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Census 2020 / Election 2020
Section Highlights - Community, State & Collegiate

Hungry for Education
HBCU TOUR

Fannie Lou Hamer & Breast Cancer Awareness

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Here in this sacred place, Emancipation Hall, it is a privilege for me to address members of the Congress of the United States and special guests.

We are here to commemorate a particular date and event in the history of all Americans. It was in August of 1619 that “some 20 and odd Negroes” landed in Virginia. This date is indelibly associated with the beginning of the four hundred year Trans-Atlantic slave trade.

For centuries, African women, men and children were kidnapped, placed in shackles and marched onto ships that waited to take this “human cargo” across the Atlantic Ocean. One African writer, Olaudah Equiano, wrote this of such crossings: “The shrieks of the women and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable.”

The African women, men and children who managed to survive the horrific conditions on slave ships were off-loaded and placed on auction blocks where they were sold to the highest bidder. And thus, they began a life of enslavement, working on plantations where an overseer’s whip across a man’s back demanded that he pick more cotton at a faster rate. And the “rights” of a slave owner included that women work alongside men in the fields, cook, clean and serve as nannies to his children, and that they do what he said they must do in the darkness of night.

Slavery was a tremendous economic boon for America. Indeed, it was slavery that built the very foundation of America’s economic might.

But let us not forget that so much else happened during enslavement that speaks to the capacity of a people to “make a way out of no way.” It is the resistance to enslavement and the resilience of an enslaved people that we must recognize and honor on this occasion. For example, it was illegal for an enslaved person to learn to read and write. But many found a way to acquire those skills, and some like the great abolitionist Frederick Douglas, used their literacy in the interest of others.

Enslaved people were forbidden to speak their native languages, practice their indigenous religions, and play the music of their native lands. And yet they found a way to hold onto much of their African culture, and to blend it with patterns, ideas and practices they encountered. And thus, was born much of the flavor and substance in the music, dance, speech, style, and food that is known throughout the world as uniquely American.

(continued on page 2)
The day finally came when enslavement was formally abolished. And not without the help of White American abolitionists such as William Lloyd Garrison and Elizabeth Margaret Chandler. However, the struggles of African American people were far from over. Our hearts and bodies were broken again as the promises of Reconstruction gave way to a period of terror that involved the lynching of 4,743 Black people between 1882 and 1968. We endured church bombings, harassment, police beatings and animal attacks, like the brutalities inflicted on so many in the civil rights movement, including Congressman John Lewis and others who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965.

There were major victories with the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Civil Rights Act of 1965. And yet, Black Americans are still second-class citizens. African Americans are three times as likely as White Americans to be killed by police, even though they are twice as likely to be unarmed. Black men are more than six times as likely as White men to be incarcerated in our nation’s state and federal prisons. And the incarceration rate of Black women is twice that of White women.

Black American families earn just $57.30 to every $100 in income earned by White families. For many health conditions, Black Americans bear a disproportionate burden of disease. And the re-segregation of schools in our country is happening at an alarming rate. Why are there such stark differences in the life experiences of Black and White Americans? The answer is found in how enslavement and the years of racial discrimination that followed have affected each and every institution in our nation.

And yet, our resilience and our patriotism leads us African Americans to continue to believe that one day, America will live up to the words in the Declaration of Independence that all men, and yes all women too, are created equal.

We must always acknowledge the sterling leadership of great heroes and sheroes like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, and Ms. Rosa Parks in the struggles for civil rights, women’s rights and human rights. And yet, every victory in these struggles required the persistence and sacrifice of ordinary people: young and old, women, men and children, and allies of all races, religions, and backgrounds.

What must each of us, you and I and all Americans of good will do to move our country toward a more perfect union?

As we continue to perfect our democracy, carrying on the struggle from prior generations, we must own our nation’s history of enslavement and racial discrimination. As the African American writer James Baldwin said: “Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed that is not faced.”

Owning our history allows us to break free from its shadow, empowering every American of good will to have the courage to challenge everyday expressions of bigotry and hatred AND to be a non-violent activist against systemic inequality. Such inequality not only oppresses African Americans, but countless other Americans because of their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, age, religion, place of origin or disability.

The Congress of our country has a particular responsibility to enact laws that will bring us closer to the day that Dr. Martin Luther King dreamed of. That day when every African American, indeed every American can say: Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, we are free at last.

Printed with permission of Congresswoman Karen Bass, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.
As part of a national campaign to raise awareness about the role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in furthering the education of people of color, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) has partnered with Denny’s, the Tom Joyner Foundation and PUSH Excel to sponsor the 2019 NCNW Hungry for Education Tour of seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Hungry for Education kicked off with a press conference on August 16th at the Dorothy I. Height Building, NCNW’s national headquarters in Washington, DC. Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, NCNW’s national president, and Janice Mathis, executive director of NCNW, led the event, along with John Miller, Denny’s president and CEO, Dr. Everett B. Ward, General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Dr. Julianne Malveaux, president of Push Excel.

Beginning in September 2019, the NCNW 2019 HFE HBCU Tour visited seven campuses in six cities to encourage college enrollment, academic excellence, and career preparation for students of all backgrounds. Each tour stop is led by the National HBCU Steering Committee to promote the participation of more than 500 students in each area. Tour stops occurred at Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL – led by Rachel Oliver (Sept. 14); Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA – lead by Dr. Lois Keith (Sept. 21); Howard University, Washington, DC – lead by Joell Royal (Sept. 28); South Carolina State University and Claflin University, Orangeburg, SC – led by Andrea Casey (Oct. 12); Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, OH – led by Janice Taylor (Nov. 2); and Texas Southern University, Houston, TX – led by Jackie Pope (Nov. 6).

As part of its annual Hungry for Education Scholarship Program, Denny’s will award more than $200,000 in scholarships this year to high school and college students who apply this fall. During each stop along the HBCU Tour, Denny’s also will provide $500 meal scholarships to four high school students and four college students, totaling $4,000 at each college stop. The meal scholarships will help Denny’s efforts to address food insecurity on HBCU campuses and extend the meal swipe initiative, created by Mary-Pat Hector, previous winner of the HFE scholarship.

Students on the NCNW Hungry for Education Tour were greeted by HBCU Presidents, engaged in panel discussions with celebrity HBCU alumni, enjoyed dramatic, dance and musical performances, received an overview of campus life including admissions, financial aid and career counseling. They also attended football games, toured the campuses and ate with college students in the abundant cafeterias. T’Keyah Crystal Keymáh, known for In Living Color and That’s so Raven, along with being an actor, director, and producer, is a
FAMU alumna. She even returned to her alma mater to teach. She spoke with students in each of the breakout sessions and shared her life experiences. “When I was in high school, I didn’t know what an HBCU was, and I pitched the letter because of the snake on it until the recruiter came to my school and asked me whether I was coming. I was thinking Florida had sun and beaches.” She went to explain that it is okay not to know or to change your path once you get in school “I was a business major, but within the first week I was in the freshman talent show. Two years of that and I switched to the theatre department.” There are things that she wished she knew that she passed on to the students. “When I returned to teach, as the beginning of the semester, some of the students would offer to get things because they didn’t understand the value of their meal plan and by the end of the semester would be walking around campus hungry because they weren’t taught or told how to manage their money.” Food insecurity and personal safety were issues that were paramount in her message to the budding college freshman.

Denny’s President and CEO John Miller said that, “The Hungry for Education Scholarship program benefits the scholarship recipients, of course, but when those students use their scholarships at HBCUs, it’s like we’re investing that scholarship twice—once in today’s student and once in the future students who will benefit from the incredible work that HBCUs are doing.”

Janice Mathis, executive director of NCNW, added, “NCNW is very pleased to have great partners like Denny’s, and our HBCU destinations to help us spread the good news that nothing levels the playing field like education.”

Promoting the importance of HBCUs is critical to these school’s success, said Thomas Joyner, chairman and CEO of the Tom Joyner Foundation, “HBCUs have played and still play a key role in providing a nurturing, tough-love environment for so many students over the years. We’ve been working with Denny’s for more than 18 years, and this tour is another example of how we work together to celebrate these schools and give students access to the information and scholarships needed to help them succeed.”

“At Denny’s, we have found that supporting HBCUs is an incredibly effective way to invest in the diverse communities we serve,” said April Kelly-Drummond, head of Diversity Equality Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement. “HBCUs make up only 3 percent of the colleges and universities in the United States, yet they produce 23 percent of African-American college graduates.”

Along with Dr. Everett B. Ward and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the National Pan-Hellenic Council became partners in an effort to ensure students were able to reach and participate at each stop. The leadership of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and gave significant support to the mission.

While this is the inaugural year of the NCNW HBCU tour, the overall success has been applauded by parents, students, and administrators. It is the hope of NCNW to continue this and other events and initiatives that help to further the goals of education and the sustainability of Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

As of press time, more than 2000 students had participated in the Tour.
HON. CONSTANCE NEWMAN INDUCTED INTO THE GOVERNMENT HALL OF FAME

The Government Hall of Fame is designed for those who have reached a high pinnacle of success during their careers in civil service. The Hall of Fame Inductees have done much more than achieved a singular accomplishment—they have made historic progress in changing government for the better, and their influence will live on for generations.

Having begun her federal career as a secretary at the Interior Department in 1962, Newman worked her way up to earn seven presidential appointments. She was appointed by President Nixon as director of VISTA and later as a commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. She was later an assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development and director of the Office of Personnel Management under President George H. W. Bush. She became assistant secretary of State for African affairs in 2004.

BLACK HER / PHILANTHROPY GUIDE

Some see philanthropy as just another way to perpetuate inequality and class privilege. Others recognize the power of philanthropy to help others in need, flex our altruistic muscles, change public policy, and address structural racism.

As nonprofit leaders, we take a nuanced view. Like many, we are skeptical about using philanthropy for self-aggrandizement or to endow a chair at an elite school. On the other hand, we recognize the power of philanthropy to get more kids into preschool, address climate change, increase voter turnout, make the tax code more progressive, and so much more.

For more information, go to: blackher.us/black-womans-guide-to-philanthropy/

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS: BY SOURCE

- 68% Individuals $929.09 billion
- 18% Foundations $85.86 billion
- 9% Bequests $39.71 billion
- 5% Corporations $20.05 billion
NCNW Celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer in Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Julieanne Malveaux, Ph.D.

Some see philanthropy as just Fannie Lou Hamer was our leader and our icon. She risked her life and her livelihood for the right to vote. Brutally beaten when imprisoned, she lost sight in one eye as a result of the violence she experienced. Even after her beating, she went on to lead the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party, and to challenge Democratic Party leadership at its national convention in New Jersey. Today, not fifty-five years after Hamer stood up to the Democratic Party establishment; people are mobilizing voters to participate in elections this year in Virginia, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi, among other places. Participation is often low during off-year elections. People should be encouraged to vote this year, especially in the name of Fannie Lou Hamer.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the proliferation of pink ribbonshas started. Predatory capitalists make breast cancer their cause, producing pink t-shirts, pocketbooks, everything. It’s a mixed blessing, this awareness because too many will make this both a marketing and a profit-making opportunity, while others will wonder how they can use their health insurance to afford a mammogram. There is a gap in health care access, and the matter of racial health disparities is essential. It is especially important when we deal with the issue of breast cancer.

While Black women get breast cancer at a lower rate than white women, we are 42 percent more likely to die from it. And young Black women, those under 35, are twice as likely as white women to get breast cancer, and three times as likely to die from it. Black women are also three times as likely as white women to get triple-negative breast cancer, an especially aggressive form of breast cancer.

Ricki Fairley, a triple-negative breast cancer survivor, and marketing maven now holds a leadership role at the nation’s oldest and largest black women’s breast cancer network group. Sister’s Network describes itself as a “survivorship organization” that provides support for Black women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. Ricki only recently joined the organization as its Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and National Programs, and she is on a mission to raise awareness about breast cancer in the African American community. Propelled by her own survivorship story, but also by the many women she has provided support for, she is passionate about the reasons that African American women must be informed and engaged around breast cancer issues.

To be informed and engaged, we need to talk about breast cancer more. While Black women are aware of breast cancer challenges, fewer than one in five of us discuss this with our sister friends. Our organizations – sororities, and other NCNW affiliates -- ought to lift up breast cancer prevention awareness by scheduling informational sessions as part of our regular meetings. According to some research, African American women fear a cancer diagnosis, and so eschew information, and avoid screenings or mammograms. Others fail to get mammograms or to get followup from mammograms because health care copayments are high. As with so many other issues, Black women are at the periphery of the health care system. Those of us who care about Black women and deal with our space in public policy must ensure that Black women can have cost-free, early mammograms.
Black women are kicked to the health curb, whether we have a little or a lot. Fannie Lou Hamer was poor, and Serena Williams is wealthy. Had she not been a vocal advocate for her own treatment, she might have died while giving birth. Despite her privilege and her access, Serena Williams experienced the differential way the health care system treats Black women. Serena might have died giving birth to her daughter, Alexis. Black women are all too often ignored or dismissed by health care providers. Racial bias in the medical field is both real and life-threatening. Fannie Lou Hamer said she was “sick and tired of being sick and tired.” So are many of us who are activists. We have learned how to hold up, stand up, speak up, and start-up. In the name of Fannie Lou Hamer, we must also learn self-care. A leaky vessel can’t carry anybody’s water. In this Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we must all do a breast self-examination, check our appointment schedule for a mammogram, and consider the other self-care that we need. Fannie Lou Hamer died at 59 of breast cancer, far too soon. If we believe in freedom, we must believe in the freedom and willingness to take care of ourselves, if not for ourselves, then for the sisters and brothers, daughters and sons, who depend on us.

NCNW celebrates Fannie Lou Hamer in Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Self-Examination
How To Do Your Monthly Self-examination

**Step 1**
Raise your left arm up to the back of your head.

**Step 2**
With your right hand, examine your left breast.

**Step 3**
Moving your hand around your breast, feel for any lumps with your fingers.

**Step 4**
Repeat on the other breast.

**Visual Tests**
Look at yourself in the mirror. Look out for anything unusual:
- Irregular shape?
- Dimpling of skin?
- Nipple discharge?

If you find anything unusual, visit a doctor as soon as possible!
NCNW COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE (C4F)

“WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE? EARLY ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ELEVATING YOUNG WOMEN’S ENGAGEMENT”

C4F is in the final stages of obtaining feedback about NCNW’s future direction via interviews and an electronic survey that was designed to support a listening approach around the issues members, affiliates, and partners see for NCNW now and into the future.

As a committee, we are learning a great deal about what matters to members. One group of particular interest to NCNW is our younger women. C4F member Ari Brazier recently surveyed a group of young women via phone. In addition to providing survey highlights and direct quotes, we offer a few preliminary recommendations to NCNW for increasing the engagement of younger women.

Lesson #1 – “Young” is a relative term that needs to be defined

“We have our collegiates, but what about that gap between 25 and 40… We are losing some of them because they aren’t attracted to events that don’t feel relevant.”

It is important for our organization to be clear about what we mean by “younger” in our recruitment efforts. There are several generations under the age of 40: Millennials, Gen X, Gen Y and Gen Z. Each has different characteristics, interests and expectations. Within the “millennial” category, Black women are experiencing vastly different economic constraints and focusing on different priorities. One size does not fit all young members. Middle age women 40-54 are another potential target group. Fifty-eight percent of the current NCNW membership is 55 years of age or older.

Lesson #2 – Methods of communications matter

“I’m 23, but the other youngest woman there might have been 38. These are people with families, so they might not have time to be on social media. [The section does] send out emails quite a bit, but email is not the first place I check out for updates. I want to go to an app of some sort for an event – something a bit more instantaneous than me going into my email account every time.”

In addition to heavy reliance on social media and technology, our youngest members (collegiate and those just graduating college) are looking for a bond of sisterhood and enjoy face to face gatherings. There is a difference between networking and relationship building. Both are needed. Young adult members are seeking a family with whom they can not only build community programs, but also can be called upon when things get rough.

Lesson #3 – More than one younger voice needs to be represented

“There is power in numbers and sometimes it’s hard to be that only voice.”

It is necessary to consciously avoid what may appear to be “tokenism”. One young person on a committee does not constitute engagement. Several younger women should be invited into the process to be authentic. The work also must be owned and shared by the entire group.
Fannie Munlin was elected Chair of the United Nations DGC (Department of Global Communications) Executive Committee in August, 2019 at their annual meeting in Seattle. The theme of this year’s conference was Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities. The Executive Committee is comprised of 1600 Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) recognized by the United Nations. As Chair of the Executive Committee, Ms. Munlin she has a consultative role in establishing DGC policy and in planning the annual DGC Conference. She also is the main representative of NCNW at the United Nations and assists and counsels NCNW Affiliates in establishing and maintaining their DGC and ECOSOC credentials.

Ms. Munlin’s history with NCNW goes back to her days as a student when she worked with NCNW sections in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. She served on the board of CARE as NCNW’s CARE representative from 1991-1992 and was appointed to serve as NCNW’s liaison to the United Nations by Dr. Height in 1993. In that role she prepares the mandatory annual report required of all DGC-accredited NGOs and the quadrennial report required of all NGOs accredited by the United Nations ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). In 2003, she chaired the DGC annual conference.

Ms. Munlin is looking forward to the 2020 conference of DGC-accredited NGOs and the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. NCNW history buffs will recall that Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune attended the founding session of the United Nations in 1945, along with NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White and Dr. W.E.B. DuBois.
TOP LADIES OF DISTINCTION, INC. (TLOD)

TLOD held its biennial national convention on June 26-July 2, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. The theme was “Celebrating the Past While Fortifying the Future.” The conference marked and celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Top Teens of America (TTA), the youth group sponsored by Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. Former Top Teens from years past, including seven past National TTA Presidents, were in attendance and participated on the various programs. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to kick-off the 50th Anniversary TTA Hall of Fame where the past National TTA Presidents were given an opportunity to speak to the next generation of Teens. The TTA Alumni Council met for the first time to formulate their mission to continue the connection between Top Teens of America and Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., and to elect the inaugural steering committee. The TTA Alumni Awards Reception was held with performances from many former TTA Alumni. Recognition was given to Alumni who had made an impact in areas championed by TLOD.

An Outstanding TTA Alumnus Award was presented to Je'Caryous Johnson, noted author-producer-writer-director, who is a former Top Teen. After receiving his award, he pledged $500,000.00 over a 10-year period to Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. to fund scholarships for students who are majoring in the Fine Arts. This is the largest donation that TLOD has received to date. To top off the 50th Anniversary recognition/celebration, an Ecumenical Breakfast was held where all of the speakers were Former Top Teens.

Representatives from TLOD’s national partners in attendance were: Keep America Beautiful, AARP, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the A-TEAAM, March of Dimes, UNCF, NCNW and NAACP.

Other highlights included: Dr. Juanita Sims Doty, philanthropist, inducted as an Honorary Member, a pop-up wellness clinic, workshops, leadership training, career/college day, community beautification clean-up, award of $30,000 in scholarships, donation of more than 1,100 backpacks filled with food to 5 organizations in Atlanta, TTA speaker’s tournament, spelling bee, debate team and talent show. In addition, Tim King, CEO of Urban Prep Academies in Chicago was the keynote speaker at the TTA recognition breakfast. Attorney Janice Mathis, Executive Director of NCNW, unveiled a new initiative sponsored by Denny’s, the Tom Joyner Foundation, and PUSH Excel called Hungry for Education HBCU Tour of seven Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

At the closing gala, newly inducted ladies and Mr. and Miss Top Teen were presented, scholarship recipients were recognized, world renowned recording artist, Howard Hewitt, performed, and monetary donations were presented to NCNW, UNCF and WIN-NAACP. At the close of the program the changing of the guard took place. Lady Drema Lee Woldman, 13th National President, crowned and pinned the 14th National President, Lady Sharon J. Beard. Thus ended the “Investing” Administration and the beginning of the “Transforming” Administration.
Colette McCurdy-Jackson currently serves as the 18th National President leading several thousand members across the United States and the Virgin Islands.

Services for Citizens with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities is the sorority’s primary program. The Gloria Chapmon Walk-a-Thon, held biennially during the national convention, is a source of funding for community-based organizations advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Delta Psi Chapter
Atlanta, Georgia

The members of Delta Psi worked passionately and tirelessly in support of funding educational scholarships through their signature African Scholarship Luncheon and with their NCNW affiliate’s Hatitude Scholarship Brunch. They joined domestic violence partner, PADV (Partners Against Domestic Violence), to combat and educate about abuse and to empower its survivors. Through the United Way, area homeless women and men benefited from the Shoe Box collection and distribution of basic hygiene necessities.

Gamma Chapter
Cleveland, Ohio

Gamma Chapter celebrated the past holiday season volunteering as Santa’s helpers at local “Toys For Tots” annual drive. Sorors also donated wrapped gifts for children of all ages who attended. Soror Iris Curry Johnston, chairperson of Intellectually and Developmentally Disability Committee, is shown with classroom assistant at Bolton Elementary School. The committee chair delivered donations for the ‘Quiet Corner” for special intervention students. Sorors also enjoyed recent sisterhood event getting to know each other at a “Cook and Sip” hosted by Gamma Chapter Advisory Board.

Epsilon Beta Chapter
Columbia, South Carolina

Soror Harrier Shepherd of Epsilon Beta Chapter recently participated in a Blood Drive held in their area.

Alpha Gamma Chapter
Miami, Florida

The members of Alpha Gamma chapter held a recent workshop for college bound students and recent college graduates designed to inspire, empower and mentor them at their first “From Backpacks To Briefcases” Workshop. Twenty-two participants were treated to lots of good tips on how to “get a job, how to keep a job”, and ideas of entrepreneurship ad so much more.

Epsilon Epsilon Chapter
Baltimore, Maryland

Sorors Felecia Weeks and Dr. Joyce M. Thomas of Epsilon Epsilon Chapter are shown performing community service in July 2019 at the VFW and Auxiliary National Convention in Orlando, Florida. They assisted with the bagging potatoes to be sent to needy families. This Community Project provided a means to work together in a common cause to combat hunger.
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The Northern California Region (10 Sections and the Guild) hosted their first Leadership Conference on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 6, 7, 8 at the beautiful Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek, CA. More than 70 NorCal members attended. The Conference theme was Leaders Make It Happen!

The Conference featured Round Table discussions and numerous interactive learning sessions and workshops. The learning sessions were quite comprehensive, and included timely topics such as Strengthening Community Collaborations, Fundraising in the 21st Century, Leading with Integrity and Utilizing Social Media to Increase Section Visibility. Additionally, the Conference Plenary sessions tackled “hot button” issues such as Attracting Younger Women. Luncheon and Dinner speakers, including Contra Costa County District Attorney Diana Becton, pushed the Conference theme of “Leaders Get the Job Done,” by addressing the need for leaders to take care of their physical and mental well-being, and encouraging a “commitment” to leadership.

The Conference opened with a videotaped greeting by NCNW Chair, Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, and the Mayor of Walnut Creek stopped by and gave a warm welcome to the City. During the Celebration Banquet, the NorCal Region’s President, James Ella James was honored for her many years of leadership and service to the Region. Special Conference guests included NCNW’s National Vice President, Dr. Helena Johnson, and Jill Benoit, a member of the New Orleans, LA Section who registered for the Conference after hearing about it at the Essence Festival.

The Conference’s stellar line-up of speakers and presenters were garnered from all areas of the Northern California community including the high tech giant, Google, Kaiser Permanente, College Track, and NCNW Affiliates Delta Sigma Theta and the Gamma Phi Delta Sororities. In-house talent was not overlooked. Several of the workshops were very capably led by NorCal members. While education was the main component of the Leadership Conference, roaming prize patrols contributed to the fun and comradery among the Conference participants.
SOUTH CAROLINA BETHUNE-HEIGHT RECOGNITION (BHRP) PROGRAM

On Saturday, September 21, 2019, The South Carolina State Mechanism NCNW held its 45th BHRP in Columbia, SC. This year’s theme Intergenerational Trailblazers on a Mission and the community honorees reflected the theme and their contributions and achievements were related to NCNW’s programmatic thrust. The membership was elated to be in the presence of our National Chair, Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, who provided Words of Wisdom. City of Columbia Mayor pro tem presented Dr. Cole with the key to the City and she was also presented with a proclamation from the state. Recognition was given to twelve Life Members and eight Achievers. The luncheon was a very special because of the expansion of South Carolina sections. President Cole was there to oversee the establishment of the Greenville County and Capital City Life Guild sections. In keeping with the theme, the music was provided by Fairfield District Honors Chorus which is comprised of 6-12th grade students and collegiate students who represent all Fairfield County schools. Acknowledgment should be given to the NCNW sisters who traveled from Georgia and North Carolina for their support.
**ALTON SECTION**

The Alton Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW) hosted its annual Harambee Celebration with a Jazz Brunch.

“Harambee in Swahili means “all pull together,” Alton NCNW President Ellar Duff said. “It’s a Kenyan tradition of civic self-help. It’s a way to build community.”

The “Jazzin’ in July” Brunch celebrates the birthday of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who founded the organization in 1935. The event was held on Saturday, July 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Best Western Premier, 3559 College Ave., Alton. Live music from 3 Central of St. Louis entertained guests.

**BERTHA BLACK RHODA SECTION**

Seven incoming college freshmen have many of the supplies they need to move into their dormitories, thanks to members of the Bertha Black Rhoda Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) in St. Louis.

At its ninth annual Legacy Trunk Presentation Luncheon, held June 8 at the Orlando Garden’s Event Center in Maryland Heights, the seven young women were each presented with a trunk of supplies valued between $400-$500, including bedding, rugs, cleaning supplies and a gift card for personal items. The items were donated by NCNW members and purchased through a grant by the Zonta Club of St. Louis.

At NCNW, the students learn about studying, health and safety and budgeting; and the Legacy Trunk Luncheon.

All but one of this year’s Legacy Trunk recipients plan to pursue higher education locally. Below is where they plan to attend school.

- **DEJA AUSTELI**, Fontbonne University social work.
- **SHAKIRA BENT**, Lincoln University, elementary education.
- **GABRIELLE BROWN**, University of Missouri-St. Louis, computer science.
- **BREANA LEE**, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, nursing.
- **SHAWANDA MARTIN**, University of Missouri-St. Louis, computer science.
- **SHYANN SAMPSON**, a Berea College, nursing.
- **ANNIKA WILLIAMS**, St. Louis Community College, neonatal nursing.

The seven awardees were nominated by their school counselors. NCNW rotates high schools each year. Once accepted, the students have three NCNW events to attend – a meet and greet where the young ladies meet the NCNW women who mentor them over the course of their senior year; a college preparation day, where the students learn about studying, health and safety and budgeting; and the Legacy Trunk Luncheon.

The trunk committee members are Karen Banks, Ckarla Banks, Ruth Banks, Debora Baker Dukes, Gail Jackson Evans, Lisa Johnson Haire and Laura Mabry.
HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

MANHATTAN SECTION

Come to the Harambee Celebration for NCNW Manhattan Section on Saturday, November 9, 2019. It’s a day of unity and coming together as a community. The celebration will include:

- Honored Guests
- African Drummers
- Food & Beverages

TIME: 12:30 - 3:30 pm
MUSIC: 3 Central of St. Louis entertained guests.
LOCATION:
Williams Institutional CME Church
Fellowship Hall
Entrance
170 W. 132nd St. • New York, NY 10027

LORAIN COUNTY SECTION

Lorain County Section of the National Council of Negro Women Inc. hosted its 32nd annual Founder’s Day Luncheon on Sept. 28 and honored local trailblazers. The luncheon was in the Reaser Ballroom at the Lorain County Community College’s (LCCC) Spitzer Conference Center, 1005 N. Abbe Road in Elyria.

- HOMER A. VIRDEN has worked for the Housing Authority for over 30 years and leading countless projects as director.
- VICTOR LEANDRY has lived in Lorain for almost 30 years and is a member of the Mercy Health Hospital, Ohio Latino Connection and Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice boards.
- PHYLLIS J. DEMARK began her career in publishing in New York City before becoming a guidance counselor at Midview High School in Grafton. She also started The Center for Leadership in Education at the Community Foundation before retiring.
- ELISABETH LENDAL created a cookbook and collected over 1,000 spices for her local food bank Community Resource Services as a part of her Girl Scout gold award project
- KIONNA MCINTOSH-PHARMS is president of Celebrate Your Worth, which focuses on breaking cycles of disrespect to women and is involved in groups and boards with the goal of uplifting those most vulnerable in the community.
- LANETTE EGGLESTON also co-facilitates nonprofit organization Strengthening Teaching & Empowering People International Inc. with her husband.
- KENNETH GLYNN served as a communication chief in the United States Army before obtaining a job at the local steel mill until 2015. He then earned an associate degree from LCCC.
- MARVA JONES has held a host of different leadership positions, with 10 years of finance experience, eight years in insurance, three as a National Football League agent, 16 years in real estate business and over 14 years in counseling and teaching.

Homer Virden, Honoree

Victor Leandry, Honoree
RESTON-DULLES SECTION

On August 3, 2019, the Reston-Dulles Section, National Council of Negro Women, Inc., held a breakfast at Famous Toastery, 12100 Sunset Hills Rd, Reston, VA.

An Evening with NCNW was held on September 21 at the Leesburg Fire House Banquet Hall, 215 Loudoun Street, SW, Leesburg, VA. There was dancing, food and drinks (BYOB). Raffles and Door Prizes were an added attraction.

The 19th Annual Reston Multicultural Festival celebrates Reston’s rich diversity through song, dance, food and art. It was held on September 28—Rain or shine. The event took place at Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza W, Reston, VA 20190.

The Reston Multicultural Festival was hosted by Lake Anne Plaza and co-sponsored by Reston Association, with partners from a variety of Reston-based organizations and businesses. This signature Reston event honors the diversity that is one of our greatest assets. Everyone was encouraged to dress in attire that shares their pride in their own cultural roots.

VIEW PARK SECTION

The View Park Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated (NCNW) celebrated their signature Reading Proficiency Program’s first-year anniversary by honoring the phenomenal literacy gains attained by their students. Parents, students, friends, volunteers, school personnel, NCNW officers and members attended the Awards Celebration on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at the NCNW Council House on West 54th Street in Los Angeles.

There was a warm welcome from NCNW View Park Section’s President, Dianne Lewis-Carter. Dr. Helena Johnson, NCNW National Vice President presented an overview of the accomplishments of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. and their involvement in supporting and advocating for programs in the community as well as on the national level.

Although the Reading Proficiency Program only enroll students 6 – 12 years of age, plans are in place to ensure students continue to receive academic tutoring, mentoring and wrap-around services once they exit the program.
We love and support this organization! That’s why we are both associate members of the National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated (NCNW). It’s not just because President Johnnetta Betsch Cole and others asked us. It is because we put our energy where we know the job will be done with integrity.

Now is the time for busy, caring and concerned men, like those you know, to join us as associate members or life members of NCNW. They will support the women in their efforts to lead, advocate for, empower and better serve themselves, their families and communities.

Their membership will bring huge dividends as they support a national organization that has 32 national affiliate organizations, 200 community-based sections, and 81 campus-based sections and an outreach to 2,000,000 women.

They can maximize their contribution to NCNW as a hands-on tutor, mentor or by joining one of the many local sections and adding a caring male presence. Help support NCNW’s programmatic focus.

You know already the organization’s tireless leadership in the civil rights movement. You recognize the tenacity that has opened doors of opportunity for women and girls, and continues the quest for equality and social justice. Eighty-five years old, NCNW has built a base of know-how for targeted and effective action, which is urgently needed just as much today, as it was more than eight decades ago.

We love the story Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune told when she founded the NCNW in 1935. She used first one finger, then two fingers and finally, clenched her fist to demonstrate the power of unity as she said, together, “We can strike a mighty blow.”

So please tell the men in your life to join the Charles L. Franklin Associates today as a member, associate life member or signup their organization for a group life membership.

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION

If you are a current male associate member, if your significant other is a member of NCNW, if you know someone who would make a good member then please make them aware and invite them to join our conversations.

On Thursday, November 21, 2019, as a part of the Affiliate Assembly, being held at the Washington Hilton, join the CLFA co-chairs as we outline our support for the 85th Anniversary of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
The power of Black women is not easily quantified. The gathering of thirty-two predominantly black women’s organizations is a powerful moment; each group distinct and highly successful in its own mission rendering immeasurable service in today’s complex world.

Dr. Bethune talked about the fingers coming together to make a mighty force. The Affiliates gathering in Assembly is a powerful force symbolic of Dr. Bethune’s concept of the powerful fist.

In today’s complex society where many fronts are under attack and moral conscience is wanting, a concerted force for public policy and social justice is needed every moment of every day,

NCNW Affiliates is a unique entity. No other African American women’s group has such a constituted body with each member organization having voting power as a part of the whole.

Affiliates play a major role in shaping the tenets of NCNW, its directions, and its public policy agenda.

Affiliates know the cries of children; the hunger pangs of the poor; the forgotten aged who die from loneliness; the futile steps of those whose votes are stolen and suppressed; the mixed voices that defy a true democracy; the acts of many who press for equality, equity and justice; the need for never letting go nor giving up; always pushing ahead for a better society, a better world. Yes, collectively all are leading with passion and compassion; opening doors; modeling high morals and strong character; mentoring; breaking glass ceilings; encouraging little girls and little boys to believe that they, too, can be the masters of their fate; and ever leading positive change.

The vision of Mary McLeod Bethune is strong and growing stronger day by day recognizing that leadership is fluid and still a positive transitive power, ever BECOMING!!.

In Loving Memory

Shirley Britt, a Legacy Life member of the Section of the Oranges, was an active member in the New Jersey Life Members Guild where she served as Recording Secretary, Parliamentarian and Chairperson. She has held the position of co-Chair and then Chair of the Bethune/Height Recognition Program for a total of five years. Shirley was the Committee Chair for the Achievers for numerous years and she passed the baton for that role last year. She was a Legacy Life Member and ‘Achieved’ every year since becoming a member. She was also the 2017 BHRP State Awardee and a member of the New Jersey State Steering Committee.

Carolyn Williams Green, Graham NC
Charles E. Hazell, III, Associate Life Member, Blacklick OH
Carol Hunter, Life Member, Oakdale CT
Blanche Bradley Joe, Life Member, Bishopville SC
Jacqueline Jones-Walsh, Seattle WA
Joyce Ann Mourning Mitchell, Life Member, Greenville NC
Earl Pickett, Burlington NC
Geraldine A. Poole, Life Member, New Haven CT
Janet Wilson, Hartsville SC
**NCNW NEW LIFE & LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS**

### LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Shirley G. Ali</td>
<td>Brenda Ashanti</td>
<td>Rita Lewis</td>
<td>Annie A. Tucker</td>
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<td>Crystal E. Anderson</td>
<td>Frances Conwell</td>
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### LIFE MEMBERS

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<td>Patricia Ann Bates</td>
<td>Rosalynde M. Fenner</td>
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<td>A. Maria Beeler-Wright</td>
<td>Beulah Ross Gaskin</td>
<td>Britanny Marshall</td>
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<td>Thea Bradley</td>
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<td>Alea Greer</td>
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<td>Sebrina Artis Miller</td>
<td>Beverly Spencer</td>
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<td>Valerie Hall</td>
<td>Joyce Lavigne Millner</td>
<td>Elmorina Stewart</td>
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<td>Dr. Marilyn Maria Brown</td>
<td>Kimberly Hall-Macedo</td>
<td>Mary Minor</td>
<td>Tracey Tanner</td>
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<td>Quanisha Freeman Callwood</td>
<td>Theresa Harper</td>
<td>Tara Montgomery</td>
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<td>Patricia A. Harrison</td>
<td>Jasmine Mullins</td>
<td>Mary Thomas</td>
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<td>Ethel Harrison</td>
<td>Nyrita Myers</td>
<td>Mary C. Thomas</td>
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<td>Michelle Y. Carter-Bolden</td>
<td>Charles E. Hazell, III *</td>
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<td>Rev. Marie Deas-Webb</td>
<td>Deborah J. Keaton</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr. Flossie King</td>
<td>Modestine Samuel</td>
<td>Toi Williams</td>
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<td>Mia Eley</td>
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<td>Rosetta Screven</td>
<td>Nancy H. Wilson</td>
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<td>Erlene Ellis</td>
<td>Crystal Lundy</td>
<td>Cynthia Scruggs</td>
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### GROUP LIFE MEMBERS

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<tr>
<td>San Francisco-Peninsula Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated</td>
<td>The Links, Incorporated, Daytona Beach (FL) Chapter</td>
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### ADVOCATE

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<tr>
<td>Sheilah Adams</td>
<td>Renee Harper</td>
<td>Daun S. Hester</td>
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<td>Wilfred A. Campbell</td>
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### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

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<tr>
<td>Michelle Lee Gaskins</td>
<td>Gwendolyn Rebecca Keyes Fleming</td>
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<td>Veronica J. Jackson</td>
<td>Tonya Vidal Kinlow</td>
<td>Dr. Arthuree R. Wright</td>
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If you would like to have your section’s event listed on the national calendar, website or social media, please send information to social@ncnw.org.
2019 HUNGRY FOR
EDUCATION

HBCU TOUR

SEPTEMBER THRU NOVEMBER 2019

• PANEL DISCUSSIONS • SCHOOL TOURS
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1919 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20009

Honoring:
Susan L. Taylor

NCNW National Chair
Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole

Gala Chair
Hon. Alexis Herman

Honorary Gala Co-Chairs
Ken Frazier
President & CEO
Merck and Co
Andrea Frazier

UNCOMMON HEIGHT GALA
November 20, 2019

AFFILIATES ASSEMBLY
November 21, 2019

Ticket & Hotel Information at ncnw.org