Rocky Mountain Conference leaders re-elected at Constituency Session

The 2017 Constituency Session of the Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened July 23 at Life Source Adventist Fellowship, Denver, Colorado. Delegates voted to re-elect Ed Barnett, Eric Nelson, and George Crumley, as president, vice president for administration, and vice president for finance, respectively, for the next quinquennium.

The Constituency Session convened under the theme “Living for His Return” and brought nearly 570 delegates from 130 churches in Colorado, Wyoming and part of New Mexico. In his opening devotional message, Barnett emphasized that as Adventists “we believe that Jesus is coming soon and we need to share Him with everyone who lives in our territory.”

The delegates accepted the reports on the state of the church in RMC. Responding to presentations by the RMC officers, delegates offered a commentary on issues, which they feel should be addressed by the church within the conference.

Lining up at the microphones, delegates emphasized a need to see a greater involvement of young church members in the work of the church, helping them understand how tithes and offerings are being spent. This was seen as a strategic area for the Conference to address.

“I encourage our administrative officers to look closely, in
Several delegates spoke about a need for a more active involvement of the church and its educational leaders in issues central to contemporary Adventist education, channeled through the K-12 Board with greater frequency and attention.

The RMC leaders were also asked to re-establish continuing financial support for the Student Literature Evangelism program. What was once supported from budgetary appropriations now relies on fundraising. Bob Kenison, a delegate from Cheyenne, proposed that the Conference consider re-funding the program. This proposal was approved by delegates.

The last agenda item of the Session included presentations by Alex Bryant, secretary of the North American Division, and Gary Thurber, president of Mid-America Union Conference, on the current world church discussion about the General Conference’s Unity of Mission document. In preparation for the Session, delegates were provided with documents commenting on the Unity in Mission document, which aims to addresses the question of policy compliance by church entities and procedures in church reconciliation when entities are out of step with policy.

A discussion centered on a motion proposed by Ed Reifsnyder, a delegate from Campion, for the Session “take no action on the Unity in Mission document, and the Rocky Mountain Conference’s statement regarding it.” Several delegates expressed concerns about the potential implications of the adoption of the document by the upcoming Fall Council of the church in October.
The Session also elected new membership for the RMC Executive Committee, Property and Trust Committee, By-Laws Committee and K-12 Board, and voted adjustments to the By-Laws of the Conference.

In his closing remarks, Ed Barnett thanked the delegates for their input and reminded them that as a church “we’ve got to be focused on the mission we’ve been entrusted with.”

[RMCNews; photos by Rajmund Dabrowski]

Watch Report by President Ed Barnett from RMC Constituency Session at www.rmcsda.org

Christian Effervescence Dominates Wyoming Camp Meeting » The sound of the Sage Creek Gospel Band, a perennial feature of every Wyoming Camp Meeting, is a call for participants to be ready for another session of the annual spiritual convocation on Casper Mountain’s Mills Spring Ranch.

Smiles abound, and clapping is part of participating in a joyful Christian experience. And year after year, participants have had a chance to learn a new song, including the 2017 gathering of some 200. As before, the recently-held event featured “It’s Still Jesus,” a song-theme of the camp meeting written by Ron Hughes.

The music was so captivating that visiting speaker Dr Philip Samaan invited himself to join the band. Not proficient in any

Story Guidelines: We want to share your news! » News Nuggets is your publication. We strive to provide news and information expressing our church life. Every church, every family, every individual has a story to tell. We are inviting pastors and secretaries of churches and institutions within the Rocky Mountain Conference to share with us relevant information -- about developments, issues, notable events, as well as experiences of church members.

Please email your story to nuggets@rmcsda.org so we can share how God is working through His people in your territory. When submitting your story, please include the following: the Ws (who, what, where, when, why...also how), a personal quote, a photo and the name of the photographer.

Please consider time constraints and always send in fresh new stories instead of
instrument, unlike his wife Sheralyn, a harpist, he was given an egg shaker. Recognizing the challenge to keeping the rhythm, the band continued with smiles and raised brows, but stayed on course.

“I am not a drummer, but I am an egg shaker,” Samaan confessed. The use of salt became a theme for one of his presentations. “Salt takes the initiative. One does not put one’s food on salt, but salt on the food,” he said. “We are to live our lives so close to Jesus that we bring out the best in others.”

Before long, Samaan was officially invited to be part of the Sage Creek Band. To prove his place, he was presented with a cowboy shirt embroidered with the band’s name. Ed Barnett, RMC president, made the presentation.

The band’s leader, Dennis Pumford, who pastors the Casper congregation, said of Dr Samaan’s first performance that “it was an experience. It created a lot of good humor and rapport with the congregation. That’s the best we can say.

Ron Hughes, a guitarist and composer of theme songs for Wyoming camp meeting recollected that when Dennis came along, he changed everything, so we’ve had a lot of fun since he’s been here [in Casper] and they’ve asked me to write songs for each camp meeting and that’s what I’ve done.”

On writing songs, Ron explained that “usually, they give me the idea. They say, "This is the theme of the camp meeting. Can you write a song for it?" I say, “No, I can’t, but God can.”

He continued, “Gotta’ give it to God. I tried writing songs before I became a Christian and they were terrible. They were secular songs and nobody wanted to listen to them. When I became a Christian, I started writing about what I cared about -- Christian country music. [Actually] the genre of the music is country gospel, southern gospel. Yeah.”

Dr Samaan’s presentations included practical applications presented in the teachings of Jesus. “He put Jesus right into our daily life,” said one participant.

“Let us not be defined by the world, but let Jesus define
us," he said.

In an engaging Sabbath School presentation, Chuck Gadway, pastor from Sheridan, challenged the audience to stay on God's mission. "We are so busy doing our mission that we forget about God's mission," he said. "What do people see and hear when they come to our churches?" Gadway asked.

Pastor Gadway is working on invitations to speakers for the next five years. Next year, Dick Stenbakken, a former director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, and a well-known presenter is scheduled to speak at the 2018 convocation.

We need to get the word out as "I am not sure everybody knows how good a camp meeting is," Gadway commented. "The facilities have been improved to be more welcoming to visitors," he added. The changes in the auditorium were coordinated by Dennis Pumford, a soon-retiring pastor of the Casper Church. He acknowledged the work done by many people to make the improvements.

Those who expressed their appreciation for the musical part of the Wyoming Camp meeting were also noting Pumford's musical contributions to the "one and only Gospel band we have been enjoying over the years," as stated by one of the participants.

Gadway did not hesitate to express his take-away from the event. "This was a great spiritual blessing to those who have been here."

The Sabbath afternoon program included a celebration of Robert Walker's baptism. He lives on the mountain and was baptized by Eric Nelson, RMC vice president for administration, a friend from school days.

Dr Samaan sensed that, for him, the camp meeting displayed "a spirit of fellowship and Christian comradery. People felt at home in associating with each other here. I believe that when Jesus is uplifted, He pulls people together as when the disciples were of one accord. Because of that, the Lord blessed them with one Spirit, and this is what I sensed about this camp meeting."
With the approach of the RMC 2017 Constituency Session, the outgoing RMC Executive Committee met on July 18. The committee members were apprised of the final preparations for the Session and also heard reports on the finances, including tithes and offerings. Reporting to the Committee, George Crumley, vice president for finance, informed that tithe income was running lower than last year at the same time.

"Some of this is the result of having one less Sabbath year-to-date this year than last year," he said. But, even with tithe running lower, "we are tracking well from a budgetary perspective primarily because of expenses running under budget at this stage of the year," he said. It was also reported that the RMC ABC is operating close to where they were last year at the same time.

A plan was shared for the utilization of funds from the sale of the Adventist Community Services (ACS) building and how eligible constituent churches from the Denver Metropolitan area can make a request for some of these funds to use for local community service needs in their area. These requests will be reviewed by the appropriate governing committee. The committee discussed guidelines on setting up a successful Community Service program at a local church and how to receive funding.

The chair of the Audit Review Committee provided a report regarding the 2016 fiscal year-end audit. The conference was issued a clean audit opinion, "the best opinion that can be received," and the committee voted to accept the report. Chairperson Gary Ketchum shared that "this is the cleanest audit report that he has observed in all the years he has served in this position. "The auditors completed their review earlier than planned due to the good work of RMC staff," he
Several administrative actions were taken, including changing the name of the Worland School to Sonshire Academy, and of the Alamosa School to Cornerstone Christian Academy.

Since the committee meeting was the last for this quinquennium, its members expressed appreciation to their colleagues who faithfully served on the committee. Eight of them will not be returning to the Executive Committee for the next five-year term. Following are the names of those recognized, based on the Nominating Committee report to be voted at the constituency on July 23: Trina Folkenberg, Gary Ketchum, Jason Logan, Ricardo Melendez, Sam Miller, David Rodriguez, Steve Schwarz, and Carol Turk.

RMC president, Ed Barnett expressed appreciation for the “effective work of the Executive Committee. As we prepare ourselves for the upcoming Constituency Session, may we pray for God’s guidance and blessing,” he said.

[Text and photo by Rajmund Dabrowski]

**Montrose Church Gifts First Responders**

Montrose Church members treated first responders in their area with gift cards to show appreciation for their service.

Donations were accepted at Montrose Justice Center by representatives of the beneficiary agencies, including Montrose County Sheriff’s Office, City of Montrose Police Department, Montrose Fire Protection District, and Colorado State Patrol.

With increased attacks on police reported across the country, members at an outreach meeting at the Montrose Church, chose to “show the men and women of law enforcement in their community that they were cared for, appreciated, and prayed for,” according to W.D. Hess, a deacon of the church.

Well received by area eating establishments, they were able to collect enough $10 - $12 gift cards to hand them out to 230 employees, whether working in the departments or on
For the second summer in a row, Boulder Adventist Church has provided an internship program for teens (13–18). The four 2017 interns—Tommy Eickmann (17), Luke Leiden (14), Jonah De Oliveira (13), and Joshua De Oliveira (17)—have worked hard on a wide range of activities over the summer. They ran Café Sanitas, providing light snacks and drinks to hikers, cyclists, and passers-by, began an urban garden, refinshed chairs, built a concrete cave, supervised games and activities at Vacation Bible School, and prepared the church for worship each week.

The internship was not all about physical labor. Pastor Jessyka Albert, coordinator of the program, places a high value on using the experience to help give the teens greater ownership of the church. “It really gives them a chance to learn more about themselves, about others, and about the world around them,” she said. The teens attended a church vision board meeting and learned about how their ideas and input can help shape church culture. They also had the freedom to take ownership of various projects, such as Café Sanitas, through strategizing about the effectiveness of different operating hours, developing menu items, and meeting with one local business about the possibility of partnership. They took vocational and personality tests, such as StrengthsQuest and Myers-Briggs, designed to help them learn more about how they can make a difference in the church and the world. They also devoted time each day to prayer and Bible study.

The summer program was rewarding in different ways for each of the teens. Jonah De Oliveira says, “I liked talking to people when we did the café. The internship was fun and I
learned how to mix concrete!” Luke Leiden particularly enjoyed the personality tests. “I found out a lot about myself, what I should do with my life, and how I can help the church.” Joshua De Oliveira recommends the internship as “a great summer job” that helped him gain new practical and social skills while doing useful work. Tommy Eickmann says, “It's a great way to get involved in the local community and I think this is really important.”

Pastor Jessyka recalls some of her favorite moments: “Joshua was so excited when the CEO of Good Spread stopped by to offer us peanut butter to use in our café. Tommy would be reading a commentary in preparation for his upcoming sermon (August 5), and would often pause to share a new discovery with the group. Jonah reacted to his personality test results by exclaiming, 'I'm going to [be] such a cool dad someday!' Luke connected so well with his small group at Vacation Bible School, singing and dancing alongside them with such joy!”

Boulder Adventist Church is located in the heart of historic Boulder. It has a commitment to local engagement and strives for meaningful community outreach.

[Text and photo by Becky De Oliveira; L-R: Joshua De Oliveira, Tommy Eickmann, Jonah De Oliveira, Luke Leiden, and Pastor Jessyka Albert]

**Union College: Physician Assistants Score 100 Percent at Board Certification Exam** » The Union College Physician Assistant Class of 2017 has earned a 100 percent pass rate on the PANCE, the PA board certification exam, reports Vanita Sauder, president of Union College. “Our cohort PANCE rates have steadily increased over the past five years,” she says. The 2017 results are the first time since 2010 that a 100 percent pass rate has been obtained!

“Please join us in celebrating this great news which confirms the quality of our instruction and the strength of our student outcomes in the PA program,” Dr Sauder invites.

**RMC CAMP MEETINGS**

**Western Slope Camp Meeting** » From **August 2-6**, at Mountaintop Retreat near Montrose, Colorado. Contact: Fritz Krieger at 970-497-6175 for more information.

**Hispanic Camp Meeting** » From **September 1-3**, Glacier View Ranch will host Hispanic Camp Meeting with the theme **Small Groups**. Guest speakers include Omar Grieve and Nessy Pittau-Grieve, both from the Hispanic Voice of Prophecy, and Julio Chazarreta from Pacific Press. Lourdes
Chazarreta will present music through voice. Worship and activities will be held for the children. Glacier View Ranch is located at 8748 Overland Road, Ward CO 80481. For more information, contact Ruben Rivera at 303-910-1614.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**SeaSide Escape**

Need a day at the beach? A time to slow down, wiggle your toes in the sand and bask in the warmth of God's presence? Join us at SeaSide Escape, a beach-themed retreat you won't want to miss!

**Location:** Mills Spring Ranch, Casper Mountain, Casper WY

**Date:** August 26-27, 3 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Cost:** $50 for meals and activities. Lodging available for additional cost.

**Contact:** Rhonda McDonald at 307-259-8147 for information and registration.
Sanitas Lectureship » A special one-day event with William G. Johnsson will be held September 23 based on his recent book, *Where Are We Headed? Adventyism After San Antonio*. Q & A after sessions:

9:30 a.m. -- It's All About Jesus
11:00 a.m. -- *Will the Women's Issue Split the Church?*
2:00 p.m. -- *The Promise of Adventism*

Boulder Church is located at 345 Mapleton Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80304, www.boulder.church

The Sanitas Lectureship was established in 2016 to create a safe space for people to connect with God as presented through the lens of the Bible. The annual event includes presentations from world-renowned Old and New Testament scholars designed to demonstrate how the God of the Bible continues to work on the shared story of humanity.

Women’s Ministry Retreats 2017 » RMC Women’s Ministries is excited to announce the Area Women’s Retreats for 2017:

**Wyoming:** *Seaside Escape—a study of Sarah and Hagar*
Mills Spring Ranch on Casper Mountain
August 26, 27
Contact: Rhonda McDonald: 307-259-8147

**Colorado Western Slope:** *Falling in Love Again*
Speaker: Darla Sherman
Mountain Top Retreat (15 miles from Montrose)
October 6-8
Contact: Linda Johnson: 970-245-2294

Colorado Metro, NE/SE: *The Best Is Yet To Come*
Speaker and Musician: Jaclynn Huse along with her daughter Shelby, age 16
Begins Saturday night
September 16
with free concert
at Greeley Adventist Church
Everyone is invited! -- not just for women.
Followed by one-day Women’s Retreat
Sunday, September 17
at Pinehurst Country Club in Littleton
Contact: Ginger Bell: 720-980-9006

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*Campion Academy’s 1st Annual Volleyball Camp*
*July 30-31, 2017*

CAMP FEE: $50
- 2 DAYS
- CAMPG T-SHIRT
- SESSIONS:
  - 9AM-12PM
  - 1PM-4PM
- LUNCHES PROVIDED
- FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS
- REAL GAME PLAY
- EXPERIENCED COACHES
- UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

Campion Academy Gym
300 SW 42nd St.
Loveland, CO 80537

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The Heritage Singers » will be Live in Concert on Saturday, **August 12** at 7 p.m. at LifeSource Adventist Fellowship at 6200 West Hampden Avenue in Denver.
Admission is FREE.
Full Solar Eclipse Coming in August  

Come join us for an epic view of the full solar eclipse at Mills Spring Ranch in Casper, Wyoming! Casper is right in the middle of the solar eclipse path and you can get the best view on top of the mountain at Mills Spring Ranch.

Who: All churches, Pathfinders, and schools are welcome!

When: August 18-22, 2017

Where: Mills Spring Ranch in Casper, Wyoming

Prices:
Family Cabin of 4: $50/night
Bunk House: $10/person per night
RV Space (includes electricity): $25/night
Tent Camping: $15/night

Space is limited, so call to reserve your space!

Call or email Matt Moreland, 661-805-6797, mattm@rmcsda.org

Journey Through the Holy Land  

You are invited on the trip of a lifetime! Join others from the RMC on September 3-11 as we explore the land where Jesus walked. This is a spiritual pilgrimage that is guaranteed to be
deeply impactful to your faith. A 4-day extension trip to Eilat and Petra is also being offered. The trip is limited to 30 people, so don't wait. For more information, CLICK HERE, or email pastordave@newdaysda.com.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Mile High Academy** » has three positions available on their extended campus at the Guangdong Experimental Shunde Campus. Room and board is provided, along with one round-trip ticket and insurance during stay. The science (1) and ESL (2) teachers will be using MHA's curriculum as well as their books and philosophy. For more information, go to http://www.gdsysd.com/Home/IndexEnglish and/or contact Toakase Vunileva at tvunileva@milehighacademy.org.

**Campion Academy** » is looking for a part-time English teacher with a master's degree and SDA certification. To apply, send your resume to Don Reeder at don.reeder@campion.net.

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

**NewsNuggets Archive Now Online** » The NewsNuggets archive is now online, and can be found at https://www-rmcsda-org.netadvent.org/newsnuggets-archive.

FROM THE EDITOR

We want to share your news -- Change is a part of the communication age. With online media experiencing constant evolution, the NewsNuggets is also experiencing an increased access from our readers and contributors. We will continue to encourage news sharing from our churches, institutions, and individual church members.

In order to make our eNewsletter accommodate an
increased volume of announcements, our editorial work proposes to present information in a more efficient approach, ensuring that all timely promotions and announcements be included in a weekly, Friday release of NewsNuggets. Submission deadline for stories, news, and announcements is at noon on every Wednesday. Please send all your submissions to nuggets@rmcsda.org.

Thank you for your contribution, but also comments, as NewsNuggets continues to serve the church in an efficient and effective way.

We are inviting all correspondents and contributors to follow a general Adventist News Network Style Guide, including glossary. For guidelines, see: http://news.adventist.org/styleguide/

--Editor

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**Share the News Nuggets with your congregation**

Add a note to your church bulletin or newsletter with the following URL: [www.bit.ly/RMCnews](http://www.bit.ly/RMCnews)

Members can follow the link to sign up for weekly news and to keep up-to-date on what's happening around the Rocky Mountain Conference.

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**Rocky Mountain Conference Mission Statement**

**Tagline:**

*Knowing Christ and Making Him Fully Known*