Motschiedler to Serve as Interim Union Secretary

Edward Motschiedler, who recently retired after more than 40 years of denominational service, has accepted a call to serve as interim executive secretary for the Columbia Union Conference. The call comes following the unexpected death of J. Neville Harcombe (read more) who was re-elected to serve his second, five-year term April 16. With this appointment, Motschiedler returns to the role he held from 1998-2005. “Ed brings a wealth of experience and will serve us well; his depth of experience provides a great resource,” said union president Dave Weigley upon announcing the appointment. “Though it’s a temporary assignment, he will help us work through some critical issues.”

On May 27, the union’s President’s Council named a search committee that will work to find and nominate a new secretary to serve for the next five years (2011-2015). The committee will involve some 15 administrators, pastors, and members from around the union’s eight-state territory. In anticipation
of a nominee, they also decided to call a special meeting of the newly elected union executive committee June 22. This committee, which approved Motschiedler’s interim status, will need to vote the nominee into office.

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**Visitor Named Best Denominational Magazine**

The [Associated Church Press](http://www.theacp.org) (ACP) recently bestowed a high honor on the Columbia Union Visitor, naming it Best in Class among denominational magazines. Visitor associate editor Beth Michaels accepted the award at the ACP’s annual Best of the Christian Press banquet during the last weekend of April. “Our goal every month is to plan and publish a quality news magazine that will inspire readers and keep them connected to the Columbia Union family,” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher (center). “This award acknowledges our hard work and says we’re doing something right.”

Founded in 1916, the ACP ([www.theacp.org](http://www.theacp.org)) is the oldest interdenominational religious press association in North America. Members include writers, editors, designers and other communicators from Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Seventh-day Adventist organizations, etc. From some 1,000 submissions in 60 categories, judges this year chose just over 200 winners from entries published in newspapers, newsletters, magazines, news services, eZines and websites and recognized them with honorable mentions and awards of merit or excellence. “Best in Class” is the top award. —Beth Michaels

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**Union Hosts HealthCare Mission Conference**

Earlier this month, Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley invited administrators from the union’s two healthcare networks—Adventist HealthCare and Kettering Adventist HealthCare—to participate in a joint mission conference. Under the theme “Expressing the Adventist Mission in
HealthCare,” the 20 hospital presidents and vice presidents in attendance heard six presentations from Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders and a leader from a sister healthcare network. In her opening devotional, North American Division Health Ministries director Katia Reinert called the leaders to make mission their priority. “My prayer is that mission will be the driving force in what we do,” she stated. “This means following Christ’s example, focusing on the community, partnering with others, taking hold of our health message and sharing principles of healthful living with the patients.”

READ MORE AND SEE PHOTOS

Adventists Opening Warehouse in Flooded Southwest Virginia Today

Bob Mitchell, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response coordinator for the Potomac Conference and Columbia Union, plans to open a warehouse today to house donated goods and supplies. The 7,000-ft. space is located in Washington County, Va., where floods last month damaged homes and left many residents in need. At the request of the county’s Department of Emergency Management working in concert with the state, Mitchell and a team of local church volunteers will schedule and receive donations for community volunteers to distribute. To volunteer or learn more, contact Mitchell via email at bmitchell_acsdr@earthlink.net.

Potomac Member Joins Adventist HealthCare Board

Attorney Renee Battle-Brooks, a member of Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., recently joined the Adventist HealthCare Board of Trustees for a three-year term. For the last 11 years, Battle-Brooks has worked as an assistant state’s attorney for Prince George’s County, Maryland. In 2010 this active community member was recognized as one of The Daily Record’s Top 100 Women of Maryland. She has been a regular presenter for the Community Advocates for Family and Youth and the Prince George’s Hospital Center’s Sexual Assault Center. Adventist HealthCare, based in Rockville, Md., is one of two healthcare networks in the Columbia Union territory.
June Visitor Features 42 Adventist Business Owners

They’re not preachers or teachers, but these 42 members make it their business to witness. Whether giving Bibles studies or inviting clients to church, they find practical ways to share Christ in the marketplace. Be inspired by them in our feature titled “Closed for Sabbath.”

June Video Highlights Union ASI Convention

Watch our coverage of the 2011 Columbia Union Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) Chapter Convention at Trinity Temple in Newark, N.J. The seven-minute news video is hosted by union treasurer Seth Bardu and features some of ASI’s mission-minded members. Go to columbiaunion.org and click on Videos or watch on our Columbia Union YouTube Channel now.
New DVD Mailed with June Visitor

For our 8th edition of Columbia Union Story, we take you live to the 26th Constituency Session of the Columbia Union Conference for Dave Weigley's President Report, which featured nine inspiring video stories and more than 30 members. The DVD also includes a five-year report from Washington Adventist University and a news story about our recent union ASI chapter convention in New Jersey. Please watch, share with a friend and show this inspiring DVD in your churches.

Forward to a Friend

To share the Visitor News Bulletin with friends and church members across the Columbia Union, click the “Forward to a Friend” link below so all the photos and copy will appear correctly. Also, encourage them to sign up for the email at www.columbiaunion.org/email. Thank you!

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Visitor Named “Best Denominational Magazine”

Story by Visitor Staff

Meet the Staff. Kelly Buller Coe, art director and designer; Beth Michaels, associate editor; Celeste Ryan Blyden, editor and publisher; Sandra Jones, copy editor and bulletin board editor; Tashii Rowe, assistant editor.

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Joe Thoma, ACP’s executive director, explained why the Visitor, a first-time entrant, stood out from its peers: “In my discussion with the judges and the awards committee, they were particularly impressed with the magazine’s bold use of color photos. Especially impressive are the full-spread and full-page, full-bleed pieces that integrated the art and typography in a way that should be an inspiration to other publications in the field. Composition and reproduction are excellent.”

Blyden also won an Award of Merit for her feature article, “Suitcases with Wheels,” which covered
the annual holiday dinner for homeless women sponsored by Potomac Conference's Beltsville (Md.) church. The Adventist Review, Adventist World and Ministry were also recognized for work in 2010.

Other Visitor Awards
- 2008 DeRose-Hinkhouse Memorial Shoestring Award for the AudioVisitor Podcast
- 2007 Religion Communicators Council (RCC) Award of Merit for the 25th Columbia Union Constituency Session Print Report
- 2007 RCC Award of Merit for Celeste Ryan Blyden's Crisis Management Guide
- 2006 RCC Award of Excellence for the President's Constituency Report Video produced by Celeste Ryan Blyden and David Brilliart
- 2004 RCC Award of Excellence for the 2004 Visitor Calendar
- 2005 Illustrators Club of Washington, Maryland and Virginia Certificate of Merit, for the June Visitor Cover Illustration by Ralph Butler with art direction by Kelly Butler Coe
- 2004 Illustrators Club Certificate of Excellence for the December Visitor Cover Illustration by Ralph Butler with art direction by Kelly Butler Coe

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Union Hosts HealthCare Mission Conference

Story and Photos by Celeste Ryan Blyden

Earlier this month, Columbia Union Conference president Dave Weigley invited administrators from the union’s two healthcare networks—Maryland-based Adventist HealthCare and Ohio-based Kettering Adventist HealthCare—to participate in a joint mission conference. Under the theme "Expressing the Adventist Mission in HealthCare," the 15 hospital presidents and vice presidents in attendance heard six presentations from Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders and a leader from a sister healthcare network.

In her opening devotional, North American Division Health Ministries director Katia Reinert called the leaders to make mission their first priority. "My prayer is that mission will be the driving force in what we do," she stated. "This means following Christ's example, focusing on the community, partnering with others, taking hold of our health message and sharing principles of healthful living with the patients."

She was followed by General Conference vice president Lowell Cooper who suggested the leaders would also do well to cultivate a culture of service. "Our interest in surplus must not supplant our interest in service. We must serve those least able to access it," he posited.

Through a PowerPoint presentation punctuated by inspiring video testimonies, Womack Rucker, vice president of Corporate Relations for healthcare giant Adventist Health System (AHS), revealed their secret to success. "The central focus of our work is mission," he declared. "It's more than business." Florida-based AHS is the 10th largest healthcare system in the United States (the largest religious, non-Catholic system) and runs hospitals in 12 states. They employ 55,000 workers, 8,500 physicians and 13,000 spiritual ambassadors who engage in numerous mission-focused programs and outreach initiatives.

Though smaller, the Columbia Union's healthcare entities operate 12 hospitals with another set to open later this year and dozens of clinics and related facilities. They jointly employ 16,000 workers and 2,500 physicians and benefit from the service of more than 1,800 volunteers.
Ohio-based attorney Ted Ramirez, who has served on one of Kettering’s hospital boards for many years, ended the daylong meeting by saying: “Beyond structure, governance and finance, it comes down to you and what you do to align your work with Christ’s mission.”

In his closing remarks, Weigley, who chairs the boards of both entities, concurred. “Indeed we are part of a greater mission.”

Richard Haas, who heads Kettering’s Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio, agreed. “Today was a great reminder that together, in partnership with the church, we have the unique opportunity to improve the lives of the people in the communities we serve.”

That message also hit home for his colleague Jennifer Swenson, Kettering’s newest hospital president, who came from west-coast system Adventist Health to head Fort Hamilton Hospital in Hamilton, Ohio. “Emphasizing wellness, cultivating a culture of service and collaborating with local churches and communities are a few examples of ways we can impact individuals and transform lives,” she concluded.

Jason Coe, who in January took the helm of Adventist HealthCare’s Hackettstown Regional Medical Center in New Jersey, appreciated the shared learning experience. “It challenged our thinking on how to further our mission to follow Christ’s example by caring for humanity as an expression of our [faith].”