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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC.

# Sisters Newsletter

2017 WINTER EDITION

## The Dorothy Irene Height Forever Stamp



Following months of preparation, the organizations most closely associated with Dr. Dorothy Irene Height – NCNW, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, the YWCA and the Dorothy Irene Height Foundation - gathered to witness history in the making. During a dedication ceremony at Howard University attended by more than 1,000 people, the U.S. postal service unveiled its Dorothy Height Forever stamp, the 40th in its Black Heritage Forever series. The stamp depicts Height in one of her signature wide-brimmed hats.

Dr. Height's virtues and accomplishments were extolled by a very select group of notables, including Ms. Ingrid Saunders Jones, National Chair of NCNW, The Hon. Alexis Herman, Chair of the Dorothy Irene Height Foundation, NCNW Executive Committee Member The Hon. Constance Newman, A.M.E. Bishop Rt. Rev. Vashti McKenzie, Delta Sigma Theta 25th National President Dr. Paulette Walker and Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick, President of Howard University. Ms. Jones reminded the audience that as Director of its Office of Racial Justice, Dr. Height led the YWCA to adopt the One Imperative, "the elimination of racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary." Secretary Herman retold one of Dr. Height's favorite stories. Mrs. Bethune told Dr. Height that "black women don't follow trends – they set them" when Dr. Height noticed that Mrs. Bethune was wearing one blue shoe and one black shoe. Each of the speakers commended Dr. Height for her vision, courage, graciousness and commitment to justice. The dedication ceremony included a poignant video tribute to Dr. Height

and ended with a moving rendition of "I Gave My All", written and



performed by former Platters lead singer Mr. Joe Coleman.

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## The Dorothy Irene Height Forever Stamp

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Following the ceremony, the Height Foundation and Toyota hosted a luncheon for program participants, Dr. Height's family and NCNW's Executive Committee at NCNW headquarters. Among the guests were April Ryan, White House correspondent, Rev. Leah Daughtry, who recently chaired the Democratic National Convention, Ms. Adrienne Trimble, representing Toyota, and Mr. William Briggs and other members of Dr. Height's family. Approximately 40 presidents of NCNW's community-based

sections and their guests gathered at the Dorothy I. Height Post Office at Massachusetts and 2nd Avenue for lunch and a private guided tour of the museum, where they learned some of the rich associations between the Post Office and African American history.

"The Postal Service is proud to honor civil rights icon Dorothy Height, an American treasure, whose illustrious career spanned almost a century," said Ronald Stroman, deputy postmaster general and chief government relations officer, in a statement.





# The Remarkable Life of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height

## IN HER OWN WORDS



**A**s we celebrate the Forever Stamp issued in Dr. Height's honor and cherish her memory during the season of her birthday, it is instructive to recall her philosophy in her own words.

“Too often, people ...babbled on about how ‘all men are created equal’, but if you asked them what line they were going to pursue to make those ideas reality, their convictions seemed to crumble. They’d always have some excuse for not taking direct action.

It was many years before I realized that when Negroes talked about the ‘mainstream’ we really meant white people. We had to remind ourselves again and again that since slaves were first brought here, blacks have been a part of whatever stream there was. We have not

been in the mainstream of opportunity, but we have always been Americans.

I know no one who wants to be dependent on the government, but when the constitutionally protected civil rights of certain citizens are blatantly abrogated by states, what more important or proper role is there for the federal government than to uphold the Constitution in defense of those citizens' rights?

Few seem to understand how much we lose as a polity when the potential of so many is diminished by the tyranny of second-class citizenship.

I was concerned that many women's organizations had rather narrowly focused on discriminatory practices. There were equally important civil rights issues that affected women and children more broadly:

decent housing,  
child care,



schooling and employment.

Our nonviolent leader (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.) had met the ultimate violence, and there was a deep sense of loss in that room (at the White House) as we struggled to find ways to discourage further turmoil. Together we discussed how we could make sure it was understood that someone might have killed the dreamer, but that person hadn't killed the dream.



Fannie Lou Hamer, Dorothy Height and Polly Cowan

Polly (Cowan) had an idea. The women would go into Mississippi in interracial teams each week throughout the summer (1964). They would bring outside resources into the state - including their own skills and talents to enrich the freedom schools

# The Remarkable Life of Dr. Dorothy Irene Height

– and take home firsthand reports of what was going on. We called the project *Wednesdays in Mississippi (WIMS)*. It was sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women, with participation by the YWCA, United Church Women, the National Council of Catholic Women, the National Council of Jewish Women, the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women.

African Americans know how much our forebears contributed to building this nation, and we are proud of it. We know the value our

ancestors placed on faith, kinship, education and hard work. We cherish...the grit and wisdom they have passed down to us. These treasures enrich our lives and sustain our faith in the future, and they are inextricably woven into the fabric of America.

The surest path to success is through education in a society increasingly based in science and technology. Education is the key.

I fear that too many of our young people know only where we are now, not how we got here nor where we are going. Too many see doors

only recently opened and do not appreciate how they got pried ajar. I believe that all of us must keep working so that more and more of our children have opportunity, but we also must be sure that our youth recognize the preceding struggle. We must rekindle and keep alive the memory of our own history in the people's hearts.

I have lived through extraordinary times, when Americans of all backgrounds awakened to the racial, economic, and social injustices that betrayed the promise of our great country.”

## Dorothy Height Forever Stamp

These cities celebrated the stamp unveiling

- Los Angeles, CA
- Sacramento, CA
- Washington, DC
- Broward County, FL
- West Palm Beach, FL
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Atlanta, GA
- Gary, IN
- Indianapolis, IN
- Detroit, MI
- Neptune, NJ
- Hempstead, NY
- Youngstown, OH



**Buy Stamps Today!**

# Women's History Month – Early Years of NCNW

As early as 1928 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune was recognized as a leader in the fight for African American rights. One of her goals was to form a coalition of black women's organizations. She strongly believed that if black women presented a united front, they could become a powerful force for promoting political and social change. In March 1930, Bethune held a meeting to officially propose her idea. The women present decided to set up a committee for further study rather than immediately organize. Bethune was disappointed, but did not give up. Five years later, on December 5, 1935, she addressed another group:

Most people think that I am a dreamer. Through dreams many things have come true. I am interested in women and believe in their possibilities. The world has not been willing to accept the contributions that women have made. We need an organization to open new doors for our young

women and when the council speaks its power will be felt.

This time the group—representatives of 29 diverse black women's organizations—agreed to establish the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). NCNW incorporated in Washington, D.C. on July 25, 1936. According to the organization's constitution, the four major objectives were:

1. To unite member organizations into a National Council of Negro Women.
2. To educate and encourage Negro women to participate in civic, political, and economic activities in the same manner as all other Americans participate.
3. To serve as a clearing house for the dissemination of information concerning activities of organized colored women.
4. To initiate and promote, subject to the approval of member organizations,



projects for the benefit of the Negro.

During its first year, NCNW limited membership to national women's organizations and individual life members. Soon, however, local NCNW chapters known as Metropolitan Councils were established. A Board of Directors administered the Council and volunteer executive secretaries ran the national office out of Bethune's D.C. apartment.

Thirteen NCNW committees began addressing issues such as employment, education, enfranchisement (voting), and lynching.



# Consider Entrepreneurship

## Key attributes of successful entrepreneurs

- Takes initiative. A self-starter. Makes things happen rather than waiting and reacting.
- Driven to achieve. Has desire and passion to succeed. Enjoys competition.
- Self-confident. Trusts own ideas, instincts, and abilities.
- Sets goals. Creates a vision of success. Works with focus and intention.
- Plans ahead. Creates plans and follows them. Good at anticipating new developments.
- Resourceful. Creative problem-solver. Imaginative and innovative. Sees better ways of doing things. Uncovers new resources and opportunities. Finds a way.

- A leader. Takes responsibility and accepts accountability. Like to make decisions. Shows an attitude of respect for others. Motivates and inspires others. Gives other the opportunity to be great. Shares the credit for success. Gains the respect of peers.
- Good communicator. Good listener. Effective negotiator.
- Open to new ideas. Learns from others.
- Makes the most of personal strengths, but doesn't try to be and do everything.
- Has technical knowledge.
- Gets things done on time.
- Objective. Evaluates risk. Makes good decisions under pressure.
- Uses money well. Sees money as a tool for business success.

- Realistic. Willing to face facts and change strategy or direction when needed.
- Persistent. Has determination and self-discipline. Meets commitments. Never gives up.
- Bounces back. Accepts rejection and failure without being defeated. Flexible.

Remember: there are millions of successful small businesses in our country, but there's always room for one more. When you think about your future in the world of work, consider the option of starting a business of your own.

We invite you to contact NCNW [NCNWC Corp@gmail.com](mailto:NCNWC Corp@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.ncnw.org> for further information and assistance.

Source: <http://www.handsonbanking.org/biz/?p=222&cat=6>

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## NCNW Joins Forces with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

The National Council of Negro Women continues to seek and unite national organizations of women of African descent to collectively address improving the lives of their families and communities. That said, NCNW recently accepted The National

Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. as a bona fide National Affiliate. Welcome, National President Michele McNeill-Emery and ALL the members of 100 Black Women!



# HIV/AIDS - Share this Article with a Child, Sibling, Friend, Partner

Every 35 minutes, a woman tests positive for HIV in this country. Black women account for 66% of new cases of HIV among women. HIV/AIDS related illness is now the leading cause of death among Black women ages 25-34. 1 in 30 Black women will be diagnosed with HIV at some point in her life. We must acknowledge the social and gender inequities and cultural dynamics that shape our perceptions and realities of the disease.

## Eliminate Stigma and Stereotypes – Learn the Facts

HIV is transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk.

Engaging in any activity that includes exposure to these fluids places a person at risk for HIV infection, including:

- Having unprotected sex
- Not using a male or female condom for vaginal or anal sex
- Not using a condom, dental dam, or other barrier for oral sex
- Oral, vaginal or anal sex with an infected person
- Sharing needles or syringes of any kind with an infected person
- Transmission from an infected mother to her child during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding

## Prevent HIV and Reduce the Risk of Infection

The only 100% sure way to prevent HIV infection is to abstain from sexual activity and drug use. To abstain means not having vaginal, anal, or oral sex, and not using drugs of any kind.

There are steps we can take to protect ourselves and reduce our risk of becoming HIV infected:

- Take an HIV test
- Discuss HIV testing and safer sex practices with our partner
- Practice safer sex – use protective latex barriers/condoms every time we have sex
- Don't share needles of any kind - including drug needles, piercing needles, or tattoo needles

Sources: Black Women's Health Imperative and AIDS Healthcare Foundation

For more information, visit <http://www.bwhi.org/index.php> and <https://www.aidshealth.org/#/>



## Congratulations to Our NCNW Intern

NCNW 2016 Summer Intern Kenya Wheeler, a senior at Grambling State University,

wins the Southwestern Athletic Conference Women's Indoor Shot

Put Championship with a throw of 47.5 feet.



## New Contributing Members (4/16/16 thru 2/12/17)

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Rita Wiltz  
Kathy Willoughby

### ADVOCATES

Tequias Bass-Nichols  
Essie Caldwell  
Wilfred A. Campbell  
Bonita Durand  
J. Farrelly  
Vanessa King  
Shalanda Martin  
Davaline A. Perry  
Paul Randolph  
C. M. Ransome  
Tiffany S. Trusty  
Keyuna Webster

### PARTNERS

Lesha Agnew  
Sheryl Armstrong  
Anna Austin  
Faye Ball  
Carole Bishop  
Nanniie H. Burroughs  
W. Imara Canady  
Dr. Michelle Chatman  
Angela Cockerham  
Jaculy Cosey

### Partners (continued)

Beverly Coyne  
Yvonne Daniely  
Tracy Davis  
President, New Orleans Alumnae  
Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Dr. Joyce J. Dorsey  
Teria Dowdy  
Michelle DuBois  
Dana Farrakhan  
Nancy Funny- Lawrence  
Tiffaney Graham  
Tynerria Hall  
Heather Hamilton  
Cassandra Henry  
Nicole Hicks  
Donna Icenhower  
Gracieta Jackson  
Karen D. Jackson-Cook  
Iris Johnson  
Wendy Johnson  
Ariana Jones  
Danielle Kennedy  
Tamela Ketchmore  
Esmeralda Knowles  
Jacqueline Leeks  
Joynicole Martinez  
Christine McFadden  
Diana Montero

### Partners (continued)

Christine Neal  
Joan Neal  
Brenda Oliver  
Rev. Portia Osborne  
Geneva Phillips-Beaver  
Rose M. Randle-Hall  
Lenor Reese  
Crystal Ridgell  
Rochelle Rogers  
Tamika Sanders  
President, Sigma Chapter National  
Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.  
Tangela N. Smalls  
Cynthia Smith  
Trina Tekyi  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Stacey Thompson  
Sheila Tillman  
President, Greater Cleveland Chapter  
Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc.  
Ernestine K. Turner  
Evalyne Ward  
Christy Webster  
Sandra Whitlock  
Kathleen F. Williams  
Chelle Wilson  
Winifred Yancy  
Gladys Carson

## New Life Members (4/16/16 thru 2/12/17)

### ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERS

James Abrams  
T. Willard Fair  
Sammie L. Head  
Ray Jackson  
The Honorable Jeffrey Z. Slavin  
Mayor of Somerset, MD

### LIFE MEMBERS

Fatima Abdullah  
Angela N. Adams  
Greta P. Adams  
Sherva Alexander  
Cynthia D. Alvarez-Williams  
Susie M. Anderson

### Life Members (continued)

Kathryn L. Barnes  
Yvonne Baskerville  
Joycelyn M. Battles  
Teresa Blueitt  
Yolonda Brisbane  
Joyce S. Brooks  
Diane R. Brown  
Iris C. Brown  
Carole P. Carter  
Annette Cary  
Priscilla Charles  
Loretta Chisolm  
Krishanna Coleman-LeSane  
Frances J. Collier

### Life Members (continued)

Therese E. Cundiff  
Antonia K. Curtis  
Sandra Davis Forrest  
Ollie W. Davis  
Saundra M. Davis-Forrest  
Stephanie E. Dawson  
Sarah Je Dean  
Diann Dennis  
Johnnie M. Durden  
Nicole Coston Enoch  
Velma Finley  
Brenda Ford  
Emma Fountain  
Shirley A. Fowlkes

# New Life Members (4/16/16 thru 2/12/17)

## Life Members (continued)

Bonnie Fox  
Christene Frazier  
Deborah Freeman  
Lisa German  
Barbara Gillespie-Washington  
Letrice Golden  
Deborah Graham  
Maggie Green  
Brenda Greenway  
Nicole Harmon  
Cassandra Harris  
Allie Harrison  
Angelia Herndon  
Wyvonia Herring Perry  
Ruby L. Holloway  
Lee Etta Hoskins  
Ann Howerton  
Nailah Hubbard  
Atty. Cindy A. Hull  
Carneta Hunte-Larkin  
Harryette Y. Irving  
Annie Doris Jackson  
Rochelle Jackson  
Brenda Dalton James  
Gloria M. Johnson  
Julia West Johnson  
Savonda Johnson  
Alberta Jones  
Barbara Jones  
Elsie M. Just-Buddy  
Dr. Barbara J. Kelsey  
Unita Lawrence  
Jessie R. LeSane  
Deborah Lewis Virges  
Patricia S. Lilly  
Phyllis D. London  
Dr. Anidra (Joy) Lough  
Doris Lovette  
Dr. Margie Lovett-Scott  
Dianne Burnette Lust  
Regina Majors  
Bina Martin-Giles  
Shirley Williams McCarley  
Rosslyn McMullen  
Juanita C. Montgomery  
Normajo Moore

## Life Members (continued)

A. Rawiya Nash  
Jessie Norbert  
Patricia Norton-Carter  
Michelle D. Parker  
Hazel Patterson  
Linda A. Payne  
Marilyn M. Peaks  
Belinda Pedroso  
Rosie I. Pettygrue  
Zelma S. Plummer  
Toni J. Prados  
Shirley Reynolds  
Dorothy J. Rice  
Eugenia M. Rodgers  
Dr. Kimberly M. Scott  
Jeanette C. Smith  
Tonya Solis-Mosby  
Leatha Spivey  
Valerie Kay Tawiah  
Carrie Jean Taylor  
Mary Rogers Taylor  
Marlene Teal  
Eleanor J. Thompson  
Freda D Thornton  
Patricia A. Toliver  
Etta Tricksey  
Dr. Evelyn Underwood  
Margo Wade LaDrew  
Deborah Walls Foster  
Barbara Walter  
Shawnda Warren Coates  
Sylvia I. Watson  
Dr. Barbara A. West  
Julia West-Johnson  
Mary White  
Katie P. Whitley  
Maxine Wiley  
Delores M. Williams  
Derrica Williams  
Debra E. Williams-Green  
S. Chanel Woods  
Carla L. Wyatt  
Altheia M. Wyche  
Dorothy Corbett Yarborough Ph.D.  
Helen Young-McIntosh

## LEGACY LIFE MEMBERS

Diann Dawson  
Antoinette Mann Dobson  
Sandra K. Gipson  
Sharon O. Goode  
Ealnor Grey  
Alberta O. Johnson  
Marion H. Lewis  
Mary Elaine Montgomery-Mann  
Diane Powell-Larche'  
Barbara Shannon-Banister Ph.D.  
Jo Ann Smith  
Rev. Mary Frances Stiner  
Carolyn M. White  
The Honorable Betty Joyce Williams  
Justice of the Kings County Supreme  
Court, New York, NY  
Brenita A. Young

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### *In Loving Memory*

**Patricia Berry**

**St. Petersburg, FL**

**Chanell E. Gatewood**

**New York, NY**

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# Florida A&M University

We are proud to shine a light on the Florida A&M University Collegiate Section, NCNW for their commitment to providing leadership and community service to their campus and surrounding communities.

The FAMU Collegiate Section of NCNW and members of Omega Xi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi hosted a panel discussion and networking event entitled "Leading Ladies". They discussed Entrepreneurship, Innovation,

and Branding with some of Tallahassee's Trailblazing Women! It was a great opportunity for learning, empowerment, fellowship, and fun.

FAMU joins forces to end breast cancer with the "Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk"!

***Brava Ladies, job well done!***



## NCNW Supports King Legacy Weekend HBCU STEM College Fair

STEM education is one pillar in NCNW's "Four for the Future" program priorities. Teens and young adults eager to establish great careers gathered at the Peace Center on Main Street in Greenville, SC on Saturday, January 14, 2017 to learn more about higher education options in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The HBCU STEM College Fair attracted fourteen historically black colleges and universities and more than 800 students. The event was sponsored by NCNW and Microsoft and hosted by the Greenville

chapter of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend. Prospective students were informed, challenged and entertained during the event by recruiters, video and digital presentations as well as by the South Carolina State University Pep Band and the university's Champagne dancers. On Monday, January 16th, Sylvan Learning Centers helped to present a Hack-A-Thon aimed at youngsters in grades 1-8. According to Davida Mathis, who chairs Rainbow PUSH Greenville and spearheaded

the effort, "we were thrilled to have NCNW, Cracker Barrel, Winestock Fund and Microsoft sponsor these events because our goals are the same – to make sure as many young people as possible understand the benefits of STEM education." Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Microsoft's Casiya Thaniel, and Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General, spoke at the King Legacy Weekend Gala on Friday, January 13th. Proceeds from the Gala benefitted the Hackathon and College Fair. "NCNW hopes to expand this STEM initiative," says Janice Mathis.



# CALENDAR

BEGINS	ENDS	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	CITY
03.04.17	03.07.17	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Delta Days at the Nation's Capital	Washington, DC
03.17.17	03.17.17	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.	Delta Day at the United Nations	New York
3.24.17	3.26.17	National Medical Assoc.	Colloquium on Health of the Black Family	Los Angeles
03.30.17		National Bar Assoc.	NBA Day on the Hill	Washington, DC
04.28.17	04.30.17	American Federation of Teachers	Higher Education Issues Conference	Detroit
06.04.17		National Cancer Survivor's Day		USA
06.23.17	06.29.17	Top Ladies of Distinction	Syn-Lod 2017	St. Louis, MO
06.30.17	07.03.17	Essence	Essence Music Festival	New Orleans
07.06.17	07.06.17	Zeta Phi Beta	Organizational Leadership	Washington, DC
07.06.17	07.09.16	Eta Phi Beta	Mid-Eastern Regional	Memphis, TN
07.10.17	07.15.17	Chi Eta Phi	Boule	Disneyland, CA
07.19.17	07.23.17	National Dental Assoc.	National Convention	Dallas, TX
07.19.17	07.23.17	Swing Phi Swing	National Convention	Memphis, TN
07.21.17	07.22.17	Sigma Gamma Rho	Special Boule	Las Vegas
07.22.17	07.26.17	NAACP	National Convention	Baltimore
07.26.17	07.27.17	National Urban League	National Convention	St. Louis, MO
07.27.17	07.30.17	Eta Phi Beta	Southeast Regional	Boca Raton
07.27.17	08.02.17	Delta Sigma Theta	53 <sup>rd</sup> National Convention	Las Vegas
07.29.17	08.04.17	National Bar Assoc.	National Convention	Toronto
07.30.17	08.04.17	National Black Nurses Assoc.	National Convention	Las Vegas
08.04.17	08.07.17	Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society AME Zion Church	Youth Missionary Society Retreat	Bowling Green, KY
08.05.17	08.11.17	Grand Temple Daughters of Elks	National Convention	Baltimore
08.09.17	08.13.17	National Assoc. of Black Journalists	National Convention	New Orleans
10.20.17	10.22.17	Eta Phi Beta	75 <sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee	Detroit
10.22.17	10.25.17	NMSDC	Business Opportunity Exchange	Detroit
06.27.18	07.01.18	The Links, Inc.	National Assembly	Indianapolis