

August 21, 2009

ABMNE Report to the State Board

ABMNE

We have just completed our Annual Retreat at Moses Merrill Camps and Conference Center where 40 men were able to participate in this year's conference. The theme this year was "Now is the Time – How will You Serve". We were blessed with several great speakers including Dr. Jeff Johnson – Director of Evangelism for National Ministries. Also participating in the retreat were Rev. Harry Riggs of Lincoln First Baptist and Dr. Brian High of Tekamah Baptist Church. Brian Poole of Benson Baptist provided music Friday evening to the group. Mr. Orin Clinger of First Baptist Kearney was announced as the 2009 Layman of the Year. At this year's meeting the men were informed that air conditioning was replaced immediately prior to their conference. As historically is the case the ABMNE voted to send 1000.00 from their general fund to contribute to the camp's repair costs. Seeing that as a good challenge – men individually pledged another 4300.00 toward this 7000.00 repair! Talk about passing the hat!!

We look forward to participating in this year's Family Reunion where we will announce the 2009 Clergy of the Year recognition and look forward to hearing from Rev. Eddie Cruz speak to the men during their annual luncheon.

For the second year the men have not held their Western Nebraska Men's Retreat, however are hopeful that this can be held in 2010.

ABMen USA

Bob Slechta had the opportunity to travel to and participate in the ABM USA National Board meeting July 8th - 11th in Bloomington, IL. In addition to learning more about the members of the board itself he was able to hear first hand of the many thriving ministries of ABM USA and American Baptist Men all across the country. Bob was very encouraged to learn all of the activities men continue to be engaged in and the priority of men serving Christ.

Many times men don't do a good job making sure others know we're actually doing something....and Bob was excited to share with you WE ARE! The national board has worked hard to re-energize active national men's ministry. Various board members will be representing ABM USA at numerous upcoming state, regional and national events over the next 6 months.

The meeting focused on 1) study of the **Bible**, 2) **Mentoring** to those developing their own faith and 3) various levels of **Disaster Relief Ministries**. ABM USA Past President, Rev. Manuel Linquin also presented a course on "**Leadership Development Training**" to the 13 men in attendance and asked the men to use this new tool in their own states. Slechta is prayerfully searching for a man from Nebraska to nominate for a 3 year term on the national board as the District 7 Representative (Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas). Any thoughts on this please contact Bob directly.

Finally, Bob asked each of our men at this year's retreat to consider financially supporting our ABM USA National Ministries. An annual gift of \$10.00 a man or even \$50.00 from each of our churches would go a long way in aiding this valuable men's

ministry as they work to lead and encourage men and boys of American Baptist Churches across the country. Checks can be sent directly to **American Baptist Men's Ministries, PO Box 1019 – 1019 Juliana St. – Parkersburg WV 26102.** ABM USA can be a resource to all of us.

For more details or if you'd like to be on our national mailing list or to receive the quarterly newsletter "**ABM USA - Men In Action**" please drop Bob note and he will be happy to make sure you're on that list.

Exciting things are happening as our national group has really gotten things going again in 2008 and 2009, including a new national office in Parkersburg WV and officers. American Baptist Men from all over the country have committed to a renewed spirit of service.

Disaster Relief Ministry

Our Disaster Relief Trailer (DRT) Ministry continues to as a developing ministry for men across the state. The trailer is housed at Camp Merrill and is able to be moved from one part of the state to the another.

In 2008 ABMNE created a new position in which Jason Workman was named their Disaster Relief Coordinator. Jason has worked hard to get the men plugged into various state and regional responder agencies. The men continue to work on the development of their instate responder system. Many times local church groups can enter a effected area before agencies are "cleared" to enter. ABMNE is working to advise each ABC church across the state that this ministry is available for them. The idea is when an event has occurred, leaders of this ministry will contact the local ABC men's group and work to deliver the Disaster Trailer to that local church for their men to use or offer within their church membership, neighborhoods and community.

On a national level men (and women) from over 10 communities across West Virginia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New York, Georgia and Nebraska have just returned from the Louisiana Gulf Region where they completed more than 1,300 hours of hurricane cleanup. There remains much to do so if you or your church wishes to help on a upcoming trip to the gulf coast please contact Bob or Jason for additional details.

Seminary Scholarships

ABMNE has long supported seminary students with two annual scholarships worth up to \$1,000 each. Unfortunately for the second year now we have had no applicants.

Each year American Baptist Churches and their members are encouraged to have interested seminary students submit an application to the board for review of eligibility and award. You can go to the men's page at [HYPERLINK "http://www.abcnebraska.com"](http://www.abcnebraska.com) to find and print an application form.

Currently, three men have issued an anonymous challenge to the board and to the men across the state to raise \$10,000 for the seminary scholarship fund. The challengers pledge to fund \$2,500 if the board raises \$2,500 and men's groups from across the state raise \$5,000 toward this ongoing fund. Contact Terry Anderson of Sunset Hills Baptist Church for details tnanderson@cox.net .

Membership (We Need You!)

Our annual ABMNE membership runs from August to July each year. Bob Slechta is determined to increase our membership from the 85 to 90 men we have been hovering around for several years to 150 – 200 members statewide. Bob along with several of our board have attended or participated in 10 men's meeting or ABC events since last January to promote ABMNE and our ministries. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2009-2010, please do so. You can download a membership form PDF on the men's webpage of our state ABC website.

2009 ABMen Board of Directors

Bob Slechta - President Ken Sciford – Secretary Bob Howe - Membership Chair
Glen Dappen - Past President Norv Jacobs - Treasurer Terry Anderson - Financial Chair
Dave Overbey - Publicity Chair Jason Workman - Disaster Relief Coordinator
Rev. Ron French - Pastor Counselor

Please pray for our men's ministry and should you have any questions or suggestions for our ministries please always feel free to contact any member of our board.

IN CHRIST'S LOVE AND SERVICE TO OTHERS,

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