

SPMS 2023-2024 Leadership Team

- Ethel Peeples Robinson, *President*
- Thelma Bruce, *1st Vice President*
- DeShay Collier, *2nd Vice President*
- Nikkita Houston, *3rd Vice President*
- Beverly Mitchell-Brown, *Recording Secretary*
- Lynn Harrell-Johnson, *Corresponding Secretary*
- Valerie Williams, *Treasurer*
- Dr. Kim Hickman, *Financial Secretary*
- Cynthia Jenkins, *Youth Director*
- Dr. LaDonna Butler, *Parliamentarian*
- Sharion Thurman-Reeves, *Historian*
- Shirley Thornton, *Chaplain*

SPMS 2023-2024 Members



Join us today and make a difference in our community!

Become a Member

Your Membership helps NCNW:

- Promote and recognize leadership among women of color
- Champion women’s rights and civil rights
- Reduce health disparities among African-Americans
- Increase the educational attainment of African-Americans
- Work toward the economic empowerment of all African-American women
- Celebrate and strengthens the African-American family
- Reach out to women in need in United States and around the world

Meetings are held the third Saturday of the month September-June at the Historic Fannye Ayer Ponder Council House at 1835 9th Avenue South St. Petersburg, Florida 33712 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

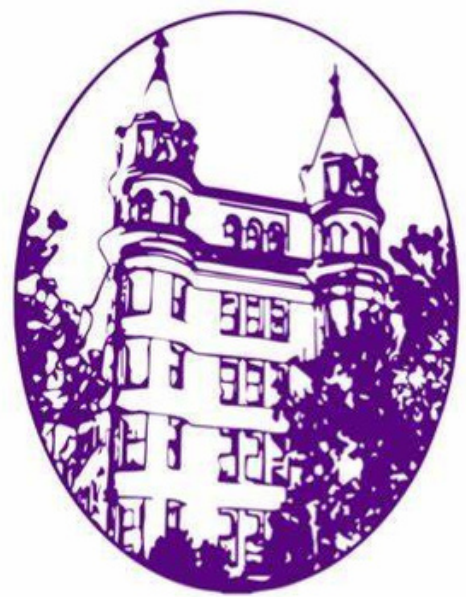
A nominal annual membership fee is required which is paid to both local and national levels to support the mission of the organization.

Annual Dues:

- \$50.00 National
- \$55.00 Local Section

PAYMENT

Submit your payment to Attention SPMS Membership:
Zelle your cash to: 727-558-5574
Mail your check to: P.O. Box 11474 St. Petersburg, FL 33733



ncnw

St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section

Established in 1942 Chartered in 1946

Scan to learn more...



NCNW Purpose
 To promote empowerment and unity among women of African descent in matters affecting their education, culture, economic, social, and spiritual life.

National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) mission is to lead, empower and advocate for women of African descent, their families and communities.

Visit Our Website
NCNWstpete.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Ethel Peeples Robinson
2020-2024**

As President, I am excited to extend an invitation to you to become a member of the St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (SPMS/NCNW).

We are a part of a national organization that boasts over three hundred campus and community-based sections whose mission is to inspire, enlighten and empower women of African descent.

Our local section, SPMS, was founded in 1942 by Ms. Fanny Ayer Ponder and we have been working faithfully in the community through the years to fulfill our mission ***“To lead, develop and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities”***. It is with immense pride that our council house is chronicled as a historical site and bears the name of our founder who donated the property to our section.

We enthusiastically invite you to become a member of our organization to increase the empowerment of women of African descent in our community. With each of you, we can continue the work that began in 1935 and the legacy of our National founder Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune. In short, ***“We Need You”***.

Our Section eagerly welcomes new members with innovative ideas and a willingness to work. We are indeed energized and ready to embark on new ventures that will benefit our community. Qualifications for membership are compassion for others and a commitment to serve.

“If you want to go fast go alone. If you want to go far go together” African proverb



Fanny Ayer Ponder, founder of the NCNW St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section in 1942 and a close friend of Mary McLeod Bethune, was a teacher, activist, and community leader in a time when this type of visibility was not easy for women of color.

It was during these times and conditions in the 1940s, that Mrs. Ponder established a local affiliate of the NCNW, the purpose of which was to effect the integration of blacks into the political, educational, economic, social, and cultural life of St. Petersburg by developing competent and courageous leadership of Negro women. Upon returning from a meeting with Dr. Bethune, Mrs. Ponder called a meeting with O. B. McLin, Dorothy Blanton, Mary Louise McRae, Ethel Monroe Moten, Carolyn Stitts, and Charlie Mae Grogran Newkirk to strategize ways to meet unmet needs in the community.

Mrs. Ponder arrived in St. Petersburg in 1925 with her husband Dr. James Ponder. Mrs. Ponder taught school for over 20 years. She taught Social Studies at Gibbs High School while heading up several community groups like the City Federation of Colored Women’s Club; worked as a Republican committeewoman and helped build the Melrose Club House that also served as a place of refuge for young Women.

Fanny Ayer Ponder Council House



The Fanny Ayer Ponder Council House was officially designated as a Historical Landmark in 1991 because the site met the criteria founded by St. Petersburg City Code Chapter 3511/2-35(d) for the designation of a local historical landmark.

Dr. Mary Jane McLeod Bethune (July 10, 1875 – May 18, 1955) was an American educator, philanthropist, humanitarian, and civil rights activist. **Dr. Bethune founded the National Council of Negro Women in 1935**, and presided as president or leader for a myriad of African American women’s organizations



including the National Association for Colored Women and the National Youth Administration’s Negro Division. On October 3, 1904, Mary opened the first African-American girl school., currently known as Bethune Cookman University.

In 1973, Dr. Bethune was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame. On the 99th anniversary of her birth, Dr. Dorothy I. Height and NCNW unveiled and dedicated the Dr. Bethune Memorial in Lincoln Park, Washington, D.C. to a crowd of over 18,000 people. It was the first memorial to honor an African American and a woman in a public park in the nation’s capital.



A statue of civil rights pioneer Dr. Bethune has officially replaced a statue of a Confederate general in the US Capitol’s Statuary Hall. Dr. Bethune has made history as the first Black person to have a state-commissioned statue in Statuary Hall, which features two statues from each state.



Dr. Bethune achieved her greatest recognition at the Washington, DC townhouse that is now this National Historic Site. The Council House was the first headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and was Bethune’s last home in Washington, DC. When the Council House officially opened to the public as a unit of the national park system in 1995, it became the second national park named for a Black woman.