NCNW Staff Retreat 2021
With Vice President Kamala Harris

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In the wake of a tsunami of laws passed in state legislatures that will suppress the votes of Black Americans and other marginalized people, and the shenanigans in the United States Senate that are blocking the passage of the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, NCNW has a Seat At the Table where civil rights and women’s rights advocates are pushing back against these assaults on our democracy.

On July 9th, NCNW had a seat at the table in the White House when the eight Legacy Civil Rights organizations met with President Biden and Vice President Harris to discuss the urgency of protecting our freedom to vote. The leaders of the other civil rights organizations at that meeting were: Melanie Campbell, President and CEO of the Coalition on Black Civic Participation and Convenor of the Black Women’s Roundtable; Wade Henderson, Interim President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Damon Hewitt, President and Executive Director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; Sherrilyn Ifill, President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund; Derrick Johnson, President and CEO of the NAACP; Marc Morial, President of the National Urban League and Reverend Al Sharpton, President of the National Action Network.

Following our meeting at the White House with President Biden and Vice President Harris, the leaders of the eight legacy civil rights organizations held a press conference where we announced that each of our organizations will increase actions that call for Congress to enact federal voting rights reform to save our democracy. Sister President Melanie Campbell and I announced that our organizations would partner with a coalition of Black women leaders and allies to organize a “Freedom to Vote Week of Action.”

A few days after our meeting in the White House, President Biden delivered an impassioned speech on the assault on voting rights in which he said the following: “The 21st century Jim Crow assault is real. It’s unrelenting, and we’re going to challenge it vigorously. While this broad assault against voting rights is not unprecedented, it’s taking on a new and literally, pernicious form. It’s no longer just about who gets to vote or making it easier for eligible voters to vote. It’s about who gets to count the vote—who gets to count whether or not your vote counted at all. It’s about moving from independent election administrators who work for the people to polarized state legislatures and partisan actors who work for political parties. To me, this is simple: This is election subversion. It’s the most dangerous threat to voting and the integrity of free and fair elections in our history.”

In the spirit of President Biden’s speech, forty Black women leaders and our allies carried out a week of action that included a social media takeover, a town hall, a call-in-day to Congress and a day of action on Capitol Hill. NCNW will continue to carry out days of action in partnership with The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and the Black Women’s Roundtable (the women and girl’s empowerment and power building arm of the NCBCP).

On July 16th, Vice President Kamala Harris invited 20 leaders of national Black women’s organizations to the White House to discuss what she described as one of the most pressing issues, if not the most pressing issue of our time—voter suppression. Executive Director Janice L. Mathis and I were honored to virtually participate in that important meeting.

My NCNW sisters, I urge you to find a seat at the table where voting rights are being discussed in your section, sorority meeting, place of worship, community center, state legislature, book club, and anywhere else that you gather with potential voters. And if there is a gathering about voters’ rights that does not welcome you, heed this counsel that was given by Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm: “If they don’t give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair.”

Onward!
Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D.
President and Chair of the Board
On Friday, June 18, the nation observed the federal Juneteenth Holiday, thanks to the patient and persistent work of Congresswoman Shelia Jackson Lee, Ms. Opal Lee and the Biden Administration. I admit to being underwhelmed at the news. So we celebrate enslaved people being told they were free 2 1/2 years after the fact, and only then because armed Union troops delivered the message? There are plenty of reasons for skepticism. Rebels desecrated the nation’s capital, we can’t get a $15 minimum wage, billionaires pay no federal income tax, affordable health care is under attack, green energy is not infrastructure, and hundreds of state laws are making it harder to vote. I was in a dark mood. Cynicism thrives on dreams deferred and rights denied.

There is an old saying - it’s always darkest just before dawn. Whether that is literally true or not, certainly, slavery was at its worst in the decade just before rebels began the Civil War by setting federal Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor on fire in 1860. It is suitably familiar that Fort Sumter, just like the 2021 rebellion, grew out of a rebellious determination not to accept the results of Presidential election. The 1850 Fugitive Slave Law effectively erased the Mason Dixon line dividing slave from free territory and nationalized property rights in the ownership of people. The Supreme Court ruled against Dred and Harriet Scott in 1857, deciding that no Black persons were citizens and thus had no right to sue in federal court. It was a dark and dangerous time to be Black In America.

For a few days following the holiday, there was a feeling of possibility. Hope seemed plausible. Perhaps a new dawn of American freedom and democracy would emerge. I have hope that the memory of Juneteenth celebrations will help dim the shock of the January 6th rebellion. I have hope that Justice Stephen G. Breyer’s “modest and technical majority opinion” upholding the Affordable Care Act decides will at least challenge to the notion that health care is a fundamental human right.

I have hope that the United States Senate will act to pass the For the People Act. This historic legislation would make election day a holiday, provide 15 days for early voting, permit automatic and same day voter registration, end congressional gerrymandering, overhaul federal campaign finance laws, increase safeguards against foreign interference, limit voter purges, reduce the influence of money in politics and more. This bill passed the House of Representatives in March, 2021.

A major point of partisan disagreement is over voter identification. It is a mistake to assume that opponents of strict voter ID provisions do not value ballot security. The problem is that there is no evidence that current election procedures leave ballots unsecured. There is very little in-person election fraud in the US. And there is mounting evidence that some states use voter ID as a means to exclude otherwise eligible voters. The strict government-issued photo ID imposes an unnecessary burden on indigenous, poor, rural, young and Black voters. There is no compelling reason to require strict voter identification.

As an aside, Senators Blunt and McConnell should be ashamed of the dog whistle, race-baiting attack on Senator Manchin’s proposal to include a wider range of types of identification just because Stacey Abrams has endorsed it. The differences between Abrams and Manchin are that she is female, Black and from a state that is very closely divided. Senator Manchin is white, male and from a state that overwhelmingly supported former President Trump and is only 3% Black. Interestingly, West Virginia’s voter ID law has in recent years been relatively moderate compared to those in states where Black voters constitute a significant block like the one in Georgia. Bottom line, if you believe that voting is a right and should not be unduly burdened, contact your US Senator. Call the United States Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request.

If the Juneteenth holiday, the Chauvin verdict and Floyd settlement, the Supreme Court’s reaffirmation of the Affordable Care Act
and the possibility of election reform seem like thin threads from which to weave a rope of optimism, please take into consideration that to be Black in America is to look for light in the midst of darkness. For now, it is enough to encourage me and other activists to write, to speak, to organize and to continue to believe in the promise of this grand experiment in self-government. Few of us have had to endure our home being torched as little Miss Opal Lee did when she was merely twelve years old. Yet, we must insist on making good use of the hard lessons of the past. Ms. Opal has turned racial resentment into a cause for celebration.

In this season, I am reminded of the power of the simple yet elegant slogan of my mentor, The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Keep Hope Alive. Hope lives more by intention than by accident. Hope lives in the Freedom Rides organized by Tosha Brown and Black Voters Matter and Barbara Arnwine and the Transformative Justice Coalition. In a 1979 speech, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, NCNW President Emerita said, “Well, you know, the initials of what we call [ourselves] is WIC. And it if means that if each one of us, no matter whether we are Black or White, should go back into her community and be like a wick, lighted, that could be – that little bit of light, that could make a difference.” So at least for a while longer, “this little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine.”

**Dr. Cole's prelude to Stacey Abrams**

I met Stacey Abrams in 1992 on the day when her parents, Rev. Carolyn and Rev. Robert Abrams, brought her to Spelman College to begin her undergraduate education. There was something about this young woman who grew up in Gulfport, Mississippi that made it clear that she was determined to be in the fight for equality and justice in our country. I later learned that through their participation in the boycotts and marches of the civil rights movement, her parents modeled the activism they expected of Stacey and her five siblings. Her mother was kicked off of buses when she tried to sit up front. And her father was beaten and jailed for his participation in civil rights protests.

As the president of Stacey’s college, I quickly learned that if there was an action or a protest on campus that called for justice, Stacey would be involved. During her freshwoman year at Spelman, Stacey led a protest against the Rodney King verdict. On a day when she was still a student at Spelman, Stacey told me that one day she would be the Governor of Georgia. Years later, she ran for but narrowly lost that position. In my view and that of countless others, Stacey lost that race because of voter suppression that was particularly targeted at African American communities. Her response was to found Fair Fight, an organization to address issues of voter suppression.

In her message below, Stacey Abrams issues a call for us to challenge any legislation that is designed to rob us of our right to vote. And she calls on us to urge Congress to pass the For The People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, legislation that will protect our right to vote. NCNW is in partnership with Fair Fight in this struggle to defend our democracy.

Onward!
Johnnetta Betsch Cole, Ph.D.
President and Chair of the Board
THE BATTLE FOR OUR DEMOCRACY SHOULDN’T BE A PARTISAN ONE

The Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol represented an unprecedented attack on our nation’s democracy. We have watched one political party pledge fealty to an agenda driven by divisiveness and right-wing conspiracy theories. Now, we are in the throes of their all-out assault on our right to vote. However, despite one party working to undermine democracy, this should not be a partisan battle. This is an issue of citizenship — where Americans of every political stripe and those without must come together and demand protection for our right to vote.

In 48 state legislatures, more than 400 anti-voter bills have been introduced. These bills aim to restrict access to the ballot box in ways that target voters of color, particularly Black voters, with discriminatory practices such as banning the distribution of water and snacks, restricting access to drop boxes, shortening periods for voting by mail, throwing out eligible votes, and creating unacceptably long lines.

This coordinated assault on our right to vote is the most compelling case for why we must do all we can to protect the right to vote for all Americans and the right to vote for Black women who play an outsized role in the protection of our democracy.

Black women have shown up to the polls in record-breaking numbers time and again in national elections because, for Black women, access to the ballot box is paramount to addressing every issue we face as a nation. It is also important to realize that we are fighting many issues in tandem. As the coronavirus spreads through our communities exacerbating existing racial and economic inequalities, women of color, particularly Black women, are disproportionately impacted by the economic crisis brought on by this pandemic. While we have seen early signs of an economic recovery, we still have to address long-standing issues for Black women such as the gender pay gap, access to affordable health care, and maternal mortality.

It is clear that some elected officials do not want a fair fight in our elections, but that must only strengthen our resolve to lift our voices to demand representation that sees us and hears us. We must continue to push to have anti-voter legislation challenged in court and for Congress to pass the For The People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to fortify our democracy.

The reason behind this assault is clear: some bad actors do not want a fair fight in our electoral process. Anti-voter representatives in statehouses across the country are doing all they can to stack the deck in their favor to regain their waning political power. Rather than aiming to be a legitimate governing party driven by ideas and values, they have resulted to naked obstructionism and fear-mongering. For power, they will even undermine democracy itself. We saw this most recently in the U.S. Senate when the For The People Act was blocked by a single party. The For The People Act is vital legislation that would expand vote by mail, make election day a national holiday, and require states to allow same-day registration in federal elections.

By Stacey Abrams
Like many, I hoped that workers in Bessemer, Alabama, would win the right to unionize. The vote, conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, yielded disappointing results. The Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Union (RWDSU) lost the right to organize Bessemer workers by a vote of 1798-738, or more than 2-1. As a result, Amazon’s (AMZN) share price rose by 1.7 percent. Workers lose. Capitalists gain. What’s new?

The vote doesn’t tell the whole story, though. RWDSU plans to challenge the election outcome in court, both before the NLRB and in the state courts. They won’t have great luck with that in anti-union Alabama, a state that in 2019, had a 28 percent African American population. In Bessemer, 70 percent of the population is Black, and 85 percent of the workers are Black. Black and Latinx workers are among the primary beneficiaries of unionization.

Black workers who are union members earn 25 percent more than Black workers doing the same job who are not union members. Black men earn 27 percent more, while Black women earn 23 percent more. White women get a pay bump of 23 percent, just like Black women. White men make just 15 percent more, the lowest level of union membership gain, except for Asian men (not women) who lose from union membership.

Latinx workers (classified by the Census as Hispanic) earn about 40 percent more from union membership, but their base earnings were lower than others outside unions so that the more significant improvement in union wages did not eliminate the wage gap. While it did not stop the gap for Black workers either, Black and Brown folks do better in unions than those who are not.

There has been a long-standing and productive relationship between Black folks and unions once unions shrugged off their exclusionary past. Labor unions have contributed to Black causes and nurtured Black leadership in the union movement. At the same time, just like racism, sexism and patriarchy are baked into the cake we call America, those evils are baked into the union movement cake. Unions have become more inclusive, partly. They’ve gotten better, partly because an increasing percentage of union members are Black. The partnership can be strengthened when Black folks trumpet what we already know. Black workers benefit from unions.

The benefit of union membership is especially important to Black women. Latinx women gain more than we do, but partly because the occupational distribution of the two groups is different. Latinx women, in particular, are often (but not always) the majority in service groups Black women once dominated. Still, when we put this in the context of the pandemic, both Black and Brown women represent more than 20 percent of certified nursing assistants (CNAs). Those with union protection have better wages and working conditions than those who do not.

Those who care about social and economic justice must champion the critical role that unions play in fighting for fair pay and working conditions. Black and Latinx women are more likely to be trapped by the sticky floor than they are to crash the glass ceiling of advancement to executive ranks.

Imagine that you have a 30 minute lunch period and a 10-minute walk, each way, to the cafeteria. Imagine that you must queue up to use the company microwave, which may take as many as 20 minutes to stand in line and nuke. Your best bet might be to get a cold sandwich from a machine, leaving you with just a few minutes to scarf your lunch down. Those of us who are “professional” middle-class women don’t have those challenges, but too many Black women face them. And as advocates, we must champion the causes of ALL Black women, not just the fortunate few.

A Black woman union member earns, on average, $917 a week, compared to a nonunionized Black woman who earns $742. But that Black woman union member making $917 earns less than a unionized white man ($1243), white woman ($1085), Black man ($1020), Hispanic man ($1076), or Hispanic woman ($955). While it is galling that we are at the bottom on the union member totem pole, it is undeniable that we gain from union membership.

BLACK WOMEN ARE AMONG THOSE WHO NEED UNIONS

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux
17th uncommon height gala

Saturday, November 6, 2021

Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole
NCNW National Chair
7th National President

Kenneth Chenault and Kathryn Chenault
Crystal Stair Award Recipients

Dawna Michelle Fields
Colgate-Palmolive
Director - Operations & Community Affairs

REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON.

GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER
201 Waterfront Street
National Harbor, Maryland 20745
NCNW’s Committee on Young Adult and Collegiate Affairs (YAYA) or (YACA) announced their newly appointed committee and inaugural committee members earlier this year. The committee members represent various sections and states across the United States. The newly appointed committee is led by current National Young Adult Vice Chair, Dr. Ariana Brazier, Immediate Past National Young Adult Vice Chair and current National Health Equity Chair, Sharah’ Denton, and New York, Manhattan Section President, Arion Jamerson.

The Young Adult and Collegiate Affairs committee was formed for members of youth and young adult NCNW members under the age of 39. The committee has come to fruition under the vision and support of NCNW National Chair, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole. This committee serves to support the Young Adult Vice Chair’s role and to provide intergenerational support and representation on the national level. “Dr. Cole has graciously provided this opportunity for us to serve so that young adults and college students can transition to leadership roles in their sections. Also, to be a voice for us to make decisions on behalf of young adults and college students,” Sharah’ Denton, YACA chair member and New York, Manhattan Section President stated.

The importance of this committee was expressed with passion from its tri-chair members. “YACA (Young Adult and Collegiate Affairs) is important to me because it is an integral factor in the effort to secure NCNW’s longevity and presence in future movement work,” National Young Adult Vice Chair, Dr. Ariana Brazier penned. Arion Jamerson, YACA chair member and New York, Manhattan Section President described the importance of identifying the problem and solution for the lack of membership between the ages of 25-40. This committee started directly to fill those voids & age gaps. Immediate Past National Young Adult Vice Chair and current National Health Equity Chair, Sharah’ Denton began to express that she is an advocate for young women and young leaders. Further, Ms. Denton commented on the need to find balance between the “roots” and “wings.” “There is a lot of wisdom and guidance that the roots can provide to young adults, but I also feel there is a lot of new ideas and opportunities for the wings to serve,” Sharah’ Denton continued to say. The tri-chair members also believe this committee will help increase leadership roles for young adults and college students.

The Young Adult Committee has implemented several plans that will assist in retaining/growing its membership, helping, and engaging young adult members, which include:

- Executing and growing the extant transition plan that facilitates movement from collegiate to community-based memberships.
- Creating accessible pathways to financial assistance and equitable participation within the organization.
- Inquiring young adult members about their interests
- Hosting events that cater to the committee’s age group

The committee has already started their event plans. In January, they hosted a virtual vision board party that guided participants through the process of goal setting, manifesting dreams and creating a vision board. Additionally, in June, the committee hosted a virtual graduation party for graduating college seniors. During that time, they were able to discuss their transition plan with the graduates and additional NCNW members. The event plans have been detailed to include strategic and collaborative planning of events and initiatives that center youth and young adult voice and vision. YACA seeks to continue creating sparks by doing things that have not been previously done as a part of NCNW.

The future of YACA (YA 2 Litty) is “poppin”, as Dr. Brazier penned it. Further, Dr. Brazier described the committee’s future as “The premiere national committee that is executing local, regional, and national events for intergenerational participation in leadership development and movement building.” The enthusiasm for YACA will help with its expansion as well as be at the forefront with other initiatives. “If we’re going to talk about having a seat at the table, we’re going to have to do our part,” Sharah’ Denton voiced. Arion Jamerson expressed her excitement for an evolving committee as well as where the next generation will take it. Future changes will be made by the committee’s hard work and dedication to being present. If you are interested in joining The Young Adult and Collegiate Affairs Committee, please contact lit@ncnw.org.
COMMITTEE ON YOUNG ADULT & COLLEGIATE AFFAIR 2021 – 2022

Tri-Chairs
Dr. Ariana Brazier
Sharah Denton
Arion Jamerson

Youth Section Members
Kira Butler
Dominique Lowe
Elena Rembert

Collegiate Members
Courtney Hancock
McKenzie Jackson
Shamaudie McClendon

Hunyee McColum
Alexis Monteiro
Ruth Samuel
Kry-Sheena Stevens
Kelsie Watson

Young Adult Women Members
Ama Boateng
Eliza Brooks
Sagirah Layne
Deja Redding
Ashlei Ross
Nydia Southerland

NCNW AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Support women all over the world by putting an end to all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

The red card is used by the officials to automatically eject the player from the game and that the player’s team will remain shorthanded. In other words, do something horrible and you are out!

TAKE THE RED CARD PLEDGE REDCARDPLEDGE.COM
Malinda Todd is originally from Cleveland, Ohio. She has a wealth of knowledge as an administrative professional. She was a Human Resource Associate for over 12 years. Her tenure at NCNW started two years ago as a Temporary Membership Clerk. In 2021, she transitioned to a permanent position as NCNW’s Membership Coordinator. A few of her favorite things are traveling, taking part in fitness activities, comedy, laughing, dancing, listening to all music especially jazz, going to concerts, and she enjoys seafood.

Sharon Butler is a proud native of Baltimore, Maryland. She has dedicated more than 20 years of her fundraising expertise and volunteer service to a diverse assortment of Maryland’s most valuable nonprofits. Her professional experience has helped launch life-saving initiatives for children, youth, and families. During her employment at Catholic Relief Services, International Disaster Relief Agency, she held the role of Customer Service Manager. She traveled to Ethiopia and Uganda to help bring awareness to program recipients and encourage donors to visit the program firsthand.

Sharon offers a phenomenal range of knowledge regarding building and overseeing the integrity of some of the most complex fundraising database systems. She believes when it comes to Database management, the donor base is the key to building relationships. You can only get out the accurate information you put in.

Jade D. Walker was born on the Air Force Base of Torrejon, Spain, where her parents relocated back to the United States in 1988 in Camp Springs, Maryland. Living as a resident of Prince George’s County for nearly 20 years Jade has fond memories of walking to Forestville Mall, from school with her friends to get some delicious snickerdoodles or a slushie. She enjoys traveling to many different places with her mother to see and experience different cultures such as Greece, Switzerland, France, and the next country to visit is Peru to view the ruins of Machu Picchu.

Jade attended West Virginia Wesleyan initially but decided that she wanted to begin pursuing a career as soon as possible, in addition to attending school full time. Thus she moved back to Maryland and attended the University of Maryland University College for her Bachelors in Psychology and Masters in Environmental Science. As she progressed with her career, Jade realized that one of her most marketable skills was her approach to data and making it accessible to national as well as local decision-makers. To hone these skills and gather more experience, Jade currently volunteers as a Research Associate for the National Organization of Retired State Troopers (NORST) and Smithsonian Educational Research Center (SERC). She has provided technical and programmatic leadership responsibilities as well as support various research opportunities focused on environmental preservation and social justice. To further her expertise in data modeling and research she is currently working on applying to Howard University to focus on Ph. D in Sociology specializing in Social Inequality.
NCNW is well positioned to be a leader in health equity, immunization messaging and responding to health issues affecting women, children and families. During the CDC’s Immunization Services Division program launch, Ms. Janice Mathis, NCNW Executive Director, poignantly shared how NCNW is working to eliminate disparities in health and vaccination coverage. She, along with leaders from UnidosUSA, NCNW, Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance discussed efforts to increase vaccine confidence and access in racial and ethnic minority communities.

As a reputable and trusted voice in black communities across the nation for eighty-five years, NCNW has the capacity to build and implement strategies, activities, programs and plans, and infrastructure to ensure the barriers to health equity that Black and Hispanic communities will experience regarding vaccination health are addressed.

Good Health Women’s Immunization Networks (WINs) emphasizes the reduction of health disparities, increased vaccination opportunities, vaccination education, and identification of the barriers of vaccine hesitancy. Our year one NCNW State organizations, affiliate organizations and national partners are working hard to provide accurate information, advocacy and education to family, friends and loved ones. Each Good Health network partner in the CDC grant continues to help NCNW to build capacity and as Dr. Cole stated, “to create an army of immunization advocates” and trusted messengers in communities across the country.

Good Health WINS is activating NCNW state leaders, affiliate organizations and national partners demonstrated by on the ground activities. Amy Pisani, Executive Director of Vaccinate Your Family and subject matter experts with Good Health WINS recently launched their new “Don’t Skip Vaccines” media blitz with Gabrielle Union and Dwayne Wade. Ms. Pisani spoke about the partnership with NCNW’s Good Health WINs on BET, network affiliate stations and several national media outlets. NCNW state leadership teams have immersed themselves in “Street Talks” in North Carolina, COVID education booths during Juneteenth Day events, mobile clinics, COVID-19 Vaccine Informational Town Hall meetings, webinars, Walgreens Pop-Up COVID-19 Vaccine, videos with the National Black Nurses Association. Each month, NCNW expands its footprint, increases trusted messengers and helps refine the messages to help mitigate against COVID-19.

Our reach and impact continues to grow with special thanks to Ms. Roslyn Hannibal-Booker who leads bringing corporate partners to the table. NCNW has partnered with Uber and will receive thousands of promotional vouchers to offer up to (4) free rides to individuals 12+ to get vaccines. Zoraida Rodriguez, Public Policy Manager, Federal Affairs for Uber shared “Rides to vaccines: We (Uber) committed 10 million free or discounted rides to help make sure that transportation is never a barrier to getting the COVID-19 vaccine. We launched this initiative in partnership with the National Urban League, National Council of Negro Women, Morehouse School of Medicine, and League of United Latin American Citizens—organizations with deep ties to the communities of color that have been disproportionately hurt by the pandemic.” We are truly excited to see the continued work and commitment of NCNW to lead, advocate and empower our communities.
The month of August kicks off National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). Now more than ever we need to be aware of the beneficial cost in our life of becoming immunized through vaccination. Many of us have become immunized to societal ills, such as classism, sexism, racism, socialism, ageism, the list is endless. The month of August is asking that you focus on ONE thing ensuring this woman’s organization; your family, friends, neighbors, and community members that NIAM is an annual observance calling attention to our safeguards through on-time vaccination.

We know all too well around the disparities of health policy top-down, the distrust of public health officials, our unlawful study of sister Henrietta Lacks, the egregious and arrogant Tuskegee Syphilis Study, historically there have been books written and stories told about the loss our people have gone through. Let not this Pandemic be another one. We have the power, control, resources, technology, and knowledge to fight and become victorious.

Research shows that only your healthcare professional will be able to give you the best medical facts about yourself. It is of grave importance that you choose a primary health care professional who you trust and with whom you can develop an open and honest relationship. Let us not be naive. To the contrary, armed with confidence and accurate information, we can listen to our communities and timely answers to their questions and fears. Vaccination, the act of introducing a disease fighting vaccine into the body, is the surest and safest way to gain immunity and protect yourself and those you love, from the most serious consequences of COVID-19, hospitalization and death. purely the contrary.

This nation and with special emphasis on our brothers and sisters have truly been misinformed and misled. These are facts from The Center for Disease Control, “Over the years, vaccines have prevented countless cases of disease and disability, and have saved millions of lives. For example, polio, which caused approximately 50,000 cases each year in the U.S., was one of the most dreaded childhood diseases of the 20th century with annual epidemics. But, through successful vaccination programs around the world, polio is almost gone from the world.

The CDC estimates that vaccination of children born between 1994 and 2018 in the U.S. will prevent 419 million illnesses, help avoid 936,000 deaths, and save nearly $1.9 trillion in total societal costs (that includes $406 billion in direct costs)"

We need to realize immunization has worked in the past to give us our future and will continue to work presently to resume to eradicate this pandemic. For this reason, NCNW has made an even greater effort in the fight against COVID-19 and the Delta Variant. The Good Health WINS Immunizations Networks (Good Health WINS), is committed to building an army of section supporting partners ready to champion our brothers and sisters understanding the importance of immunizations across their lifespan. Through Good Health WINS, NCNW has become more aware of variables as to why our community is indifferent to becoming vaccinated. Research and surveys show that lack of information, “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it”, transportation, and vaccine hesitancy (self-employed, working under the table), attending to blind spots, we at NCNW know that at this point our brothers and sisters that could have received the vaccine did so. Remember this, faced with what seems like an impossible task, a group of folks will do well to remember the African proverb: When spider webs unite they can tie up a lion—there is no task insurmountable when the power of
WOMEN’S HOME AND OVERSEAS MISSIONARY SOCIETY

About Us

In 1880 from our founding at the Old Ship African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Montgomery, Alabama, the Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society (W.H.&O.M. Society) has come this far by faith. The oldest and largest organization of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the W.H.&O.M. Society was established in response to an overseas church-planting endeavor by the denomination. Being involved in diverse cultures of West, Central and South Africa, England, India, Guyana, Suriname, and the Caribbean Island, the Society’s flagship overseas mission church started in 1878 in Brewerville, Liberia West Africa.

The W.H.&O.M. Society celebrated 140 years as an organized society in May 2020. We have expanded from the continental United States to continents of Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America. To connect to our sisters and brothers in missions around the world, the W.H.&O.M. Society shares valuable resources as tools for ministry that are fundamental in the missionary work for the 2019-2023 Quadrennium.

The purpose of the W.H.&O.M. Society is to promote growth in the knowledge and understanding of God and His plan of redemption for the world; teach concepts of Christian missions and provide experiences for participation in mission work and ministries; exemplify principles of Christian living and to win others to Christ; promote the cause of World Evangelism; and serve as a financial support system to undergird world mission outreach of The A.M.E. Zion Church at home and overseas.

The W.H.&O.M. Society Executive Board of 23, including six departments that form an intergenerational bridge for mission participation, is led by Mrs. Sandra B. Crowder, the 18th International President. She leads these Christian churchwomen seeking excellence in the Lord and looking beyond traditional methods of service to create innovative approaches for kingdom building nationally and internationally. The banner of Zion is lifted by ministries on the Local Church, District and Conference levels with guidance and direction from the Executive Board.

For this quadrennium, missionaries have worked to win “The World For Christ” fighting for social justice (2019-2020), raised awareness for environmental stewardship (2020-2021), continue their work to provide transformative service (2021-2022), and complete the quadrennium to minister agape love (2022-2023). Our quadrennial theme mandates that we carry out the Great Commission, which calls us to make disciples for Christ, and implement ministries that are impactful and reflect #MissionsMatter.

The W.H.&O.M. Society is intentionally engaging one another and those connected to us by way of our missional work to raise awareness of the importance of mission activity at home and abroad. Also, #MissionsMatter allows us to connect to other individuals, organizations, and institutions to bring awareness to the very relevant message of the Great Commission. The W.H.&O.M. Society uses the hashtag, #MissionsMatter, to show our global concern and commitment to “Win the World for Christ.”
About the Work

President Crowder and the Executive Board have led missionaries in their work with health initiatives, support of educational institutions, scholarship awards, voter mobilization, missions and mentoring opportunities, partnerships with service organizations, and social concerns.

The W.H. & O.M. Society has been an engaged and active partner in the African American Denominational Leadership Health Initiative, since its birth in 2005, through The Balm In Gilead, along with the AME Women’s Missionary Society and the CME Women’s Missionary Council. In 2011, The African American Denominational Health Initiative was entered into the US Congressional Records as the first time three Black church denominations partnered with a national technical assistance organization to develop a sustainable health education and service delivery system within these African American faith communities that specifically address and prioritize the provision of life-threatening diseases and services.

Missionaries also support educational institutions and provide scholarships. The Life Members Council, a department for all ages in the W.H. & O.M. Society, designated as the “Educational Arm of the organization” contributes annually to A.M.E. Zion Church schools of higher learning. The support helps Livingstone College, Salisbury, NC; Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC; Clinton College, Rock Hill, SC; Lomax-Hannon College, Greenville, Alabama; A.M.E. Zion University, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa; and Hood-Speaks Seminary, Nigeria, West Africa. Scholarship awards are given annually from the Margaret S. Willie Scholarship Fund with support from district and local Life Members Councils throughout the A.M.E. Zion denomination.

The W.H. & O.M. Society initiated Purple at the Polls in 2019, a voter mobilization project in response to the voter suppression realized in the United States. This movement is now a part of the denomination’s Project 100 with a focus on getting every member of The A.M.E. Zion Church registered to vote. Missionaries across Zion are making an impact in local, state, and national elections by driving persons to the polls, volunteering to work at the polls, and conducting voter registration drives.

Missions and mentoring is an initiative to intentionally inspire youth for missions and to empower young women through mentorship. Members of the Parent Body department, age 41 and up, have the opportunity to show love and appreciation for young missionaries and promote greater interest and participation in the Society. The goal is to build leaders who will keep the W.H. & O.M. Society strong.

Annually, an organization in the city where the W.H. & O.M. Society Executive Board holds its annual meeting is identified and supported with a significant financial contribution, such as The Children’s Home Society of North Carolina to assist children in foster care and families preparing for adoption, and The Birmingham Children’s Hospital with the purchase of wagons and wheelchairs for young patients.

The Young Adult Missionary Society (Y.A.M.S.), unite women, age 22-40, for mission service in the church and community.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2021

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Attorneys Ben Crump and Paul Napoli File Suit Against Johnson & Johnson on Behalf of Members of the National Council of Negro Women

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nationally renowned civil rights and personal injury attorneys Ben Crump of Ben Crump Law and Paul Napoli of Napoli Shkolnik today announced the filing of a lawsuit against Johnson & Johnson on behalf of members of the National Council of Negro Women, citing the company’s specific marketing of talcum-based baby powder to Black women, despite links to ovarian cancers.

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) leads, advocates for, and empowers women of African descent, their families, and their communities, connecting more than 2 million women and men. NCNW has a large portion of members who have used Johnson & Johnson’s powder products, believing they were safe, and is ideally positioned to inform women about their risks.

“This lawsuit is about the lives of our grandmothers, our mothers, our wives, sisters and daughters -- all of whom were cynically targeted by Johnson and Johnson,” Crump said. “All the while, company executives knew the risk of ovarian cancer from talc.”

Internal documents from Johnson & Johnson reveal the company’s intent to market its talc-based products specifically to Black Women. The complaint requests corrective action to inform Black women and all other consumers about the risks associated with using the products and their connection to ovarian cancers. Johnson & Johnson continues to deny that its talc products are harmful, despite an overwhelming amount of research, dating back to the 1960s, of the carcinogenic dangers of using talc-based products.

Black women were the subject of Johnson & Johnson’s marketing and advertising campaigns for decades and were a central part of the company’s business strategy. A 2009 company business plan noted that the “multicultural consumer [is] highly important to business -- need to maintain,” and expressed concern that it was becoming “difficult to efficiently retain core aa consumer.”

“This company, through its words and images, told Black women that we were offensive in our natural state and needed to use their products to stay fresh,” said NCNW executive director Janice Mathis. “Generations of Black women believed them and made it our daily practice to use their products in ways that put us at risk of cancer -- and we taught our daughters to do the same. Shame on Johnson and Johnson.”

Napoli said the company put “profits over people, ignoring and hiding a mountain of research about the risks.” “We seek to make known what long has been hidden by Johnson and Johnson, and the NCNW, with its tremendous network among Black Americans, is the ideal organization to do it.”

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Washington, DC, Tuesday, June 6, 2021 - We appreciate the efforts of lawmakers leading the negotiations around the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. We were heartened to see the U.S. House of Representatives pass a strong version of the bill last year and again this year. Yet, more than a year after George Floyd was murdered and weeks after a draft bill was circulated, the U.S. Senate still has not agreed on key provisions of the bill. Congress must deliver justice. We collectively demand that Congress honor its commitment to produce a final bill that can pass the House and Senate before the end of June and ensure a strong George Floyd Justice in Policing Act is passed before the August recess.

The nation desperately needs a transformation of policing policies and practices -- from inner cities to suburban neighborhoods to rural counties. The only way to begin this process is with federal legislation that sets meaningful standards and removes legal impediments to holding officers accountable for unconstitutional policing practices. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act was conceived and created with a focus on accountability and contains provisions overwhelmingly supported by the American people. This vital civil rights legislation is long overdue.

CALL TO ACTION
SISTERS BAND TOGETHER

The National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) Black Women’s Roundtable and the National Council of Negro Women have partnered with a coalition of Black women leaders and allies to organize the “Black Women Leaders and Allies Freedom to Vote Call to Action Week”. Throughout the week, online and in-person organizing events in an urgent call for Congress to enact federal voting rights reform to protect Black voters from being disenfranchised by a tsunami of voter suppression laws that are being enacted across the country, including the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole sets the tone for the occasion.

Metro DC police officer takes Dr. Cole into custody.
We are told that if it’s too good to be true, it probably is. For that reason, when people are told their employers will match their donations to a nonprofit of their choice, it’s hard to believe.

These programs may seem rare, but many companies participate. More and more companies are offering corporate matching gift programs in order to prioritize corporate social responsibility (CSR). Through these programs, businesses match an employee’s donation to select nonprofits and double, or sometimes even triple, the impact. Some companies allow retirees the same option.

Matching gifts aren’t the only CSR programs out there. As part of other programs, companies provide monetary grants to eligible nonprofits where their employees regularly volunteer their time.

Contact your company about matching gifts and grant options.

Roslyn-Hannibal-Booker Director, Philanthropy

A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

USING CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS TO INCREASE YOUR IMPACT TO NCNW

1 + 1 = 2

YOUR DOLLAR

MATCHING DOLLAR

TWICE THE IMPACT
NCNW FIRST STATE OF GEORGIA
PRESIDENT SAYS FARWELL

I am honored to have served each term with amazing sisters from all walks of life who represent each area of our Peach State!

To have served as the first elected State President of NCNW Georgia, feeling honored, is an understatement. In 2016, the beloved Dr. Lois Keith saw the vision of organizing the State Coalition of Georgia and led the charge of organizing our state conference. As we planned, I remember just completing my six years as organizing section President of the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Section in South Georgia. At this point, I honestly felt some uncertainty as to how I would continue to serve NCNW. I loved serving and I was still learning and growing as a leader. To be elected as the Interim State President came with successes and challenges that were all necessary for me to grow as a woman and as a leader.

As the President of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Section, I had many conversations with the late Mrs. Verdelle Bellamy, the State of Georgia Convenor. Mrs. Bellamy was thrilled to know that a section was going to be chartered in South Georgia. After Mrs. Bellamy passed away, our state felt a void. Soon, I received a call from our sister, Dr. Lois Keith about a state conference which fired me up again. In August 2016, at the age of 35, I was elected as the State of Georgia's Interim State President. Sisters from across Georgia, both "roots and wings", poured into me guidance, prayers, encouragement and pushed me to excel to heights I would not have imagined as president. That experience strengthened my understanding of the importance of seeing my younger and more seasoned sisters come together for the greater good of Georgia. I had the task of appointing leaders, and it was important for me personally to appoint leaders that represented all areas of Georgia and all ages.

Sisters from across the state hit the ground running. We developed many state service initiatives to include:

• The Warming Hearts and Homes in celebration of Dr. Dorothy I, Height's birthday, a statewide Height Leadership Training for incoming section leaders and executive board members
• A “4 for the Future” focus
• Implemented state financial and governmental procedures, developed bylaws and state handbooks; conducted a successful state audit.
• Organized state conferences; distributed quarterly State of Georgia Newsletter; built a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.

By Sharah’ Nicole Denton

I am excited to see where the State Coalition of Georgia will go, and I am proud of how much this administration has accomplished. Thanks to all who have served on my leadership team over the past five years. Without your tireless support, we would not be where we are as a state. For my sister wings, never be afraid to step out there to take on leadership roles in any capacity. In the beginning, I was nervous and unsure about being a leader of a state organization. This amazing experience pushed me out of my comfort zone and opened me up to opportunities to lead and mentor others, as well as to be mentored by others. Be open to wisdom and guidance from others. For my sister “roots”, the support you give the “wings”, makes all the difference. It is exciting when I see a sister that is a “root” build a relationship with a “wing”. I am humbled, grateful and I will continue to be opened to your wisdom, guidance, support, and expertise. We have so much to learn from one another and I am truly humbled to have served five amazing years as the first elected-state president of the State Coalition of Georgia as a millennial. Further, I am honored to have served each term with amazing sisters from all walks of life who represent each area of our Peach State! Georgia is on the move with 22 active sections and more to come!
Introduction
One of the early actions taken by our 7th President and Chair, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole was to appoint the Committee for the Future (C4F), as a special committee of the NCNW Executive Committee and Board.

The charge to the group was to look closely at NCNW to see what needed to change for NCNW to build on its historic legacy and be prepared to deliver on its mission to advocate for, lead and empower women of African descent along with their families and communities.

As an 85-year-old organization, some of the indications of the need to explore organizational relevance included a 2020 Membership Survey which revealed that 60% of the current membership was above the age of 55 vs. 22% of all Black women in the United States. At the time of the appointment of C4F, NCNW’s social media presence was only starting to be established.

Assumptions
The Committee for the Future began its work with a set of assumptions that included:

1. There is already great work underway in the organization in many of the areas identified for change.
2. The interdependence of recommendations will require a high level of communication, collaboration, engagement, and accountability among key stakeholders - Executive Committee, Board Committees, Staff, Affiliates, and Sections.
3. The recommendations do not consider current or future staff/organizational capacity and resources.
4. The suggested changes will need short-term and long-term consideration as we understand that they cannot be made in one year.
5. We realize that solutions to the issues identified may take many forms.

Methodology
The Committee began its work by seeking out the opinions of key stakeholders and members: Executive Committee, past national presidents, affiliates, members, section leaders, younger women, and staff leadership using interviews, conversations, and/or survey methods.

The listening and feedback phase was intended to cast the net as wide as possible, to hear as many voices as possible.

The organization’s brand, programming, and structure were all considered in the context of how to help NCNW remain relevant and to grow in the future. A special research study was conducted using existing sources that provided important data and trends regarding the Black woman as it relates to demographic, economic, health, education, philanthropic, and social indicators.

By Deborah Walls Foster, Chair
Committee for the Future (C4F)

The following elements were used to collect feedback and information via: 1) Interviews, 2) Surveys, 3) A Special Research Report on the State of the Black Woman and 4) Strength/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats (SWOT) Analysis.

Interviews were conducted with NCNW leadership, including the current and past national presidents - Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, Ingrid Saunders Jones, and Dr. Barbara Shaw; the senior advisor to the chair, Secretary Alexis Herman, NCNW Executive Committee Members and Committee Chairs, Executive Director, Janice Mathis and other staff, representatives of our Affiliates and the general membership; section leaders; young adult women, and male members representing the Franklin Associates.

Survey results from both a recent annual Membership Survey were reviewed along with the results of a new survey created by C4F and sent to every email in the membership data base seeking input.

C4F used the responses to 1) create a SWOT analysis, 2) identify major themes and 3) frame recommendations for future actions.

A summary of major themes heard during interviews and obtained through survey results included:

1. Mission relevance: Confirmation that the current mission speaks to the purpose of NCNW.
2. Brand awareness: Desire to see NCNW brand promoted and become more consistent.
3. Young adult women engagement - increasing outreach efforts to younger women
4. Leadership development and training – especially among section leadership
5. Best business and financial practices
6. Member relationships, structure, and services
7. Programs, national advocacy and action agendas.
8. Strategic partnerships in addition to Affiliate organizations.

Part Two will be published in Sisters Magazine Vol IX
ALAMANCE GUILFORD SECTION

The Alamance Guilford Section, National Council of Negro Women Hand Warmers project, lead by our 3rd VP Therese Whitsett. On March 8, 2021 We were able to donate hand warmers, hand Sanitizer, and lip balm to 3 homeless shelters in the Guilford/Alamance county areas: Allied Churches in Burlington, NC, the Leslie House in High Point, NC, and the Interactive Resource Center in Greensboro, NC. Making an impact on International Women’s Day. Special thanks goes to our members Charlotte Gatling-Green and 1st Lady Gail Brown for delivering to the locations and the Benevolence Farm for donating their homemade lip balm. We also thank all who were able to donate to our cause.

Alamance-Guilford Section, North Carolina, hosted a week-long virtual series on Financial Literacy Education. The series focused on educating the young and old within the African American community.

CENTRAL FLORIDA SECTION

NCNW Central Florida Section virtually celebrated Dr. Bethune on her 145th birthday. Many of her accomplishments were highlighted ending with the reading of her Last Will and Testament.

Section funds were donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central FL, which is a private nonprofit organization that collects, stores and distributes donated food in six Central Florida counties.

Mrs. Lois Keith, National Co-Membership Chair, graced us virtually at our 3rd Anniversary Celebration, uplifting our spirits with words of inspiration. She was with us at our installation ceremony in 2017.

BROOKLYN SECTION

Emmanuel Baptist Church and National Council of Negro Women Inc., Brooklyn Section, presented a 2-day Health and Wellness Symposium on Friday, June 25th from 3-7 pm. Part 2 was held on Saturday, June 26 from 10 am-1 pm. Talks on topics relevant to our health and vitality, mind, body, and soul were discussed. We even got the attendees up on their feet with a dance break by DJ Fly Ty: Mr. Life of Your Party. Raffles and swag bags were given to all registered participants!

FLORENCE SECTION

The Florence Section of NCNW (Florence, SC) congratulates Kennington Rogers.

Kennington is the recipient of a $500 scholarship. Kensington’s winning essay was on the topic “What can you do to make your community better”

Kennington, a senior at Wilson High School in Florence, SC, has been accepted and plans to attend SC State University majoring in Education.

Pictured: Mrs. Emma Sellers (1st Vice President), Parent (Mrs. Monica Rogers Sanders), Kennington, (NCNW President) Mrs. Modestine Samuel, and Chairperson Ms. Audrey Davis (not pictured)
CAPITAL AREA SECTION - RALEIGH, NC
Spring 2021 Outreach

Capital Area Section (CAS) in Raleigh, NC held its 17th Harambee Virtual Women of Excellence Award during Black History Month. The theme, “Women on the Frontline: Embracing Change” was an inspiration to all. Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, National President of NCNW, delivered the keynote message.

During March and April, the section’s focus was on the partnership of CAS with Raleigh TLOD in support of March of Dimes. In May, CAS members provided hair care products and accessories to the ladies of the Women’s Center of Wake County. The Salvation Army received personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies and toiletries for 24 mothers in the shelter. In June, members delivered over 200 children’s books to the Raleigh Rescue Mission.

CHICAGO CENTRAL SECTION

The Chicago Central Section has continued to serve and celebrate the spirit of Dr. McLeod Bethune through the pandemic. Despite COVID-19, we continued to serve safely. In April, 2021, the Chicago Central section collected over 2,000 pair of shoes and donated them to several different organizations in the Chicagoland area. Initially, the shoes were to be donated to one organization, however, due to the generosity of our members and networks, we were able to donate to several organizations.

Our mentoring program has continued to flourish. In October, 2020 we decided to continue our efforts virtually and started with 11 and ended with nine young ladies. Some of the topics discussed monthly included The Do’s and Don’ts of Social Media, Money Smarts, and Loving Me. In June, we celebrated their commitment to the mentoring program with a virtual recognition and paint party.

In June, we celebrated Juneteenth with the Chicago State University Collegiate Section, and the Pullman Porter Museum on the far south-side of Chicago. We provided activities and snacks to attendees and shared more information about NCNW. Also in June, we supported the homeless community by providing bags of love. These bags included various items to let the homeless community know that someone still cares for them.

As the world continues to open, we look forward to honoring the legacy of Dr. Bethune and NCNW. Stay tuned, there is more to come.

Submitted by Dr. Ramona E. James, Chicago Central Section
CLARK COUNTY SPRINGFIELD SECTION

Clark County Springfield-Section reports our R.E.A.C.H. Campaign succeeded in recruiting 20 members into our organization. A Zoom Meet & Greet in March was followed by a special induction in April.

We also participated in the Memorial Day Parade, May 31, 2021, riding an NCNW decorated float.

Deborah Woods is the current president of the NCNW Clark County Section and Patty Young is an active member. Patty also presides over Sisters United for Prevention, an organization dedicated to increasing cancer awareness in minorities, of which Deborah is also an active member.

“Patty Young owns a hair salon in Springfield, Ohio. She’s also dedicated to getting her customers and employees vaccinated. When they leave the salon, the receptionist (Deborah Woods) helps sign you or your family up to get a COVID vaccine, or where to get it. They’ve scheduled over 200 shots so far.” – President Joe Biden (4/21/21)

CO-OP CITY SECTION

On June 25th members of the 50th Anniversary committee in partnership with the Tribune Society of the Courts of the State of New York, spent a wonderful sunny afternoon at Westhab Family Center in the Bronx. We had a great time interacting with the families, especially the children. We provided 90 gift bags that were distributed to the mothers who reside at the Westhab Family Center. The bags included feminine hygiene products as well as words of encouragement and other resourceful information. For over 15 years NCNW has been donating to the shelters school supplies, can goods, toys, and winter accessories for the youth. This year as part of our 50th Anniversary community service project, we wanted to focus more on the women at a shelter/family center to provide needed resources. Our abundance at this present time helps to supply the needs of others! Our community service project was chaired by our 3rd VP Candacie Daniels and Leah Richardson who is also an NCNW member and the President of the Tribune Society.
COLUMBUS OH SECTION

Sisters United: 10th Annual Diaper Drive = Almost 20,000 diapers + 16,256 wipes!

We are sisters: the Columbus OH Section • NCNW, Inc.; Central Ohio Club, NANBPWC; Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., Columbus Chapter; Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Iota Zeta Chapter (Reynoldsburg, OH), and two churches. In sisterhood, we partnered for Columbus Section’s signature community service event - Annual Diaper Drive for vulnerable families in Moms & Babies First and Mother’s Cove programs. Generous, gracious, great people donated almost 20,000 diapers and over 16,256 wipes!

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SECTION

On Sunday May 23, 2021, the Cuyahoga County Section hosted our first virtual Human Trafficking Awareness, and Discussion Panel. This discussion and question and answer session was informative, and helped attendees to recognize the signs of human trafficking. During the question and answer session, over 50 attendees answered the call to action and went online and took the “Red Card Pledge to end violence and discrimination against women and girls everywhere.”

The Cuyahoga County Section plans to continue to work aggressively to assist combating human trafficking in Ohio.
DARLINGTON COUNTY SECTION

On May 14, 2021 The Darlington County Section hosted a virtual Game Night of Pictionary. The event featured one of our own Ms. Chloe Davis, Clinical Director of Conway Mental Health Clinic. In observance of May being Mental Health Month, she focused on issues that are important and relevant to our community. This virtual event was our annual scholarship fundraiser. Friends, family, and section members in attendance enjoyed the great fellowship and valuable information on mental health.

Darlington County Section was able to award two five $500 scholarships to two students who will be attending college in the Fall of 2021. The great support from the community allowed us to accomplish this task, which is a FIRST for Darlington County Section!

AUSTIN TEXAS SECTION
Transforming Generations through Strong Collaborations

The marvelous 37th Annual NCNW Austin’s Membership Tea was held on Sunday, June 27th, 2021 (3:30 pm - 6 pm), virtually. This was the first virtual membership tea ever held within NCNW Austin. This historical occasion was celebrated by members and guests of NCNW Austin. The guest list consisted of various Texas NCNW Section members and the Texas State Convener, Dr. Mollie Johnson-Williams, who provided a closing prayer of blessings over the NCNW Austin Section, the Section President (Dr. Rashaanne N. Lewis), the officers, and the members.

WESTCHESTER SECTION

Saturday, June 26th, NCNW Westchester Section hosted a Soles4Souls event and received over 600 pairs of shoe donations that will be distributed globally.

Sunday, June 27th, the NCNW Westchester Section presented a Virtual Town Hall with Majority Leader Chuck Schumer to review the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (H.R. 1319) and its benefits to our communities throughout New York State. The Town Hall provided vitally important information and featured special greetings from our very own Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, and distinguished guests, Mt. Vernon Mayor Shaywn Patterson-Howard, and Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson.

We are so excited to share that NCNW Westchester has been selected for the 2021 cohort of Regeneron Using Data for Good.
GREATER BOSTON SECTION

The Greater Boston Section hosted a spring blood drive at the Marriott Inn in Boston’s South End to collect blood donations for general need and for individuals who have sickle cell anemia. Pictured at the registration table are (left to right) Greater Boston Section President, Lisa Braxton-Reid and Recording Secretary, Adine Latimore. Also, the section collaborated with Mass General Brigham and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Equity and Community Health on creation and distribution of a video PSA titled “Think About It” targeted to communities of color to encourage open-mindedness about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

NCNW State & Section News (continued)

GREATER TALLAHASSEE SECTION

The ladies of the NCNW Greater Tallahassee Section ventured through the 2020 pandemic year focusing on various community outreach activities such as the 2020 “Voting, What to Know” election campaign, two food distribution collaborations with Second Harvest of the Big Bend for the Taylor County community and the Sisters in The Spotlight series. We look forward to reaching and serving the community in the upcoming 2021-2022 year.

FLORIDA STATE COALITION

Florida’s Move Forward

NCNW Sections in Florida made history November 15, 2020, coming together to form the Florida State Coalition of NCNW, Inc.

The following members were elected to serve as state officers: Tempress “Tee” Solomon, president; Rachel Oliver, vice president; Atavia White, secretary; Rose McKay, financial secretary; and Gwendolyn Fields, treasurer.

State members wasted no time in organizing and implementing several programs including a business meeting in March and a state Mother’s Day Tea on May 1. The state also received a grant from the CDC for Good Health WINs as part of its COVID-19 efforts.
GREENVILLE (SC) COUNTY SECTION

S.T.E.A.M.able Reads™ is a literary exploration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics presented by the Greenville County Section, for children, grades 2nd through 5th, delivering virtual episodes of culturally diverse stories as an introduction to S.T.E.A.M.-related career pathways. Each episode includes the presentation of a brilliantly written narrative publication with beautiful illustrations delivered by a professional storyteller or the book’s author to guide an engaging literary experience. Professionals from S.T.E.A.M. career pathways that correlate to the featured story share insight to their profession and spotlight the use of S.T.E.A.M-related skills and concepts as a part of their job’s function.

GREENVILLE-PITT COUNTY SECTION

The Say Yes! In-Home COVID Test Initiative

The Greenville-Pitt County Area Section (GPCAS) – NCNW, Inc. supported the county-wide initiative “Say Yes! COVID Test” In-Home Distribution Kit project, March through April 2021 in Pitt County North Carolina. The Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (Raleigh, NC), in conjunction with the CDC and the National Institutes of Health, tapped community organizations and ministries within Pitt County, to participate in this 4-to-6-week In-home COVID Testing Project. This pilot project only took place in two areas within the United States - Greenville-Pitt County, North Carolina and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

GPCAS continues to promote resources and access to healthy living for all families in our community. GPCAS supported The Say Yes! COVID Test Distribution by giving away approximately 430 testing kits and over 9,500 items of PPE (face masks, shields, gloves, sanitizers, medical gowns, and more). Testing kits and PPE items were delivered to various community organizations (like the Boys and Girls Club of the Coastal Plains), churches, homeless shelters, and African American and Hispanic neighborhoods. All done while socially distanced and following CDC guidelines. Each in-home testing kit consisted of two tests and is approved for ages eight and up; with instructions on how to administer the test to oneself, and instructions on what to do after the test if one tests positive or negative. It was encouraged that a max of 2 kits (4 tests) be distributed per household. Pitt County citizens were able to acquire an in-home test kit via a community partner, or by ordering online via the County’s Project website, www.covidtestpittcounty.org.

Through the support from community partners like the Greenville-Pitt County Area Section, we delivered a powerful impact to further advocate for and help those with health disparities in the African American and Hispanic Communities. Though distributions of the testing kits were successful, GPCAS continues to encourage participation in getting vaccinated and getting the word out about the 3 W’s (Wear, Wait, Wash) to fight against COVID-19, and its variants.

MARY McLEOD BETHUNE SECTION

Sumter, SC

The Mary McLeod Bethune Section of Sumter, SC hosted its Annual Harambee Program on March 28, 2021. The program theme was called “Challenging Times: A call to Action”.

The theme was eloquently addressed by our guest speaker, The Honorable J. David Weeks, SC Representative. He reminded us of the “Big Lie” (stolen election) and not to buy into to it and our civic responsibilities. The program was intergenerational from a youth singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, a violinst, and a young 10-year-old singing our traditional closing song “This Little Light of Mine” in English and Chinese.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SECTION

The Montgomery County, Maryland Section (MCMD) of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. participated in the Montgomery County (MC), Maryland Parade of Scholarships (POS). In doing so, the MCMD collaborated with 11 African American community service organizations in the county to award scholarships to graduates who are attending Historically Black College and Universities and other colleges and universities. The Potomac Valley Alumnae Chapter Fund of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. spearheaded the scholarship program, inspired by The Lou Rawls’ Parade of Stars. One hundred thousand dollars was raised and awarded. In observance of Juneteenth, Washington, D.C.’s WUSA TV and local cable station County Cable Montgomery aired the fundraising campaign on June 19 and June 20.
HOUSTON METROPOLITAN AREA SECTION
Virtually Forging the Future ... Commemorating Our Founders Day

As the Houston Metropolitan Area Section National Council of Negro Women, Inc. continues to embrace the mission of NCNW to lead, empower, and advocate for women of African descent, their families, and communities, this section forged the future virtually commemorating our Founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune on December 6, 2020.

Dr. Thelma T. Daley, NCNW National Vice Chair was the guest speaker at this memorable occasion as the attendees participated in a parade of hats in honor of our Founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, and the memory of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, President Emerita. Renditions were performed of Dr. Bethune as NCNW Founder, educator, and activist by Cherrelle Hill, Chelsey Young, and Jackie Pope.

Regina Dickson is the President and Organizer of the Houston Metropolitan Area Section NCNW.

LORAIN COUNTY SECTION

Lorain County Section in collaboration with the TRose Foundation participated in the Global Youth Day of Service. Youth from across the nation viewed the documentary PUSHOUT and a discussion with the youth was held after the viewing. The discussion was soul shaking!

Black girls are 16% of the school population, but make up 42% of girls expelled, and 31% of girls referred to law enforcement. 
#standwithblackgirls #Pushout

https://19thnews.org/2021/03/ayanna-pressley-girls-school-punishment/?fbclid=IwAR2xcz2BMq7juxNYozKAVwa3HinxXY0dbt1557XBPzJWh4ODiTzRZPO9k

PushOut legislation
JACKSON METRO SECTION

The Jackson Metro Section of NCNW is proud to announce the 2021 scholarship recipients. They are Khadari Johnson and Shani Siddiq. Each received $1,000 to assist with their educational needs at Jackson State University and North Carolina A&T State University, respectively. Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee for their diligence in ensuring high school seniors are made aware of the opportunities presented by NCNW. (Pictured left to right with Khadari Johnson are: members Ethel Gibson, Gwendolyn Chess, President Mattie Stevens, Ada Robinson and Irene German.

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY SECTION

On May 13, 2021, the Metropolitan Dade County Section National Council of Negro Women, Inc. partnered with the Dade County Section of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Miami Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to present "A Seat at the Table". During this event participants had the opportunity to hear from a dynamic panel of African American women about how to run for political office. The panel was moderated by Dr. Kay Dawson and featured several current and previously elected officials who serve at the local and state level. The participants learned about the costs associated with running for office, how to efficiently campaign, and fundraising techniques.

MONTCLAIR SECTION

For Black History Month, NCNW Montclair Section collaborated with Joseph H. Davis, an NCNW Associate Member, and celebrated virtually, a discussion with Dr. Torian Easterling, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. The session provided information from a trusted minority physician with the intent to ease vaccine hesitancy and address the disproportionate rate COVID-19 has had on racial and ethnic minorities. A robust Q&A session followed with Dr. Easterling.

NCNW Montclair Section presented a distinguished panel of women educators for Women’s History Month. How the pandemic has affected our community and plans for recovery relative to housing, education, and employment, were topics of discussion.

The panelists included Dr. Kalisha Morgan, Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Curriculum and Instruction, Montclair Public Schools; Ms. Elaine Spears, Director of Program Services and Case Management, Montclair Neighborhood Development Corporation; Ms. Sandra McKnight, Elementary School Teacher, Montclair Board of Education; and Ms. Judith Mills, Adjunct Professor of Biology and College Success Seminars, Essex County College, Newark, NJ.
RESTON-DULLES SECTION
The Reston-Dulles Section will hold their Virtual Summer Book Reading Series on the following Dates:

- June 25, 2021
- July 23, 2021
- August 27, 2021

 restrictions it was virtual for the first time and held in the month of April instead of March. The Salute to Women of African Descent pays honor to women whose hard work and dedication within their communities usually goes unnoticed and unthanked. This year we were able to creatively come up with a way to virtually honor some of our own section members who continue to do the work of NCNW within the community.

METROPOLITAN WOMEN’S NETWORK SECTION

This year’s theme was entitled, “Honoring our Sisters, there is STRENGTH in Sisterhood” with special guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Jill F. Bradway. Rev. Dr. Bradway spoke profoundly about Sisterhood and how when we as women come together great and powerful things happen. She also spoke about how important it is to love oneself before pouring into our fellow sister. Once we love every part of ourselves we have love to give to everyone else. From the empowering message from Rev. Dr. Bradway, we honored 10 sisters and 2 youth members who have served within NCNW ranging from 5-30 years as well as serving tirelessly in the Rochester NY community. In addition to being publicly recognized via zoom during our celebration they were also showered with NCNW gifts including a personalized bag! We had an awesome time celebrating ourselves as well as our Sisters that day!

MITCHELLVILLE-BOWIE SECTION

Mitchellville-Bowie MD Section’s 3rd Bi-Annual Distinguished Ladies Tea was held “Virtually” on May 22. Guest included National Chair Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, Executive Director Janice L. Mathis and Guest Speaker former Chair Dr. Barbara L. Shaw. Several DMV Sections also attended.
MINNIE H. GOODLOW PAGE SECTION

During the pandemic, the NCNW, Minnie H. Goodlow Page section is still reaching out to the community. Our annual Annie Henry Youth Summit that is held at the Oak Cliff Boys and Girls Club was canceled; therefore, we gathered the school supplies and toiletries and took them over to the club so that the children would still be able to use them.

The NCNW, Minnie H. Goodlow Page Section newly organized Youth Group was chartered on March 27, 2020, with 14 members ages 12 – 18 led by Rochelle Chivers, Youth Advisor. Please join us in congratulating our four graduating seniors as they start a new journey in life: top (l-r) Laila Wade (Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX), Lulama Brown (University of Texas at Austin, TX), lower (l-r) Carrington Tanner (School of Cosmetology) and Taylor Bass (University of Mary Hardin-Baylor – Belton, TX).

Congrats to Our Graduating Seniors Young Brilliant Cultivators (YBC)!

The NCNW, Minnie H. Goodlow Page Section newly organized Youth Group was chartered on March 27, 2020, with 14 members ages 12 – 18 led by Rochelle Chivers, Youth Advisor. Please join us in congratulating our four graduating seniors as they start a new journey in life: top (l-r) Laila Wade (Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX), Lulama Brown (University of Texas at Austin, TX), lower (l-r) Carrington Tanner (School of Cosmetology) and Taylor Bass (University of Mary Hardin-Baylor – Belton, TX).

NORTH FULTON AREA SECTION

North Fulton Area Section NCNW has been actively engaged in providing service to meet the needs of the community. During the month of March, in honor of Dr. Dorothy I. Height’s birthday, section members donated over 1,800 face masks to Ison Elementary School, Sandy Springs, Georgia.

A five-month Health Education and Learning Program Lecture Series was offered to the public featuring prominent physicians addressing various health topics, such as: A ‘Whole Person’ Approach to Health; Understanding & Treating Fibroids in African American Women; Preventing Gynecological Cancers; Healthy Relationships and more. See announcement below from the April lecture series.

In the month of June, we supported Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month by offering activities to provide a greater understanding of Alzheimer’s and Dementia and a monetary donation was contributed to the Alzheimer’s Association. Infographics, videos, and self-care information were posted and distributed via social media and section announcements. To conclude the month’s activities, an informative presentation was provided by Camilla White, Community Educator, Georgia Alzheimer’s Association. See information below.
HOWARD UNIVERSITY SECTION

Howard University Announces Three White House Correspondents’ Association Scholarship Winners

WASHINGTON – Howard University is pleased to announce that the winners of the 2021 White House Correspondents’ Association college scholarships include three exceptional Howard undergraduate journalism students: Ariana Cobb, Nyah Hardmon and Ashleigh Fields.

“It is with great honor that I congratulate Howard University’s distinguished 2021 White House Correspondents’ Association scholarship winners,” said President Wayne A. I. Frederick. “Howard’s journalism students embody our institutional values of truth and service by investigating and promoting the truth in service of our democracy and our society. I appreciate the WHCA for supporting our young reporters and ensuring they develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to inform a global audience.”

The scholarship winners attend 12 different universities and received a total of $105,900.

Since the WHCA began helping journalism students in 1991, it has awarded more than $1.5 million in scholarships and leveraged another $1.25 million in aid. The scholarships are financed by proceeds from the annual White House Correspondents’ Dinner and tax-deductible contributions to the WHCA. Some of the scholarships are also supported by partners organizations, including the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Asian American Journalist Association and the White House Historical Association.

“The WHCA is thrilled to recognize these exceptionally talented students who will make up the future of our ranks,” said Zeke Miller, president of the WHCA. “We look forward to spending the coming months introducing them to White House reporting and reporters.”

NEW YORK STATE

New York State BHRP Raises $85,000

New York State held its 46th Annual Bethune-Height Recognition Program sponsored by Colgate on Saturday, May 15, 2021. This year the program was held virtually to honor the following: New York State Honoree & Affiliate, Sara E. Dennis; Distinguished Educator of NYC Schools, La-Trina Robinson-Webster; and Outstanding Youth Leader, Nydia D. Southerland. The program also saluted NYS members participation with 16 new Legacy Life Members, 46 new Life Members and 84 Bethune-Height Achievers. The program raised $85,000 to send to the National office between 2020-2021.

The program was led by National Co-Chairs Johnnie Walker and Dawna Michelle Fields, and NYS BHRP Chair Gladys Keller. The program included remarks from Honorable Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senate Majority Leader & NY Senator; a special message from Joy Reid, MSNBC Political Analyst and Host; and a fireside chat with Cheryl Wills, Anchor TV1 News and Host, Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, NCNW 7th National President & Chair of the Board. A special award was presented to Fannie Munlin, NCNW UN NGO Representative. The program’s MC Rev. Dr. Malcolm J. Byrd, Pastor Mother AME Zion Church kept the day going along with DJ Legendary Chris Washington. The event concluded with the traditional This Little Light of Mine song and dance party. Watch the event online on YouTube.
NORTHWEST GEORGIA SECTION

The Northwest Georgia Section conducted more than 21 service projects this Spring. Highlights include:

- The Community Outreach team created 17 self-care baskets for cancer patients. The items were distributed by Enjoy Life Cleaning Services, a company that provides free housekeeping to patients.

- The Economic Development committee partnered with the Sanctuary Girl store in Arbor Place Mall to host NCNW Day in the store. Sisters were able to support the black-owned and share NCNW information with shoppers.

- More than 122 viewers tuned in to Facebook Live to view the Political Action Committee’s Legislative Recap.

- The Health Committee offered free one-on-one coaching sessions with nutritionists.

- Section members decorated and assembled 50 shoe boxes filled with toiletries. The boxes were donated to four local agencies.

ORANGE COUNTY SECTION

Celebrating Orange County -Section NCNW Juneteenth 2021 in Southern California

We had a wonderful day filled with memories at the Juneteenth Celebration. We provided to our guests: candy treats and NCNW, Inc. fans. Orange County, California Section of NCNW, Inc. had 35 women and young adults who provided their email and contact information for phenomenal interest in our section and national.

Sisters who change the World!!
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

The Pennsylvania flagship, Philadelphia PA Section closed out its June 2021 monthly general membership meeting wearing yellow in pre-celebratory fashion for Founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune’s birthday.

Newly presented was our upcoming participation in the Good Health WINS initiative by First Vice President Rhonda Holloway. The Good Health WINS Team will raise awareness of the benefits of immunization as a critical element of good health with Kiddie Prep Academy, which is one of the first Early Childhood Education programs in Philadelphia to collaborate with The Food Trust to host a farm stand. The goal of the program is to create a weekly community access point for purchasing affordable fruits and vegetables for youth, adults, caregivers and seniors. We are now able to combine nutrition education with healthy food access. The students at KPA next steps will be to start and maintain their own raised bed vegetable garden. What a powerful learning experience for pre-kindergarten students and their families. Additionally, NCNW Good Health WINS literature will be distributed at the Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School and local Mastery Charter Schools Back-To-School Nights and Fall Festivals.

ROCKDALE-NEWTON SECTION

“I Matter, You Matter, We Matter!”

These words resound throughout the State of Georgia and beyond in the Black Voters Matter movement! We heard that the Black Voters Matter Fund was providing resources to community organizations to help GOTV in Georgia. So, the Rockdale-Newton Section, serving the eastern corridor of Metro-Atlanta, put pen to paper, developed a plan and requested funding. In December 2020, we received a grant from Black Voters Matter in the amount of $10,000 which allowed this section to expand its reach within Rockdale and Newton County communities. We were able to increase voter registration, turnout, and awareness! We accomplished this feat by bringing the “blackest bus in America” to our area. We hosted a Christmas Toy Drive at Antioch East AME, a Holiday Food Drive at Bethlehem Baptist, and a Collard Green Caucus at Rockdale Career Academy. We know “it takes a village” and the importance of meeting people where they are, we fed the stomach, heart, soul, and mind in a culturally-responsive manner! Black Farmers, DJ’s and Food Trucks joined our efforts! We couldn’t have shown how much we matter without this amazing support!
SAN ANTONIO RUTH JONES McCLENCONDON SECTION

“The mentorship program the ladies at the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) have established with our students at Scarborough Elementary School is such a blessing! This year has been a challenge for many, especially our students, and some schools have not been able to arrange for mentors to meet with the students. However, the NCNW mentors have gone above and beyond to meet with our students virtually and help grow our students into confident readers. These mentors have done far more than academics with the students because our students know these mentors are someone that cares for them and makes them feel like they matter. I believe the NCNW mentors thought they would be working on just academics with the students, yet their partnership with the students have had positive effects on the children in a variety of personal, academic, and social emotional situations. We are blessed to have this arrangement with NCNW and look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.”

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY SECTION

On March 20, 2021, the San Gabriel Valley section presented a virtual play “The Forgottens” written by Gwen Mukes and produced by Annette Spence. “The Forgottens”, reflect the Negro women’s relationship to the suffrage movement, and plight for equality; a time when our ancestors faced many challenges with respect to their rights to vote. We hear and see from the perspective of these progressive Negro women their depiction of the suffrage moment. SGV-NCNW members and friends portrayed Mary McLeod Bethune (Gwen Mukes), Ida B. Wells Barnett (Margery Melvin), Lucy Craft Laney (Annette Spence), Sadie L. Adams (Rochelle Jeter), and Eleanor Roosevelt (Leslie Martel). DeBorrah Carter and Marcella Penn Mathis were narrators. Brianna Henderson and Nia Robinson portrayed today’s youth.

“The Forgottens” can be viewed on the section’s website https://www.sgvcncnw.com/videos.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL ALLIANCE

The Rocky Mountain Regional Alliance (RMRA) held their 4th Annual Symposium, hosted by the Seattle Section NCNW. The RMRA consists of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Nebraska and Washington and reflects the spirit and vision of Founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and National Chair and President, Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole. Keynote Speakers included Dr. Lois Keith Membership Co-chair and Dr. Helena Johnson, Vice President. Sarah J.E. Dean, Seattle Section President, was elected Regional Coordinator; Judith Obodougo, Secretary; Meko Lawson, Communications Coordinator and Sherry Delaney Chaplain. New officers were sworn in by Diane Larché, National Membership Co-chair and congratulated by Toni Buggs, outgoing Regional Coordinator.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MECHANISM

Good Health WINs 365 (SC) Academy

The South Carolina State Mechanism of NCNW, Inc. is excited to be a recipient of the Good Health WINs grant initiative. Good Health WINs 365 (SC) Academy is a training curriculum that aims to educate the youth and young adults of South Carolina about the COVID-19 vaccine, increase the rate of vaccine confidence and vaccine administrations as well as train and develop trusted messengers through the Ambassador and Influencer campaigns. Throughout the four regions of the state of South Carolina, NCNW members are working with community partners, health providers and coalitions to make an impact on the underserved populations in the urban and rural communities.
ST. PETERSBURG METROPOLITAN SECTION

St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section Celebrates 79th Founders Day

Founded in 1942, Fanny Ayer Ponder, a dear friend of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, established the St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women (SPMS). She was inspired, by Dr. Bethune to establish a section in her hometown. In her honor the section hosts an annual gala.

The 79th celebration appeared to be in peril until a few ingenious minds, along with enhanced technology, allowed SPMS to host their first virtual Fanny Ayer-Ponder Founder’s Day Celebration. Before her passing in 1982, she bequeathed the SPMS their property headquarters.

STATEN ISLAND SECTION

In the Spring of 2021, the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. Staten Island Section (NCNW-SI) in partnership with Port Richmond High School (Principal, Andrew Greenfield) established an Adopt-A-School Program. NCNW, Staten Island Section will introduce its Signature Youth Leadership Program in the Fall of 2021. The Program will include Port Richmond High School students and NCNW-SI Youth Council members.

The program will focus on enhancing the public speaking skills of the participants as well as increase their confidence in expressing themselves to various audiences which is essential to their future success as leaders. NCNW members will serve as facilitators and provide one on one mentorship.

(L to R - Dr. Janet Leslie, 1st VP, Nicole Meyers, Pres., Nirmala Nanes, PRHS Assistant Principal, Twanna Muniz, Sheryl Gregory, Dr. Sonia Byfield-Layne, Treasurer, Sheila Richards, Brenda Jones, 2nd VP)

(L to R - Twanna Muniz, Sheila Richards, Nirmala Nanes, PRHS Assistant Principal, Andrew Greenfield, PRHS Principal, Nicole Meyers, Pres., Dr. Janet Leslie, 1st VP, Sheryl Gregory, and Dr. Sonia Byfield-Lane, Treasurer)
TIDEWATER SECTION
NCNW Tidewater Section Celebrates 39 Years

On April 24, 2021, the Tidewater Section of NCNW celebrated its 39th Anniversary with a virtual tea party. This elegant affair included hats, gloves, prizes, acknowledgment of founders, past and current presidents, and our deceased sisters and ended with a jubilant toast. New members responded to, “Why I Joined NCNW.” Recent scholarship recipient, Britea Green (Norfolk State University) shared an update of her tenure at the University.

This section led by President Doreen Larkin, engages in the following community projects: Oasis Social Ministry Food Project, School Supply Drive, Adopt-A-Family, Clothing Baskets for a local shelter, and the Food Bank. Additionally, we award two scholarships: Joyce Gould Scholarship and Josephine Felder Community College Scholarship.

Con’t from page 7 - Black Are Among Those Who Need Unions

The Amazon loss must energize us to fight much harder for workers’ right to organize. It must energize us to empower Black women workers trapped on the sticky floor. And it must motivate us to continue to fight for social, racial and economic justice.

Con’t from page 13 - National Immunization Awareness Month

a coalition is spun.

Let us enthusiastically embrace the work ahead of us and support our initiative to partner with NCNW UBER Free Rides Program through Good Health WINS to vaccinate in locations within the targeted areas being served by our Good Health WINS (Women’s Immunization Networks) project! The UBER Free Rides Program Started July 5, 2021 and goes through September 3, 2021.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

JACKSONVILLE SECTION

Congratulations to Sister Kruzshander Scott for being elected as 1st Vice-President of the Duval County Democratic Black Caucus and Sisters Tiffany Gulama and Sister Lateisha Reynolds as Precinct Committeewomen for Duval County, Jacksonville, Florida.

Sister Tiffany Gulama
Sister Lateisha Reynolds
Sister Kruzshander Scott

METROPOLITAN-SUN ARIZONA SECTION

Savannah Baker who graduated on May 25, 2021 from Imagine Prep Coolidge located in Coolidge, AZ. She will be attending Washington State University in the fall.

Jazmyn Allen who graduated from ASU Preparatory Academy Polytechnic High School on May 26, 2021 located in Phoenix, AZ. She will be attending Prairie View A&M University in the fall.

Savannah Baker
Jazmyn Allen
Genene Dyer, J.D.

Appointed as Commissioner for Maricopa County Superior Court

Genene Dyer, J.D., a member of the Metropolitan-Sun AZ Section, was recently appointed as Commissioner for Maricopa County Superior Court by the Presiding Judge. The selection committee was made up of judges, attorneys, and other individuals. Genene will be handling specific assigned cases in family law, probate/mental health, juvenile, and department of economic security.

Con’t from page 15 - Affiliate Spotlight

The prime objectives include social concerns projects (nationally and internationally) such as domestic violence, sex trafficking, HIV/AIDS and mental health awareness, child abuse, teenage pregnancies, drug dependency, and world hunger. Y.A.M.S. are provided experiences that will enable them to perpetuate the existence and continued growth of the W.H.&O.M. Society, The A.M.E. Zion Church, and the kingdom of God.

The Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society has been a long-standing affiliate of NCNW and purchased a Heritage Membership in 1935. Several W.H.&O.M. Society members have served as officers on the board of NCNW, in addition to our 16th International President, Dr. Barbara L. Shaw, who led NCNW immediately following the passing of Dr. Dorothy I. Height.

The concept of commitment, unity and self-reliance has enabled NCNW, through its affiliates such as the W.H.&O.M. Society, to be a channel of humanitarian services for social justice and political empowerment, with special emphasis on the needs and aspirations of the Black woman and her family.
Derrica Williams, DeKalb Section President and one of the Founders of the STONE MOUNTAIN ACTION COALITION (SMAC), is working tirelessly to remove all confederate memorials from Georgia, specifically Stone Mountain Park located in DeKalb County Georgia. Confederate memorials represent hate and are a shrine to white supremacy and this park has the largest confederate monument in the world. Georgia State Representative Billy Mitchell invited Derrica to join him at a press conference on February 3, 2021 when he announced the filing of HB237 and HB238, legislation that will strike down the racist Georgia laws that require the park to serve as an official memorial to the confederacy. There are several Representatives who are also sponsoring this Bill - Rep. Shelley Hutchinson, Rep. Gregg Kennard, Rep. Kim Schofield, Rep. Sandra Scott and Rep. Erica Thomas. During the press conference Derrica stated “Stone Mountain Park has the largest confederate monument in the world, our world, our country, our state, MY county! I keep using words like “your”, “our” and “my” because that’s exactly what this fight has always been about - making this world a better place for WE, THE PEOPLE! We are determined to do everything we can to make Stone Mountain Park, which is a public park owned by the State of Georgia, an inclusive and welcoming place that no longer celebrates the darkest period in the history of this country.” The Bills, when signed by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp, will allow us to begin the work that we must do to liberate Stone Mountain Park from the confederacy. To those who oppose progress, healing and transformation at the park and to those who might be undecided about change at the park - we say this - we are not here to erase or re-write history. The DeKalb NCNW Section, along with SMAC are focused on what Stone Mountain Park means to Georgia, today. Our goal is to have the streets renamed inside of the park, the confederate flags removed at the base of the mountain and contribute to reimagining the park as a place that is welcoming to everyone. We shouldn’t have to drive down Robert E. Lee Blvd and Stonewall Jackson Drive while visiting the park. We shouldn’t have to walk under confederate flags when we start to climb the mountain. Our state tax dollars are being spent to maintain a park that celebrates a period in this country’s history that literally thought of Black people as less than human – we will not stand for this continuous insult any longer!

In order to provide some background information about Stone Mountain Park, please note the following - it is a place of natural wonder, beauty and recreation. Yet, it’s reputation and identity as a confederate memorial make it a source of controversy, protest and violence. Let’s be clear - today, when white supremacists rally, riot, threaten and destroy, confederate flags and symbols are their chosen banners. Yet those symbols fly high and are embedded across Stone Mountain Park. Museums are the places for symbols of the past. Stone Mountain Park was not created to honor the dead of war. It was created as a political statement, at the urging of a segregationist governor, to directly challenge Brown v. Board of Education and the birth of the Civil Rights Movement. Did you know that the Park officially opened on April 14, 1965 - the 100th anniversary to the day of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln? In its current form, Stone Mountain Park is a modern tribute to the confederacy. No Georgian should have to walk under flags of the confederacy simply to use the trail that leads to the top of Stone Mountain.

State Parks are places for all citizens to enjoy. Not places to glorify the insidious idea of white supremacy now, or the confederate ideology of the past, that embraced slavery, and caused a war that resulted in cataclysmic suffering and death. No public park should serve to glorify those who fought for slavery. The time for the people of Georgia to reclaim our park has come and the DeKalb NCNW Section, SMAC and those in our community who have aligned with our cause, have pledged to not take our foot off of the pedal of progress.

This should not be a political issue. We all want future generations of Georgians to look back and say, when it was time to make decisions that no longer align with a large sector of this state and ultimately this country’s population, we did the right thing. We are determined to do everything we can to make Stone Mountain Park, which is a public park owned by the State of Georgia, an inclusive and welcoming place that no longer celebrates the darkest period in the history of this country.”

Please visit stonemountainaction.org to sign up as a supporter. We need your support, even if you don’t live in DeKalb County or the state of Georgia!
Locations of statues

The marble statue will make its way to Daytona Beach and be displayed at Daytona State College’s News-Journal Center located at 221 North Beach St.

In February 2022, the statue will go to Washington, D.C. to its home at Statuary Hall where Bethune will be the first African American to represent a state.

July 10 will be a banner day for Bethune-Cookman University (BC-U) and Daytona Beach.

Statues of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of the university, was officially unveiled on July 10 in Pietrasanta, Italy. Dr. Bethune was born on July 10, 1875.

Nilda Maria Comas, a renowned sculptor there, created two statues of Dr. Bethune – a marble one that will eventually be housed at the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. and a bronze statue that will be permanently erected in Daytona Beach.

Dr. Hiram Powell, interim president of B-CU, was in Italy along with other university supporters, including National Alumni Association President Johnny McCray, Jr., Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry and Nancy Lohman, president of the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Board.

“What an incredible opportunity to kick off a sustained celebration leading to our esteemed founder’s installation in Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. There is no one more deserving than Dr. Bethune, who gave her entire life in service to the betterment of all mankind,” Powell told the Daytona Times via text.

‘Beautifully symbolic’

In 2018, Dr. Bethune was chosen to represent Florida in Statuary Hall.

Money for the statue was raised through the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Project, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Fund, Inc., Daytona Beach Community Foundation, community donors and businesses.

“Years ago, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune worked tirelessly uniting people within our community to further opportunities for African Americans and women and continues to unite people,” said Lohman via text from Italy.

“The statue of Dr. Bethune is stunning and beautifully symbolic. We are so proud to experience living history,” Lohman added. “Dr. Bethune was not only an educator and founder of Bethune-Cookman University, she was a trailblazer for civil rights and women’s rights.”

The July 10 ceremonies in Italy include a blessing of the marble statue at noon (6 a.m. EST) and a blessing of the bronze statue at 6:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m. EST). The ceremonies can be viewed on the Facebook page of the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Project.
As an active member of our beloved Council, Willease has volunteered over 200 hours on behalf of the National Membership Team. Beginning in January 2021, she helped many of our state and section leaders with transitioning to online membership management. All of the work and service was done outside of her normal duties and her work profession. She skillfully developed ways to navigate the Portal and ease the hesitancy of technology usage. Willease conducted training using a personal approach which included webinars, ZOOM meetings, FaceTime and phone calls to ensure state and section leaders were able to navigate the system and that they knew how to manage their individual and section membership records. With over 25 years in the field of education, Willease was patient and friendly while demonstrating the step by step processes. The one on one support made the leaders more comfortable with operating in the membership management process. State and section leaders and members alike on many different occasions expressed to the national membership team how grateful and appreciative they were of Willease's willingness to assist with their transition.

Willease has been a member of NCNW for over 30 years and believes in the mission and vision of the organization. She is dedicated to service and volunteers her time and expertise wherever she can. Whether it’s the National Convention Registration Desk, Virtual Help Desk or National Membership Initiative -REACH Campaign, Willease is a servant leader who finds that a life dedicated to service is fulfilling God’s purpose.

Thank you Willease for all that you do in support of NCNW, the National Membership Team, and its mission.

**BRAVA! JOB WELL DONE!**

David Glenn, Jr.
Membership Director
### Legacy Life Members

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<td>Ms. Hazel Brodie</td>
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<td>Ms. Shari Brown</td>
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<td>Ms. Arion Jamerson</td>
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<td>Ms. Christina Alston-Jessie</td>
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<td>Mrs. Kimberly Anderson</td>
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<td>Ms. Janice Benton-Mike</td>
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<td>Hon. Symra D. Brandon</td>
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<td>Ms. Ursula McCullers</td>
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<td>Ms. Revaple McNair</td>
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### Group Life Members

Augusta Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.
Delta Housing Corporation of DC
Nashville Chapter, Les Gemmes, Inc.
Patuxent River Chapter, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.

### Life Members

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<td>Ms. Venis Adams</td>
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NCNW NEW LEGACY LIFE & LIFE MEMBERS
NCNW New Legacy Life & Life Members (continued)

Ms. Ajene Meyers
Ms. Nia Meyers
Ms. Bertha Mooring
Ms. Rose E. Morgan
Ms. Catherine Morrison
Ms. Elizabeth Moyo
Ms. Bettye H. Mullings
Ms. Judy D. Musgrave
Ms. Akeisha Neely
Ms. Vivian Nixon
Ms. Janet Norris-Burnett
Ms. Adeyemi LaCrown Oloruntoba
Ms. Lisa Pearce
Ms. Nadine J. Pemberton
Ms. Charlotte Perkins
Ms. Leslie Peterson
Ms. Effie A. Phillips
Ms. Arneta Pinkard
Dr. Lorette Polite-Young
Ms. Brenda Reese
Ms. Betty E. Reid
Ms. Sheila Richburg
Ms. Winifred Rivers
Ms. Glasher Robinson
Ms. Linda Robinson
Ms. Suzette Robinson
Ms. Mozell Robinson-Knight
Dr. LaFrancis Rodgers-Rose
Ms. Jacquelyn Rodriguez
Dr. Phyllis Ross
Ms. Tara Ross
Ms. Valerie Scott
Ms. Sarah Simons
Ms. Tonya Smalls
Ms. Sharon Ellen Smith
Ms. Vanessa Smith
Ms. Wanda Smith
Ms. Julia Stancil-Warren
Ms. Ann Stephens
Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Ms. Diane Taylor
Ms. Jeannine Thompson
Ms. Angela Thornton
Ms. Jean Threadgill
Dr. Elaine Thurmond
Ms. Annette Turner
Ms. Shakirah Turner
Ms. Sheila Vaughan

Mrs. Claudette Walcott-Martin
Ms. Valerie J. Warren
Ms. Moriah Adele Washington
Ms. Jennifer Watkins
Mrs. Mary M. Watson-Bruce
Ms. LaShanda Weston
Ms. Cynthia Whitney
Ms. Amanda Williams
Mrs. Bethaney Willis
Ms. Demetria Wilson
Ms. Gloria J. Winley
Ms. Sandra Young

CLFA LIFE MEMBERS
Mr. Thomas Woods
Mr. Charles L. Pierce
Senator Don Davis, NC State
Dr. Donald Ensley
Mr. John Bridges, Jr.
Mr. Ronald C. Foskey

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS
Ms. Yvonnie Scott
Mrs. Marion Shuck
Ms. Ernestine Taylor

ADVOCATE MEMBERS
Ms. Lizet Angulo
Mrs. Hilda Billups
Ms. Stephanie R. Bolden
Ms. Sherelle Briers
Mrs. Keiara Butler
Ms. Kathy A. Carter-Wilson
Ms. Brittany Champion
Ms. Phyllis Clark
Dr. Aaliyah Dent
Ms. Yona Deshommes
Ms. Sarah Francis
Mrs. Bridgett Gordon-Billingsley
Ms. Charlotte Grant-Cobb, Ph.D.
Ms. Annette Green
Mrs. Fern Jackson
Ms. Rashida Jackson-McIlwain
Mrs. Ardease Johnson
Ms. Erlina Kearse-Lewis
Ms. Jerol Dean Lackey
Mrs. Kim Lawrence
Mrs. Tatiana Lubin-Hains

Ms. Monique Moore
Ms. Tracy Moore
Mrs. Debra Nevels
Ms. Lolethia Pace
Ms. Deborah Payne
Rev. Jaye Peabody Smith
Ms. DeLisa Prater
Ms. Regina Sandilands
Mrs. Johnnie C. Sankey
Mrs. Charren Shepherd
Ms. Annette Shrager
Mrs. Patricia Smith
Ms. Sambrina Spier
Ms. Dallas Stokes
Ms. Marva Underwood Williams
Ms. Anita B. Walker
Ms. Sharon Weeks
Dr. Clemmie Whatley
Mrs. Kamelia Wise
Ms. Shirley Wooten-Steedley
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2021

NCNW WEBINAR ON RACIAL EQUITY • AUGUST 26, 2021 • 7:00 P.M. EST
Online Webinar sponsored by Wells Fargo

BABY TALK TOWN HALL - COVID-19 & MATERIAL HEALTH • AUGUST 26, 2021 • 8:00 P.M. EST
Online Webinar • NCNW Health Equity Committee/Material Health Subcommittee

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA BHRP • AUGUST 28, 2021
The Bethune/Height Recognition Program honors Bethune Achievers (persons who contribute $300.00 or more), Life Members, and Legacy Life Members who contribute, join or upgrade through the Program

GEORGIA STATE CONFERENCE • AUGUST 28, 2021

MARCH ON VOTING RIGHTS • AUGUST 28, 2021
The Marches will be taking place all across the country, with flagship marches happening in Atlanta, Washington D.C., Miami, Houston, Phoenix, and more!

September 2021

LABOR DAY • SEPTEMBER 6, 2021

EMOTIONAL HEALTH IS WEALTH WEBINAR WITH LINDSAY MORTON • SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 • 7:00 PM EST
Online Webinar sponsored by Toyota of North America

GOLDMAN SACHS - ONE MILLION BLACK WOMEN LISTENING SESSION • SEPT. 23, 2021 • 7:00 PM EST
Bring your questions, ideas, and honest feedback for how One Million Black Women and Black women-led organizations can help address challenges facing Black Women today!

WALK-A-THON AND HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR • SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 • 9:00 AM EST
At the fields of RFK Campus •Oklahoma Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002

October 2021

EMOTIONAL HEALTH IS WEALTH WEBINAR WITH LINDSAY MORTON • OCTOBER 14, 2021 • 7:00 PM EST

NCNW WEBINAR ON RACIAL EQUITY • OCTOBER 28, 2021 • 7:00 P.M. EST
Online Webinar sponsored by Wells Fargo

November 2021

AFFILIATE ASSEMBLY • NOVEMBER 5/6, 2021 • GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

UNCOMMON HEIGHT GALA • NOVEMBER 6, 2021 • GAYLORD NATIONAL RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

VETERANS DAY • NOVEMBER 11, 2021

THANKSGIVING • NOVEMBER 25, 2021
RUBY ROTHWELL, a long-time resident of Jacksonville, died Monday the 22nd, of March at Terrace Skill Nursing Facility. Ruby’s death marks an end of an era for Mack and Elizabeth Gibbons. Ruby leaves this world behind to a daughter Sandra Rothwell, two sister’s-in-law, a host of nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, cousins and many other family members and friends.

Before Ruby retired in 1989, she worked for Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, New York. She was an active and life member of the National Council of Negro Women, (NCNW) and served as the Third Vice President. Ruby enjoyed volunteering for the Council’s literacy program teaching and reading to young disadvantaged girls.

She was most proud of her work and service to the NCNW’s production of “The Black Family Reunion Cookbook”, a unique collection of recipes reflecting local, national, and international heritage of the Black community. One of her favorite foods was ham hocks and collard greens. During her retirement, she was active in her local AARP in Jacksonville and attended the historic Mount Zion AME Church.

IN LOVING MEMORY

LAVERNE ANDERSON
Champaign County Section, IL

ANGELA T. CLARK
Greenville County Section
Wintervillle, NC

CLARA MAE JONES
Life Member
Hudson Valley Section, NY

DR. JOHNEA KELLEY
Life Member
Durham Section, NC

MERYL M. WRIGHT
Legacy Life Member
Sacramento Valley Section

JUANITA THOMPSON
Hudson Valley Section, NY

Ruby Rothwell, Life Member
Jacksonville Section, Florida
(November 02, 1930 - March 22, 2021)
Strategic thinking makes a big difference.

This year, Toyota Motor North America is proud to be the presenting sponsor for the National Council of Negro Women Uncommon Heights Gala. For 86 years of dedicated work on its mission to lead, advocate for, and empower women of African descent, their families, and communities. Significant changes to many lives have occurred because NCNW was bold enough to help girls and women achieve goals and break barriers.