

## SPMS 2025-2026 Leadership Team

President - *Lynn Harrell-Johnson*

1st Vice President - *DeShay Collier*

2nd Vice President - *Beverly Mitchell-Brown*

3rd Vice President - *Chiquita Clark*

Treasurer - *Valerie Williams*

Financial Secretary - *Traci McPherson*

Recording Secretary - *Lottie Cuthbertson*

Asst. Recording Secretary - *Gabrielle Lambert*

Corresponding Secretary - *Leslie Snipe*

Chaplain - *Georgia Thomas*

Historian - *Dr. René Robinson-Flowers*

Parliamentarian - *Gwendolyn Anderson*

Sergeant at Arms - *Tamara Felton-Howard, Esq.*

Youth Director - *Cynthia Jenkins*

## SPMS 2025 Members



### NCNW Purpose

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

*Join us today and make a difference in our community!*

## Become a Member

### Your Membership helps NCNW:

- Elevate women of color in leadership
- Advocate for women's and civil rights
- Reduce health disparities in Black communities
- Advance education for African-Americans
- Empower African-American women economically
- Strengthen the African-American family
- Support women in need locally and globally

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

The membership fee is required to be paid to both local and national levels annually to support the mission of the organization.

### Annual National Dues:

- **\$75.00** - National
- **\$25 per capita** - existing Life and Legacy-Life
- **\$1,000** - Life (*one-time fee*)
- **\$1,500** - Legacy-Life (*one-time-fee*)

### Annual Local Section Dues:

- **\$155.00** SPMS Section - (\$55 Dues, 2 Assessments: \$50 October and \$50 March)

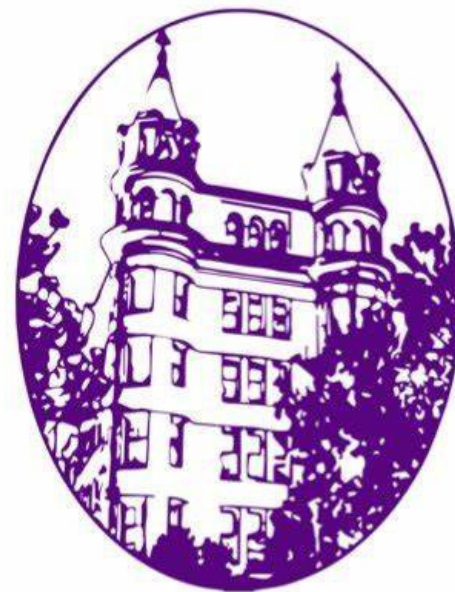
### PAYMENT

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

Scan to learn more...



**Established in 1942   Chartered in 1946**

*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



**Lynn Harrell-Johnson**  
**2024-2026**

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

Our SPMS 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 in the community.

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 SPMS section was established in 1942 by Mrs. Fannye 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 charter member, Mrs. Ponder 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, **“Your support is essential”**.



Mrs. Fannye Ayer Ponder, established the NCNW Saint Petersburg Metropolitan Section in 1942. She was a close friend of Mary McLeod Bethune, 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 chartered a local section of the NCNW, the purpose of which was to effect the integration of blacks into the political, educational, economic, social, and cultural life of Saint 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 Saint 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.

### Fannye Ayer Ponder Council House



The Fannye Ayer Ponder Council House was officially designated as a Historical Landmark in 1991 because the site met the criteria founded by Saint 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.