

Organizing To Eradicate Illiteracy (Continued from page 9.)

changes in our communities; and also because illiteracy is a widespread condition as devastating in its proportions as in its implications for our people and for the nation as a whole."

With such substantive and eloquent testimony as an underpinning of the June 14th AOIP workshop, it is small wonder how a meeting gathering so many fine minds and spirits in one place succeeded in further etching AOIP onto the agendas of an evergrowing body of community-building and civic-minded organizations and individuals.

The Workshop: An Overview

ORGANIZATIONS are people... and productive organizations represent hard working clear thinking people. Among those organizations gathered at the workshop—and assuming an unusually productive role—was the National Association of University Women and its vital national and regional leadership.

For AOIP, much of its driving force seems to come from the Interorganizational Liaison Committee. This is one of of the program's ten committees whose primary function is to effectively coordinate the efforts of national organizations and their community bases with the principal thrusts of AOIP.

The June workshop provides a rich example of such a committee at work from the community to the national level. Among the individuals who ably assisted in bringing the gathering together were people like Mrs. E.P. Lover Tisby Brown Bibbons, NAUW's South Central Sectional Director and AOIP Interorganizational Liaison Chairperson, who, as AOIP's state chairperson for Louisiana, coordinated the arrangements with her pastor, the Rev. James Graham. This outstanding and deeply-moved minister hosted the workshop at St. James United Methodist Church in the local Black community.

Consistent with NAUW's vast commitment to AOIP, also present at the workshop were three national officers: Rhebena T. Castleberry, National President; Carrie Ayers Haynes, National First Vice President; and Lillian E. Ross, National Second Vice President.

Local members of the other national-affiliated organizations were invited to be in attendance. Well over 130 persons gathered in the church to get background

information and specific instructions on how each local group and individual can get involved in projects and tutoring programs that will help eradicate illiteracy.



Dr. Carolyn Minor of Sacramento, California, State Interorganizational Liaison Committee Chairperson and NAUW's first Sacramento Branch President.

The leader of the workshop was Dr. Mildred Bradham, South Central Interorganizational Liaison Chairperson from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Using the new Manual for Local AOIP Task Force Formation, "UPLIFTING Our People...Our Communities and...Our Nation," Dr. Bradham gave background national organization steps, local chapter steps and local interorganizational steps. In addition to the Manual, participants received updated Question and Answer sheets, which explain AOIP in detail; copies of the *National BLACK MONITOR*, AOIP's official national interorganizational medium; and copies of *Greater News*, a demonstration newspaper created to show ourselves and others that—with a communications

vehicle totally devoted to our special and unique needs—Black leadership can play a major role in eradicating "illiteracy" of all kinds—and all the other "ills" that

amount of diligence, determination and nine years of very hard work—scores were raised to grade level for all but 40 of her original 1,100 students by June 1976.

The secret of this success lies in Mrs. Haynes' focus on the affective domain, teaching students to learn to feel good enough about themselves to guide them to want to learn. This focus has been adopted by AOIP. At the workshop she



Ms. Louvert Weldon of Detroit Michigan, AOIP Interorganizational Liaison Committee State Chairperson and NAUW member.



Dr. Dolores M. Harris of Glassboro, New Jersey, AOIP Regional Coordinator.



Mrs. Essie McGriff, president of the California State Division, AOIP and immediate past president, Los Angeles, California Branch, NAUW.

plague us and burden all others in America. The copies of *Greater News* carried inserts of the "Who Am I Guide to Learning" and *The ADVANCER*, the weekly tabloid newspaper which serves as AOIP's motivational and comprehension-enhancement tool.

The process being used to implement any AOIP project was explained by Mrs. Carrie A. Haynes, who is the former principal of Grape Street Elementary School, an inner-city school in the heart of Watts. This school ranked second from the bottom in academic scores of 600 schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District when she arrived in 1969. With faith in herself, the staff, the students, the parents and a goodly

explained how to use the "Who Am I Guide to Learning" to teach total non-readers to read. Participants were also "walked through" ways of using *The ADVANCER* as a supplemental teaching tool.

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