

CATCH A WAVE VOLUME 2 NUMBER 4

Northern Waters District United Methodist Women



President's Message

I am so excited to once again greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is my fourth and final year as President of the District and it has been one wild ride! The first big item was to form a new Leadership Team for the New District. That was a HUGE challenge but we persevered and we came together. Then there was the possibility of the church splitting and UMW telling us nothing would change. But then COVID-19 hit and the church split had to go on hold. PLUS we had to cancel events and change our Annual Celebration to holding it virtually. Of course, we still don't know what the future will hold—do we really, ever? My own church had only been streaming online for our worship, switched back to in-person worship but still streaming and now we are back to no in-person worship. What will we offer to you as a district in 2021? That remains to be seen. We will be doing prayerful planning for 2021 at our Leadership Team retreat in October.

So, here we are in August 2020. This newsletter is JAM PACKED full of information. One such item is new to us and that is a voting ballot (on page 17). It is important that you make copies of this and distribute it to others in your unit so everyone can vote and have the opportunity to make an offering as well.

I have been and AM honored to be your president! I encourage you to still prayerfully consider joining our District Leadership Team as we still do have vacancies. I would be happy to talk with anyone who has any bit of interest in finding out more about this way of serving the Body of Christ. Maybe you might even know someone who would be interested in joining our team. You may recommend people for us to call, without even consulting with that person ahead of time. Our Nominations Committee is very good

about making people feel comfortable when calling.

I hope to "see" you at our Annual Celebration! Whoops! I guess I should rephrase that. I hope you will "see" me at our Annual Celebration! We are excited to share our news, recognitions, improvements to the district with you!

Virtual <<<<<HUG>>>>>>

Susan Wirgau President, Northern Waters District UMW 231-838-5986 text or voice onthebay@chartermi.net



Rest assured, you have a vice-president who is busy figuring stuff out with the help of District team members!

Annual Celebration will be different in all of the districts this year, just like so many other activities and gatherings in our lives. I am one of the least tech-savvy people I know – ask my husband! – but I have always said that one of my strengths is knowing who does know. In this case, I am relying on our NWD UMW Leadership Team, especially Amber Hassler, Cola Hill, and Myra Gentry. In UMW, you always have a friend! You know that part about a 'creative, supportive fellowship'?

Please take a moment to envision NWD UMW Annual Celebration Sept. 26, 2020. Our speaker will be Rev. Jodie Flessner, our District Superintendent. There will be quick presentations from Randy Hildebrant (God's Country Cooperative Parish, Eastern Upper Peninsula) and Eric Williams (United Methodist Community House, Grand Rapids). There will be a business meeting conducted by our President, Susan Wirgau, when the results of the voting will be announced (see ballot on page 17). Various officers will present awards and recognitions

including the memorial service. These will be viewable in pre-recorded segments. Pretty much business as usual, except for the format. Maybe you can ask a few friends to watch with you or even your whole unit can gather at your church with a sack lunch and view it together. Be sure to follow CDC guidelines! The good news is that it can be paused while you get a drink, walk the dog, diaper the baby – whatever! Amber Hassler, our tech guru, and Cola Hill will make sure you get all the information you need.

Please remember to vote on the items that need approval, either by printing a paper ballot (p. 17) and returning it to Cola or replying by email. IF YOU WANT YOUR VOTE TO COUNT, all ballots must be received by Cola by Saturday, September 5, 2020. Please remember to send in your unit's pledge and offering by then also. Individuals are also encouraged to send in an offering...Cola will see that our treasurer, Ruth Corwin, gets them. All forms and information needs to be received by September 5, 2020! Awards and a program booklet will be sent to all units prior to September 26, 2020.

Please bear with us as we adjust to these changes & know that we are doing our absolute best. United Methodist Women have always responded positively to challenges! Just think, over 150 years! Where would we be if we never changed? If you have any questions about our upcoming Annual Celebration, please reach out to me via phone or email listed below.

Join us September 26, 2020, or whenever possible!

Julia Hulka

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"Challenges and Learning Experiences!" ... Things have changed dramatically since I signed up at last year's Annual Celebration to become Northern Waters District UMW secretary on January 1, 2020. The coronavirus has upset our lives and impacted the way the NWD UMW leadership team operates.

With stay-at-home orders across the state, we had to eliminate traveling to a centrally located place for meetings. Now "ZOOM meetings" on a computer or iPhone (at home) are the "new norm" (with less travel expenses ... good for the budget)!

"A First" ... I met with other team members via ZOOM and recorded minutes during our March meeting. In over 35 years as an office administrator, I never experienced a "first day on the job" challenge quite like that. But with the assistance and support of the team, it was "mission accomplished!"

What other changes will we see in the coming months? Will the pandemic transform forever the way we meet and work in UMW? Changes, challenges, and learning are happening every day. It is exciting!

As people adapt to meeting remotely with ZOOM, and use email more effectively, there will be fewer meetings overall and more efficiency in the whole scheme of things. To that end, we can expect a more responsive way of working and communicating with each other.

Prayer has certainly helped me through these new experiences, and I know that God is always there with His guiding hand. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Looking forward to our Annual Celebration this Fall!

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