



Ohio Link

Summer 2007 supplement update



Dallas was a great experience for the Ohio delegation. Not only did we learn a lot from the keynote speakers, (such as Who Are You? Where are you Going? What are you going to do when you get there?) but we practiced our tornado survival skills during our celebration banquet time. 300 women can move really fast, carrying dinner plates and purses, when given the warning!

We invited the nation to come to Dayton, Ohio next April.

We promised them great fun and excellent speakers with a theme of **“Spread Your Wings.”** Part of the introduction included a poem of invitation written and read by Sharon Fourman. The rest of the Ohio delegation donned wings and fluttered around the room.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT’S NOTES

The Ohio River Valley is a newly formed district as of 2006 due to a conference-wide realignment. In setting up the new office it so happened that all new persons were hired to work there. I had been a District Superintendent for three years in one of the fourteen districts but I was relocated to this new setting. My Assistant was new as were the Office Administrator and the Financial Manager. So in our case we all started out together. After a half day staff meeting where we all went over each others job description, including mine and my assistant's, we went over the Conference Personnel Policy. That may sound a little boring but it really helped us all get a sense of what everybody else was up to and what we could rely on for the upcoming year. After discussing the "boring" items we talked about each of our ministries. We are all called to be about assisting the "Making of Disciples of Jesus Christ". We have a different role but they are all important and need to be done in a committed, passionate fashion. So we established a weekly staff meeting that includes praying for the district and one another. We also have tried to eat a meal together at least once a month for a time of fellowship and enjoyment.

You would have to talk with the rest of the district staff to find out whether my words are true but from my perspective we have a great feeling of working together as servants of Christ. I enjoy being with them and can trust that the work we are doing will be done with a consistency that is seen in each of our work. They have stated often that they feel the same way. May this be true for years to come! We knew that the new Ohio River Valley District, having been made up of parts of three districts, would need to feel a sense of connection. Hospitality was crucial, on the phone or when people came by the office, because of this sense of disconnect. We all take very seriously our offer of warmth and greeting in all our conversations. It is hard to create a sense of togetherness in a new district but we have made a great effort in doing our part in making that happen. The proof is in the pudding though. It is when we hear the leaders of the district talk about how helpful and kind the district staff is that we really know that we have created a new atmosphere that can assist in fulfilling our mission. Pray for us as we continue to serve and we will continue to pray for you.

Rev. Dr. Randy Stearns
Ohio River Valley District Superintendent
West Ohio Conference, UMC

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This is my first time writing to you as president and I feel honored to be doing so. I am grateful to be associated with the PAUMCS organization and to be able to work with all of you.

Your Executive Board met in February and had a very productive meeting planning the PAUMCS events for the year.

September 28 & 29, the Fall Conference will be at the New Philadelphia UMC. Please check the enclosed brochure!

The National Conference will be in Dayton at the Marriott, April 17-19, 2008. The board is very excited about Ohio PAUMCS hosting this event. We need lots of volunteers to help us with all the details and assignments we must cover. Please think about getting involved. This will be a special time for Ohio PAUMCS. If you are interested in helping in any way, please let Elizabeth Feldman or myself know.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions or suggestions concerning PAUMCS. May you feel God's hand in all you do and I pray that you will feel appreciated in your ministry.

God bless you, Brenda Smoot

WHY I JOINED PAUMCS

written by Angie Wilhelm

In 1997 I attended my first fall conference of the Ohio chapter of PAUMCS. At that time I was helping part time at our church office, my mom is the full time secretary. We received a registration form for the fall conference and decided to attend together. If we learned something that would be great, if not it would be a nice weekend away. How wonderful to find we did both!

At the first conference I was eight months pregnant with my first child. We attended the meetings the first day but did not go for breakfast the second morning. We arrived for the first session on the second day and were instantly surrounded by women full of concern that something had happened. I could only think what a wonderful group to belong to.

I encourage all secretaries to join PAUMCS. Not only is there considerable support regarding work related issues, but the individual support on a personal level can not be compared. I'm very blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization.

OHIO PAUMCS PRAYER NET

Ohio PAUMCS is linked with the national Prayer Net and members receive all requests via the internet. There are currently 25 names on the Ohio list. If you are not receiving the prayer net requests and wish to be part of the list, please email grstch@wesnet.com to sign up. You do not have to pass anything on to someone else. Just read the request and pray for the concern or share the joy.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2008

Come Spread Your Wings – in Dayton April 17-19, 2008

It won't be long before we welcome our PAUMCS sisters and brothers to the wonderful state of Ohio. I hope your calendars are marked. If you attended the conference in Dallas, I hope you have let your congregation and SPRC know that it was great and you learned lots and that our Ohio conference will be even better! And by the way, it will be less expensive to come to Dayton. The cost alone could be a big selling point in getting encouragement and funding to attend in 2008.

Our featured speakers will be Catherine Guess – Understanding Your Calling/Ministry; Barbara Wourms – Working with Difficult People; and Cea Cohen Elliot – Stress and the Effects on the Body. Barbara and Cea have been speakers at our Ohio Conferences and we know they are terrific. Catherine has written two books that are set in Findley Ohio and tell the story of a sand sculptor during Holy Week. (Elizabeth has these books if anyone wants to borrow them.) We probably will be laughing and crying all at the same time as we continue to enrich our spiritual and professional lives.

If you want to help with the conference or have questions you may email Brenda or Liz at:
brendasmoot@stmark.net or efeldman@woosterumc.org