



District Committee Report

Committee Name: Scholarship Committee

Committee Chair: Dorothy Vails-Weber, Ed.D

Committee members

Mrs. Yolanda Rizzoli, Desert Mountain; Dr. Verda Bradley; Dr. Tamara Buck, Missouri;
Mrs. Esther Gillmore, Mid-West; Mrs. Roxanne Buchanan, Pacific Northwest, Mrs. Mary Freeman, Cal.

Committee Activities

1. Reviewed/undated Appeals letter. (2) Reviewed all applications for needed updates. (3) Worked With Director of Public Relations to update website for receipt of 2026 applications. (4) Submitted Application Packet to Director of Publications for posting on website. (5) Sent of Invitation to Component leaders, Presiding Elders, requesting participation in May 17th Lay Witness Sunday. (6) Reviewed and scored 35 applications for five 5th District Scholarships. (7). Received information from the (6) conferences on recipients of Conference Leadership Scholarships. 8. Sent letters of Congratulations and Thank you (rejection) to all applicants. 9. Communicated with Bishop Brookins on negative financial impact of no "Evening of Elegance" during two year period. Her solution: Lay Witness Sunday offering in all 5th District AME local Churches. Presiding Elders, Components and individuals encouraged to contribute.

Issues Discussed, Findings, Conclusion

During the 2024, 2025 application process we awarded a scholarship to two applicants if the scores were one or two points different. This Executive Board decision resulted in double payment for the Bishop Graduate Honor scholarship and the T. Larry Kirkland Scholarships. This action caused Award payments of \$9,000.00 instead of \$4,500.00. The committee reevaluated our scoring process to alleviate double payment for the same scholarship. The 2026 process did not award double

payment for any scholarship.

The Fifth District Lay Organization Director of Public Relations was very helpful in correcting the Website difficulties we experienced during 2025. Thank You Sister Pamela Williams.

Recommendations

“Thank You” and appreciation to President Emerita, Simeon Rhoden and President Lamar Rose for the

Opportunity to serve as Chairperson of the Fifth District Lay Organization Scholarship Committee for

13 of the 15 years since its inception in 2011. Sister Anita West-Berry served as chairperson for two

Years. I brought the experience and knowledge gained during the eight (8) years I served as Chairperson of the Connectional Awards and Scholarship Banquet.

It is time to pass the baton to a new/younger chairperson. I am willing to serve as adviser/ or Emerita

Member for another year until the new Chairperson is comfortable in the position.

To God Be the Glory!!

Budgetary Needs

(2026-27 Committee Budget needs)

2026-2027 Committee Budgetary Need:

\$1,000.00 for travel expenses for chairperson.

It is important that the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee is present at the Mid-Year Convocation. I live in Southern California where the Mid-Year is usually convened. My expenses were not an exorbitant amount to attend and raise funds(Evening of Elegance). Travel to Los Angeles and/or the Pacific Northwest and hotel expenses will be very expensive for the new Chairperson.