



## NCNW 57th Convention Highlights

**E**xcitement filled the air as the members and affiliates of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) gathered in Washington, DC for a three day National Convention that was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in our nation's capital, October 7-9. We embraced the spirits of our founders as we kicked off the 57th Biennial Convention with a theme that was so appropriate for the time in which we live, "Fortified by the Past...Focused on the Future".

Thirty of the thirty-two states where there are NCNW Sections arrived by car, bus, train and

plane. The convention was officially opened with a message from National Chair, Ingrid Saunders Jones, who reported that NCNW is *Alive, Well and Solvent* to enthusiastic applause. Ms. Jones emphasized that the convention would focus on strengthening organizational governance and the expected adoption of new bylaws. The bylaws were adopted after much detailed but polite discussion, which assiduously followed Roberts Rules of Order, thanks to Parliamentarian Peola McCaskill. The Opening Plenary was filled with excitement and an eagerness to serve.

Convention Co-Chairs Edna Moffitt, President of the The Continental Societies, Sandra Gadson, M.D., President of the AME Zion Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, and Lois Keith, incoming NCNW national Vice President and outgoing national Membership Chair, ably shared the podium with President Jones, bringing wit, grace and information.

Friday morning started early for the NCNW Board members with a wonderful breakfast and a Board meeting followed by the Presidents Luncheon which was held at the Grand Ballroom, Washington Marriott Hotel.

## NCNW 57th Convention Highlights (cont'd)



EDNA LEE MOFFITT SANDRA GADSON A. LOIS KEITH

Greetings and introductions were given by Ms. A. Lois Keith. Veteran lawyer and civil and human rights advocate Kim Gandy spoke of her close alliance with Dr. Dorothy Height and the need to continue to advocate for the right to vote and the personal safety of women. Delegates and guests were inspired by Gandy, who is CEO of NNEDV, National Network to End Domestic Violence. Former Delta Sigma Theta President, Ms. Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, Davida Mathis, Esq., and by Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner added their special gifts to the program.

*Four for the Future* has been the trademark of Jones' tenure as Chair of NCNW. Public policy in the areas of education, health, values and entrepreneurship were central to the Town Hall Meeting and the President's Luncheon. Venerable advocate for children,

Marian Wright Edelman, challenged a packed auditorium to do more to eliminate child poverty and raise educational levels for all children. Clark Atlanta University Ph.D. Crystal Hudson urged NCNW members

to participate in research aimed at improving African American attitudes toward financial investments. AmeriHealth Caritas Market President, Karen Dale M.S.N. addressed the health disparities that continue to plague African-American women. The panel discussion was moderated by Janice L. Mathis, Executive Director of NCNW.

The long opening day climaxed with a Young Adult Mixer that lasted past midnight, as collegiates led by Imara Canady of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation and former NCNW Intern Naima Jenkins, discussed the sober responsibility for managing one's own health status.

Delegates elected new officers who were sworn in by the Honorable Alexis M. Herman, former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton Administration, including: President Ingrid Saunders Jones, Vice Presidents Ruby Gibbs-Williams, E. Tonya Greenwood and A. Lois Keith, Youth Vice President Sharah Denton, Recording Secretary Deborah Walls Foster, Asst. Recording Secretary Cecelia Webb and Treasurer Beverly Beavers-Brooks. Seven (board) Members at Large were also elected: Thelma Daley, Sherrie Washington, Lynda Bagley, Cheryl D. Hughes, Marilyn Powell-Godette, Sandra Gipson and Paula McCraney. Remarkably, the new officers represent a geographic cross-section, hailing from Georgia, New Jersey, Virginia, New Mexico, North and South Carolina, Texas, Maryland, New York, California and Florida.

Inspiration was in great supply throughout the convention. Pat Harris, former McDonalds Global Chief Diversity Officer and convention sponsor, accepted the NCNW Lifetime Achievement Award, reminding the audience of the importance of making others feel important. April Ryan accepted the Trailblazer Award for her remarkable career



KIM GANDY



APRIL RYAN



PAT HARRIS

## NCNW 57th Convention Highlights (cont'd)



as author and White House correspondent for National Urban Radio. Ambassador Andrew Young told tales from President Jones' early career – indicating that she was central to the progress made in Atlanta, even as a young woman. He ended his remarks at the Awards Gala singing *I've Got a Feeling Everything's Gonna Be Alright*. Gadson, who is also a former president of the National Medical Association, spoke movingly at the *Harambee Brunch* about the power of God's hands to heal, create and deliver.

The convention was well-attended. On the closing day the credentials report showed 743 in attendance representing 16 national officers, 7 standing committee chairs, 266 community-based section delegates, 111 life members, 37 legacy life members, 54 national affiliate delegates, 244 guests and 8 exhibitors.

The 57th National Convention was enhanced by generous contributions from McDonalds, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, Georgia Power, Colgate Palmolive, Home Depot, AIDS

HealthCare Foundation, Apple, Georgia Pacific, Nationwide, Dennys, and American Federation of Teachers, which made it possible to keep the registration fees relatively modest, enabling more NCNW members to attend.

The Bethune Height Luncheon met its \$100K fundraising goal when Dawna Michelle Fields pledged to increase the Colgate contribution. During the Saturday luncheon, NCNW state and local organizations made generous contributions, including \$59,000 from the New York Coalition led by Johnnie Walker. The Texas State Coalition, Metropolitan Washington DC Section, the North Ohio Life Member Guilds, Tampa Metropolitan, Roselle and Rahway (New Jersey) Sections, and Dayton Springfield (Ohio) Life Members Guild all stepped up to provide significant and much-needed support for national operations.

Entertainment was not lacking at the 57th national convention of NCNW. Atlanta-based violinist Ken Ford, gospel crooners The Wardlaw Brothers and soulful *Spur of the Moment* kept audiences

on their feet toe-tapping and dancing to the music. Davida Mathis, Esq. sang NCNW favorites *This Little Light of Mine*, *Lift Evry Voice and Sing* and *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*. More than four hundred convention delegates and guests had the opportunity to tour the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the Bethune House, The King Memorial or the White House, where President Obama was observed alighting into Marine One.

President Jones concluded the 57th National Convention by thanking everyone for a productive convention and for adopting the Bylaws. She expressed her appreciation to the officers, committee chairs, section presidents and members for their work over the past 2 years to make it possible for NCNW to be *Alive, Well and Solvent*. Members expressed thrill beyond measure and satisfaction that the 57th National Convention would go down in history as having been an excellent convention.

## NCNW Improving Economic Stability



Crystal R. Hudson, Ph.D.

**N**CNW is committed to improving the economic stability of our communities. During the Town Hall Meeting at the 57th National Convention of NCNW, we heard directly from Dr. Crystal Hudson, Clark Atlanta University Department of Finance professor, that good information is the key to finding viable solutions. We also heard that reliable information about black families

is sorely missing. Information from the survey will be used to understand the financial well-being of our community. Help us help ourselves by taking the survey.

It will take less than ten minutes of your time. Survey results are anonymous. No one other than the researchers will know who you are, and they are ethically bound to maintain your confidentiality. You will not be pressured to buy any goods or services. Please take the survey so that African American families can begin to improve our attitudes toward money, finance and investing.

Results from this survey will be used in a series of research articles relating to African Americans' financial well-being, financial literacy and financial behavior. Remember, your answers are completely confidential and will be released only in summaries in which no individual's answers can be identified.

Simply click on the link below, or cut and paste the entire URL into your browser to access the survey.

Follow this link to the Survey:

[https://cau.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_eg7GxmZjPtaiUMR](https://cau.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_eg7GxmZjPtaiUMR)



**DR. HELENA JOHNSON**



**RUBY GIBBS-WILLIAMS**



**DR. MADELINE SCALES**







## NCNW Urges Action on Flint Water Crisis



**N**CNW urges U.S. lawmakers to act swiftly to implement a comprehensive solution to lead poisoning of Flint Michigan's children. An independent investigation concluded that because the majority of Flint residents are low-income and African American, "the implications for environmental injustice cannot be ignored or dismissed."

Flint's families are told that filtered water is safe, yet Flint Mayor Karen Weaver noted that some homes have faucets where the filters do not fit. "This is not the ultimate solution," she said, "We still need new infrastructure, replacing the lead-tainted pipes in the city remains my top priority."

"Government failure, intransigence, unpreparedness, delay, inaction and environmental injustice" were blamed in an independent report for the failure to restore safe drinking water to Flint. These words do not

adequately describe the extremely careless and deliberate official acts to poison Flint's children and families. Bad actors must be held accountable so that public officials are not tempted to repeat the crimes of Flint. But public accountability alone will not suffice to block the stream of harm that all experts agree children exposed to lead poisoning will encounter.

Flint's children are likely to suffer permanent harm. An emergency fund, similar to the

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**41% of Flint, MI residents are impoverished; 57% of Flint residents are Black**

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one established for the victims of 911 and the BP oil spill, must be set up to treat all of the residents who will need ongoing medical care, special education,

counseling vocational services and other support because of the wanton disregard for the lives and livelihood of a whole group of city residents.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA) provides critical investment in the country's aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, assists poor and disadvantaged communities in meeting public health standards under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, and promotes innovative technologies to address drought and other critical water resource needs.

The U.S. House and Senate are expected to provide federal aid to Flint under WRDA when they reconvene on November 14, 2016.

Some elected officials, such as Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Michigan Rep. Dan Kildee, are doing their jobs by making Flint a priority. Federal government's legal and moral responsibility is to address those challenges too daunting for individuals, or even states. Lead poisoning in Flint represents such a challenge.



# ALERT!!

## **CLEAN WATER FOR CHILDREN OF FLINT, MI**

### **URGENT ADVOCACY ALERT – YOUR HELP NEEDED NOW!**

Contact your member of Congress to support Clean Water for Flint.

Flint Mayor Karen Weaver, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Flint Congressman Dan Kildee all staunchly support federal aid. Mayor Flint stated, "We still need new infrastructure - replacing the lead-tainted pipes in the city remains my top priority."

In September, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives passed versions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Senate version is designated as S. 2848; the House version is H.R.5303. Those votes are not final. The House and the Senate still must appoint a Conference Committee to settle differences between the two WRDA bills, and both the Senate and the House must vote again to approve the final WRDA. Debate of WRDA is expected to resume shortly after the members of Congress return to Washington on NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>.

Click here to find your member of Congress and send him/her an email.

<http://ziplook.house.gov/htbin/findrep?ZIP=30677&Submit=FIND+YOUR+REP+BY+ZIP>

Enter your zip code, name, address and this simple message:

**Please support clean water for the  
children of Flint.**

No matter whose caused the disaster in Flint, it is our patriotic duty as Americans to help get clean water to the children there. Tell your NCNW Sisters, LinkedIn Contacts, Facebook Friends and Family.

NCNW's Detroit section has made substantial contributions of water and supplies to benefit the families of Flint, MI.

NCNW's goal is 1,000 emails to members of Congress.

#NCNWinAction - Together we can change things.

Ingrid Saunders Jones, Chair

## NCNW Georgia State Inaugural Conference



**A**TLANTA- The National Council of Negro Women, Inc (NCNW) Georgia hosted its inaugural state conference on August 20th at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport Hotel. National NCNW Membership Chair/Conference Chair, Lois Keith, had the vision of organizing a statewide conference to re-establish sections. Another goal would be to network and learn about various initiatives going on throughout the state. Nearly 200 NCNW members and affiliates attended the conference. NCNW National Chair, Ingrid Saunders-Jones, presented Keith with an inaugural Chairman's Movers and Shakers Award.

During the business portion of the conference, the members elected Sharah Denton as the Georgia State NCNW Interim Chair, Derrica Williams as Interim

Secretary and Myrtle Mayfield as Interim Treasurer. Denton founded the Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Section of NCNW in 2010 and served as the President until spring 2016.

Newly-elected Presidents presenting information about their sections included Valdosta-Lowndes Metropolitan Section President, Tiffany Vinson, Greater Atlanta Chartering President, Diane Larche', Rockdale-Newton President, Rhonda Taylor and Evetta Washington, Savannah Section Presenter, Betty Lasseter, Columbus Section Chartering President, Kimberly Scott, DeKalb Section outgoing President, Belinda Pedroso and DeKalb newly-elected President Sandra Davis-Forrest.

Collegiate members of NCNW participated in breakout sessions.

Collegiate Sections included: Clark Atlanta, Georgia Southern State University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, Spelman College, University of Georgia and Valdosta State University. Those collegiate sections presented information about their section initiatives and had the opportunity to share ideas with one another from campuses. Presentations and information were also presented by National NCNW Executive Director, Attorney Janice Mathis, National Membership Chair, David Glenn, National Program Chair, Paulette Norvell Lewis, Dr. Angela Ward and Dr. Darlene Ruffin-Alexander. National Chair, Ingrid Saunders-Jones discussed the history of NCNW and the newly implemented Four for the Future. The Four for the Future entails: Educating and training young

## NCNW Georgia State Inaugural Conference (cont'd)

women and girls for the future workforce, with a special focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), continuing NCNW's historical focus on health concerns in the African American community, promoting economic empowerment and entrepreneurship and financial literacy and short-and long-term financial planning; Developing new partnerships to encourage young African American men and women to embrace the values of NCNW founders.



## Broward County Section Chartered



The Charter and Installation of Officers Ceremony was conducted by Broward County's 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court Judge, The Honorable Ilona Holmes. National Membership Chair, A. Lois Keith, presented the Section with more than 150 Members and Associates as having met all requirements for charter and Mr. David Glenn, Jr., NCNW National Membership Director recognized the Section's members.

After receiving numerous inquiries about chartering a new section in Broward County, Laura Richardson contacted the National Office of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and was directed to contact two other individuals who lived in the area and had expressed interest in starting a local section. After meeting with Khira Holloway and Azia Powell, a call went out to the community and on September 5, 2015, the first interest meeting

was held at the Tyrone Bryant Library, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida with ten members present: Khira Holloway, Azia Powell, Mary Smith, Iola Glenn, Beverly Williams, Sheila Thomas, Brenda Roberts, Laura Richardson, Lorine Checks and Rev. Deborah Allen. The group discussed the business of the proposed section, elected Laura Richardson as President and began to strategize on requirements to move forward. At the November 7, 2015 meeting, Alma Brown, immediate Past President of the Metropolitan Dade Section of NCNW, presented Laura Richardson \$1.50 as a historic gesture, representing the amount the founder, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, started with in 1935, along with her blessing for continued success. Several meetings ensued and by March 2016, the numbers had grown to 88 members. As the excitement continued, the number continued to grow and the Section submitted for charter to the NCNW with

a total of 102 members, which including nine men.

The guest speaker, Judge Shirlyon McWhorter, gave a powerful message *"If there was ever a time we are needed it is now"*. Support was shown by the presidents and members of the Tampa, Gainesville, and Metropolitan Dade County Sections, along with the Broward County Democratic Party, and Miami Chapter of Bethune Cookman University Alumni.

In moving the legacy forward, the section has vowed to work diligently in Broward County to unite the communities, cities, and churches in an effort to improve health care, education, economic empowerment and entrepreneurship for its women and families.

Yes, the vision must be realized. *"We are Mary's Children, and we will act like it,"* stated President Laura Richardson.

## North Carolina State Coalition Forum



**D**urham, NC — On August 27, 2016, the North Carolina National Council of Negro Women welcomed National Leaders Janice L. Mathis, Executive Director; Lois Keith, Membership Chair; and David Glenn, Jr., Membership Director to the North Carolina NCNW State Coalition Meeting and Community Engagement Forum for an interactive Q & A Session.

The event was hosted by the Durham Area Section on the campus of North Carolina Central University, Durham NC with the honorable Mayor William 'Bill' V. Bell; Juanita Massenberg, South Atlantic Regional Director of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; Paulette Danner, North Carolina Central University Representative and Aisha Williamson, North Carolina Central University Collegiate Member all bringing greetings.

The keynote speaker, retired DEA agent Rosalynde M. Fenner, challenged the audience to be creative and flexible, while reminding attendees to invite and involve youth in service planning and projects.

**LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION:** All sections provided a visual display of service projects and awards. This year, the NC State Coalition proudly welcomed the following new sections: Cape Fear Area, Metropolitan Greensboro Area, and East Carolina and Elon Universities. Each section enthusiastically gave reports. In attendance were the collegiate sections of North Carolina Central University, Winston-Salem State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and the interest section of Greensboro College.

**I'VE GOT ALL MY SISTERS WITH ME:** The highlight of the day was the recognition of the 2014-2016 state coalition officers

and the installation of the 2016-2018 state coalition officers and section presidents by our National Executive Director, Janice L. Mathis and National Membership Director, Lois Keith.

Dr. Manderline Scales, NC Convener voiced, "I am both moved and inspired by the countless ways we give to our communities and the valuable support the sections receive both at and after the events and programs."

According to Doris Settle Maxwell, the newly installed state president, after years of active engagement with the state coalition and exploring options to strengthen the State Coalition, she offers that she will empower, encourage and inspire the Coalition.

Marilyn Powell-Godette  
*NC NCNW Interim Co-Convener*  
 Doris Settle Maxwell, NC NCNW  
*Coalition President*

## Atlanta Business Chronicle Honors “Women Who Mean Business”

Ingrid Saunders Jones, retired Chair of The Coca-Cola Foundation, came to Atlanta in 1977 as an Atlanta Fellow and worked as a legislative analyst for then-City Council President Carl Ware. Saunders Jones was also executive assistant to Atlanta’s first black Mayor, Maynard Jackson.

Accepting the award October 20, 2016, Saunders Jones quoted Andrew Young, Jackson’s successor as mayor, from his book “A Way Out of No Way,” saying “My life has unfolded around me in ways that fill me with awe and wonder.”

She joined other honorees in offering her most important life lesson to the audience, which was that you can plan, prepare and educate yourself “but don’t be surprised when your plan is interrupted by life.”



*A tip of the cap to you*

*The Coca-Cola Company*

*Proudly Supports the*

**National Council  
of Negro Women, Inc.**

**57<sup>th</sup> National Convention**

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# GA Collegiate Wins Public Relations Internship

Greater Atlanta NCNW Section President Diane Powell Larche' challenged Georgia collegiate members to compete for an internship with her public relations firm, Larche'

Communications. Brittanye Blake, a Sophomore mass communications major at Valdosta State University and member of the Valdosta State NCNW Collegiate Section, submitted the

winning essay. Brittanye won a slot for a one-day stint with the Atlanta Falcons, a client of Larche' Communications.

*Diane Powell-Larche'*

## BRITTANYE BLAKE'S WINNING ESSAY

I am Brittanye S. Blake, sophomore, and Mass Media major at Valdosta State University. I have been a part of the National Council of Negro Women since I was 11 years old. I am a charter member of my Valdosta-Lowndes

local Chapter. I tagged along with my mother to meetings, and was empowered by women of many races, backgrounds, organizations, and professions. I joined the Valdosta Collegiate Section at the beginning of my sophomore year in college. I am also a member of the Black Student League, NAACP, Habitat for Humanity, Student Success Mentors, and the Collegiate Women of Valdosta State University. In the community I stay busy as well. I am a member of the local Valdosta-Lowndes

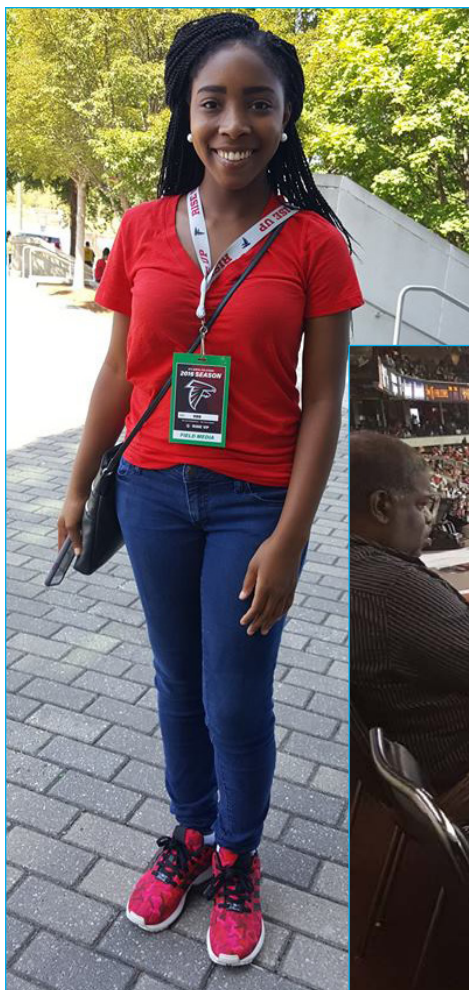
Metro Section of NCNW Southside Library Boosters. Its main focus is giving back to the library in our black community.

My passion is to network and make life-long connections that will jumpstart my career in the future. A personal goal of mine is to be a news anchor on "Good Morning America", CNN, or Fox and so many more.

This internship will give me an opportunity to get my feet wet, and see what it is like to work with a large network. I am all about building and creating

experiences that will last a lifetime. I will greatly appreciate this internship for the opportunity it presents.

*Brittanye Blake*  
*GA Collegiate Wins*  
*Public Relations*  
*Internship*  
**BRITTANYE BLAKE'S**  
**WINNING ESSAY**



## NC Youth Section Receives a \$10,000 Grant

Royal Neighbors, one of the largest women-led life insurers in the U. S., awarded 10 Nation of Neighbors grants in 2016 to 10 women dedicated to helping others who want to plan to start or expand a business or an organization/group that helps women and girls in their community.

This year, on behalf of Lena Council (member and former President of the Northeastern N.C. NCNW Section) one of the 10 Grant Awardees, Northeastern's Youth Section (Dreamers), an Entrepreneur Club for Middle School girls, will receive a \$10,000.00 grant to expand its program from 20 to 50 girls. Each year since 2007, Royal

Neighbors has awarded more than \$1.7 million to women nationwide.

Congratulations Lena Council and Northeastern Dreamers!





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#alwaysgrinding

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#scholarforreal

#toomanynotes

#readyforit

No matter how it unfolds, there's a whole neighborhood invested in nurturing your dream. We're here. Deeply Rooted in the Community.®





CARING FOR WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS PART OF  
**OUR MISSION.**

Official Airline of the National Council of Negro Women.



KEEP CLIMBING



# Calendar

DATE(S)	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	CITY/STATE
11.08.16	United States of America	Presidential Election	USA
12.01.16		World AIDS Day	Worldwide
01.16.17	United States of America	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration	USA
02.07.17		National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	USA
02.15.17– 02.17.17	Rainbow PUSH Coalition	20th Annual Wall Street Project Conference	New York, NY
03.04.17– 03.07.17	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Delta Days at the Nation's Capital	Washington, DC
03.17.17	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Delta Day at the United Nations	New York, NY
06.03.17 – 07.03.17	Essence	Essence Music Festival	New Orleans, LA
06.26.17 – 06.29.17	Top Ladies of Distinction	National Convention	St. Louis, MO
07.06.17	Zeta Phi Beta	Organizational Leadership	Washington, DC
07.10.17 – 07.15.17	Chi Eta Phi	Boule	Los Angeles, CA
07.22.17– 07.26.17	NAACP	National Convention	Baltimore, M D
07.26.17– 07.27.17	National Urban League	National Convention	St. Lois, MO
07.27.17– 08.02.17	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	53rd National Convention	Las Vegas, NV
08.09.17 – 08.13.17	National Association of Black Journalists	National Convention	New Orleans, LA
10.20.17 – 10.22.17	Eta Phi Beta	75th Platinum Jubilee	Detroit, MI
10.22.17 – 10.25.17	National Minority Supplier Development Council	Business Opportunity Exchange	Detroit, MI
06.27.18 – 07.01.18	The Links, Inc.	National Assembly	Indianapolis, IN



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**T**he mission of the National Council of Negro Women is to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities.

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