A Transformative Experience

Unmasking Policies and Politics: Strengthening the Black Family

Over 600 strong ~ NABSW’s 49th Annual Conference! Another Awesome Black Family Reunion! As much as I’d like, there is absolutely no way to summarize the days, the events, the camaraderie, the love, the knowledge, the affirmation, the sense of wholeness. I can simply say, “you just had to be there.” To some extent, it loses impact through translation. But I will try.

We started with a student reception, sponsored by Howard University, where context for our existence and worldview was provided among others by Dr. Shirley Better, one of our Founders, Baba Leonard Dunston, a past NABSW President and Dr. Rhonda Wells Wilbon, a previous instructor of NABSW’s Academy for African Centered Social Work. A groundbreaking discussion followed the next day with a luncheon hosted by Dr. Anna McPhatter, Dean of Morgan University’s School of Social Work and attended by social work professors from Morgan and Howard University and NABSW representatives to discuss an NABSW/HBCU partnership to assess challenges and opportunities in social services from the perspective of the Black community. Beginning steps were laid out and this alliance will continue in the months and years to come. Guided by Dr. Janice Davis of Howard University students worked on

(Continued on page 2)
a “Strengthening the Black Family Quilt” during the conference (pictured below) that was shown at the closing Harambee Ceremony.

As our luncheon speaker, Attorney Mawuli Davis reminded us that we were in our cultural space, a liberated space, and with that in mind, I reflect back to say we were in our protective bubble, living in our own standards of beauty and life experiences. We were in a safe space being acknowledged for our strength, our determination, our accomplishments our journeys and our history. What beauty to see us every day in our Afrocentric garb and verbal and spiritual expressions of Africa in us. Four glorious days where there was no need to explain ourselves because there was no misunderstanding of the greatness of our ancestry and who we are today. We shared four glorious days of living by our own standards, not anyone else’s. During four glorious days we were surrounded by the beauty of blackness. Workshop after workshop explored the various aspects of our existence and the historical insults to our being, our journey in all aspects of life, replete with our accomplishments. First time conferees were blown away with the power of unity, harmony, purpose and determination. Repeat conferences were there to soak up the love, the knowledge and the affirmation. By the time the dust settled after Dr. Claud Anderson’s keynote/history lesson at the Harambee Ceremony, all in attendance had been transformed.

This was a gathering like no other. The call to action, activism, healing and knowledge of self were such that the preamble to NABSW’s Code of Ethics, written nearly 50 years ago, remains ever powerful for Black people. “In America today, no Black person, except the selfish or irrational, can claim neutrality in the quest for Black liberation nor fail to consider the implication of the events taking place in our society” (NABSW Code of Ethics). Be sure to go to our website, www.nabsw.org, for a collage of pictures from this awesome event.

J. Toni Oliver, President
NABSW

“Strengthening the Black Family” quilt
Spiritual Awakening
From Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Hotep Family! I am honored to bring the spiritual awakening to you and ask for the permission of an elder to proceed. On behalf of the National Association of Black Social Workers’ President J. Toni Oliver and the National Conference Committee, we welcome you home my brothers and sisters as we celebrate together the 49th Annual Conference: Unmasking Politics & Policies: Strengthening the Black Family.

The context of our Black experience is rooted in this: We traversed America with the blood of our ancestors even as we stand here today with their blood pulsing through our veins; touched by The Warmth of Other Suns, sheltered by the brilliance of Moonlight we forged Underground to firmer ground now demanding equity for our continued opportunity. We are no longer complacent as Hidden Figures without due recognition of the contributions we have made to the world. Undeniably, the rich hues of our skin, the depth of our intellect and our tenacity to Get Out, up and over our respective life circumstances to forge ahead we continue to defy the odds of adversity. Our DNA remembers the majestic Empire of Mother Africa, the cradle of civilization.

We have traveled America from California past Selma to DC not peering over Fences, but hurdling them in a Race against time to bring better days sooner than later. We knocked it out of the park like 42, just a few short years ago when we helped shape a new symbol of hope that our ancestors could have only prayed to see----the possible. Yet another imprint of our many look at God moments inspired by the 44th President of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama, who lead the world just a few miles from where we stand today.

In homage to James Baldwin, let’s rally a cry together as you repeat after me------- I Am Not Your Negro-------we are no longer America’s negro! We trust you to Do the Right Thing and let every moment be food for the soul inciting a spark to be intentional about your experience here all this week to go beyond the space of this conference to your respective homes to help strengthen the black family! I leave you with the poetry of Langston Hughes:

The night is beautiful, so the faces of my people
The stars are beautiful, so the eyes of my people
Beautiful, also, is the sun.
Beautiful, also, are the souls of my people.

Jataun J. Rollins, AM LCSW
Communication Information Committee Co-chair
cic@nabsw.org
Conference Reflection

I was most encouraged by the energy of our students and emerging professionals who gave me life in addition to all the wonderful people I met at conference. As a member of the Communication Information Committee, I had the pleasure of meeting so many people who stopped by the CIC table to take a picture in front of the NABSW Step and Repeat. Lakeisha and Brittany of Baltimore and Ayawole and Maria from the East Coast were all first timers and were very excited about what their first conference experience was like. Maria said that she wasn't raised by her parents to know her history and she had to come to this conference to learn it; and, it is amazing. She said in turn that my sharing of my conference experience was giving her the chills and making her even more excited about being present. Ayawole agreed that she was having an awesome conference experience, and I observed she rocked a different contemporary African outfit daily.

Lakeisha and Brittany stated that last year, they attended the CWSE conference and were in great anticipation of what this conference was going to be like since they were told it wouldn't be like CWSE. NABSW did not disappoint in the DMV at all. I wished I would have exchanged business cards with all of them. I know Lakeisha is the President of the Morgan State University student chapter. I celebrated with her how fantastic it was to have 29 student members from a chapter which was only affiliated with NABSW last fall and that 15 of their student members were in attendance. That is absolutely what's up, so we must be doing something right after 49 years. The young continue to be our lifeline keeping us relevant!

Jataun J. Rollins, AM LCSW
Communication Information Committee Co-chair
cic@nabsw.org

A family is like a forest, when you are outside it is dense, when you are inside you see that each tree has its place. ~ African Proverb
Congratulations!!!
Kwanzaa100 Reaches Epic Giving Level
49th Annual Conference

National Harbor, MD – Asante Sana (Thanks) to the donors of the Kwanzaa100 Campaign especially those who contributed at the 2017 Conference at the Gaylord Hotel and Resort in National Harbor. The Fund Development Committee is pleased to report that $12,000 was received in pledges and $8,000 in payments for a grand total of $20,000!! We are truly indebted to our $1200, $1000 and $500 donors for their generosity and payment at the Conference. Wow!!

The Fund Development Committee proposed a 3-year plan to raise new monies for NABSW that was approved for implementation by six national committees. The funds are earmarked to support the operations of the national office and assist with the maintenance and repairs sustained from the 2011 Earthquake. Kwanzaa100—one of several strategies presented—debuted at the 2015 October SCM in New Orleans as an annual membership campaign asking each member to pledge AND pay at least $100/ year for three years. Approximately $3300 was generated at that ONE meeting. The first year (2016) ended with $18,000 in pledges but only $9K was realized in payments.
Kwanzaa100 Reaches Epic Giving Level
49th Annual Conference (continued)

Kwanzaa100 pledges can be made online at www.nabsw.org by clicking on the Kwanzaa100 Banner or mailed directly to the National Office. Donations are tax-deductible. Individual giving levels are Pillar at $100; Sphinx at $200; and Pyramid at $500 or above. Please accept our apologies for any errors or omissions in the Conference Souvenir Journal. Reach us at funddevelopment@nabsw.com for corrections, ideas, suggestions or comments.

Much love to the Fund Development Committee Co-Chair John Gordon of Charlotte and members Sharon Bomar of Atlanta; Renata Jones of Richmond; Anntinette Williams of D.C.; and Randy Sandler of Chicago. Stay tuned for the launching of the NABSW e-store.

Emma McGraw Myers, MSW
Fund Development Chair
funddevelopment@nabsw.org

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart."
Confucius-Chinese Philosopher
Attendees
Speakers and Award Recipients
Central Indiana Chapter Update

Greetings from CIC:

Our chapter has been meeting once a month and at our meetings for the year have had CEU provided in-services on various topics such as “Ethics and Culturally Relevant SW practice”, and “Providing Home Based Service to Black Families”.

To date we have 50 members who renewed or joined. President Dayvid Brown and VP Catina Anderson worked extremely hard to insure our members were enrolled timely and accurately. This ultimately led to the Chapter (for our size) securing the most members; and receiving recognition at the 49th Conference in DC and plaque for the National Chapter Award for Membership. Way to go CIC!

49th Conference Highlights

- We registered 8 students and 10 regular and 1 senior members for conference-a total of 19!
- Our student members Jalen and Terrance were nominated and selected to serve on the OSA Board! Congratulations to our young men for taking on this awesome responsibility.
- Asante Sana to outgoing OSA representatives Lakisha Johnson, and Klaudia Rogers who served tirelessly this past year. We are proud of you.
- Lakisha Johnson also received a National Individual Service Award for her efforts and service to CIC and on a national level.
- Renee Vaughn, a board member for CIC, received rave reviews and nicknamed NABSW’s and CIC “Hidden Figures” from our National President for her dual role as a scientist/researcher and social worker, who presented the research aspects of Alzheimer’s as a panelist for the Health and Wellness symposium on this same topic, which was co-facilitated by Frankye Johnson, CIC founder and board member, as well as National Health and Wellness Co-Chair.
Central Indiana Chapter (CIC) Update (continued)

Upcoming Event

CIC annual Juneteenth Celebration: June 16th 9am-12:15 pm- Multicultural Conference: “Social Justice: Enacting Human Rights for All People”. Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, DPH, LMSW, AP and Past National President of NABSW. Check our Facebook page for more information at: Association of Black Social Workers Central Indiana Chapter Inc. Juneteenth Celebration and Honoring our Graduates Ceremony (members only) 2-5pm.

Frankye E. Johnson, MSW
ABSW Houston Chapter Update:  
Texas Southern University Law School  
Child Welfare Forensics Conference

The Coalition for the Preservation of the Black Family (CPBF) partnered with the Texas Southern University Law School's Earl Carl Institute for a 2-day Child Welfare Forensics Conference held on April 27 & 28, 2017. There were many partnered-groups who participated, supported and engaged with community members at the Law Center. We continue to promote, strategize, and inform via this ongoing dialogue and educational forum called, "Strategies to Save our Children". The local ABSW Houston Chapter coordinated this community event to highlight many of the issues of injustice, despair, and civil violations within the Child Welfare and Kinship care systems with the TX Southern Law School. This 15-hour CEU event was well received and professionally delivered by providing an arena to discuss, problem-solve, and provide insight to many in the audience, with varied conflict and unresolved issues related to "our children". The opportunity to share, discuss, and dialogue with our community was well-received and was evident.

Many of our Speakers were noteworthy and with distinguished credentials: Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts our Facilitator, Sisters Donna Ossorio, Sherrie Simmons-Horton, both Doctoral Students at Prairie View University in Juvenile Justice education, Deborah Green, President of the local Black Child Development Institute of Houston, Ms. T'wala Lochner, Vice President of BCDI Houston, Ms. Deveeta Porter, Vice President of the local ABSW Chapter, along with our special guest, National President Toni Oliver, of the Atlanta Chapter. We extend our sincere appreciation for their roles, support and commitment. The event was organized and coordinated by Sister Pamela Williams Muhammad (local attorney) another outstanding presenter and Sister Sondera Malry of ABSW Houston (served as the Moderator for day 2).

It was a house with many voices where lots of issues were addressed and heard. "We stand Strong for our Children". Congratulations to the many families for their resilience and endurance. We continue to invest in our community.......If not us, who will?

Sondera Malry  
Association of Black Social Workers-Houston
New Orleans ABSW Chapter Update

NOABSW has been making its presence known in the community over the last few months. Members have been involved in several activities to promote the platform of positive health and mental health. In March, NOABSW participated in a community health fair where literature was given out and discussed on topics of depression, stress, and other mental health related areas. Currently, we are undergoing a six week series with a community organization where NOABSW members are lecturing and educating in areas of health and mental health. Some topics are HIV and mental health, depression, and PTSD to name a few. In June, NOABSW will observe its Founder’s Day and celebrate Juneteenth with a local church where a panel discussion will take place addressing matters of health, mental health, community activism, and spirituality.

NOABSW has also completed a community resource manual which details information for African-American providers in the areas of, but not limited to physical health, mental health, child care, nutrition, etc. The resource manual also lists tips for relieving stress, healthy eating recipes, and touches on ways to live, maintain, and balance a healthy lifestyle. NOABSW was well represented at the 49th NABSW conference. We had 25 members in attendance with many being presenters. They were Stephanie Jackson, National Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Ben Robinson, Edgar Blanchard and Harold Doty. Presentations were also done by Larry and Cynthia Hayes, Mellissa Haley, Devaughn, and Janice Eugene. We were especially proud of Dillard ABSW student Julia Hendrieth who ran for Office of Student Affairs (OSA) President and won.

Also we had two of our members, Sheryan Roberts and Stephanie Jackson, receive the NABSW Individual Member Award for Service. The conference was truly a great experience, and we are looking forward to the 50th in San Diego.

Shenelle Sansom, MSW
Good News!!!

Lawsuit alleges CPS discrimination

Case accuses Texas foster care, adoption agency of bias against African-Americans

By Gabrielle Banker

A federal civil rights suit in Houston accuses Child Protective Services of discriminating against African-American children, saying they are likelier to be separated from their parents and extended families than white children.

The suit was filed earlier this year by an Arizona woman who was denied custody of a young nephew, who instead was approved for adoption by a white foster family in Houston.

The suit brought a group of community activists Tuesday to the federal courthouse in Houston, where they decried generations of “robbed and stolen opportunities for kinship families” through what they contend is a pattern of discrimination by CPS.

The paternal aunt, Marvi Moore, was granted custody of one nephew, now 4, who was removed from his family. But CPS denied her custody of the boy’s little brother, now 3, and instead facilitated his adoption to the foster family.

Neither Moore nor the boys were at the courthouse Tuesday, but the children’s birth mother, Tisha Hunter, stood along the sidelines with a 3-year-old daughter watching. She said she had not been invited to the event.

But the emphasis was on the bigger picture—that black children living in poverty are over-represented in the child welfare system and are denied placements with other family members more frequently than other children in the system.

Minister Robert B. Muhammad, of the Muhammad Mosque No. 49, said the agencies are destroying black communities.

“The behavior of what’s going on in the black community...”

Prosecutors

ID law to see change

SB 5 would allow for use of outdated, approved documents

By Bobby Cervantes

AUSTIN — After a six-hour debate, the Texas House voted Tuesday to overhaul the state’s 2011 voter ID law, among the strictest in the nation, but before adding major changes to the Senate-backed legislation that has emerged as one of the top priorities for lawmakers in the session’s last week.

A legal challenge from Democrats is likely if the bill clears the Legislature, as expected, and is signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott.

While the Senate defeated voter ID, the Senate moved ahead on passage of dozens of pieces of legislation Tuesday and negotiations continued on several key pieces of legislation still bottled up by controversy, including a major property tax reform measure and the so-called “bathroom bill.”

As approved by the Senate on a 26-5 vote, Senate Bill 5 would allow a voter to present an outdated ID from a list of approved documents if it has been expired no longer than four years. The Senate version includes a two-year limit. However, no similar time limit applies to voters who are at least 70 years old; they would be able to use an accepted

ID 5 continues on A4
Good News!!! (cont.)

**State seeks dismissal of woman’s lawsuit**

State from page A3

is how our children are being traded in foster care for money,” he said. apologizing for his strong language. “Modern-day slavery is going on down at the family courthouse. Just peel this onion back and you’ll find...”

Among the other groups that came together Tuesday to draw attention to the issue were A Second Chance, which focuses on kinship care; Black Administrators in Child Welfare; the National Association of Blacks in Social Work and Black Lives Matter.

Pamela Williams, Moore’s attorney in the federal suit, said she believes race influences decisions around the country, not just in the case involving her client.

“When the child’s relatives stepped forward to actually bring the child home into the loving environment, she was refused and instead the child was given to a white family,” she said. “You would never see CPS take a white child from a white family and place them with an unrelated black family when the state is more than likely to be placed in foster care than white and Hispanic children.

The lawsuit was filed against several state officials, including Hank Whitman of the Department of Family and Protective Services and Gov. Greg Abbott, Harris County, and several Harris County employees, all named as defendants, including attorneys, who are named as judges in the case.

It names one contract worker, who is accused of aiding in the adoption by way of fabrications, deceptions, concealment of evidence, delay and abandonment of the relative placement process and wrongfully placing the child with a non-relative family seeking adoption.

State officials did not comment on the case other than to provide a copy of a motion filed in which the state asks the judge to dismiss Moore’s case, saying she doesn’t have a claim and the state is prejudiced by immunity.

State employees referred requests for comment to the state.

**Voter fraud allegations**

Staunut’s announcement comes amid allegations of rampant voter fraud, which have been used by Republican lawmakers across the country to trump up controversial Voter ID laws. President Donald Trump has blamed millions of people voted illegally for Hillary Clinton that was later proved with discriminatory intent and violated the federal voting rights law. She reached the same conclusion earlier this year after a federal appeals court rejected part of her ruling claiming the law amounted to an illegal poll tax.

Lawmakers are working on a revised version of the law, which Gov. Greg Abbott declared an emergency in the final days of the Texas legislative session.

Staunut said both Thomas and Johnson were election clerks hired to work the poll by the county at the recommendation of the Harris County Democratic Party.

**Rare conviction**

Lillie Schaffer, who was elected chair of the Harris County Democratic Party earlier year, said she was not familiar with the incident as she was not chair when the crime took place. But she said the party will continue to take “voter fraud very seriously” and prioritize poll-watching and voter suppression.

Both defendants were convicted of a felony, but pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge. The two were investigated after other clerks noticed the pair casting the ballot, Staunut said.

Staunut said that obtaining convictions on such crimes is rare. He said this month’s convictions were the most significant finding and prosecution of voter fraud in the last decade and a half.

The Texas Attorney General’s Office has received more than 700 reports of voter fraud since 2002, but has prosecuted only five since 2003.
The Triangle Association of Black Social Workers Presents

PREPARING TO

Take the Reins

READY, COMMITTED & WOKE

WE OUT HERE

OPENING KEYNOTE:
DENISE MCLANE-DAVISON PH.D., MSW.
ASSISTANCE PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK.
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY.

JUNE 17TH FROM 10AM - 3PM.
LOCATION: DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WYNN BUILDING (BUILDING #10)
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
REGISTRATION IS $15.

LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE SERVED
Central Indiana Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.

JUNETEENTH SEMINAR
"Social Justice: Enacting Human Rights For All People"

Friday, June 16, 2017  9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Audience: Diverse, Multi-Cultural, Interdisciplinary
Open to members and non-members

Location: Indiana Interchurch Center
1100 West 42nd Street – Krannert Room. Indianapolis, IN 46208

Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts,
Dr.P.H., LMSW-AP
Past National President of NABSW
Adjunct Professor of Social Work,
Texas Southern University

Social Justice Activists Panel:
- Yecenia Tostado, MPA; Senior Program Director, Indiana Latino Institute
- Brian C. Reeder, OWDS; Chief of Staff, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department
- Jennifer Smith, MSW, LCSW; Assistant Director,
  Social Justice, Mental & Behavioral Health at University of Indianapolis
- David Reed, MSW, LCSW, CSAYC; Child Advocates, Inc., Guardian ad Litem, Custody & Conflict Program
- Pastor James C. Anyike, MDiv; Scott United Methodist Church; Soul Liberation Radio

Registration: Members - CEUs included $20.00 plus PayPal fee
NASW Members - CEUs included $30.00 plus PayPal fee
Non-Members - CEUs available $40.00 plus PayPal fee

Register by June 5th – Email us to request a PayPal invoice:

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