



THE DRUMBEAT

**A publication of the Leisure World Association for African American Culture (LWAAAC)
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Dear LWAAAC Members,

Welcome to our new year. Being the president of LWAAAC is an honor, and I accept the honor fully aware of the shoes left to fill. Juanita Sealy-Williams was an exemplary president and served this organization well for many years. During her tenure, several programs were started, programs designed to build and strengthen our community through friendship and solidarity.



LWAAAC

Those of you who know me know that I, too, believe in reaching out, bringing people in, and widening the circle. As the year closed, there were nearly 300 members of LWAAAC. Many showed up for the truly well-orchestrated dances and other social events, and many of us came to the meetings. But too many didn't attend events or meetings, yet they supported LWAAAC with their dollars and numbers because they want to be associated with this African American organization. My goal is to be purposeful about bringing *them* into the circle and building up the numbers in the new year.

Since my candidacy was announced, several people have offered circle-widening ideas: a women's group similar to the LWAAAC men's fellowship; a speaker's forum where we share the wealth of knowledge and experience this group offers; an arts fair to show off and trade artistic endeavors and choices; a governance committee to keep us informed about what's going on in Leisure World governance; and a cookbook.

All of these ideas could work to strengthen our community, but only one person who offered an idea also said she'd be willing to spearhead the effort. So, I'm going to echo the words of our past-president, Juanita, in her farewell message in the Drumbeat:

Hopefully you will step up and join or chair a committee so that we will grow to greater heights. It's easy to sit back and watch or criticize what's being done or forgotten, but the work is easier when more members help the team to achieve the dream.

I begin this new year hoping that we will all take these words to heart.

Thank you.

Janet Overton, President

Goodbye Madam President, Hello Madam President



Janet Overton (L) and Juanita Sealy-Williams

On Wednesday, June 28, LWAAAC closed out its year with the annual membership meeting. During the meeting, Janet Overton became president, taking over from the steadfast Juanita Sealy-Williams, who led the organization for a total of five years. Overton has been a LW resident for two years. She plans “to offer even more opportunities for members who are not active to become active and join the circle.”

Sealy-Williams thanked the executive board members and committee chairs who have served with her and expressed her profound appreciation to the general membership for its support of and participation in the activities that take place throughout the year. She also strongly encouraged members to become more engaged in the everyday work that underpins LWAAAC to ensure that it continues as a growing, dynamic organization.



Other new officers are, l-r next to Overton, Maxine Hooker, vice president; Janice Wallace, recording secretary; and Sharon Boone, correspondence secretary. Eleanor Thompson and Judith Robinson will remain as treasurer and financial secretary, respectively.

While the new LWAAAC year began on July 1, most formal meetings and activities will go on hiatus until September. During that time, though, committees will be forming, and preliminary planning will begin in anticipation of the organization’s thirtieth anniversary year. [The first membership meeting of the 2023-24 year will be held on Wednesday, September 6, at 4 pm in the Crystal Ballroom.]

Committee Roundup

The standing committees are amenities, community service, membership, programs and public relations. Anyone interested in joining a committee may contact Sherry Weaver, at stheweaver@comcast.net, for referral to the appropriate chairperson.

Amenities Committee

In official language, “the amenities committee acknowledges and responds to situations where members and their families may appreciate support.” In other words, their job is to reach out to members of the LWAAAC community in their most vulnerable moments—moments of illness, grief, and loss—to convey the support and affection of their fellow members. For the last several years, the committee of one has been Karen Robinson. She’ll be joined in the coming year by Elise Nicholls and Louise Markray. They encourage all members to share information when they deem it appropriate to enable them in their outreach efforts. Karen can be reached at (240) 293-6583 or at blink1@sbcglobal.net.

Community Service Committee

The CSC’s spring project involved donating time, rather than money, to Shepherd’s Table in Silver Spring, a grassroots initiative for the homeless and working poor. Their volunteer coordinator created a registration link just for LWAAAC members, but several committee members had already registered as individuals. At each LWAAAC meeting this spring, we called for volunteers. We had group volunteer events in March, April, and June. Volunteer groups comprised both members of CSC and the general LWAAAC body.

Fundraising Committee

The LWAAAC fundraising committee led three projects during the 2022-2023 year that included sales from the following:

- One hundred 2023 calendars entitled “A History of Racial Injustice,” and produced by the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, AL, were sold.
- The LWAAAC Spring Dance was held on May 19th, where attendees came together for a wonderful evening of great food, music and dancing, and fellowship. 74 tickets sold. Elizabeth Brooks-Evans generously donated her prize money from the 50/50 Raffle to LWAAAC's budget.
- The LWAAAC membership strongly embraced the inaugural and iconic LWAAAC logo t-shirts with 128 purchases.

These three undertakings, after expenses, added approximately \$3,000 to the LWAAAC budget to enhance support of the membership, as well as educational and community service projects.

Many sincere thanks are extended to the membership for their support. And the time, energy, and effort that members of the fundraising committee gave to these successful projects are greatly appreciated.

Membership Committee

Janice Wallace, former membership committee chair, was elected to the office of LWAAAC recording secretary at the annual meeting on June 28. Contact information for the new chair will be available soon. Meanwhile, annual dues of \$20 are now being accepted for the period July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. Payment (checks only, payable to LWAAAC) may be deposited in the LWAAAC mail slot in the Lifestyle office in Clubhouse I or mailed to: LWAAAC, Attn: Membership, PO Box 12316, Silver Spring, MD 20908. Include a full residential address, telephone number, and email address.

Men's Fellowship

During this 2022-23 term the men's fellowship group reports the following accomplishments:

1. Established and executed planned goals centered on both health and non-health related subject matter;
2. Held monthly Zoom sessions consistently on topics of importance;
3. Held two quarterly Saturday luncheons for its membership in the months of February and May;
4. Invited outside presenters to contribute to the discussions on related subject matter to include topics related to long COVID, dementia, Alzheimer's, and sleep apnea; and
5. Developed strategies to grow the number of LWAAAC men and participation in the men's fellowship.

Lastly, Stan Crocker has relinquished his role as co-chair of the LWAAAC men's fellowship as of June 2023 to focus on other commitments. F Robert Yates Jr will continue to serve as chairperson until a successor has been identified to continue the work of the LWAAAC men's fellowship. Yates has asked if any LWAAAC men desire to serve as chair or co-chair, and as vice chair during the 2023-24 term.

Programs Committee

The committee has coordinated the following events since the publication of the spring newsletter in March:

- Member Appreciation Event/Fun Night, Clubhouse I, Crystal Ballroom
Thursday, April 21 4:00-7:00 pm, Attendees: 150 ppl
- Shout Sister Shout Stage Performance, Ford Theatre
Friday, April 28 2:00 pm, Attendees: 56 ppl
- June Annual Gathering LW Lanai
Saturday, June 10 4:00-7:00 pm, Attendees: 193 ppl
- "The Real Juneteenth" LW Auditorium
Friday, June 16 2:00-4:00 pm, Attendees: 157 ppl

Public Relations Committee

Since the publication of the spring newsletter, the committee has also published seven articles in the *Leisure World News*. Additionally, PRC prepared the showcase with a generalized topic for the LWAAAC summer hiatus. Finally, PR committee members collaborated with the program committee on the execution of Fun Night and on both the execution and design of the June gathering on the Lanai.

A Treasured Memory: August 28, 1963 The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom



“In August 1963, I was 17 years old and about to begin my senior year at East High School in Columbus, Ohio. As a member of the Youth NAACP Group, I had the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. for the 1963 historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. I traveled from Columbus, Ohio by charter bus with my dear friend and fellow senior, Audrey L. Norman. Our bus stopped in Zanesville, in southeastern Ohio, where my Uncle Harley J. Flack, an NAACP officer in their community, and his son, my cousin, Harley E. Flack, a student at Ohio State University, boarded the bus. It is an experience I cherish to this day: being among so many fine, committed people, young and old, of every race and many religions, striving to fulfill our country's promise of ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness’ for ALL people. Seeing national figures and dignitaries and hearing their inspirational words, especially the words of Dr. Martin Luther King's “I Have a Dream” speech, continue to be a source of inspiration to this day.” Sharon Waugh Lee, LWAAAC member since 2012, member of the programs committee

... AND FYI

SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION Club Helping the Homeless and Working Poor

announces:

Teacher Supply Drive

to collect items for low-income students.

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 -- 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Crystal Ballroom or curbside drop-off at the entrance to Clubhouse I

Alfonso “Al” Holston **The Quiet Man Behind the Camera**

Attend nearly any LWAAAC event, and you will very likely encounter Al Holston. For many years, he has unobtrusively photographed the organization’s goings on for publication in various organs and inclusion in LWAAAC’s own archive. And he’s good at it. Al can somehow cajole the most reluctant subject into having that photo taken—and usually with a smile.



By way of back story, after graduating from Alabama A&M, Holston left behind his Alabama roots to try his luck in New York City, where his life took some interesting turns. He worked for many years in lower Manhattan in commodities trading in Tower One of the World Trade Center. Indeed, he was on his way to work on the morning of September 11, 2001, when he witnessed firsthand one of the nation's greatest tragedies. His coworkers all survived, but many simply could not return when their office reopened only a block from the site of the disaster.

By then, Al was deep in one of his beloved avocations: photography. He had fallen into it by accident when he borrowed an Instamatic camera to photograph a newborn member of his family. Photography classes—and a better camera—soon followed, and he was hooked. His second avocation was tennis, and he was able to merge the two when he became an accredited photographer with the U.S. Tennis Championship and for 20 years photographed many of the greats in the sport, including Arthur Ashe and Billie Jean King.

Of most significance, however, New York introduced Al to the love of his life in May 1990 in the person of Bernice Glennie Martin. The two shared many interests, including tennis, the performing arts, and travel. They moved to Leisure World, near Glennie’s family, soon after Al’s retirement in 2009. Al and Glennie had been together for thirty years when she passed away in May of 2020.

Al continues here in Leisure World, where he participates in LWAAAC, the Tennis Club, and other interests. He has many friends across the community, some of whom have characterized him as “a gentle soul” and “a willing helper.” He appreciates these accolades and says he’s grown accustomed to living here in Silver Spring. He says, though, that he will ultimately return to Alabama to be among family and loved ones.

In closing, Al says he’s not “just a guy with a good camera.” The camera is the tool that allows him to make the art that conveys his imagination and vision. His favorite images include everything from dynamic compositions of dancers and other performers to a black and white portrait of his beloved Glennie, which was sold to a New York gallery.

LWAAAC MOMENTS

(Photos courtesy of Sandy Henderson, Al Holston, Sherry Weaver)

Spring Dance



June 10th Gathering



The "Real" Juneteenth



Shout, Sister, Shout



The Drumbeat

The Drumbeat is issued quarterly. It's generated by the public relations committee and approved by the president. It does not endorse political candidates or publish information intended to elicit personal or commercial profit, and it promotes no religious beliefs. The 2023-24 public relations committee is chaired by Sherry Weaver, who is joined by Millie Overton, Sandy Henderson, and Patricia Means.

Please direct comments or questions to LWAAAC, Attn: Public Relations Committee, POB 12316, Silver Spring, MD 20908.

Thank you.

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Let the LWAAAC circle be unbroken.