



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Family,

Our section has been soaring... and the excitement continues! Community outreach has increased through new programs such as, the Thanksgiving Extravaganza (Apostle Pennington's brainchild) and Winter Wonderland (Pat McGhee's project). Community awareness of NCNW has zoomed and membership has steadily increased. Thanks to Mr. Pierce Brunson, our section activities are easily accessed through all the social media outlets. Our sister, Valerie Williams, is on top of her game with website updates which include our monthly Newsletter from editors, Tamara Felton-Howard and Deborah Figgs-Sanders. The newsletter can be downloaded from the website. All of this has resulted in mounting interest by the local community and beyond in our Section. The "icing on the cake" was the attendance of two National Executives at our MLK Leadership Awards Breakfast, Dr. A. Lois Keith, Vice-Chair and Sandra Gipson, Member-At-Large. Dr. Keith's attendance was approved by and set into motion by our National President/Chair, Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole. I am humbled, proud and SO EXCITED to be a part of the St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section and NCNW as a whole! Thank you to every member for your commitment and eagerness to serve. All of us working together = success. "TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS"

Yours in Service,

*Thelma*

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us not forget our associate men and some other strong male supporters of the St Petersburg Metropolitan Section of NCNW back in the 1950's and 1960's. Doctor B.F. Jones, the first black dentist in St. Petersburg, Dr. G.H. Leggett, dentist and also led the legal action for blacks to vote in 1949, Mr. Lewis E. Dominis, the first football coach of Gibbs High School and Mr. Earnest A. Ponder, a teacher at Gibbs High School and the son of Fannye A. Ponder  
*Cynthia Glenn, Historian*

## Prayer List

Tonya Cameron  
 Dr. Marva Dennard

Diedre Downing-Jackson  
 Signora Farris  
 Carolyn Hobbs

Let's continually pray one for another!  
*"Pray without ceasing". 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*"Sharing a crumb is better than a banquet alone!"*  
 Unknown  
*We are our brother's keeper*

## SECTION EVENTS

- ◆ **February 1<sup>st</sup>** – The Black Pearls will be showcasing their talents at Westminster Suncoast at 7 p.m. in the Quak Center. They will be the lead in the Black History Month performances. Please come out and support.
- ◆ **February 7<sup>th</sup>** – Executive Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.; FAP Council House.
- ◆ **February 15<sup>th</sup>** – Human Trafficking Town Hall, St. Petersburg College Midtown 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- ◆ **February 16<sup>th</sup>** - General Membership Meeting, 9:00 am social time, 9:30 am meeting begins.
- ◆ **February 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Black Pearls' Young Women's Conference, Essay Contest, "Most Admired Woman", Contestants – youth ages 8-18, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Lakewood High School, 1400 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

## BIRTHDAYS

Cynthia Glenn 2/19  
 Marcea McFarlane 2/26

## HIGHLIGHTS

◆ The Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Awards Breakfast...WOW! Congratulations to Committee Chair and Co-Chair, Gwendolyn Fields and Deshay Collier; all subcommittee Chairs and members; and every Section member who participated in any way. The event was a phenomenal success! I am certain that Rev. Haynes' powerful message will resonate in the minds and hearts of many for a long time. Thank you to Joanne Rainey and the Speaker committee for your commitment to securing "the right orator! Additionally, all reports indicate that Banquet Masters was the right catering choice...Thank you Deshay!

◆ Blessed to be a Blessing! A \$65,000 donation by a private foundation to the St. Pete. Metropolitan Section scholarship fund was awarded at the MLK, Jr. Leadership Awards Breakfast. What an honor to be selected by the foundation as the administrator of these funds. As a result, we were able to award stipends to 13 graduating seniors. Our Breakfast events and speakers have been applauded year after year. The attendance of the two National Board members made this year's event exceptional for our Section. Dr. Keith and Ms. Gipson had a wonderful time and congratulate our Section on a job well done. To my sisters I say, GREAT JOB and onward and upward.

◆ MLK Day of Service...another reason to be proud! Congrats to Committee Chair, Allene Gammage-Ahmed and all team members. This was a fun-filled learning experience for the children and adults. Pastor Robinson kept the grill going with sausages, hot dogs and hamburgers. Book bags, school supplies and reading materials were distributed. Numerous community partners participated, including the Buffalo Soldiers, American Stage, Police and Fire Department staff, the Book Bus Mobile; local African-American authors and other. Activities for the children included arts and crafts, creative story-telling, dancing and prizes for black history question winners. Community turn-out was great. From my heart to yours, thanks to all Section members who assisted and attended. For all members who were unable to attend, please make it a don't miss next year!

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### APM Fashions Inc.

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### A Sentimental Affair Florist

Shirley L. Jones  
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St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
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[affairswstyle@gmail.com](mailto:affairswstyle@gmail.com)  
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The Pavilion, 559 49<sup>th</sup> St. S.  
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### Dr. Ramona Valentine, A Slimmer You

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St. Petersburg, Florida  
855-771-7546  
[aslimmeryoupa@gmail.com](mailto:aslimmeryoupa@gmail.com) ♣

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Deborah D. Figgs-Sanders  
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### Zula's Boutique

Personal Stylist  
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St. Petersburg, FL 33702 ♣

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Our family is steadily growing and as you know...I am so excited! Be sure to take a moment to extend a hand of fellowship to all new members.

We welcomed the following five (5) members in January:

Reverend Frank Brunson - AA member (Thelma Bruce)  
Nikki Capehart (Cynthia Glenn)  
Audrey Lane (Thelma Bruce)  
Dr. Mary Stokes Mims (Thelma Bruce)  
Gayle Sims (returning)  
LaDonna Butler (Thelma Bruce)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Legacy Week Ribbon Cutting. Historic McCrory's Bldg. 433 Central Avenue 9:00 am.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Legacy Week Banquet, Empath Health at 5pm. Black Tie.

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Legacy Week Prayer Breakfast; Maximo Presbyterian Church, 10:00 am

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** – ASALH Banquet, 6pm, 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Celebration, St. Petersburg Country Club, Tickets \$55

### Fannye Ponder House

1835 9<sup>th</sup> Av. S. St. Pete, FL 33713  
(727) 896-6556

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