NABSW Guiding Principles 2010-2012

SESA WO SUBAN

“Change or transform your character “
Symbol of life transformation
This symbol combines two separate adinkra symbols, the “Morning Star” which can mean a new start to the day, placed inside the wheel, representing rotation or independent movement.

Vision Statement
The restoration of African People to our traditional greatness in the areas of human relations, economics and moral leadership worldwide is our prime vision.

Mission
The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc., comprised of people of African ancestry, is committed to enhancing the quality of life and empowering people of African ancestry through advocacy, human services delivery, and research.

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. will work to create a world in which people of African ancestry will live free from racial domination, economic exploitation, and cultural oppression. In collaboration with national, international, and other appropriate groups, NABSW will continue to leverage its collective expertise to strategically develop capacity of people of African ancestry to sustain and flourish. NABSW’s vision is guided by the Principles of the Nguzo Saba, which are Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith, and the Eight Cardinal Principals of Ma’at, which are, Truth, Justice, Righteousness, Order, Reciprocity, Balance, Harmony and Propriety.

Objectives
- To relieve suffering wherever it is found in the African Community regardless of geographical and political boundaries.
- To teach MAAT, as an ethical system, the Cardinal Virtues as a behavioral system and the Principles of the Nguzo Saba as a practical daily system of living.
- To cure African People of self-hatred, so as to restore emotional and physical health.
- To establish healing rituals for NABSW members to produce Black Social Workers prepared to heal.
The National Association of Black Social Workers is the premier social work organization in our profession. We move ever forward by learning from our past (Sankofa) while making our future ever brighter. This Report will demonstrate that NABSW overcomes all challenges and as an organization uses these challenges as gates of opportunity.

2012 demonstrated that the Black Community could and can work together for common causes. The reelection of Barack Obama, our nation's first President of African descent, demonstrates that black organizations and individuals coalescing can, not only, turnout the largest black electorate ever, but also have demonstrated the ability to triumph over those who would suppress us. This is the spirit of Umoja and Harambee, which has been and is fostered and nurtured by NABSW. It is in that spirit that NABSW and our affinity organizations is tackling hurricane Sandy and smaller hurricanes in the Gulf. Two of our New York Chapters are spearheading the combined effort in Far Rockaway and supporting efforts in Canarsie and Coney Island. We will accept no more "Katrina’s" or minimal effort to relieve suffering on behalf of our people.

As an organization our stature rises through the work of our Executive Committee, Steering Committee Representatives, Committees, Subcommittees and most especially our local Chapters. It is rare that your work goes unmentioned. In the numerous conference calls both within and outside of our organization, your work is touted with the highest praise. In all things, NABSW is excelling in our work and exceeding expectations. This is a tribute to all in our organization. There is no limit to what we can and must accomplish. We are moving positively to make our ancestors and our children proud of what we do on behalf of our people.
NABSW Officers 2012

NEA OPE SE OBEDI HENE
"He who wants to be king."

Symbol of service and leadership
From the expression "Nea ope se obedi hene daakye
no, firi ase sue som ansa" meaning "He who wants to
be king in the future must first learn to serve."
Source: Cloth As Metaphor by G.F. Kojo Arthur.

Joe E. Benton, National President
Columbia, SC

J. Toni Oliver, National Vice President
Atlanta, GA

Tracy L. Golliday-Champagne, National Recording Secretary
Detroit, MI

Sondera Malry, National Corresponding Secretary
Houston, TX

Connie Watson, National Treasurer
Los Angeles, CA

Dayvid H. Brown, Member-at-Large
Indianapolis, IN

Dr. Yvonette Murrell Powell, Member-at-Large
San Diego, CA

Zakia Pugh, Office of Student Affairs National President
Bryn Mawr College
Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Gloria Batiste-Roberts, Immediate Past National President
Missouri City, TX
The symbol Akoben is in recognition that our people should be vigilant and wary of our environment. It is also the horn that calls us to action. We are in a war with many facets, but many of our people do not know it. The war is for our self-determination, as a people. Regardless of place, whether within the borders of the United States, its territories, and our neighbors in North and South America, the Caribbean, Asia and Mother Africa, people of Africa ancestry are struggling and disproportionately involved in all negative aspects of existence. We are too poor, too physically unhealthy, more likely to be involved and imprisoned in the criminal and juvenile justice systems, less likely to seek mental health and healing resources and in too many instances less educated than those around us. All of this did not happen by chance and though many organizations have been around much longer than NABSW, it is our organization, NABSW that has taken the lead to address these and other problems confronting our community.

**SPREADING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE**

The year 2012 was a culmination of programs started in 2011, which would make us more efficient and begin the process of modernization of our communications efforts. Membership cards and other key inefficiencies no longer dominate conversations during this calendar year. Instead, our organization began to discuss matters of substance and need both within our organization and in our Black Communities. How we prepare for emergencies, develop new partnerships and improve our communications became our major movement for the year.

As we became known for developing professional emergency preparedness plans, we were invited to assist the American Psychiatric Association in developing plans and mental health programs, for the US Virgin Islands, who had recently lost its largest employer. This was a joint effort between the APA, Black Psychologist, Black Psychiatrist of America, and Black Social Workers. Most of the presidents or higher officials of these organizations went to St. Croix in order to better understand the problems. APA is continually seeking grants underwrite this effort. Internationally, we sent donations to Haiti, and during our International Education Conference in South Africa we donated enough clothes, toys and monies to two children’s homes for each, it is estimated, to thrive for a month.

As we “workshopped” our way through South Africa, it was clear how closely we are connected to our people there and the aspirations are the same as ours. As we learned and spread our seeds of great work, our trip was interrupted by a special invitation from South Africa’s Parliamentary leader of the African National Congress. None other than the majority whip, Dr. Mathole Motsketga, invited all sixty of our group to dinner at Parliament. NABSW was offered and accepted membership in the African National Congress. NABSW granted Dr. Motsketga and the ANC membership into NABSW. It was a great and memorable occasion.
A highlight of the International Conference was when we, using modern technology teleconferenced one of our workshops from Johannesburg to Washington, DC, San Francisco and Columbia, SC. This was a first use of the prevailing technology that will be in use more and more in our activities and deliberations.

Our efforts of outreach, continued with interactions with our Chapters, other Black organizations through visits, words of welcome at conferences, speeches and workshops. We have continually worked to assist and support not only the efforts of NABSW, but also many of our affinity organizations. For example, NABSW was represented at the ASCAC regional conference in Augusta, GA at Paine College. ASCAC is the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations and is known for its continual research into our past history. We were the keynote speaker at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina addressing the entire student body and faculty of over 800 people. An address was delivered to the Benedict College graduating social work students encouraging them not to forget the needs of our people.

**OUR DECISIONS TODAY DECIDE WEALTH FOR OUR FUTURE**

What we decide to do with our monies in restricted and certificate of deposit accounts, can endow our organization with potential wealth to continue our missions into the future. At present, we are all aware of the low rates of return on passbook savings, money markets and CDs. Investment strategies for better rates of return have been discussed throughout the year, culminating with a two-hour workshop to prepare the Steering Committee to make informed decisions concerning our wealth. The goal is to double all monies, available to invest, in the next five years.

Decisions have been made to update our social networking potential. Work has started on developing a new website, a Fan book page and Twitter accounts. We believe the use the technology at hand will result in greater memberships, more chapters and a better means of communicating our message.

When we decided to restart the Academy of African Centered Social Work, we knew our social work community would be enhanced. Through the hard work of our new graduates, they learned of our glorious past, the thoughts and wisdom of our ancestors and practical means of utilizing new skills, first to better themselves and soon to provide better services to their clients and our community. This investment in people pays off and becomes part of NABSW’s wealth.

**VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

Deciding to take more African Centered approaches is an essential key to the survival of our people. Healthy people care and love themselves. We must continue to develop healthy people, mentally, physically and spiritually. Lost lives, poor health, unemployment and under employment, incarceration and other inhumane conditions take an undue toll on our community, but with the reclamation of our identities and better understanding of our culture and equity of opportunity our communities can thrive. Prudent investment in our people, our money, and our personal growth will uplift our people to a status of honor in the country and throughout the world. It is for these reasons we continue to be committed to NABSW’s mission, vision and code of ethics.
CHAPTERS ON THE MOVE

The lifeblood of NABSW is in its Chapters and the local work that they do on behalf of the organization in serving our people. We can only provide a snapshot of a few Chapters’ activities as an example of some of the work being done. We regret that space does not allow us to site all the activities of each Chapter and even all of the activities of Chapters sited. From Sandy Hook to Hurricane Sandy, the imprint of what we do demonstrates that NABSW lives up to its mission and commitment to serve our people.

Greater Akron ABSW collaborated with Ohio Organizers and Stop the Violence Initiative on July 16, 2012. Stop the Violence is a group of young adults who are conscious about the violence in Akron, Ohio area. Greater Akron ABSW talked about the concern to help find way to decrease the violence and discussed the organizational mission and history of NABSW. One hundred and five (150) people participated in this program that also kicked off the voter registration drive.

On August 13, 2012, Greater Akron ABSW collaborated with Akron AIDS Collaborative assisted in HIV teasing at the African American Cultural Festival. Twenty-nine (29) tests completed. Thirty (30) voter registration forms were completed. NABSW brochures with local chapter contact information were distributed.

Kudos to Andrew Wilson and Sondera Malry for their work and support of the newest chapter in Alexandria, Louisiana. Welcome Alexandria ABSW, we have heard of your work providing scholarships, reaching out to Grambling and luncheons, already.

Greater Metro GA ABSW coordinated participation with Recovery Associates in a community day of service on April 3, 2012, for conferees attending NABSW’s 45th Annual Conference in Atlanta. Volunteers received and orientation Morehouse College in the morning and testing occurred in the afternoon at the Sweet Auburn Community Center. One hundred and three people were tested and there was press conference coverage of the event.

Atlanta ABSW provided lunch, clothes and school supplies for 78 children living in low income housing projects.

The Buffalo ABSW is coordinating with the local NAACP to do community planning.

On September 24, 2012, Boston ABSW jointly sponsored a Luncheon with the Committee on Racial and Ethnic Affairs to promote networking and legislative interventions for social workers. Forty (40) people were in attendance.

Central Indiana ABSW was invited to participate with Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School in coordinating a peace rally calling for justice in the murder of Trayvon Martin on March 29, 2012, in solidarity with sympathizers around the county. Approximately 2000 people attended the rally.

On April 30, 2012, Marion County Public Health Department requested Central Indiana ABSW to collaborate on a conference on research on the impact and effect of HIV/AIDS in the African American community. Three hundred (300) people participated.

Chicago ABSW is moving closer toward its 100-membership goal and is assisting in starting chapters at the University of Illinois and reinstating a chapter Southern Illinois. In September 2012, Chicago ABSW was asked to participate in Voter Registration in the Streets. Two hundred fifty-five (255) people were registered.
On May 30, 2012, Greater Detroit ABSW was a collaborative partner with the Honorable Obama Bowl, a positive youth development program for youth between the ages of 9-12. Over 100 students, teachers, school administrators, community residents and families participated. The Greater Detroit Chapter, also, hosted the Michigan State and Mid-Western Regional conference in Detroit in November 2012.

On September 23, 2012 Hartford ABSW was invited to participate with WalMart and Faith Congregation Church in a voter education and voter registration drive where 86 people were registered to vote in the presidential and local elections. On September 15, 2012 Hartford ABSW co-sponsored the Give Me Shelter Walk-a-thon to raise money for the Immaculate Conception Shelter. One hundred twenty-five (125) participated in the walk. Roxanne Ellis-Denby was dispatched as one of the State’s Response Team to Sandy Hook Elementary School following the tragedy that occurred.

Houston ABSW provided Thanksgiving gift baskets and Kwanzaa gifts to nine families. Seeking to support establishing chapters in Austin and Dallas.

Jacksonville ABSW has been beyond busy with activities related to our 2013 national conference. It is a time consuming but important role for local conference committees to play in making our conference the best the nation has to offer.

Las Vegas ABSW has taken novel approaches to fundraising by have two yard sales and have forged new alliances with Black Bikers to do outreach the homeless and clothing drives.

New York and Nassau/Suffolk ABSWs have been sited on several occasions for their work in the underserved areas of the Sandy disaster. NABSW has taken the lead in the Far Rockaway section of New York and have coordinated in Canarsie and Coney Island with other Black organizations. The work of Black organizations, in the relief effort is getting much local and national attention.

In March and April, 2012 Philadelphia ABSW collaborated with the Fatherhood Initiative on two workshops on the inclusion of spirituality on client engagement and the impact of breast cancer and domestic violence on African American families. Twenty-three (23) human service professionals and community residents participated.

On August 25, Tri-County CA participated in a Back-to-School Fair and Voter’s Registration event that included approximately 3000 parents and children.

NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND HONORS
President Benton traveled to St, Croix, VI on February 12, 2012 a part of a 15 member delegation, representing 13 different Black national professional organization, to address unemployment and mental health services on the island.
On 8/13-24, 2012, NABSW’s 36th Annual International Education Conference took a delegation of 60 conferees from around the country to explore the history, culture, government and social services in South Africa. Generous monetary donations, clothing, medical and school supplies were given to the Orlando Children’s Home in Soweto and the Baphumelele Children’s Home in Khayelitsha orphanages.

NABSW’s relationship with Howard University created an unexpected invitation from the Majority Whip of the African National Congress, Dr.Mathole Motsketga, to the entire 60 people delegation to a State Dinner at the South African Parliament. President Benton presented Dr. Motsketga with a plaque for his service to our South African brothers and sisters and an honorary membership in NABSW. Dr. Motsketga in turn presented NABSW the status of being a full member of the African National Congress, an honor rarely given to non-South Africans.
2012 In Review
2012 In Review
2012 In Review