The Women’s Missionary Society

The African Methodist Episcopal Church

The Second Episcopal District

**The Dorcas Extravaganza**

**What is the Dorcas Extravaganza?**

The ***Dorcas Extravaganza***, affectionately known as the *Dorcas* is the major fundraiser of the Second Episcopal District (SED) Women’s Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. (For years *the Dorcas*  was the *sole fundraiser;* but due to declining income, a Development Committee was implemented in 2014 to devise additional fundraising activities to supplement the income from the *Dorcas.*)

There has been a *queen’s* contest of some form over the years in the SED and under the supervision of the late Episcopal Supervisor, Mrs. Irene Bennett Reid, the queen’s contest became the *Dorcas Extravaganza,* named for *Dorcas.*

**Who is Dorcas?**

*Acts 9:36-43 speaks to the character of Dorcas (the Greek translation for Tabitha) was a believer in Joppa. “She was always doing kind things for others and helping the poor.” (v36) Dorcas was a disciple known for her practical works of mercy. Dorcas’ joy was to serve Jesus by serving the poor.*

**How are winners selected?**

As in any contest, participants compete with others. Participants representing the WMS and Young People’s and Children’s Division of local A, B and C-category churches compete within the respective categories. At most, there will be 6 winners at the Area, Conference or SED elimination (1 WMS and 1 YPD winner from A, B and C churches.)

At the Area, Conference and Episcopal District elimination, the WMS and YPD participants who turn in the highest amount of money for each church-category are declared the Queen or Prince/Princess. (3 Queens and 3 Princes/Princesses.)

**How are churches placed in categories?**

The *Presiding Elders* of the 10 respective *Presiding Elder Districts* classify local churches as A, B or C churches.

**How are funds raised?**

A variety of activities have been held across local churches, along with securing ads, sponsors and patrons**.**

**What are the proceeds used for?**

**Proceeds from the fundraiser have been used for:**

* **SED WMS** operating expenses (at least $20,000 – depends on income)
* **Book Scholarships** ($1000 per year-reinstituted in 2014)
* **Mission Churches** (financial support to churches in each Presiding Elder District) ($10,000) (have not provided under new leadership)
* **Nehemiah Fund (**provide financial assistance to Pastors for weekly travel expenses to their assigned church) **(active during the 2004-2012 administration and we hope to re-institute in 2016-2017)** (at least $12,000)
* **Overseas Districts:** financial support
* **A.M.E. Empowerment Center (formerly known as the AME Incentive Shelter in Raleigh, NC** ($10,000)
* **YPD Budget** ($20,000-increased from $17,000)
* **District Assistance**: ($30,000 – it has been difficult to sustain this amount with decreasing income…)
* **AME-SADA (Service and Development Agency)** (financial support – varies)
* **Quadrennial Expenses** (depends on the amount raised…the goal is to save at least $25,000 annually)
* **Support for retiring Bishop and Episcopal** Supervisor
* **Special Needs that include: individual medical needs; emergencies**
* **Connectional WMS Assessment** (was $10,000…increased to $12,000 effective 2016)
* **Host Connectional Executive Board Executive Board Meeting (2016, 2018)**  ($23,000)
* **SEDWMS Travel**
* ***Dorcas-related* expenses (including souvenir journal)** (at least $20,000)

**When is the Dorcas Extravaganza held?**

**Local:** Each local church may sponsor one queen from the WMS and one prince/princess from the YPD.

**Area:** Area eliminations are typically held during the Fall Area meeting. Participants from local churches representing A, B and C church Queen and Prince/Princess will compete. Area Participants who win for the respective church category will compete in the Conference elimination.

Local Presidents make a financial report at the time set by the Area Chairperson (typically at the Fall Area meeting).

**Conference:** Conference eliminations are held prior to the SED Mid-Year Conference. Participants who won the respective Area eliminations for A, B and C-church Queen and Prince/Princess will compete. Conference winners for the respective church category will compete in the SED elimination.

Area Chairpersons and Treasurers make a financial report at a set time the day of the Conference elimination program.

**Second Episcopal District:** The event is held at the seat of the SED Mid-Year meeting, typically toward the end of October. Participants who won the 5 respective Conference eliminations for A, B and C-church Queen and Prince/Princess will compete.

Conference Branch Presidents, Treasurers and YPD Directors (optional) make a financial report at a time set by the Episcopal President.