

KANSAS MENNONITE RELIEF SALE CHURCH LIAISON INFORMATION

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Your main job as a Church Liaison is to motivate the people in your church to get involved in the Kansas MCC Sale. There is no one set way to get this job done. You should feel free to motivate in whatever way works best for YOUR personality. However, please keep in mind that it is CRITICAL that you get the information presented at the monthly meetings of January thru April to your congregation!!! YOU are the ONLY link between the info presented and your congregation. PLEASE take your job seriously.

The reason that this is SO important is that our ONLY reason for having the KS MCC Sale is to FINANCIALLY support the on-going work of MCC around the World. We believe that the stronger this link is for people the more enthusiastic they will be about participating in the work of the KS MCC Sale. Make certain that your congregation is well aware of the following 5 points:

1. ALL proceeds from the sale go to MCC. ALL expenses are paid for before the sale. Encourage people and Sunday School classes in your church to help raise money for pre-sale expenses.

2. MCC is one of the MOST efficient run humanitarian aid organizations in the World with most all workers serving as volunteers. When you spend a dollar at the sale 90 plus cents gets to where the problem is.

3. MCC is working in 60 Countries where the worst humanitarian crises are taking place.

4. MCC is VERY good at teaching people in poor countries how to provide for their families by improving their agricultural practices or teaching them a skill that is marketable.

5. Spending money at the KS MCC Sale is being a good steward of your resources.

Here are a few suggestions of ways liaisons motivate their congregations. Don't feel limited by these ideas. Add whatever ideas work for your congregation.

--Put a table in a conspicuous place in your church 6 or 7 weeks prior to the sale where sign up sheets and other bits of info and motivational material can be displayed. Pictures from previous years of people from your church working at the sale can be displayed here.

--A GREAT tool to use is your church bulletin. Have a MCC Sale paragraph in each bulletin. Change this paragraph EACH week with new info. Generic announcements are sent to each church starting in January. Get ahold of these from your church secretary and modify these to fit your congregation. List opportunities for volunteer positions; pre-sale expense donation needs; stories of what MCC is doing in Syria; encourage folks to build something for the sale; sign up sheets that need filling; a note that \$15 spent at the MCC Sale will purchase a goat for a poor family, etc. MOST

anything that you think motivates individuals can be communicated here. We believe that Church Bulletins are read diligently and these bulletin announcements may be MORE effective than a verbal announcement.

--The Sunday before the Quilt Deadline put the Quilts, Comforters, Wall Hangings, etc. on display somewhere in your church and make mention of it during the service so folks can be motivated.

--Three weeks before the sale have an area in your church for items that folks in your congregation built can bring and display before the Liaisons take the items to the sale. As these items come in take pictures of them and email these pictures to: photos@kansas.mccsale.org. If you do not have a digital camera or a computer have ANY young person in your church do this. Kids or young people can do this in seconds and it is another way of getting them involved.

--Make announcements in church when extra emphasis is needed.

--One of the wonderful things about the MCC Sale is that everyone can contribute in some way. Encourage/challenge individuals and/or groups within your congregation to identify how they can be part of the effort.

--Visit with folks in your church that do quilting, crafts, woodworking, metal working, and any other art projects and get them excited to help along by donating items that they make and donate to the sale.

--A report during sharing time, the Sunday AFTER the sale is a good way to say to your congregation "Good Work and THANKS for all your efforts." An expansion of this idea is to have several from your congregation take pictures during the sale of people from your church having a good time or volunteering or whatever. These pictures can then be sent to one person that can put together a power point presentation. These pictures can then be shown while you are making your report of the sale.

--Add your own ideas.

Additional stuff you need to know:

--Any items that are donated for the sale should be reported to our Publicity Chairman with description and Photos: email to: publicity@kansas.mccsale.org AND photos@kansas.mccsale.org. This helps us publicize and promote donated items, helping to ensure that these items bring top dollar.

--Finally, keep in mind that in the end the "fruit of our labor" is the powerful work that MCC does around the world. Our hope is that everyone who participates will do so out of a sense of JOY and gratitude!

BAKED GOODS. Baked goods should be delivered to the east door on the south side of the Meadowlark Building beginning at 8:00 a.m. the Friday of the sale and beginning at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. We would prefer that items be brought earlier in the day to allow us more time to price and put them out – this is especially nice on Saturday. Zwieback, Bread, and Pie assignments will be passed out at the first March meeting and we ask that you work hard to fill your assignment. It is very important that you label the items that you are bringing with the type/flavor of the item. Popular selling items are listed below with the preferred packaging amounts:

Zwieback – 1 dozen per bag (assignments and bags handed out at first March meeting)
Noodles – 1 pound per bag (bags can be picked up at Relief Sale meetings)
Flavored Noodles – ½ pound per bag (priced the same as 1 pound bag of regular)
Bread – 1 loaf per bag unsliced (assignments & bags handed out at first March meeting)
Peppernuts – 4 cups to a quart size bag – list special ingredients i.e. nuts, fruit, anise
Mini Pies – Mini pie tins can be picked up at Relief Sale Meetings
Poppy Seed Rolls – Packaged as whole or half. Remove tin foil so roll is visible
Jellies – Sealed and labeled in pint or ½ pints – no freezer jellies
Gluten Free – Items label as gluten free
Angel Food Cakes
Cinnamon Rolls

PLEASE follow the packaging guidelines as this makes it easier for us to price the items.

BOHNE BEROGGI MAKING DAY. This is also a MOST rewarding day. About 60 volunteers are needed to help make Bohne Beroggi the Saturday before the Sale at Moundridge High School. Volunteers make dough, pinch buns, assemble the Bohne Beroggi and bake. Bohne Beroggi are sold to people who come to the high school to buy them the day they are made. The Thursday before the Sale the sauce is made at Pine Village Kitchen. Brett and Marla Gillmore are in charge of this activity and get other volunteers to be in other leadership roles to get the Bohne Beroggi made and delivered to the Sale.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES. The Pride of Kansas Building houses many varied activities for children. The Children's Auction is in this building as well as Miniature Golf Course, the Inflatables, Build a MCC School Kit and other activities geared towards children. The Big Slide (on the east end of the fairgrounds) is also available for children of all ages. Liaisons need to help recruit workers for these activities.

CHILDREN'S AUCTION. The Children's Auction is held on Saturday at 10:00 am in the Pride of Kansas Building where the rest of the children's activities are located. We need about 60 items donated for this auction. These items can be brought to ANY of our monthly meetings. Items such as dolls, farm toys, games, puzzles, etc. always sell well. Used items are ok IF they are in excellent condition. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The auction lasts about one hour. The auctioneer is user

friendly with children. The goal is to get the children involved in the sale and have fun. Usual attendance goes through the 6th grade.

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE. Feeding The Multitude (FTM) Committee consists of six couples, or twelve individuals. Committee members are on the committee for six years, serving as chairperson the third year. They are responsible for finding their own replacement. Detailed records are kept each year and are passed on to the next chairperson. Old records, along with FTM equipment are kept in a storage unit located in Hutchinson.

Planning is done by the FTM Committee before or after monthly KMRS meetings. FTM is in charge of cleaning, set-up, stocking (restocking) supplies, checking in servers, directing food line traffic, and seating options in Cottonwood Court both Friday night and Saturday noon. FTM has twenty-three sub-committees that are responsible for all planning, set-up and serving of the meals. These sub-committees are responsible for finding their replacements. The sub-committees do not usually attend the monthly meetings.

The sub-committees have sign-up sheets for getting their volunteers to prepare or serve the food in the serving lines. These sheets are distributed to Church Liaisons at KMRS monthly meetings. The sign-up sheets specify what job the person is volunteering for. If a person forgets what they signed up to do, FTM has an area designated for posting sub-committee sign-up sheets. These sheets are next to the table at the east end of Cottonwood Court where all volunteers MUST report to receive their name badge and hat that must be worn when working with food.

Schedule at KMRS: The FTM Chair is responsible to contact vendors in Cottonwood Court in late January confirming arrangements for the sale. The Chair is at Cottonwood Court (CC) Wednesday morning before the sale to take pictures of all equipment placement before any items are moved from the rented vendor booths and to answer any questions as set-up begins. Typically all of the men on the committee also arrive Wednesday morning to adjust and align tables and chairs as well as arrange the vendor work stations. The entire committee arrives at CC Thursday morning to clean CC and the trailers. Equipment and supplies are picked up from the storage unit in Hutchinson. Inventory is taken on all items delivered to CC by Purchasing. FTM committee sets up all tables and items are placed in each food line for serving. Set-up continues Friday morning in preparation for serving the meal Friday evening. The committee arrives Saturday morning to help with preparations for the Saturday noon meal. After the meal has been served left-over food items are taken to the Surplus Auction.

Monday morning the entire FTM Committee begins cleanup of all rented vendor booths and trailers, re-inventories supplies, and takes all FTM equipment and supplies back to the storage unit. CC is cleaned and put back in the same order we found it the previous Wednesday morning. FTM Committee has an evaluation meeting during lunch on Monday.

FELLOWSHIP MEALS. Make Christian Fellowship a Gift to the KMRS by participating in the Fellowship Meals. The Fellowship Meals Committee will match Guests and Hosts to enjoy a shared experience of giving. Hosts open their homes and share a meal they have prepared on one or both of the designated weekends. An invitation to the Host's Church for worship on the day of the meal is usually a part of the day.

Hosts will receive the names of the guests to invite and extend an invitation to worship and dine in Christian fellowship. The meal does not have to be elaborate, a simple meal is all that is needed to start a conversation around the table as Guests and Hosts become acquainted and share stories of their work with or support for the Mennonite Central Committee.

Whether as Host or Guest, your special gift will be sharing of yourselves in the spirit and love of Jesus Christ.

General dates of meals: Participants can choose from the dates designated by the Fellowship Meals Committee, usually the end of February and/or the beginning of March.

Cost of the meal: The cost of the meal is set by the Fellowship Meals Committee and approved by the KMRS board. The cost will be indicated on the registration form and is due when the form is sent to the Committee. Make checks payable to KMRS.

Registration: Participants who choose to be Hosts will designate the date they will open their home and the number of guests they can accommodate. Those who wish to be guests will designate the date they wish to travel and the number attending.

Timeline: The dates of the Fellowship Meals and a word document suitable for printing will be available by the November KMRS meeting so that Church Liaisons can provide the information to their Congregations. The word document is sent with the Minutes of the November meeting. Registration forms and payment for meals must be received by the Committee by the date specified on the forms so that the Committee can have time to match Hosts with Guests and be able to send the information to the Hosts so that invitations may be extended in a timely manner. It is the Hosts' responsibility to invite their Guests to the Fellowship Meal.

Other options: In order to accommodate those who do not wish to travel, Congregations have opened their Churches for a fellowship Meal, usually hosted by a Sunday School class, Liaisons, or similar group. These meals can be on a date of the organizer's choosing, preferably prior to the Sale date. The Church Liaisons may bring the funds collected, checks made out to KMRS, to any of the KMRS meetings or send the funds to the Fellowship Meals Committee. If your Congregation is not doing this, the Committee asks that church Liaisons to strongly encourage your Congregation to participate in this outreach to the community.

GENERAL AUCTION Our goal is to create a fun auction environment that generates substantial funds for MCC. The General Auction welcomes donations of quality pieces that are capable of generating small, medium, and large proceeds for MCC. The auction is held in the SUNFLOWER NORTH building. Your help, as liaisons, is needed in the following ways.

1. Encourage members of your congregation to donate quality items to the sale. Items can be new, used, old or antique. Encourage small business owners to donate their goods and services to the auction. We want the good stuff you have seen at the MCC Sale and at local auctions that bring good prices. Here is a list of items to consider:

- | | |
|--|---|
| antique and late model cars | antique and other tractors |
| sports memorabilia | quality antiques |
| running motorcycles and ATVs | utility vehicles |
| go-karts | quality tools |
| collectables including coins | historical artifacts |
| railroad collectibles | precious metals, gold, silver |
| quality hand crafted children playhouses | hand crafted outdoor furniture/planters |
| porch swings | gardening equipment |
| landscaping tools | rototillers |
| hand crafted children's furniture | hand crafted bookcases |
| hand crafted furniture | bread boards |
| chess sets | farm equipment |
| welders | generators |
| construction equipment | loaders, backhoes, skid steers |
| swathers, balers | hay grinding equipment |
| woodworking saws, jointers, sanders | cordless tools |
| socket sets, wrench sets | gardening |

Donations of old worn out couches, old organs, old pianos, old worn out luggage, old worn out recliners, used walkers, and old paint is discouraged

2. We want to know about the good stuff early so we can advertise it. Send photos and descriptions to photos@kansas.mccsale.org

3. We need your help stimulating bidding interest in donated items. When your church members donate items, display the items in your church prior to the sale. Stimulate interest in the items within your congregation. Encourage church members to support the bidding on items donated by your congregation. If donated items have a story, or are handcrafted by an artist or woodworker in your congregation, PLEASE identify the artist and church by printing it on a card and attaching it to the item. Stories can be the difference between an item selling for \$100 or \$1,000.

4. Liaisons are responsible for getting items from your congregation to the sale. Items are accepted Thursday from 9-3 and all day Friday and Saturday during the sale. It is best to get items delivered prior to the start of the sale.

KANSAS CRAFTS. Located in Sunflower South, Kansas Crafts is a store of mostly handcrafted items. Consider the following list of suggested items and think about what you could contribute to the success of Kansas Crafts. Handcrafted items are special to give and to receive, sometimes becoming treasured heirlooms. If you don't consider yourself a crafty person, then please volunteer to help sell these wonderful items made or donated by others. Many volunteers are needed throughout the Sale weekend.

Suggested items include:

Embroidered cotton tea towels

Anything made from old quilts

Quiet Books (detailed)

Sock Monkeys

Stationery

Decorative pillows

Quilted wall hangings

Hair accessories

Children's aprons with pockets

Vintage Jewelry

Wood crafts, such as wooden toys, birdhouses, wagons, etc.

Baby items, such as baby afghans and quilts, layettes, crib sets, bath towels, burp rags

Embroidered pillowcases

Denim blankets, pillows, rugs, etc

Scrubie pads

K-State, KU, John Deere, Coke items

Full size and larger comforters

Baskets

Handmade Jewelry

Aprons-Collegiate material sells well

Knitted dish rags

Rugs such as braided or latch hook, etc

Please note: NO used items except vintage jewelry and cookbooks

Cook Book Nook: Donate your old, new, used, tattered cookbooks

Kiddie Corner. A special area is set up for children to buy items priced at \$3.00 and under. Donate items such as Play Dough, Slime, wood toys, bug cages, puzzles, yo-yos, beaded crafts, hair bows, child's coin purses and small bags, candy craft items, Beanie Babies.

When and where to deliver items. Deliver items to your Church Liaison who will bring them to the Sale on Friday morning or you may bring items yourself to the fairgrounds from Noon -3:00 on Thursday or all day on Friday.

How to package items. Committee will package items for sale.

Pricing of items. If you know the selling price of your craft, please suggest it and attach it to the item.

Volunteer Sign Up. Volunteer forms at February meeting.

KANSAS MENNONITE MEN'S CHORUS CONCERTS. The Kansas Mennonite Men's Chorus gives two concerts after the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale where all proceeds go to MCC. These two dates are usually the Sunday after the Sale and a month later. Any male can sing in this chorus. Exact dates and information can be found on their website www.kmmc.mennonite.net As of 2016 the Kansas Mennonite Mens Chorus

has raised over \$725,000. CDs of former performances are available through the website as well as at concerts and at the Relief Sale.

MY COINS COUNT. We would like to encourage churches to collect coins ALL year round for the MY COINS COUNT Challenge. Collect coins for the Relief Sale in any way you can. Some churches simply put out a container to collect these coins. A way that has been more successful is to have the children in your church get involved to help with this in the following way. Get four one gallon tin cans and organize a list of all the children in your church grades 2 thru 6 and have them take turns passing these cans the same time the ushers in your church are collecting your Sunday morning offering the ten Sundays before the Sale. The ushers enjoy helping the little ushers (children); the kids love to get involved; and EVERYONE enjoys hearing the coins make a nice sound dropping in the tin cans. Some churches have an inexpensive coin counter and the kids gather after church to watch and hear the coins counted. We encourage you to take these coins to your local bank and turn in the money into a check to give to our Treasurer at our meetings or bring the check to the sale and give it to the people at the booth. The remainder of your coins can be brought to the Relief Sale and people will be counting them there. Invite adults to match the contributions of the children and quickly multiply your impact. Have a poster or some form for keeping a running total of the total coins contribution out on display.

NEW YEAR COOKIES: New Year Cookies are sold at various locations during the Sale weekend. They are prepared in a mobile kitchen located northeast of the Domestic Arts Building. Approximately 40 people are needed for each shift. There are three two-hour shifts on Friday starting at 2 pm; and four two-hour shifts on Saturday starting at 7 am. This is a perfect opportunity for Youth Groups and/or Sunday School classes to do a project together. If you are signing up a group such as a Youth Group or Sunday School class, please either list all names or indicate how many your group will have. Large groups may also call the Committee Chair when they sign up so they can get the shift they want. Volunteers should report for their work shift in the northeast corner of the Domestic Arts Building.

Volunteer sign-up sheets are distributed to Church Liaisons at the January or February meeting. Date to return forms to the Committee is published on the form.

PIES. Approximately 1500 pies are needed. Tins, bags and ties are handed out at the March meeting with the name of your church on them. This is the number of pies that YOUR church is responsible for getting to the Sale. The time suggested to bring your pies to the Sale is staggered so not all the 1500 pies arrive at one time. If it doesn't work to bring your pies at the exact time just bring them when it works for you. Pies MUST be labeled. The pies that sell the best are rhubarb, mulberry, gooseberry, blueberry and raspberry. NO SOFT PIES ARE ALLOWED such as pumpkin or egg pies. Church Liaisons are responsible to get the pies to the southeast corner of the Meadowlark Building.

PLANTS AND THINGS. Please encourage your congregations to plant seeds, transplant, divide plants and get involved in the Plants and Things booth. We sell any plants from small (garden and flower) to large (trees that are potted or bagged). We also sell any garden or yard accessories such as rakes, hoes, wheelbarrows, trellis, yard ornaments, etc. Planting seeds is a GREAT project for your children's Sunday School classes to get involved with.

Please label all planted items as specifically as possible. If you have suggested prices, please put that on the label otherwise the Committee will price your items. Please bring all Plants and Things to the northwest corner door (west side) of the Sunflower South Building. Volunteers are needed to help price and display the items as they come in. Sign up sheets will be handed out at the February meeting. These sheets will have job descriptions and information where volunteers should report to work.

PURCHASING COMMITTEE.

Budget: Before each sale, we try to raise the money needed to cover all expenses of the Sale so all the money raised during the Sale will go to MCC. Using the information given to us by the Sale Treasurer, we put together the budget (an estimate) of what it will cost to pay for the next Sale. We present the budget at the November General Meeting. The Liaisons are to take this information back to their churches to raise the money to cover the expenses for the Sale. Individuals, groups, families, etc can pay for all or any portion of the items listed on the budget. Starting at the January meeting we go through the budget, line by line, and people call out how much they raised for that item.

Utility Vehicles: During the Sale, utility vehicles (Mules, Gators, golf carts, small pickups) are used extensively on the grounds to move supplies to where they are needed. We usually have a least ten vehicles available for use at the Sale. For safety, we try to limit the number of vehicles being used during the Sale. If you need a Gator, PLEASE contact the Purchasing Committee. ALL order for Gators much be placed through them.

Supplies: Most food, paper and plastic supplies are ordered through the Purchasing Committee so we can buy in wholesale quantity for the best price. If you need any of these types of items, PLEASE contact the Purchasing Committee. We deal with over forty different committees who order supplies through us. In January we email purchase orders to the various committees. The purchase orders are to be filled out and returned to us before the 15th of February. When we have all the orders, we compile a list of everything ordered and when it is needed. At this time we also print the Usage Report sheets and various other forms which monitor what is actually used during the Sale. Each Committee then evaluates to see if they need more or less of each item they use; so that next year we can operate more efficiently. We then make contact with our suppliers, letting them know how much and when we will need the supplies. We meet with our SYSCO representative and place our order to be delivered on various days as needed leading up to the Sale. On the Wednesday before the Sale, we clean and organize the Central Supply building and get the supplies from our

storage unit. Early Thursday, the SYSCO truck with a semi-trailer arrives with our order. We inventory everything as we unload the truck. We then begin to distribute the supplies as ordered by the various committees. During the Sale, we continue to deliver supplies as needed. Near the end of the Sale, we gather all the surplus food and transport it to the Surplus auction. We also gather all the unused paper and plastic products, count and repackage them to be returned or placed in storage for next year.

QUILT AUCTION. This is the auction where quilts, comforters, baby quilts, quilted wall hangings, and quilt related items are sold and held in the Meadowlark Building. A form for each quilt donated MUST be filled out and attached to the quilt before turning it in. These forms are available at our monthly meetings and are also available on the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale website: kansas.mccsale.org. It is very important that your quilt items are turned in by the date announced at our General Meeting and printed on the quilt form. Any quilts turned in AFTER this date will still be sold; HOWEVER they will NOT be listed in the printed catalog or on the website. Volunteers are needed to help on the stage during the Sale and to help fold and bag after the quilts are sold. Friday volunteers are needed to help hang the quilts for display. It is good to have some men available BOTH Friday and Saturday. Sign-up sheets will be handed out at our monthly meetings with information on them.

QUILTER'S CORNER. Quilter's Corner would welcome your donated quilt related items. The used, unused or unfinished items no longer needed in your quilt, sewing or linen closet can be used to help feed the hungry.

Suggested items: **Fabric:** Cotton, Flannel, Wool, Denim (cut into blocks), Corduroy, Crazy quilt (neckties, satin, velvet, etc) **Cloth sacks:** Feed, flour, salt, sugar **Linens:** Dresser scarves, pillowcases, tablecloths, chenille bedspreads, doilies, potholders, aprons. Finished or unfinished quilt tops, finished/unfinished quilt blocks, old or damaged quilts. Quilt books, magazines 2000 and newer, frames, supplies, tools. Quilt patterns, old or new – Kansas City Star, stencils, piecing, quilting. Buttons, wooden spools, notions

It is recommended that you have a box in your church marked QUILTERS CORNER to collect these types of items year round. Church Liaisons should bring these items to the Sale meetings in January, February or March; or deliver to the MCC Center in North Newton (specifically labeled for "Quilter's Corner"). Items brought after April 1 may be sold the following year.

RIDE FOR RELIEF. The motorcycle ride is on a Sunday some time from the end of April to the end of May. The riders meet at a starting point and ride as a group to a different church each year. They then enjoy fellowship and the worship service. The churches have hosted a meal afterwards for the riders. Some of the meals are potluck and some are a fundraiser. Cost of the ride is \$25 per bike and \$1 for a button. All the money goes to the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale. The riders pay for their own gas and food.

RUN FOR RELIEF. Join in the fun and help those in need. Be a part of the Run for Relief! Walk, Jog, Run – for all ages and abilities! Ask your friends and family to sponsor YOU in the annual 5K fun run/walk or simply pay an entry fee to participate.

The Run for Relief is something EVERYONE can get involved with. Encourage the people in YOUR church to either walk, run or sponsor someone running. Encourage your walkers/runners to get sponsors rather than just paying the entry fee. See how much money YOUR church can raise with this activity. This may be the healthiest activity of your entire Relief Sale experience!

Choose One Options: “Entry Fee” or “Sponsors”

Entry Fee: If you want to participate by simply paying an entry fee, pre-registration is \$20 (which includes a t-shirt); late registration is \$25 (t-shirt not guaranteed). Deadlines are published in the flier each year

Sponsors: If you choose to raise extra dollars by asking people to “sponsor” you, send in your entry form by the pre-registration date with that option marked. Complete the sponsor sheet and hand in the money you collected when you check in for the race. Pick up a t-shirt at check in.

Divisions: Male/Female 9 & under; 10-14; 15-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; 60-69; 70+

Awards: Top Male/Female overall; top 3 finishers in each age group; oldest and youngest participants; top sponsor dollar amount collected; all participants receive a ribbon. Raising over \$250 will get the participant a hoodie or long sleeve shirt.

Proceeds: Mennonite Central Committee world relief, development and service projects

Course Info: 5K out and back course along paved bike path starting in Rice Park and following Cow Creek, Hutchinson.

Parking: Rice Park entrance or Shelter House at 44 Swarens Street.

Check-in Time: 5:30-8:00 pm Friday night in the Meadowlark Building on the Kansas State Fairgrounds; **OR** 7:00-7:30 am Saturday (Relief Sale Day) at Rice Park Shelter House.

Start time: 8:00 am at Rice Park Shelter House

Timeline: Entry forms at February meeting. Pre-registration towards the end of March (deadlines are published on the entry form).

SILENT AUCTION. The Silent Auction is held in the Sunflower South Building. Typically there are a wide variety of items available including everything from antiques to handmade items to vacation packages and much more. The bidding begins Friday at 5 pm and concludes at 1 pm on Saturday. People often enjoy checking back on the bid sheets throughout the day to see how they are doing. Since this is a fundraiser for MCC we encourage people to feel free to bid early and often to help us raise more money!

We are always on the lookout for high quality items. As a Church Liaison you can most assist us by encouraging people in your congregation to specifically consider making or donating items to the Silent Auction. We work very closely with the General Auction so if you are unsure where an item might sell best just ask! We do highly encourage you to let us know as soon as you are aware of a potential donation, especially if the item is unique. This allows us to ensure that the item gets publicized. Since we have limited space it is also helpful to have a sense of the main items we will be including before the day of the Sale if at all possible. Questions and/or donations can be directed to Matt Schmidt (316-283-2791) or Al Penner (316-322-5453)

SONG ON THE LAWN. Song on the Lawn is an annual outdoor mini-music festival and meal sponsored by the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale and hosted by MCC and WillowSpring Downs, the farm home of Maynard Knepp and Carol Duerksen. It is usually held on the second Sunday in June from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Come for GREAT music but plan on eating GREAT food also. Food will be available all evening. Bring table service, lawn chairs, blankets, friends and family with you for this fun and unique event.

WillowSpring Downs is located at 1582 Falcon, rural Hillsboro. Directions from Goessel are 3 miles north on Hiway 15, 4 miles east on 150th and 3/4 north on Falcon; or from Hillsboro, 4 miles south on Indigo, 3 miles west on 150th and 3/4 north on Falcon. (Do not follow GPS directions.) In case of rain, the event will be held at the Goessel Elementary School. Call 620-386-0709 or 316-285-3820 for more information.

VERENIKE MAKING DAY. This is a MOST spiritually rewarding day. We make verenike on the Tuesday before the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale weekend. They are made at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro. We run two shifts for making the verenike: 8 am to noon and 11:30 to 4 pm or whenever we are finished. Each shift requires about 100 people. Jobs are for both young and old and any age in between. The older helpers can help in the final "quality control" department which is a sitting job at tables and doing the final pinching. Volunteers are also needed for the clean up shift starting at 4 pm until finished. Lunch is not provided BUT a coffee break is taken during each shift. Workers do not need to bring any supplies or equipment. We try and make around 23,000 verenike that are delivered to the sale. Verenike are offered for sale at this event.