

The Sojourner's Truth

Volume 59, No. 7

“And Ye Shall Know The Truth...”

January 15, 2020

Sheena Barnes Joins TPS Board of Education



Toledo City Councilwoman Yvonne Harper and Toledo School Board Member Sheena Barnes

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Top Cop

By Rev. Donald L. Perryman, Ph.D.

The Truth Contributor

Black people are dying in this country because we have a criminal justice system which is out of control, a system in which over 50% of young African American kids are unemployed.

- Bernie Sanders



Disparities in the criminal justice system have had a devastating impact on people of color and decimated black and brown communities throughout the United States. People of color continue to be policed, charged, sentenced and incarcerated compared to their white counterparts.

The impact of the system's disparate policies and practices have resulted in lack of equal access to jobs, housing, education and a myriad of other public benefits and universal rights, leading many to declare criminal justice reform as the "civil rights issue of the 21st century."

The choice for the top cop – Lucas County Sheriff – not only occupies the center of one of our most competitive local political campaigns, but is also, perhaps, the most prominent battle in the war for justice and equality in Toledo, Ohio.

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with Robert Navarre, a candidate for Lucas County Sheriff. Since 2012, Navarre has served as Chief of Police for the city of Oregon. Prior to that time, he was Chief of Police for the city of Toledo.

Perryman: Please talk about your experience. This is not your first rodeo.

Navarre: No, I've been a chief of police for 21 years. I was selected as chief in Toledo by Mayor Finkbeiner in 1998 after serving three years as a deputy chief. I left Toledo in 2011 and three months later I was hired as the chief of police in Oregon.

Perryman: Any other experiences?

Navarre: I've been involved in several boards at the state level through the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police. In 2014, I was put on a state-wide task force chaired by Nina Turner to improve police-community relations in the state. That was in the aftermath of several very controversial shootings that had occurred across the country, two in Ohio, Tamir Rice in Cleveland and John Crawford III who was killed in Beaver Creek.

I've also been on the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for 21 years and serve on the committee for the Re-entry Coalition of Northwest Ohio helping to make the transition for inmates back into society, try to find them housing, try to take care of blocks on their driver's licenses, try to take care of any outstanding warrants, get them job training.

Perryman: One of the major tasks for whoever is elected as Sheriff will be dealing with a jail that is obsolete. So far, we've had difficulty getting a new one built.

Navarre: Well they're not going to be able to build one in a neighborhood. I think that was a bad decision from the get-go. You've got to build it vertically downtown if you can find enough land to build it. People would accept a prison in a neighborhood because people go in and at some point they come out and when they come out there's somebody waiting for them or there's transportation waiting for them. A county jail, however, there are people that go in that door and out that door 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can't have that in a neighborhood. There's not somebody there waiting to pick those people up, there's people looking for transportation, they're looking for money and there's houses and those people that live in that neighborhood in proximity to a county jail are vulnerable and plus the whole problem with being close to the courts, that's valid.

Perryman: In any event, it will take time to build a new jail. So, how do you deal with the inadequacies of the existing facility?

Navarre: That building has to be made presentable. Elevators have to work, it has to be cleaned, you can do that with detergent, you can do that with paint. Plumbing has to work; it has to be secure. That's not a debate, those are things that have to be done.

Perryman: One of the challenges that you would be facing is operational inefficiencies which has caused the budget to get out of control. How do you get those numbers back in line?

Navarre: A lot of it is overtime, they've got a lot of issues there. They have employees that call in sick a lot, so instead of paying people straight time wages they're paying time and a half wages like every day. I know that there are some potential fixes that could work to reduce sick time. First of all, you have to hold the employees accountable, you can't let them do what they're doing in terms of you call in sick one day and I'll call in sick the next day and we both get time and a half, that has to end. But there's a possibility of looking at expanded shifts, 10-hour shifts or 12-hour shifts have proven to reduce sick time because it gives employees extra days off.

I'm a firm believer in treating your employees right. You have to create an environment where people want to come to work and enjoy their jobs. You have to treat employees fairly and you have to give promotions based on merit. You don't want to do things that just make employees distrusting of the administration and you've got to give them a voice. Whoever gets elected has to go in and listen, has to visit every department, every floor, every section and spend time with the employees and find out what they do and ask them how can this job be done better?

Perryman: What are your thoughts on diversity? How diverse is Oregon?

Navarre: Any law enforcement agency should reflect the community it serves and there's a lot of reasons for that and you know what those reasons are.

In terms of diversity, my challenge is getting minority candidates and women to get on Oregon's list, then they can get a chance to be interviewed by me, do a background and get selected. If I can't get them on the list, all I got is white males on a list, then that's all I'm going to be able to hire.

... continued on page 4

The Sojourner's Truth

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Community Calendar

January 20

Unity Day Celebration: University of Toledo; 10 am; Savage Arena

January 24

A Discussion and Information Session on Politics and the 202 Elections: 10 am; Mott Branch Library; Sponsored by Councilman Tyrone Riley

February 4

Credit Repair Seminar: 6 to 8 pm; Hosted by Jason White, 700 club Witness Riches; Mott Branch Library

Apostasy on the March

By Lafe Tolliver, Esq

Guest Column

There is a whole lot of shaking going on in the religious community known at the United Methodist Church.

Matter of fact, if truth be known, the shaking is cataclysmic with respect to the foundational truths of the Methodist Church and how it relates to Bible principles of conduct and that little-used word that is not bandied about as much because it is so offensive to many people and now ostensibly offensive to many disgruntled Methodists.

You know. That three-letter word called, S-I-N.

What is now being reported is that a proposed breakaway group in the Methodist movement wants to present to the governing General Assembly their proposal to split away from the general denominational group and form their own "denomination" complete with a hierarchy of elders and bishops.

This proposal would allow them to have the "breakaway" churches keep their real estate so as to compose a separate faction of, "Methodists." The reason for this disgruntlement of these proposed breakaway Methodists?

They want to neuter the Biblical scriptures that call obedience to the Word of God that has for thousands of years categorized homosexuality and same sex marriages as being sinful.

There, I said that word again! That "word" is causing certain Methodists to go histrionic at the mere thought that they cannot approve of same sex marriages, homosexuality and the ordination of LGBT people into the clergy and into the pulpit.

This proposed breakaway group of purportedly Bible believing Methodists literally want to massage the offending scriptures to their liking so that they can approve of and engage in, S-I-N.

Nothing complicated about their intents. They want to have free reign to corrupt the scriptures so that they can engage in verboten sinful conduct; and to approve of others to do the same. The blind leading the blind!

What do I call these proposed breakaway Methodists? Simple. Apostates and renegades who refuse to submit to the authority of the Word of God but in their fetid way of thinking, they believe that their crafty wisdom is better than God's wisdom.

This breakaway proposal has been percolating for some time with this group and they are hell bent on seeing it through at the next General Assembly to be held this year.

The only thing that previously prevented this division from becoming a reality was that the Methodists on the continent of Africa (one of the fastest growing continents for Methodism) voted at the last General Assembly against permitting homosexuality, same-sex marriages and the ordination of gays into the ministry/pulpit.

Understand that the influences of the "world" have so infected their thinking that they have accepted such carnality as a fair exchange for not submitting to the Word of God as it clearly speaks on these non-negotiable issues.

What is heinous is that those who subscribe to this rendering of the Word of God have couched their religious intellectual gibberish in the framework of being all-inclusiveness and it being all about "love."

Note: This controversy is not about denying equal rights in secular matters for which all people should be afforded fairness and equality.

For them, when God says, "Turn left!", they turn right. When God

... continued on page 4

A Commentary on a Previous Tolliver Guest Column

Mr. Tolliver, you presented the question that I have been asking of America since Dylann Roof attended Bible Study with the Charleston Nine Bible Study group on July 17, 2017. Essentially, in my opinion, the young and cowardly Mr. Roof personifies America's non-college educated white male who is a racial psychopathic persona - eternally in possession of diminished spiritual consciousness.

Black America realized there was no shame, when the police officers who were arresting this young white man stopped at Burger King to buy the hungry Mr. Roof a burger before booking him for nine counts of murder. That certainly allowed the young serial killer to "have it his way."

Tis shameful that the white evangelicals were allied with President Trump in his unconstitutional protest against Colin Kaepernick. I said "unconstitutional" as the corporate practitioners of Economic Apartheid are the owners of the National Football League (NFL) which is why the owners made an out-of-court settlement with Mr. Kaepernick last February. Basically, many of America's corporations now combine their capitalistic exploitation with white supremacy to practice Economic Apartheid against poor whites and poor blacks like what went down in Flint, MI.

That is the corporate practitioners seeking "to have it their way" (Burger King's mantra).

Mr. Tolliver, the current political lack of separation of church and state means Economic Apartheid will force white and black Americans into acquiring a liberation theology that will eradicate Economic Apartheid.

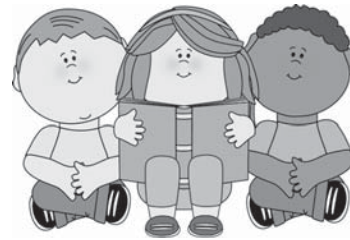
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Perryman... continued from page 2

Right now, it's difficult everywhere, because police officer applications are down and it's a problem everywhere. The city itself is like 1.5% African American, not very diverse. But we have a lot of big box stores that draw customers from North Toledo and East Toledo where there's a lot of minorities. So, it's very important that we increase that diversity.

Perryman: You know when you were chief you and I met concerning shootings and other deaths of African Americans by law enforcement. What have you learned from those incidents?

Navarre: My very first year on the job, 1998 into 1999, I had six officer involved shootings, I can tell you about each one of them because that was a difficult year. Anyway, what have I learned? You have to be transparent. You have to make sure that they are properly investigated and that you get all the facts. Now we are very fortunate in 2020 versus 1998 when I took over that all of our officers are wearing body cams in Toledo, Oregon, been doing it for years. New people that we hire, the cars have dash-cam videos, you have audio.

I used to get challenged in Toledo of how many officers lost their jobs during my tenure and I had a list that was probably about 25 officers long and that's the same list that I keep in Oregon because I want to be able to defend that to say no, we don't protect everybody, we don't sweep anything under the rug, we do proper investigations and we hold officers accountable. In fact, their peers expect you to hold them accountable because when an officer does something wrong, he makes everyone else look bad. But when you have an officer involved shooting, you absolutely have to be transparent.

Perryman: My final question is why do you want to do this? What is

your motivation?

Navarre: I have passion, I care about people, I care about community, I enjoy challenges. And, I think I'm the most qualified. Maybe I'm wrong. Maybe there's somebody out there with more qualifications, maybe there's somebody out there that'll do a much better job, but I think I can go in there and I can do what needs to be done for Lucas County. I was asked to run by members of Lucas County, people in elected and appointed positions. I didn't say yes right away, I think that's well-known. But, I thought about it for a while and was led to believe that the Democratic Party was going to endorse a candidate, and when they didn't, I looked at the field and I thought I was the most qualified, so I got in. That's about as honest as I can be.

Perryman: Thank you.

Contact Donald Perryman, Ph.D. at drdlperryman@centerofhopebaptist.org

Tolliver... continued from page 3

says, "No!", they say, "No"! to God's no!

Understand that these renegades do not need permission from the General Assembly to indulge in their pernicious beliefs. They can, at any time, simply walk away and form their own religious association so that they can create their own golden calf idol and celebrate it with loud song and raucous dancing!

They do not have to drag the name Methodist into their fleshy appetites, but they do so for the appearance of being on solid ground.

Their acts of thumbing their communion cup in the face of God is not new. History is replete with mankind throwing a tantrum when they do not get their way; and are in a snit when the Word of God calls out their conduct as being that of a reprobate.

There are times when in matters of the spirit, that lines will be drawn in the proverbial sand and choices made and this is one of those times for the Methodist movement.

Either they fight this rebellion (which they won't), or they will accede the high moral ground to the agents of Satan, wittingly or unwittingly.

Contact Lafe Tolliver (note: I am in the Methodist movement and serve as a lay speaker at Braden UMC and oppose any such splits) @ [tolliver@juno.com](https://twitter.com/tolliver@juno.com)

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Pathway Introduces Sister United, A Motherhood Program

By Fletcher Word
Sojourner's Truth Editor

More than four years ago, Pathway Inc. introduced its Brothers United Program and, during that time, 1,614 fathers – the parents of 4,592 children in Lucas County – have participated in the program receiving direction and assistance on co-parenting issues, child support and developing job skills.

Data produced

“Nearly five years of a national program and we are seeing some phenomenal results,” said Pathway CEO Cheryl Grice on Thursday January 9 as the agency introduced the logical extension to its Brothers United program – Sisters United.

Avis Files, director of Family and Supportive Services for Pathway and leader of the Brothers United program, explained the concept of the Sisters United program to a gathering at Mott Branch Library that included members of a variety of organizations and community action agencies in the area such as – Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority, Harbor Behavioral, Toledo Public Schools, Toledo Community Foundation, Lucas County Children Services, and others.

The concept for Sisters United, said Files, was borne out of the Brothers United program and persistent input from that program’s participants that more members of the community would benefit from such insight.

“This is cool, this is good,” she recalled more than one such participant telling her over the years of the program. “But my co-parent – you got to help her.” Prompted by such suggestions, Files and Pathway started Sisters United – even the name was proposed by the BU men.

Now, Sisters United will open with a pilot program, funded by the Toledo Community Foundation’s William R. Winkle Memorial Foundation, that will enable 20 women – mothers – to benefit from the same types of information their male counterparts have been receiving. In the case of the women participants, the focus will be on improving motherhood skills and co-parenting.

The program includes eight days of motherhood skills and then two weeks of “soft skills,” said Files, designed to improve work skills.

Toledo Community Foundation – www.toledocf.org –has funded the program for the first year until June 2020.

As a preliminary test, Pathway recruited five mothers from LMHA’s Birmingham Terrace to participate in a test program. Those five finished the program last October and from that initial experiment came the formula for the future Sister United program and even the theme: “We Are Mothers United as Sisters!”

For more information on Brothers United or Sisters United, contact Pathway at 419.2427304 ext. 1412



Sisters United: First test group graduated in October, 2019
Left to right: Cierra Huggins, Paris Gray, Theresa Brown, Kiala Noble and Shonice Coleman



Avis Files, Director of Family Supportive Services - Brothers United Fatherhood Program, Pathway Inc



Avis Files and Christine Dzaid Program Officer of The Greater Toledo Community Foundation and The William R. Winkle Foundation



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A Night at the Protest

By Julian Mack

Guest Column

Last night was legendary; the resistance showed up strong. Just a few scattered thoughts about the rally:

- I'm exhausted! It's been a very long week full of conference calls and community organizing to try to coordinate at least three different anti-Trump groups to show up as a united front resisting Trump, and we did it. There were at least 1,000 protesters today that did that dang thing! Thanks Mike Ferner, Terry Lodge and those that organized with #Out-Now, Kristen Liberty, Planned Parenthood organizers, the Lucas County Democratic Party and local unions that all showed up in support.
- Many Trump supporters are really nice on the surface and are often willfully ignorant of the terrible consequences of his actions. The "charisma" of Trump mixed with what seems like limitless propaganda that tries to justify his every action is VERY dangerous and has real tangible

consequences.

- Some Trump supporters, on the other hand, are completely trash human beings and our world would be better off without them. Two specific examples were when I was told to that "I should be sprayed with a firehose" for protesting and a group of pro-Trump young white kids from Napoleon High School who repeatedly and boldly threw up white supremacist hand gestures during #BlackLivesMatter chants while chanting back "no they don't."

I also witnessed a few male Trump supporters being really disrespectful to women and, in one instance, attempting to get physical with them. (There's also the alleged incident, I didn't witness but heard a few times, that a union woman was punched by a male Trump supporter at Table 44 as well as a fight between a Trump supporter and Laura Gerken, daughter of our Lucas County Commissioner, who I saw with lacerations around her eye after the rally. I know personally what it's like to be assaulted for bravely declaring your political views and to be criticized for it in the media. It's difficult to say the least. I pray for her healing inside and out.) These moments make it abundantly clear why protesting at this point in our nation's history is still so necessary. Publicly declaring that oppression will not be tolerated demonstrates our collective voice and power. In the times between elections this puts those in power on notice and let's those on the sideline know if they get involved they aren't alone.

- Internalized oppression and self hate have become very sad things for me to see. Women (mostly white women) holding a misogynist, like Trump, in high regard is wild. Seeing black folks and other minorities jump through mental gymnastics to justify standing with someone who embraces bigotry is just sad.

• The talking point that protesters don't have a job has got to go! I work full time and still manage to accomplish a hell of a lot of organizing tasks while juggling my family, work and personal life. It's difficult but it can be done.

• Direct action protesting is a young person's game. I'm 35 and exhausted, but I saw so many boomers show up in full force today. I absolutely love how boomers are redefining what it means to age gracefully. At the same time, I'm beginning to reach the age where there is a generation younger than me coming into adulthood and I love their energy. This younger generation really understands how to deal with bullies in a way I think previous generations did not. It was beautiful to experience my cousin, Miracle Burt, on the front lines with me.

• There were some noteworthy absences from activists I would've liked to have seen today. At a different time in my life that would've bothered me but today it honestly doesn't. You never know what someone needs to do for himself and his own self care. Today I see the value of falling back and respecting folks' autonomy, for me that shows growth.

• I was very proud to see Toledo City Councilman Nick Komives show up to the protest. He was the only elected official I saw out there. Nick's presence demonstrates he is still actively connected with grassroots organizers and that's important. I was told that Ohio State Senator Teresa Fedor was also in attendance. It was also great to see how many candidates who have recently run or are currently running show up, such as Reem Subei, Nick Rubando, Mike Xavier Carrigan, Carrie Russell Hartman and Nancy Larson. I highly encourage you to vote for these people in the future.

• There were so many other organizers and friends I haven't seen in a while (too many to list) that I was so happy to see. But I want to give a special shout out to my CSRN, Community Solidarity Response Network, family. Dominique Wade held it down with the livestream early on, which I really needed help with because my hands were full. Later on as I began to get tired and when we were surrounded by Trump supporters, and it was getting tense, Jodie L Summers reassured me of my safety in the clutch. Also, Brother Washington Muhammad imparted consistent nuggets of wisdom encouraging to remain mentally healthy by reminding me what-ever actions I take to keep my family responsibilities at the forefront of my mind.

• I have been sometimes critical of the Toledo Police Department and, as a general rule I don't like police at protests at all. But the Toledo Police Department collectively did a good job all day from what I could see. Sometimes activism requires agitation walking up to the line and crossing the line to dramatize a political point. I imagine at times it must be



Julian Mack (in sunglasses) Photo Courtesy Anthony Curi, Future Proof photography



Jodie Summers at protest

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Member of The Exonerated Five Inspired Youth at Annual Conference

By Tricia Hall

Sojourner's Truth Reporter

The annual University of Toledo EXCEL and UToledo Joint Committee's conference for Aspiring Minority Youth was held on Saturday, January 11 with over 1500 attendees. The event featured Keynote Speaker Yusuf Salaam, PhD, along with panel discussions for students from seventh to 12th grade. This year's theme was, "Social Justice: A Community Enterprise," and the event also commemorated EXCEL's 36th annual conference.



Yusuf Salaam

"Dr Salaam understands better than most that we have systems in this country that do not work equally for all of its citizens. However, he has dedicated himself to changing those systems as one of the leading advocates in the nation for criminal justice reform and change. This conference will educate students and parents about their basic rights and also advocate all attendees to be change agents where needed. We hope this will encourage a community and collective effort where social justice is needed," explained David Young, University of Toledo EXCEL director and special projects.

Alexis Means, 13abc Action News reporter, served as the mistress of ceremonies. Current EXCEL students were involved throughout the program: Isaac Gonzales introduced three local speakers; Reuben Hagedorn introduced the event dais; Josiah Brown introduced the featured speaker and Morgan Baker presented a dance presentation. "We have future leaders introducing our leaders," shared Means.

Immediately following the formal introductions, three local speakers were presented to the audience. The speakers were: Philip Cockrell, PhD, University of Toledo vice president of student affairs and vice provost; Wade Kapszukiewicz, mayor of Toledo; and Rodney Eason, Principle Business Enterprises vice president of human relations and administrative services.

"This conference demonstrates the university's commitment to success. We're delighted that Dr. Salaam is here and will share a word. I congratulate each organizer of this conference," explained Cockrell.

"Today's word is opportunity. What would you do with opportunity? We all have the opportunity to learn from folks who will speak today. Let's learn from this opportunity," explained Kapszukiewicz.

"We're proud to be a local sponsor because we're located right here in Toledo. We want to honor leadership, because a major part of leadership is friendship. It's important to honor and respect people," explained Eason.

The featured speaker, Yusef Salaam, PhD, is better known as a member of the Exonerated Five. Their story was most recently presented in the 2019 Netflix documentary series called "When They See Us"



by director Ava DuVernay. Salaam was one of the five teenagers who were wrongfully convicted of the 1989 assault of a female jogger in New York City's Central Park. Eventually the actual criminal was sentenced, while evidence cleared the original five accused teenagers. Salaam's 45 minute speech explained his journey through the series of events that began with the accusation and continued years after the exoneration.

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Starting Jan. 1, 2020, Toledo Public Utilities is:

Offering Bill-Paying Assistance for Low-Income Customers
Toledo Public Utilities will provide up to \$500,000 a year to assist low-income customers pay their utility bills. Households at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level will be eligible for assistance coordinated through ProMedica Ebeid Institute's Financial Opportunity Center. Please contact ProMedica Ebeid FOC at 567-585-0059 to schedule a confidential appointment.

Eliminating Minimum Water Charges
Toledo Public Utilities has eliminated minimum water charges to allow customers to reduce utility costs based on actual water consumption.

Starting Monthly Billing
Monthly billing is in place for all Toledo retail customers. Billing by the month also allows Toledo customers to participate in the Federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Offering Lead Service Line Replacement Assistance
Toledo Public Utilities allocates up to \$300,000 annually for private lead service line replacement loans on private property. Loans of up to \$2,000 at zero percent interest will be offered to private homeowners, regardless of income, with up to a ten-year term, payable through the utility bills.

Offering Water Conservation Education
"Conservation Kits" with low flow shower restrictors, toilet leak detection kits, and conservation information for inside and outside the home are available for the public at community events and the Toledo Customer Walk-In Center, 420 Madison Ave.

For more information, visit our website, toledo.oh.gov/water, call 419-245-1800 from 7 a.m. to 6 a.m., Monday through Friday, or email dpucustomerservice@toledo.oh.gov.



Dr. Yusuf Salaam



Rodney Eason



Issac Gonzales

Sheena Barnes Takes Oath of Office, Joins TPS School Board

It's official! Sheena Barnes is now a member of the Toledo Board of Education after taking the oath of office on Tuesday, January 7, at TPS headquarters. Afterwards, Barnes gathered with friends, supporters and other elected officials for a celebration at the Truth Art Gallery.

Barnes has become the newest member of the Toledo Board joining Rob-

ert Vasquez, Christine Varwig, Stephanie Eichenberg and Polly Gerken.

Barnes is an advocate, mother and community member. She is a community health worker for Lucas County, working with youth to serve as a bridge between the community and the healthcare, government and social

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City Councilman Tyrone Riley, Board of Education Member Sheena Barnes, Lucas County Commissioner Pete Gerken, Board of Education Member Polly Gerken



City Councilwoman Yvonne Harper and Barnes

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Exonerated Five... continued from page 7

"We were guilty because of our colored skin. Everyone shouldn't judge a book by its color but we do. As the future movers, you must understand how important pouring into others is, because this conference is pouring into you. I was the only one without a video or taped confession but I was still sent to prison. By 1989, over 400 articles were written about the five of us. No one came to us and asked why we were accused. Those articles included our names, phone numbers and addresses. We were between 14-16 years of age. Even Donald Trump published a full-page advertisement where he asked the state to kill us. Even 30 years later, this case still resonates with people. Many thought we had to be guilty of something or gotten off on a technicality. However, back in 1990 I still had hope, we weren't allowed to get our affairs in order or hug our family once the verdict was read. Prayer and meditation got me through prison. Prayer is you talking to God, while meditation is God talking back to you. I had to remember that I was born with a purpose," explained Salaam.

The conference continued following the keynote speakers address with panel discussions. The panel moderator was Rhonda Sewell, and the panel members were: Salaam; RaShya Ghee, University College of Law professor and staff attorney; Albert Earl, prevention educa-

tion specialist; and Jeff Newton, university's chief of police and director of public safety.

Toledo EXCEL was established in 1988 to help underrepresented students including African, Asian, Hispanic and Native Americans, for success in college. Through summer institutes, academic retreat weekends, campus visits and guidance through the admission process, students increase their self-esteem, cultural awareness and civic involvement.

Toledo EXCEL is a part of the Office of



Toledo Mayor

Multicultural Student Success, which is in the Division of Student Affairs. The UToledo Joint Committee includes representatives from the University, Toledo Public and Parochial schools, and civic and community leaders from the city of Toledo. The mission of the committee is to bring together people in the community interested in the education of underrepresented youth.

"I want to thank the student who played a role this morning. I want to thank the University of Toledo volunteers, elected officials, corporate partners, the advisory board, EXCEL staff, my wife Brenda, and the 1500 students who joined us today," explained Young.



Rhonda Sewell, Yusuf Salaam, Albert Earl, David Young



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Women Entrepreneurs Host Business 101 Tax Class

Sojourner's Truth Staff

Women Entrepreneurs with a Purpose, an organization founded in March 2019 in order to help women business owners succeed, held a tax class on Saturday, January 11 to help its members with both their personal and business taxes. Darlene Knapp, CPA, of Knapp Accounting was the guest lecturer.

Knapp has over 21 years of public accounting experience in the tax compliance, planning and closely held business areas. She graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in Business Administration and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, among other professional organizations.

Knapp took the attendees through the planning and opening of a small business from the accounting standpoint, emphasizing the importance of having the skills necessary to operate successfully to compiling the information needed to make the correct decisions about the operation, particularly on



Alethea Braswell, Allison Cox, Linda Watkins-Strong, Camille Harris

the accounting/tax end.

Knapp brought along checklists as examples of how a new or prospective business owner can begin the process of stating an enterprise – how to obtain the proper documentation and forms, how to select a mode of operating, how to make decisions that will properly comply with local and national business oversight agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service.

Women Entrepreneurs with a Purposes a 501(c)3, non-profit organization comprised of a group of women small business owners who want to help other owners and give back to the community. The officers are Alethea Eastery, president; Camille Harris, vice president; Linda Watkins-Strong, secretary and Allison Cox, treasurer.

The group will hold a Stepping into Success Women's Conference on Saturday, March 14 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg, featuring a variety of panelists and Keynote Speaker Stacia Pierce, PhD, a life coach and motivational speaker.



Darlene Knapp, left, is introduced by Linda Watkins-Strong

Toledo Library Book Club Collaborates for Small Business Success

The rate of women-owned businesses is skyrocketing, and more female entrepreneurs than ever are pursuing their dreams to start a small business. Toledo Lucas County Public Library (TLCPL) is proud to support such local growth through its can't-miss financial insights.

TLCPL is hosting an upcoming series of Mompreneur Book Club events at multiple locations. Mompreneurs are female business owners who juggle responsibilities as a mother and entrepreneur. The books, which include *Girl, Stop Apologizing* and *168 Hours: You Have More Time Than You Think*, lay a groundwork of useful skills for business owners.

Betsy Harloff and Linda Fayerweather will be facilitating. "The Library has really moved with the times, and it has so many resources that can

help people with small businesses," Betsy Harloff said. "I encourage people if they have any ideas to bring them to the Library."

Harloff said she wants women to feel more confident in their entrepreneurial abilities and possess the courage to try again after setbacks. Women own four out of 10 businesses in the country, growing more than 50 percent from 2007 to 2018, according to a report from American Express.

"I just want women to know, especially with social media that always posts the perfect picture of everything, that we all fail," Harloff said.

Linda Fayerweather, business specialist librarian, said the Mompreneur Book Club encourages female entrepreneurs to be proactive in their work and provide support for each other. The events are child friendly as well.

The Library's vast resources offer a competitive edge for savvy business

... continued on page 12

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Taxpayer Advocacy Panel (TAP) Want to improve the IRS? SPEAK UP

By Andrea Price, TAP member representing Ohio

Guest Column

The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is comprised of civic-minded citizen volunteers from all walks of life representing each state, D.C., Puerto Rico and an international member (citizens living, working or doing business abroad). TAP is a Federal Advisory Committee whose mission is to listen to taxpayers, identify taxpayers' issues and make suggestions for improving the IRS service and customer satisfaction.

Everyone has something to say about taxes and the IRS. Please take a moment to give us your suggestions for TAP to consider by contacting one of the following:

TAP Ohio member: tapohioandreaprice@gmail.com

Call Toll-free at: 1-888-912-1227

Website: www.improveirs.org

Taxpayer Bill of Rights – your rights as taxpayers

1. The Right to be Informed

Taxpayers have the right to know what they need to do to comply with the tax laws. They are entitled to clear explanations of the laws and IRS procedures in all tax forms, instructions, publications, notices, and correspondence. They have the right to be informed of IRS decisions about their tax accounts and to receive clear explanations of the outcomes.

2. The Right to Quality Service

Taxpayers have the right to receive prompt, courteous, and professional assistance in their dealings with the IRS, to be spoken to in a way they can easily understand, to receive clear and easily understandable communications from the IRS, and to speak to a supervisor about inadequate service.

3. The Right to Pay No More than the Correct Amount of Tax

Taxpayers have the right to pay only the amount of tax legally due, including interest and penalties, and to have the IRS apply all tax payments properly.

4. The Right to Challenge the IRS's Position and Be Heard

Taxpayers have the right to raise objections and provide additional documentation in response to formal IRS actions or proposed actions, to expect that the IRS will consider their timely objections and documentation promptly and fairly, and to receive a response if the IRS does not agree with their position.

5. The Right to Appeal an IRS Decision in an Independent Forum

Taxpayer are entitled to a fair and impartial administrative appeal of most IRS decision, including many penalties, and have the right to receive a written response regarding the Office of Appeals' decision.

6. The Right to Finality

Taxpayers have the right to know the maximum amount of time they have to challenge the IRS's position as well as the maximum amount of time the IRS has to audit a particular tax year or collect a tax debt. Taxpayers have their right to know when the IRS has finished an audit.

7. The Right to Privacy

Taxpayers have the right to expect that any IRS inquiry, examination, or enforcement action will comply with the law and be no more intrusive than necessary, and will respect all due process rights, including search and seizure protections and will provide, where applicable, a collection due process hearing.

8. The Right to Confidentiality

Taxpayers have the right to expect that any information they provide to the IRS will not be disclosed unless authorized by the taxpayer or by law. Taxpayers have the right to expect appropriate action will be taken against employees, return preparers, and others who wrongfully use or disclose taxpayer return information.

9. The Right to Retain Representation

Taxpayers have the right to retain an authorized representative of their choice to represent them in their dealings with the IRS. Taxpayers have the right to seek assistance from Low Income Taxpayer Clinic if they cannot afford representation.

10. The Right to a Fair and Just Tax System

Taxpayers have the right to expect the tax system to consider facts and circumstances that might affect their underlying liabilities, ability to pay, or ability to provide information timely. Taxpayers have the right to receive assistance from the Taxpayer Advocate Service if they are experiencing financial difficulty or if the IRS has not resolved their tax properly and timely through its normal channels.

Tax Tips for 2020- Beginning on Jan. 1, 2020, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 57.5 cents per mile driven for business use, down one half of a cent from the rate for 2019,
- 17 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down three cents from the rate for 2019, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

UPDATE ADDRESS

Taxpayers who moved during 2019 should tell the US Postal Service, em-

... continued on page 12

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"Everybody can be great...because anyone can serve." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Book Club... continued from page 10

owners. Successful small businesses help lift the community as a whole, Fayerweather said.

"Most entrepreneurs are constantly working in their small business. When they come up for air, it's a chance to find out about their competition," Fayerweather said. "A lot of times, they don't realize that information is right at their fingertips."

TLCPL is the catalyst that can shift an idea into a small business. Follow a step-by-step guide to creating a business plan. Apply to use the Library's Work Space) to maximize creativity or search for the necessary legal forms.

Taxpayer Advocacy... continued from page 11

employers and the IRS. Notify the IRS by mailing IRS Form 8822, Change of Address, to the address listed on the form's instructions. Taxpayers who purchase health insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace should also notify the Marketplace when they move out of the area covered by their current plan.

For name changes due to marriage or divorce, notify the Social Security Administration so the new name will match IRS and SSA records. Also notify the SSA if a dependent's name changed. A mismatch between the name shown on a tax return and SSA records often causes refund delays.

Sheena Barnes... continued from page 8

service systems. She has experience with public policy and youth crisis intervention advocacy.

Barnes moved to Toledo from Flint, Michigan about 10 years ago and made Toledo a home for herself, and her three children. She quickly became involved in the community here, she is a board member for Advocates For Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), a Coordinator For The Equality Toledo Food Pantry, and a Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO) trainer. All three of Barnes' children attend Toledo Public schools and her daughter is a recent graduate of Bowsler High School.

Barnes brings her experience guiding youth social, economical and poverty challenges to Toledo Public Schools board with a public health to education viewpoint.



Attorney Keith Mitchell and Barnes



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Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick by Zora Neale Hurston, edited with an introduction by Genevieve West, foreword by Tayari Jones

By Terri Schlichenmeyer

The Truth Contributor

Everybody has that place.

You know, that place where everyone knows you, they know what you want, and they get it for you before your coat's half off. It's where you can catch up on gossip and good news, where you take shelter and get sympathy. *In Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick* by Zora Neale Hurston, you also get a front seat.

Born around 1891 in Alabama, Zora Neale Hurston learned early to make her own way: she was just a teenager when her mother died, and when her father married a woman she hated, Hurston left home. After briefly working as a maid for a traveling actress, she moved to Baltimore where she graduated from high school, shaved a decade off her age, and enrolled at Howard University. There, her first story was printed.

Unable to secure money to graduate from Howard University, Hurston moved to New York in 1924, arriving in Harlem with near-empty pockets but a head full of stories that began winning awards for her. This led to more opportunities, a return to college, a network of other writers, and a publisher for her books.

In this book are 21 of Hurston's short stories, including Harlem Renaissance works that were previously considered "lost." Many were written in a way that reflects stereotypical patterns of speech and pronunciation which, says Genevieve West in her introduction, was risky and controversial but Hurston knew exactly what she was doing.

While some tales are set in Harlem, Hurston's stories here start out in Eatonville, Florida, where everyone knew everyone else. It the place where

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John Redding lived before he died, floating in the same waters that he dreamed might show him the world. It's where every man gathers at Jim's restaurant to talk trash, and where Sam met Stella, who changed him into someone who never gambled and came home on time, mostly. Eatonville was where Spunk Banks got too brave, where Old Man Morgan could put down a curse on anyone; and where "white folks are very stupid about some things."

Don't be surprised if *Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick* is quickly elevated to your local high school's reading list. Yep, it's that kind of book.

Read, and you'll almost wish you were slumped on a wooden chair on Jim's porch on a hot summer day. Read, because authenticity oozes from every page here and you can't help but like the men and women in the tales. Read, as author Zora Neale Hurston's wit shines between biting narratory descriptions and comments, like sunbeams sneaking through Jim's raggedy roof, underscored by a mix of highbrow words and lowlife scoundrels.

You'll also feel the heat sometimes but it's not always from the weather.

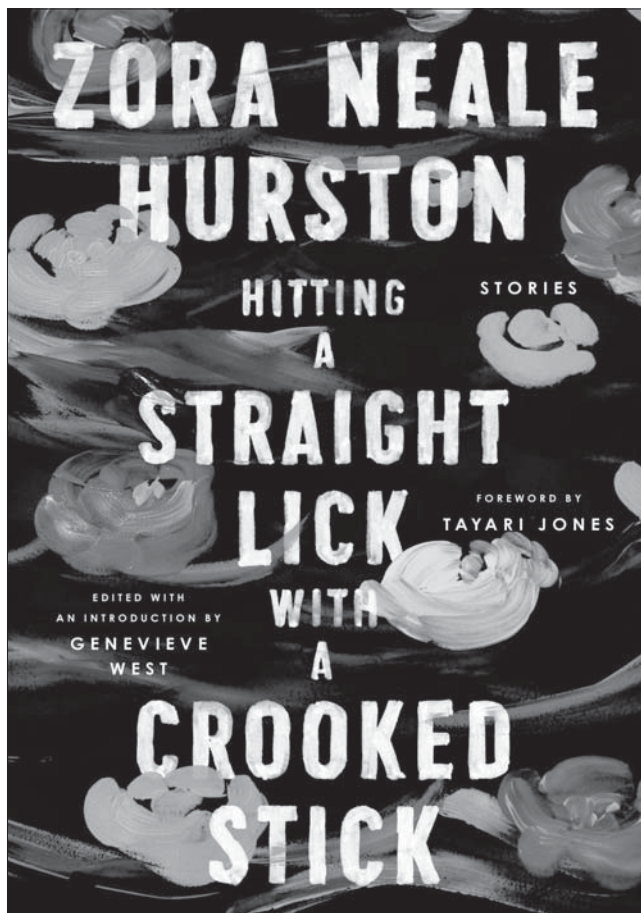
One thing: modern readers may want to know that the "dialect" that Hurston insisted upon may take some getting used-to, but it ultimately adds to the realism that you'll love about this book. For that, *Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick* is right for any place.

Protest... continued from page 6

difficult as a law enforcement officer to stay impartial and professional or exercise restraint when people are deliberately agitating.

When I was being escorted out of the Trump supporters watch party for yelling "Peace! No War!" as Trump began speaking, I think the officers remained impartial and professional. When the Trump rally was over and about 150 protesters were left and surrounded by about 1,000 rabid Trump supporters, the officers allowed space for agitation but remained impartial, professional and kept the situation from escalating. While I realize the officers were just doing their job, people show up at all types of jobs every day and don't do them well. I appreciate a job well done by TPD yesterday.

• Lastly, let's make sure energy poured into yesterday isn't just a moment. I challenge us to continue to maintain our energy and channel that energy into the election booths, the census and building a transformative movement that will improve our communities. 2020 is just getting started let's make this year count and make history.



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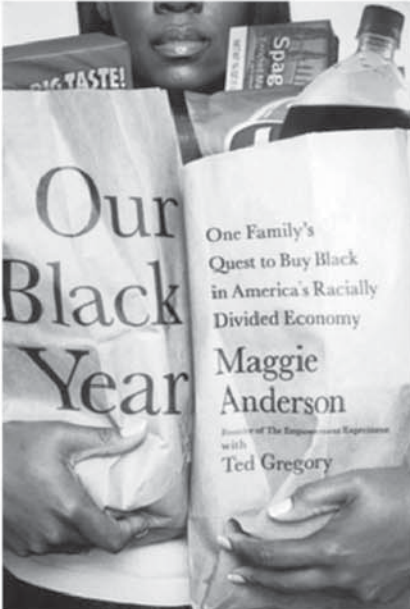
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CLASSIFIEDS

January 15, 2020

Page 15

START 2020 BY READING MORE

A frequent New Year's resolution people make is to read more books. Let the Library help you resolve to read more in 2020 – join the inaugural Winter Read!

Everyone who logs at least one book will receive one-size-fits-most Toledo Library touch screen gloves for adults and kids or red mittens for little ones (while supplies last) and will be eligible for grand prizes such as:

- Two round-trip airline vouchers to Florida from Toledo Express Airport
- One overnight guest room stay at Maumee Bay Lodge
- \$100 Sylvania Playland gift card
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EOE/ADA

MOVE TO AMEND IS SEEKING NATIONAL INTERNS FOR SPRING 2020!

Move to Amend national interns work remotely from around the country with board and staff on a variety of projects including grassroots organizing, volunteer retention, writing, research, lobbying, legislative tracking, donor retention, and other hands on projects to support the functions of a national, grassroots amendment campaign.

Interns can be any age and work from anywhere in the country. Our wonderful interns receive a monthly stipend to help cover costs like phone and internet.

Please see more details and learn about the application process and email me, jessica@movetoamend.org for questions.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR

At the Area Office on Aging, we're passionate about making sure the those age 60 and better get the high quality nutrition, home care, Alzheimer's Day Care and other aging services they need to live long, quality lives that are as independent as possible. With the Quality Improvement Coordinator position, you have an opportunity to do meaningful work.

Make an impact in the lives of those age 60 and better in need by developing and advancing a multi-pronged strategy to re-energize the network of service providers who provide these services throughout northwest Ohio. We need someone who is a goal-oriented and data-driven person who will interact with service providers and other stakeholders to create a culture of quality that leverages the agency's data, dollars and services to make them as effective and impactful as possible.

By finding ways to better align what is in the interest of the Area Office on Aging, its service providers and older adults/their family caregivers, this position will help the agency more fully realize the growth potential that lies within it.

The Area Office on Aging is a mission-driven organization that is full of people who have passion, purpose and contagious energy for the worthy work we do and who care for one another and the older adults, family caregivers and younger persons with disabilities whom we serve. We are on a mission to provide quality services that make a positive impact in the health, well-being and overall lives of older northwest Ohioans and their family caregivers.

So, if you believe in the work that the Area Office on Aging does and you want to advance the agency's focus on ensuring quality, send your resume to jobs@areaofficeonaging.com with Quality Improvement Coordinator in the subject line or go to www.AreaOfficeOnAging.com/Careers to keep reading about this position.

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Testing must be conducted through the National Testing Network (www.nationaltestingnetwork.com) and completed no later than **March 1, 2020**. Lateral entry applicants may bypass testing and complete an employment application for consideration. For more information, please visit www.ottawahills.org/employment or email police@ottawahills.org.

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KAPTUR ENCOURAGES NORTHERN OHIOANS TO APPLY FOR 2020 CENSUS JOBS

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (OH-09), is encouraging Northern Ohioans to apply for paid opportunities with the 2020 Census. The U.S. Census Bureau seeks to fill up to 500,000 temporary, part-time positions in local communities across the nation to carry out the decennial Census in 2020. Interested applicants can visit 2020census.gov/jobs for more information. Proof point: https://point.com/v2?url?u=https-3A__2020census.gov_en_jobs.html&d=DwMGaQ&c=L93KkJKsAC98uTvC4KvQDdTDRzAeWDDRRmG6S3YXIIH0&r=ixX8cgPnGzUueOgiz_ogjIQMo_dBaTJJWDz8ing5jY&m=0MaLe9C0kkYbJWHzF_43SQmhwF1U7GltziREtLtp1c&s=Eq7Ezh8wthTBJRA5o4qwB7-EQpaqehYcQXks190orT8&e=> for more information about these positions.

The Census is mandated by the United State Constitution every 10 years to determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives in addition to regulating the proportion of population based federal assistance to local communities.

"Our government relies on the Census to draw legislative districts and allocate federal investments to local communities for critical programs, including transportation and housing infrastructure and social services," said Rep. Kaptur. "I encourage all Northern Ohioans to participate so that everyone is accounted for and every voice is heard."

Last month, Kaptur, as a Senior Member of the Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee with funding jurisdiction for the Census, worked alongside her House colleagues to secure \$7.6 billion for the Census Bureau, which includes a strong increase to enable the Bureau to conduct a thorough and accurate 2020 Decennial Census and to prevent the politization of the Census.

Call to place your ad:

419-243-0007

www.TheTruthToledo.com

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc®®, Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter Installation of Officers

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc.®, was founded on January 15, 1908 with a vision to be the premier unique sisterhood of distinguished professional women united to serve humankind. The International President, Glenda Glover, PhD, has outlined international programs under the theme, "Exemplifying Excellence Through Sustainable Service."

On December 14, 2019, the installation of officers occurred for Zeta Alpha Omega Chapter for a two-year term. AKA's signature program is #CAPsm, which focuses on motivating and assisting youth through the college admission process, along with five target programs and seven community impact days.

HBCU support, health and wellness, the arts, and economic well-being are among the critical issues impacting the quality of life of African Americans that will be addressed over the next two years. President Andrea Price stated: "As we begin our 112th year, we have partnered with international, national and local organizations to provide an impact in our local communities." This 2020 and 2021 administration's theme is "Protecting our Legacy, Protecting our Pearls."

Price added, "We will continue the legacy of our Founders by following our sorority documents to minimize risk to our members and make a meaningful impact on the communities we serve."

Our Founders' Day celebration will occur on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at 12 noon at Heather Downs Country Club. Tickets are \$45 can be purchased through PayPal (www.zeta-alphaomega.com) on the chapter website until February 15, 2020. The theme is "Black Girls



Chapter Officers Seated (left to right): Cheryl Phillips, Treva Jeffries, Andrea Price, Marcia Brown, Paula Martin, Katrina Barry; Standing: Morgannia Dawson, Jasmine Fedrick, Frances Collins, Onetha Fields-Pearson, Mary Dawson, Katina Johnson, Cheryl Wallace, Richelle Watkins, Alexii Collins, Jacalyn Brown, and Donnetta Carter



Committee Chairmen Seated (left to right): Elinor Allen, Treva Jeffries, Andrea Price, Lisa Dubose, Fionne Wright,

Alexii Collins, Leigh Utley; Standing: London Weathers, Cassandra Adams, Margaret Huntley, Julia Holt, Frances Collins, Clara Petty, Cheryl Wallace, Cheryl Slack, Felicia Dunston, Donnetta Carter, and Victoria McDuffie.

DREAM, BELIEVE, DO

2020 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
**Unity Day
 Celebration**
 Monday, Jan. 20, 2020
 THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO - JOHN F. SAVAGE ARENA
 BREAKFAST
 9 - 10 A.M.
 PROGRAM
 10-10:45 A.M.
 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT
 11 A.M.
 ALL EVENTS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
 FUELING TOMORROWS

Please join us on Monday, January 20th to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year, rather than serve a community lunch, we will be serving breakfast! Breakfast will begin at 9am in Savage Arena, with a wonderful program to follow immediately afterward. We look forward to seeing you for this annual event!

Rock and Exemplify Excellence."

The next Community Impact Day focusing on women's health is Pink Goes Red for Heart Health on Friday, February 7, 2020. The public is invited to join the AKAs for an aerobic fitness party at Keyser Elementary School from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Donations are accepted.

The chapter officers are President Andrea Price; Vice President Treva Jeffries; Recording Secretary Marcia Brown; Treasurer Paula Martin; Financial Secretary Katrina Barry; Assistant Recording Secretary Alexii Collins; Assistant Treasurer Jacalyn Brown; Assistant Financial Secretary Malinda Prowell; Corresponding Secretary Cheryl Phillips; Official Hostess Pamela Green-Jones; Sergeant-at-Arms Onetha Fields-Pearson; Parliamentarian Lisa McDuffie; Public Relations Reporter Donnetta Carter; Historian Mary Dawson; Graduate Advisor for Alpha Lambda (uToledo); Graduate advisor for Iota Iota (BGSU); Archivist Margaret Huntley; Chaplain Katina Johnson; Attendance Registrar Jasmine Fedrick; Member-at-Large Frances Collins, PhD and Connection (community outreach) Coordinator Morgannia Dawson. The Great Lakes Region, Northern Ohio/Western Pennsylvania Cluster Coordinator is Lisa Dubose, PhD.