the recipients and upon approval, added to the Conference Branch Pending Life Member Roster.
3. The Episcopal President will notify the Missionary and the Local President whether or not the recommendation has been approved.
4. If not approved, it will be suggested that the Conference honor the Missionary for her service.
5. If approved, the name will be added to the Conference Pending Life Member Roster.

What's Next?

6. Once a slot is available and the name has moved to the top of the roster, the Conference Branch President will inform the Episcopal President.
7. The Episcopal Supervisor or President will in turn send the Life Member application to the Missionary requesting that she complete it and return through the Conference Branch President with the obituary of the Life Member being replaced and the \$250.00 fee. (Quadrennial slots do not require an obituary.)
8. Upon receipt, the Episcopal President will secure the remaining signatures and the package (with the obituary of the Life Member being replaced) will be submitted to the WMS Office.
9. The Missionary should receive notification from the WMS Office.
10. The Life Member stole, etc. will be presented at the next SEDWMS meeting, unless the Annual Convention occurs sooner.

Life Member Transfers

- Article VIII – Life Memberships, Section 3. General Information
 - Conference to Conference (within Episcopal District)
 - District to District
- Submit form from the WMS Office
- Until there is an official transfer, the Life Member continues to answer the roll in the former conference.