

St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section
National Council of Negro Women, Inc.
September 16, 2023
General Membership Meeting Minutes

Call to Order by President Ethel Robinson at 10:02 AM

Invocation led by Georgia Thomas

Mission Statement read aloud by President Ethel Robinson

Guest/New Members Introductions – DeShay Collier

June General Minutes Approval – Motion to approve the agenda with additions as presented was made by Sandra Patterson and 2nd by Sharion Thurman-Reeves

Financial Report – Valerie Williams, Treasurer & Dr. Kim Hickman, Financial Secretary

June 1 – 30, 2023

Operating Account: June 2023 beginning balance of \$63,853.25 with an ending balance of \$56,709.38. **MLK Breakfast Account:** June 2023 beginning balance of \$70,148.12 with an ending balance of \$70,148.12. **Scholarship Account:** June 2023 beginning balance of \$20,748.31 with an ending balance of \$20,749.16.

July 1 – 31, 2023

Operating Account: July 2023 beginning balance of \$56,709.38 with an ending balance of \$56,135.26. **MLK Breakfast Account:** July 2023 beginning balance of \$70,148.12 with an ending balance of \$69,880.99. **Scholarship Account:** July 2023 beginning balance of \$20,749.16 with an ending balance of \$20,750.04.

August 1 – 31, 2023

Operating Account: August 2023 beginning balance of \$56,135.26 with an ending balance of \$53,094.95. **MLK Breakfast Account:** August 2023 beginning balance of \$69,880.99 with an ending balance of \$68,132.99.

Scholarship Account: August 2023 beginning balance of \$20,750.04 with an ending balance of \$80,753.47.

Announcements/Information: President, Ethel Robinson

- a. Community Engagement – President Robinson explained selective community engagement. The section pays 50% and members pay the other 50%. An email is sent out to the membership. The first ten who reply with an interest to attend are selected. The president is one of the ten.
- b. Thank you – Thank you to Rose Mack, Dr. Sharon Brown, and Thelma Bruce for keeping the scholarships up to date. Also, a thank you to Apostle Clarice Pennington and the Hospitality Committee for a great continental breakfast.
- c. Sickie Cell Event – the event had a great turnout, and Mary Murph always hosts an outstanding event. Thank you to the members who attended the event and congratulations.
- d. Thanksgiving Give-Away – Chairs: Jackie Wilson and Lorraine Brown. They will be in touch with the members to volunteer. President Robinson asked that everyone be committed to volunteering for the Thanksgiving Give-Away. The Thanksgiving Give-Away will take place on Friday, November 17, 2023, with a drive-thru, the Theme is “Come to the table, who fellowship, and celebrate of

God's bounty", Psalm 104:154, Mt. Zion AME Church, 1045 – 16th Street South, Pastor Clarence Williams. The donations can be dropped off at the council house beginning Saturday, October 28th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, Saturday, November 4th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, and Saturday, November 11th, 10:00 – 11:30 AM. This year the committee will have bags for the NCNW sick members who are not able to pick up a Thanksgiving bag. They will also, have a table for walk-ups on the day of the event. There will be sign-up sheets for the donations of food. Members are listed on the sign-up sheet in alphabet order. Your name will be checked off once you bring in your food donation. A chair and co-chairperson are needed for each food item. Letters were mailed to sponsors. The Black Pearls will have a Thanksgiving personal hygiene kits event for the homeless.

- e. Elections (Political) – We as members of NCNW can support political representatives but not as a presentation of NCNW. Please do not wear NCNW paraphernalia attire to show support.
 - f. MLK Event – Rene Flowers will be the Chair for the MLK Breakfast. We are in need of sponsors.
 - g. Delta's Partnership - our section has been partnering with the Deltas. Deborah Sheppard Brooks spoke with President Robinson in regard to partnering with them for two events; rent out the theatre for The Color Purple, in December, and the Symphony, in March at the Palladium and to introduce the young people to opera. The age group would be 13 years old and up. The tickets are \$30.00 per person (the sponsors reduced the tickets to \$30.00). Tickets for the Black Pearls can be used from some of their money that wasn't used from last year. Sections members can pay for their own.
 - h. State Conference overall brief - SPMS had the largest section in attendance. Thank you to Sir Collier for driving the ladies to the conference. Also, to David Williams as well. Sister Gwen Fields gave a brief description of the conference. There will be an ongoing training starting in late September.
2. **Committee Reports/Social Media** – Thelma Bruce;
- a. Back To School: SPMS partners with the Lakewood Homeowners Association. Contributed with the leftover school supplies to support Maximo Elementary. Dr. Kim Williams took the lead in helping with the organization, and with the help of Valerie Williams.
 - b. October: Membership Orientation
 - c. November: Thanksgiving Give-Away
 - d. December: open
 - e. MLK – Rene Flowers; Chair
 - f. Ideas -share your ideas/projects for the SPMS to reach out to our community. Example: Dr. Ada Davis made suggestions to participate in the Collard Green Festival therefore she chaired the event. Thelma Bruce spoke with Judy Ellis, Lakewood Estate Association. The apartments (built by Boley) on 54th Avenue South are being built for homeless families such as the students from Maximo Elementary School. Lakewood Estates Association will have a celebration (picnic/party) for these families at Boyd Hill. They're looking for partners to help. Thelma Bruce is asking NCNW SPMS to connect with the community/homeless. Volunteers are needed to assist with this event. Please

- contact Thelma Bruce. This event will take place in January. Volunteers are needed for other events that we have on our calendar.
- g. Human Trafficking (February) – Lorretta Monroe Calvin; chair. Partner with the Deltas.
 - h. Scholarships & Mentors: (Ralph Young scholarship). More mentors are needed (take 3 or more). Keep in touch with the students to encourage and remind them. Sandra Patterson is the chair of the mentor committee.
 - i. Health & Wellness – Dr. LaDonna Butler; is ready to plan and put their events into action.
- 3. **IT** – No report
 - 4. **Black Pearls** – the former youth director, Jennifer Richardson moved to Naples. The newly appointed youth director is Cynthia Jenkins. Jackie Wilson and Lorraine will continue to be advisors.
 - 5. **Dues/Assessments/Membership Updates** – DeShay Collier; National dues are \$50.00, Local Dues are \$55.00, and Life and Legacy Life members do not pay National dues. Assessments are paid in October, \$50.00, and in March, \$50.00. The fiscal year for NCNW begins on October 1st. If you had an address, email, or phone number change please contact DeShay Collier with your updated information. The membership orientation is open to the new and current members.
 - 6. **MKL Committees (volunteers needed)** – Commissioner Rene Flowers, Chair; Theme: “The Character and Legacy of a Community, Where, do you stand”? Commissioner Rene Flowers gave a quote from Dr. MLK King which relates to our theme. She is working on some outstanding guest speakers for the MLK Breakfast such as Symone Sanders; who worked on the Kamala Harris campaign, Eddie Glaude, MSNBC, Ketanji Brown, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Joe Kyles Sr, Mayor of South Bay, FL. MLK Breakfast sign-up sheets will be available after the meeting. Lynn Harrell Johnson will send out the MLK Breakfast sign-up sheets by email for members to join a committee as well. A save-the-date flyer and sponsorship packages will be available soon.
 - 7. **Benevolence/Birthdays** – Bridgett Talbert; Happy Birthday to our September members. Four gift cards were given out for benevolence and eight cards were for different reasons. A thank you card was received from Sister Anne Killen.
 - 8. **New/Old Business** – Please see Lynn Harrell Johnson if you have any correspondence to send out to the section. Also, Deborah Figgs-Sanders, City Council, District 5 is having a Re-Election kick-off on Monday, September 18, 2023, 6:00 -7:30 PM at Toriano’s restaurant, 1059 – 62nd Avenue South, please come to show your support.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:34 AM

Closing Prayer: Apostle Clarice Pennington

Beverly Mitchell-Brown, Recording Secretary

Ethel Robinson, President