



THE DRUMBEAT

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all and Happy Lunar Year of the Rabbit! As we begin this new year of 2023, we are probably making resolutions that we've already broken and wondering where has the time gone! It is shocking to see how many shootings have already happened in just the first month and how violence continues to invade our communities and our nation. But we must not allow these horrible statistics to discourage or depress us. Keep hope alive! I still believe that we will overcome the racism and attacks on our human and civil rights!

Do you remember when "Negro History" was a one-week recognition? It gradually became a one-month celebration of Black history! And slowly educators and historians are realizing that it is a part of American history! That's why so many melanin-challenged politicians are trying their worst to keep the teaching and reading of our contributions to the making and developing of this America out of our educational system! They are frightened about the fact that in 20 years or so they won't be the majority, and we won't be a minority! We have many allies who respect us and our determination to achieve equal citizenship and a better life for our children and grandchildren.

As we enjoy our life in Leisure World, let us step out into our joy and self-pride and participate in the activities, events and clubs that are available to us all. Let's share the beauty of our people and history! You are the ancestors' dream!

Juanita

Juanita Sealy-Williams, President

MAXINE HOOKER: SERVANT-LEADER



When asked how she characterizes herself, Maxine Hooker promptly responds that she is a servant leader, who “Serves with an Empowered Heart, and A Helping Hand.” Ask people who know her and her work, and you will get much the same answer.

The preponderance of her service has been through Lions Club, which seeks to “improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services . . .”, a perfect fit for the dauntless Maxine. To enhance her skills within the organization, however, Maxine has undergone training with the organization’s leadership program, reaching the master’s level at Lion’s University in Seattle.

She has gone on to serve three terms as president of the Leisure World Lions Club, and in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, she served as the Lions’ district global service team coordinator for 2020-2021. In June 2022, she was elected for a one-year term as district governor for Lions Club International, District 22-C, which includes the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia. She is only the third African American woman in the 76-year history of Lions District 22-C to reach that level. She is also the District 22-C program coordinator and mentor for the Lions Quest Program, which teaches life skills to children and adolescents in both Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties. Maxine says she derives immense satisfaction from mentoring youth, and she hopes to one day build a community center.

A resident of Leisure World for ten years, Maxine has been a LWAAAC member for seven. She briefly chaired the LWAAAC community services committee in 2021. Due to other increasing commitments, however, she had to relinquish that role. Maxine says she remains an enthusiastic, committed, and supportive member of the committee.

For many years, Maxine worked hand-in-hand with her beloved Arthur, who passed away in 2020. She says they met in North Carolina at a convention, and they were married for ten years. She misses him a lot.



Robin, the line dance lady



Sister Circle Lunch



Mr. Warr hosts

LWAAAC MOMENTS



He made it: Governor Moore



The music men



Familiar faces



Tony says it all.



Laura looking good



Fall program greetings



Santa Baby



Mr. Lewis would approve.



The wonderful Helen



Play on, children!



King Day program participants

Photos by Al Holston, Elise Nicholls, and Sherry Weaver



LWAAAC ELECTIONS: COMING SOON!

We'll be saying a sad, fond farewell this June to the incomparable Juanita Sealy-Williams, who will be ending her second and final two-year term as LWAAAC's president. She will be sorely missed as she leaves the role, but she's promised to remain active in the organization. We wish her all good things as she flips the script and becomes a regular member, if an active one. Juanita would also be the first among us to encourage LWAAAC members to (a) step up and run for office, and (b) to vote for your choice of candidate when the slate of candidates is made available.

You will be hearing soon from the nominations and election committee with all the details as it goes about the business of seeking nominees as officers for the 2023-2025 board of directors and moving us a step closer to the June election. The officers of the board of directors are president, vice president, recording secretary, correspondence secretary, financial secretary, and treasurer. Effective with this election, it's a two-year commitment for officers.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Community Services Committee (CSC): In 2022/23, CSC chose to support an elementary school and a program that addresses food insecurity and homelessness. Following the advice of a former Montgomery County Public Schools pupil personnel worker, the committee chose Glenallen Elementary in Silver Spring. In response to our query about funding opportunities at Glenallen, assistant principal, Ms. Shauntae Spaugh, suggested the Field Trip Fund, which covers expenses for students whose families can't afford the added costs involved with school trips. Its purpose is to ensure that all students can experience these expanded learning opportunities.

At the monthly meeting in December, LWAAAC members voted unanimously to fund a one-time donation to support Glenallen School's Field Trip Fund. Subsequently, on January 18, 2023, the CSC delivered a check for \$1,000 to Assistant Principal Spaugh.



Community services chair Janet Overton delivers check to Assistant Principal Spaugh

In addition to the two projects, in October CSC was asked to organize a collection to purchase Giant Food gift cards for those in the Leisure World community experiencing food insecurity. The LWAAAC membership and a generous donor rose to the occasion and donated a total of \$1,650, enabling the purchase of thirty-three \$50 gift cards, which were delivered to the LW Social Work Department on December 1 for distribution at their discretion.

Later this spring, CSC committee members and other LWAAAC volunteers will donate time at Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring. Shepherd's Table is a multiservice, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping "a population experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and poverty." LWAAAC volunteers will help with meal service and related tasks at a date and time to be announced.

The CSC is extremely grateful for the generosity of LWAAAC members in giving to the elderly in need in our own community, to children in need in the wider community, and to the clients of Shepherd's table.

(Contact Janet Overton, chair, janmo4868@gmail.com)

Fundraising Committee: The committee has been diligent in its efforts to build up the LWAAAC treasury. Specifically, they:

- have sold 124 current-year Equal Justice Initiative(EJI) calendars and made over \$400;
- are still collecting size information from members for the new LWAAAC logo t-shirts that will be ordered in March;
- continue to sell the popular LWAAAC logo luggage tags, which are available at \$4 each or 3 for \$10;
- have begun planning the LWAAAC Spring Dance, tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 10, 7-10 pm in Clubhouse II.

(Contact Arviella Brown, chair, avbrown150@comcast.net)

LWAAAC Men's Fellowship: Led by co-chairmen and co-facilitators, Stan Crocker and Rob Yates, the group began meeting in August of last year. They decided that its mission would be "To fellowship as men of Leisure World" and its vision would be "in fellowship together, visible in our community, and responding to community needs." The LWAAAC men also agreed that the following goals would guide the group's mission and vision:

- to grow the membership by active social fellowship among men of color and all others; and
- to promote the group through the Leisure World newspaper, LWAAAC 's newsletter, other correspondence, and planned and meaningful activities centered on educational awareness and social interactions.

Subsequently the group has participated in regular monthly Zoom meetings that address an impressive range of topics related primarily to the health and wellbeing of seniors and persons of color. These have included prostate health, cancer, long Covid, dementia and Alzheimer's, Medicare enrollment, community governance, and community life within Leisure World. Going forward in 2023, LWAAAC men's fellowship plans to continue along these lines, with members agreeing to take responsibility for facilitating one or more discussions during the year.

(Contact Stanley Crocker, co-chair, stanleycrocker@outlook.com)

Programs Committee: This has been a very, very busy group, and they will continue to be in the coming months.

Past Events:

- Fall Membership Event – October 12
- Movie Meetups: *The Woman King*, October 4; *Till*, November 1; *Wakanda Forever*, November 22
- Annual Holiday Gala - December 18
- Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Commemoration Program – January 16



Sandy Henderson, Sharon Boone, and Sharon Lee sell Gala tickets

Coming Attractions

- *Kinky Boots* Performance - Wednesday, February 15, 2 pm, Olney Center Theater
- Black History Month Program - Monday, February 20, Clubhouse I, Crystal Ballroom, 2-4pm
- Fun Night - Thursday, April 21, 4-6pm, Clubhouse I, Crystal Ballroom (Members only)
- Annual June Gathering - Saturday, June 10, Clubhouse I, Lanai
(Contact Sandy Henderson, chair, skyhenderson@gmail.com)

Public Relations Committee (PRC): The committee has done two seasonal updates of the LWAAAC showcase in Clubhouse I, located in the corridor behind the Lifestyle office. The current display honors both well and lesser-known African American achievers. PRC and the programs committee have also collaborated on the creation of a podium sign that can be used in any LW meeting room during LWAAAC events.



(LWAAAC podium sign designed by Millie Overton, PR committee member)

Finally, the PRC has continued to submit bi-weekly articles to the *Leisure World News*; published two editions of *The Drumbeat*, including the current one; and updated the LWAAAC membership brochure, which should be available within the next two weeks.
(Contact Sherry Weaver, chair, stheweaver@comcast.net)



Congratulations Elizabeth and John!

A LITTLE MORE TO TELL

ORIGINS

Every February, we celebrate Black history, a thread that is so prominently woven into the fabric of all American history. The creation of Black History Month is a rich moment in itself, having begun in 1926 as “Negro History Week,” through the efforts of renowned author and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson (pictured below). According to the NAACP, Woodson believed that African American contributions were “overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them.”



Therefore, two years after Woodson and his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, had held Negro History and Literature Week, Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) formalized the event as Negro History Week. The second week in February was chosen to honor the birthdays of abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln. Fifty years later, in 1976, ASNLH adopted new language and institutionalized Black History Month. *(Reprinted from the Leisure World News)*

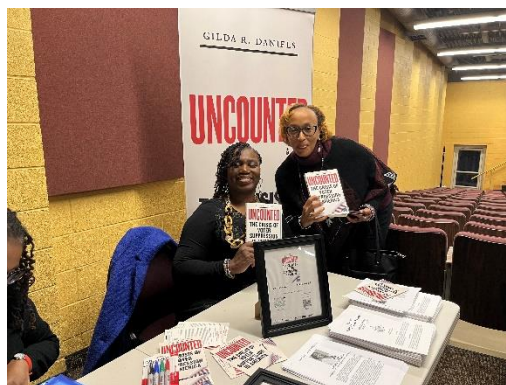
Many Inflation Reduction Act Provisions Set to Take Effect in January

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, setting into motion multiple provisions that will bring down skyrocketing prescription drug prices for millions of Americans.

Many of those provisions will begin in January including:

- **Insulin** co-pays will be capped at \$35 per month for Medicare beneficiaries;
- All recommended adult **vaccines** will be free for Medicare beneficiaries;
- Corporations that raise the **price of drugs** sold to Medicare faster than the rate of inflation must pay rebates back to Medicare;
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must identify the 100 highest-priced drugs and select the first 10 for price negotiation.

In addition, Medicare will begin to cover medically necessary **dental** procedures beginning in January. Also, over-the-counter hearing aids are available now, following an Executive Order signed by President Biden in October. *(Reprinted with permission of the Donkey Dispatch, Democratic Club of Leisure World)*



(Photo by Juanita Sealy-Williams)

LWAAAC READS

- *While Justice Sleeps*, Stacy Abrams – a thriller set within the walls of the Supreme Court
- *The Personal Librarian*, Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray – historical fiction about J.P. Morgan’s librarian who had to pass as white
- *Uncounted: The Crisis of Voter Suppression in America*, Gilda Daniels – the phenomenon of disenfranchisement through the lenses of history, race, law, and the democratic process
- *Half American*, Matthew Delmont – African Americans fighting World War II at home and abroad
- *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, Ernest Gaines – 110-year-old Miss Jane Pittman’s incredible journey from the end of the Civil War through the civil right movement
- *The First Americans*, David Imhotep, Ph.D. – the African presence in the Americas before Columbus
- *Brighter by the Day*, Robin Roberts – a guide to instilling hope and optimism into readers’ lives

And remember to “spring forward” on March 12

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 2022-23 public relations committee is chaired by Sherry Weaver, who is joined by Millie Overton, Sandy Henderson, and Pat Means.

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

Thank you.

Sherry Weaver, Editor

301-275-8918

stheweaver@comcast.net



Let the LWAAAC circle be unbroken.