Shem Hotep NABSW Brothers and Sisters,

In one of our many languages from antiquity, I greet you in peace. As planning for our 50th Anniversary Celebration was getting underway, I was also forming my campaign to become the 13th National President of NABSW. That process entailed asking founders and early pioneers if, in 1968, they had given even a fleeting thought to a 50 year old NABSW. To a person, their looks provided my answer. It was at that moment that a central component of my campaign took root. I at once envisioned an administration that would serve as the impetus for ushering NABSW into its second 50 years and toward our Centennial Platinum Jubilee. With planning, foresight, and the Spirit of Ujima, our future course is dictated only by the past lessons of our travels and our present will as an African people.

Following the Nommo Village Enstoolment Ceremony in Richmond, I compiled a First 100 Days task list which I shared with the Executive Committee. Those tasks consisted of the following:

- Conferring with the immediate past president,
- Assessing organizational fiscal health,
- Establishing transition leadership tasks,
- Assignment of Executive Committee oversight,
- Targeting potential revenue source options,
- Outreach to chapter presidents and membership,
- Establishing viable chapter leadership expectations,
- Clearly articulating NABSW’s core values,
- Introducing a functional membership profile concept,
- Revisiting the OSA structure, and
- Making core committee appointments.

Needless to say, some tasks were more challenging and time consuming than others; however, with the efforts of the Executive Committee, each of those tasks have been completed and expanded into our Year One Plan.

(continued on pg. 2)
An African proverb tells us that one stick is easily broken, but a bundle of sticks is not. As an organization, NABSW epitomizes that bundle of sticks. Our strength lies within a 50 year history, several thousand members, and a diverse pool of organizational experience and expertise which is, in my humble opinion, second to no other. Regardless of political affiliation, religious denomination, or any other socio-economic demographic, we are, FIRST, a people of African ancestry and MUST forever keep that thought at the very core of our existence and purpose.

Standing on the shoulders and following the footprints of those who came before me, as your National President, and a Pan-Africanist, with your support and participation, I am committed to upholding and perpetuating the NABSW Code of Ethics, Mission, and Vision.

“Adupe Aruku Baba Wa”

In the Spirit of the Ancestors,

Cheikh Ahmadou Banba Mbacké, President

Greetings from the mighty ABSW Metro DC Chapter! We are excited as we embark a new chapter with newly elected officials who are energized and motivated in making a difference in the lives of Black people. There is an African Proverb that says “the young can walk faster but the elder knows the road” with that spirit, we are committed to draw on our founders, our pioneers and our council of sages to move the agenda of NABSW forward. Our theme is to be action driven and with that motivation, we have revitalized our student action committee, our Nea Onnim Training and Education Committee, Social Action Committee, Social Media and Communications Committee and Health and Wellness Committee.

We kicked off the year strong with “A DIVE INTO BLACK HISTORY AND THE ARTS” event featuring social workers and others in the field working with our communities. In March we introduced amazing women who are doing amazing work with our “Women In Social Work Profile Series. As part of our CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH we offered training on: Engaging children in the therapeutic process.
SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

As part of our Social Action Committee, we partnered with the National United Front and co-sponsored the Feed the Hood Project where we helped prepared 150 care packages for those in need. Our goal is to continue to make an impact in our community one project at a time.

STUDENT ACTION COMMITTEE

We are excited to have revitalized our Student Action Committee which has been dormant for a while. The students are motivated and ready to move the agenda of the Chapter and we are ready to guide and mentor them. Our first meet up featured below was well attended, the students left with a plan of action ready for action.

SALUTING OUR PIONEERS

“If you don’t know where you are going, any road will take you there” Uganda

ABSW Metropolitan DC Chapter members will like to thank our Pioneers, Barbra Akins, Professor James Craigen, Rose Lee and Louvenia Williams (not pictured) for leading the way for us to sustain the vision and mission of the National Association of Black Social Workers 50 years later. We salute you and thank you. We are especially humbled and grateful to have you on our Council of Sages.
“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
—from 'Letter from Birmingham, Alabama Jail', April 16, 1963

“If you don’t know where you are going, any road will take you there” Uganda
Houston ABSW

WRITTEN BY JANICE TONEY, CHAIRPERSON

On Behalf of the Houston ABSW Chapter:
We would like to welcome you to our dynamic community dedicated to promoting the welfare, interest, education, and professional development of social workers. The National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) founded in 1968, was and is still an advocacy organization established to address social issues and concerns of the Black community.

NABSW is designed to promote the welfare, survival, and liberation of the Black Community, and to advocate for social change at the National, State, and Local level. The Association of Black Social Workers of the Houston Chapter is a branch of the National Chapter (NABSW).

We welcome old members, current members and members who are interested in joining Houston ABSW to our Unparalleled Professional Social Work Association!

Regards,
Janice Toney, Chairperson

Thank You!

YOU CAN BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF HOUSTON ABSW BY USING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO REGISTER:

- Attend ABSW Meetings held every 2nd Saturday of the month from 1-3pm located at Shape Center, 3815 Live Oak St. Houston, TX (unless otherwise specified)
- Houston ABSW Website
- Mail Application with Membership fee to: Brenda Coleman Houston, TX 77075 C/O Janice Toney

Join Houston ABSW

MEMBERSHIP ENABLES THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS

- BECOME AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE HOUSTON CHAPTER
- VOTING RIGHTS TO SELECT ABSW OFFICERS
- DISCOUNTED RATE TO ATTEND NABSW ANNUAL CONFERENCES
- EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES VIA MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS WHERE CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUS) ARE AVAILABLE
- RECEIVE A COPY OF THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
- STUDENT CHAPTER PARTICIPATION VIA MENTOR/MENTEE PROGRAM
- ACCESS TO NABSW WEBSITE AND HOUSTON ABSW WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK
Greetings! This has been a very busy year. We continue our mission of providing services to the African American community by the following:

Spring: SDABSW hosted the very successful 50th Anniversary of the National Association of Black Social Workers at the Sheraton Hotel on Harbor Island. The conference theme was "Celebrating Our Legacy-Fulfilling the Dream." Over 600 people attended. The workshops were very informative and addressed issues impacting African Americans (e.g. mental illness and homelessness).

Summer: 8th Annual Old School Fun in the Sun Day in the Park (co-hosted with the Black Infant Health Program). It was a fun-filled day that educated children and their parents about developing healthy lifestyles. The event was developed in response to Michelle Obama’s "Let's Move" initiative that addressed obesity in children. There were "old school" games such as double-dutch jump rope, musical chairs, and exercise instructors engaging the group in various types of exercises and line dancing. Vendors provided educational and resource materials, while the San Diego Black Nurses Association provided health screenings. Lunch catered by Herm & Herm.

Fall: 6th Annual Jazz on the Patio, a fundraiser for the Al Davis Scholarship Fund. Al Davis was a long time member of SDABSW. He was an outstanding social worker and a strong advocate. The scholarships are given to students in need or foster youth who are pursuing a career in the human services. The event will be held at a private residence located at 954 Harlan Circle San Diego, CA 92114 on September 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The music will be provided by the Fleener/Howard group. Tickets are $25 per person and include food and non-alcoholic beverages. Our very first scholarship recipient graduated this year from San Diego State University.

Winter: Each year, SDABSW host a canned food drive and Adopt-a-Family for Christmas giving. Last year, we provided food, clothes and toys to selected families at Encanto Elementary School and the Black Infant Health Program. We will continue to donate water to the Western Service Workers and school supplies and canned food to Encanto and other schools.

I would like to thank all the members of SDABSW for their commitment to our mission. We need everyone's support in recruiting new members.

In this political climate, it is important that we continue to embrace our mission. REMEMBER TO VOTE on November 6th! We must express our concerns to our elected officials about their dysfunctional governing and that we want change, SDABSW plans to continue its involvement in voter registration. Take all of your friends and relatives to the polls!!

What does it mean to vote? This nation began with the battle cry of "taxation without representation." Under the British rule the leaders of this nation proclaimed that Americans were not getting a say on the things that shaped their lives because they had no elected representatives. As the nation grew the issue of representation continued in importance. Despite the national fight for equal representation at its inception, there was not equality for all. The vote was given only to white male property owners. Other groups, including women and persons of Black African descent, had limited or no rights to vote and thus had no say in the laws that controlled their lives.

After the Civil War and Emancipation new laws were developed in the South that expanded the rights to include Blacks. The Freedman Bureau was formed which helped the former slaves financially and they had access to education. Blacks identified the importance of the vote as soon as they were freed from slavery and during the Reconstruction Era many Blacks from the South were elected to offices despite many obstacles. This era only lasted fourteen years, from 1863 to 1877.

The obstacles to the vote as well as other advances were blocked. The Klu Klux Klan was established in 1865 which began a new era in the nation. One state, Mississippi, the Blacks paid taxes and supported one state agency, the Mississippi Sovereignty Council which maintained the laws of discrimination of the state, especially against Blacks. This agency continued openly through most of the 1960s. Many other states had laws that also limited access to voting by Blacks. (Cont. on pg. 4)
Make your Vote Count!

your VOTE is your VOICE

"If you cut your chains you free yourself. If you cut your roots you die"

African Proverb
Nguzo Saba

The Seven Principles

Umoja ▲ Unity
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia ▲ Self-Determination
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima ▲ Collective Work and Responsibility
To build and maintain our community together and make our brother’s and sister’s problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa ▲ Cooperative Economics
To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia ▲ Purpose
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba ▲ Creativity
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani ▲ Faith
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Dr. Maulana Karenga
Creator of Kwanzaa
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