WE’VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH

It was January 21, 2017. An estimated 500,000 descended on the nation’s capital. About 100,000 were expected. The camera shifted to Chicago where about 10,000 were expected. As protesters continued to assemble, the crowd was finally estimated as at least 100,000. The news media seemed grappled to make sense of what happened; and then switch to the streets of NYC, news reporters tried to make it through the crowds and estimating from an aerial view at least 250,000. While local rallies were encouraged, no one seemed to know what to make of the growing swells of solidarity rallies that moved across the country. As the sun rose, split screens began to project camera shots panning through crowds and aerial views in Boston, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Memphis, Denver, Las Vegas, St. Paul, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Honolulu, Anchorage – all with the same story – a few were expected but tens to hundreds of thousands showed up – over a million. Contrary to false news reports by the new President’s Press Secretary of low reporting and comparable numbers in attendance at the inauguration the day before, by the time the clock struck high noon on the West Coast, media accounts revealed anti-Trump protest rallies were happening in all 50 states, 600 cities and 7 continents. The low cumulative estimate was 2.6 million. http://heavy.com/news/2017/01/womens-march-on-washington-list-of-cities-states-participating-where-location-time-full-complete-links/

(Continued on page 2)
While heads shake trying to make sense of this groundswell of protest; how it happened; why it happened, what WE know, is that this model of protest & rebellion dates back to Nat Turner and continues today with Black Lives Matter… Don’t get it twisted.

So, if you had a question about what the new President stands for, you must know by now that just hours after his inauguration he signed executive orders to allow governments to deny, waive, defer, etc., provisions of Obamacare thought to be “burdensome” and overturn a recent mortgage-fee reduction geared at helping first-time and low-income home buyers. The civil rights page, the website protecting people with disabilities, all mentions of LGBT issues, the policy page on climate change, the page the whitehouse.gov/espanol (to give better access to Spanish speaking citizens) and the page protecting people with disabilities were all removed from the While House website (www.whitehouse.gov).

It goes without saying that this Presidency will be unpredictable, to say the least. The President elect has no prior experience in government and has shown he lacks knowledge about how the three branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial) work. Speculated names of the new Cabinet is replete with white men who have clearly demonstrated racism and bigotry in their work and words and family members who, like him, have no experience in governmental affairs.

A new day is dawning. People get ready. Don’t need no baggage, you just get on board. Walk together children, don’t you get weary.

To borrow a quote that appears to have been written by Greek poet, Dinos Christianopoulos, and now referred to as a Mexican proverb, “they tried to bury us. They didn’t know were seeds.” Keep growing my sisters and brothers. Keep growing together, strong and buffered by Umoja ~ Unity, Kujichagulia ~ Self Determination, Ujima ~ Collective Work and Responsibility, Ujamaa ~ Cooperative Economics, Nia ~ Purpose. Kuumba ~ Creativity, and Imani ~ Faith. We don’t need to look outside of ourselves for strength or direction. WE have all the tools we need.

Oh, Ob, Ob, can’t turn around. We’ve come this far by faith.

J Toni Oliver, President
NABSW
Spiritual Awakening: Spiritual Call to the Ancestors

Having been called and answered to many names, in many languages, making possible everything that has been, is and shall be, we acknowledge the omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience of our Creator in asking our Ancestors to join us.

As a people whose ancestry parallels the dawn of mankind, we have a unique perspective: the ability to simultaneously look both inward and outward at the course of human existence. In the 1968 footsteps of our Founders, approaching 50 years of struggle for liberation, we must re-claim, reaffirm, and reconstitute their words: “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 implications of the events taking place in our society.”

We ask that the wisdom of our Ancestors guide us in manifesting that, “When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them…”

We seek ancestral guidance in refuting this Nation’s not self-evident yet continued, and now very precipitous claim of self-evident truths that “…all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

As advocates for the relief of our suffering, we are ethically and morally bound by the statement of ideals and guiding principles our Founders set forth. We must embrace Afrikan consciousness as a precondition to any actions toward collective self-determination and cooperative improvement of our quality of life, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY!

Adupe Ariku Baba Wa, (In the Spirit of the Ancestors)

Written by Cheikh Ahmadou Banba Mbacké
The New York City Chapter was incorporated in 1967, therefore, 2017, marks our 50th Anniversary. Several events are being planned to celebrate this milestone.

In December of 2016, the Chapter elections were held. The newly-elected and re-elected officers were installed on January 16, 2017. The ceremony was conducted by Sister Velma Banks and Sister Patricia Jenkins- Lewis who are both pioneers of the New York City Chapter.

Year 2016, was closed out with two community projects. A Kwanzaa toy drive was held for children served by two community agencies. Additionally, toys were collected for students attending a local public school’s pre-k program. The Clarke -Atlanta, New York, alumni joined us to make this effort a great success.

A community workshop was also offered during December. The chapter and several legal volunteers, organized by Judge Milton Tingling, partnered to offer individuals with past criminal records the opportunity to apply for Certificates of Relief and Certificates of Good Conduct. The positive feedback received from participants indicated a need for us to sponsor this workshop again in 2017.

The New York City ABSW wishes all our NABSW Family members a Blessed and Healthy 2017.
SSUABSW Update

In Fall 2016, under the Faculty Advisement of Drs. Felicia Tuggle and Linda Samuel and a tenacious MSW student by the name of Joy Smalls, Savannah State University became a new affiliate member of NABSW. To celebrate its establishment the newly established Savannah State University Association of Black Social Workers (SSUABSW) held a Pre-Kwanzaa celebration and General Interest Mixer on November 30, 2016. During the mixer the inaugural Executive Board shared the history of NABSW, the vision for SSUABSW, and meaning and importance of the Nguzo Saba with student attendees. During the event, the E-Board launched their #Founding10 membership campaign. The #Founding10 membership campaign is a time limited membership drive designed to recruit the minimum number of students (10) needed to be recognized as a full affiliate chapter of NABSW. #Founding10 members will receive a limited edition SSUABSW polo t-shirt and their names will be placed on a commemorative SSUABSW plaque that will hang in Department of Social Work office suite.

In addition to launching the membership campaign, SSUABSW’s executive leadership has also scheduled three major fundraisers for the Spring 2017 semester. In January they will host a 50/50 raffle, in March they will host a yard sale, and in April they will begin selling their 2017-2018 academic calendar honoring and spotlighting notable African Americans on the SSU campus and in the community at large. Additionally, the chapter has already identified several service projects they will complete to honor and uplift African American communities around Savannah. These fearless and energetic young student leaders are proving they are #SMART #BOLD #PROUD and #SeriouslyImpressive
Houston ABSW Chapter Update

Over 10 affinity partnered-Groups participated, supported, and engaged with over 200 community members at the Shape Community Center on December 11 to promote, strategize, and hold a 2 hour dialogue and educational forum called, "Strategies to Save our Children". The local ABSW Houston Chapter hosted and coordinated this community event to highlight many of the issues of injustice, despair, and civil violations within the Child Welfare and Kinship care systems.

This 2-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: Rev Dr. Brother Robert Muhammad, Regional Chair of the Nation of Islam; Sister Krystal (Chairwoman of the New Black Panther Party); Brother Dewayne Evans of the radio-talk show, "Conscious Mind"; and Kalen Y’isra’el (of the Local Organizing Committee of Houston); Dr. Derek Wilson, President of the local Association of Black Psychologists of Houston (ABPsi); and the local Black Child Development Institute of Houston, our sincere appreciation for their roles and support. The event was organized and coordinated by Sister Pamela Williams Muhammad (local attorney) and Sister Sondera Malry of ABSW Houston.

It was a full house, and many voices were heard. We continue to "fight the good fight" and know that "We stand Strong for our Children". We will keep you all abreast of issues, as we move forward. Congratulations to the many families for their resilience and endurance.

Asante Sanas was rendered to all for coming out and "giving of yourselves" for such a worthy cause as we kicked-off our Kwanzaa celebration season. We continue to invest in our community....If not us, who will?

Sondera Malry
Association of Black Social Workers-Houston
In December, 2016 the DU Association of Black Social Workers was formally introduced to the Dillard University New Orleans students, faculty and staff with the induction of 13 members including the association officers Julia Hendrieth, President, Saccora Gris vice president, Dominique Dickerson, Secretary, Shavonna Austin, Treasurer and Jasmine Battee as Founding President. The induction ceremony was conducted by the New Orleans Chapter of Black Social Workers and was a great success. During the Fall, 2016 Semester the group participated in the DU Social Science Symposium, the DU Open House, and Breast Cancer Awareness and Take Back the Night - Domestic Violence Awareness Activities.

The DU Association of Black Social Workers have six events scheduled for the Spring 2017 which are Poetry on the Oaks for Valentine's Day February 14, Bleu Devils Classic AIDS Prevention Outreach, February 18; A Black History Bleu Devil Scavenger Hunt February 21. Women’s HIV/AIDS Forum on MArch 7. We have also created an event our fellow classmates are able to gain community service, The Second Food Harvest on April 8th Time:1-3. We will be working with the DU Clothes Closet to engage member of the community to support the clothes closet. We want these events and activities will not only promote association but engage with our fellow Bleu Devils to reach out to each other and the local community. Should you have questions or want to support the activities contact Julia Hendrieth at julia.hendrieth@dillard.edu.
Reminder!

Deadline for “early bird” registration: March 10, 2017
For more information, go to www.nabsw.org.

National Association of Black Social Workers

Unmasking Politics & Policies
Strengthening the Black Family

49th Annual Conference
Washington, DC
April 11-15, 2017
International Relations Report

COMMITTEE NAME: International Relations Committee (IRC)

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON (S): Cheikh Mbacke

CONTACT INFO (email/phone): Cheikh44@sbcglobal.net / (313) 549-1365

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Angela Jenkins, Baba Kubwa Kweku (Willie Davis), Angela Yarde, and Onaje Muid

New York Michigan Boston Philadelphia

REPORTING PERIOD: (Report must be submitted by two (2) weeks prior to SCM)

Date:
September Progress Report
X December Progress Report
March Progress Report
June Progress Report

DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE (Per the Constitution)
The International Relations Committee shall be responsible for establishing ties and relations with Black people throughout the world. It will recommend to the Steering Committee such actions, programs, and steps it deems necessary to bring about a stronger bond of cooperation and unity with Embassies, social justice, trade and educational missions of African, Caribbean and South American countries with sizeable Black populations. All efforts will be designed in keeping with our Code of Ethics.

COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The goals of the most recently revised IRC Work Plan includes:

- Establishing formal contacts throughout the African Diaspora, Maintaining, supporting, and monitoring relationships throughout the Africa Diaspora for on-going contact and longevity of positive relationships,

The IRC Objectives are:

- To facilitate relationships with countries (which acknowledge their African ancestry) throughout the Caribbean, Continental Americas, and Continental Africa,
- To monitor events and communicate needs when African Diaspora crisis occurs,
- To serve as liaison to provide support to the proposed locations and increase NABSW’s membership and service areas, and
- To develop and build upon relationships among people throughout the African Diaspora.

2. COMMITTEE INFORMATION, PROJECTS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
Progress will be monitored via identifying and reestablishing contacts with countries previously visited by the IEC, database creation, and monthly updates to committee webpage. The IRC will collaborate with the Crisis Preparedness, IEC, and Membership committees.

◊ For Quarterly Report
The IRC continued work on a process to enable NABSW and the IRC to receive, manage, and respond to international inquiries in a more effective and timely manner.

The IRC Chair was in discussion with the President regarding international chapters, and individual membership. That work remains in process.
3. PROJECTED ACTION FROM THIS REPORTING PERIOD TO THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:

◊ The IRC finalized and coordinated the IRC convened gathering during the October SCM in Washington. Mel Foote, President and CEO, of Constituency for Africa (CFA) participated as the luncheon speaker and has agreed to move planning forward on work with NABSW through the IRC.

◊ The IRC assisted the IEC with identifying contacts in Ghana for the 2017 IEC. Working with the CFA, we were able to connect the IEC with: Rosa Whitaker, who now lives in Accra. Formerly she was the US Trade Representative for Africa, and is widely known as the “Mother of the African Growth and Opportunity Act” (AGOA); also identified were the Honorable Ekwow Spio-Garbrah, who most recently was Ghana’s Minister of Trade. He also was formerly Ghana’s Ambassador to Washington, and current Ghana Ambassador, Erieka Bennett. Ghana’s Ambassador to Washington, H.E. Henry Smith was also a suggested contact.

◊ The IRC also collaborated with US contacts for Friends of the Congo for 2017 activities recognizing the Assassination of Patrice Lumumba.

◊ IRC efforts to establish contacts with US Ambassador to African Diaspora countries, African Diaspora Ambassadors to US, and Human services agencies, and NGO’s continue through the contacts also initiated for the IEC.

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL CONSIDERATION:

The IRC is in the early planning stage for the development, inclusion, and promotion of themes, events, speakers, and activities with International, Pan-Afrikan, and/or the Afrikan Diaspora as a specific national conference focus. The IRC also recommends the development of an IRC FAQ for the website for informational purposes.

January 27, 2017

Signature

Date Report Submitted
Afrikan Jegna Collective Report

COMMITTEE NAME: Afrikan Jegna Collective (AJC)
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON (5): Circle of Founders
CONTACT INFO (email/phone): cheikh44@sbcglobal.net/(313) 549-1365
COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Allen Powell, Anyika Nkululeko, Cheikh Mbacke’, John Gordon, Joseph Jones,
New York  Los Angeles  Detroit  Metrolina  Chicago
Julius Hayes, J. Vern Cromartie, Kenneth Green, Michael Guynn, Will Barnes, Leonard Dunston, Elder and Liaison.
Philadelphia  Bay Area  Hartford  Los Angeles  Chicago  Triangle ABSW
REPORTING PERIOD: (Report must be submitted by two (2) weeks prior to SCM)
Date:
X December Progress Report
DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE (Per the Constitution)
The Afrikan Jegna Collective (AJC) was created and developed based on the charge from President J. Toni Oliver in
2014 at the 46th Annual Conference in Indianapolis. The AJC was not in existence at the time of the most recent amend-
ment of the NABSW Constitution.
COMMITTEE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
Guided by the principles of Ma’at & Nguzo Saba, the NABSW Afrikan Jegna Collective is dedicated, as a goal, to
strengthening the Afrikan male spirit by utilizing OUR WAY, the ways of our Afrikan traditions. We are keenly aware
of the multiple wars (Maafa) which are waging against all Afrikan people. The NABSW Afrikan Jegna Collective is
committed to defeating the Maafa by developing male warriors who will perpetuate OUR WAY, the Afrikan culture for
thousands of seasons to come.
AJC Zamani Sasa (Vision-The termination of our now)
The NABSW Afrikan Jegna Collective envisions communities in which Afrikan men demonstrate strength, character,
and integrity by perpetuating their role in maintaining viable Afrikan families.
AJC Akoben (Call to Action -Mission)
The NABSW Afrikan Jegna Collective (AJC) accepts the challenge to develop Afrikan manhood while guided by the
NABSW Code of Ethics, the Cardinal Virtues of Ma’at, the Principles of the Nguzo Saba, and Our Way of the Jegna.
AJC Kazi (Work-Objectives)
- To establish an NABSW Afrikan Jegna Education and Training Academy;
- To develop flexible, universal models for Afrikan Manhood development;
- To define and strengthen the Afrikan male identity and spirit;
- To instill the Jegna Way to Afrikan manhood from birth to ancestry;
- To promote individual and collective self-determination; and
- To purposefully utilize an Afrikan-centered worldview.

2. COMMITTEE INFORMATION, PROJECTS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
The AJC made a condolence Zawadi to the family of Baba Lenny following the transition of his wife, Mama Gladys
Dunston.
The AJC conference journal ad was reviewed, approved, and submitted.
This year the AJC has developed two (2) 5x7 information cards to be included in conferee bags.
The 2017 conference Founders Circle will feature a film preview of “Live Young Blood” which was produced by
Bobby Marvin Holmes, who became involved with the AJC after being introduced by Dr. Denise Davison, his
Morgan State professor.
The AJC Annual Calendar has been reviewed and updated in addition to our 2017 operating budget. Revision and refinement work on the SBA Healing Tools will also continue. AJC proposals for a 2017 conference workshop and Founders Circle activity were submitted and have been accepted. A writing team has been established and has convened to identify and assign work on the AJC Model manual. A formal name for the model/manual is under consideration. Research for model/manual copyrighting, and printing/publication has resumed. The AJC application has been revised to allow for enrollment at any time throughout the year. This will allow participants to more easily manage their individual learning plan and pace once paired with an assigned AJC member.

3. PROJECTED ACTION FROM THIS REPORTING PERIOD TO THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD:
- Work to increase exposure for “Live Young Blood” film.
- Decide on a formal name for the model/manual.
- Follow-up research for model/manual copyrighting, and printing/publication.
- Create viable plan for circulation and distribution of the revised AJC application.
- Planning for AJC 2017 Retreat.

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS FOR NATIONAL CONSIDERATION:
The AJC continues to be open to participating in a collaborative, cooperative effort to develop a counterpart to the AJC for development and healing of Afrikan women and girls.

Signature January 27, 2017
Date Report Submitted

A Luta Continua
The struggle continues
40th International Education Conference
***GHANA with an extension to MOROCCO***
Main Conference: Ghana ONLY - August 4th - 11th 2017
Main Conference with extension to Morocco - August 4th – 14th 2017

60 years of Ghanaian Independence: Returning to our Roots!

http://www.ghananewsagency.org/features/has-our-independence-served-its-purpose-101513
http://ghnetwork.org/tag/global-health/

**GHANA ONLY**
Entry/exit visas: $70
Access Africa: $50
Total: $120

$3725 per person, double occupancy
$4275 per person, single occupancy

**GHANA + Extension to MOROCCO**

To go to the conference event page, click EVENT PAGE, for registration, click REGISTRATION
For more information call the National Office at (202) 678-4570