

ERADICATING ILLITERACY..... (Continued from Page 10)

overseeing the organizing of Local AOIP Units in every one of those nearly 300 cities.

As AOIP continues to grow, we will

need to reassess and reprioritize our efforts so we can remain on target. Faye Bryant, one of AOIP's National Co-Chairpersons and National President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, reminds us of this necessity in a recent memorandum:

MEMO

To: All Brother and Sister Board Members

Re: A Detailed *Personal* Reminder

Of Our Focus And Needs As We Prepare For Our June 17th and 18th Planning Meeting In Winston-Salem

From: Faye Bryant, (New) National Co-Chairperson.

As a fellow board member and president of a national organization with its own "institutionalized" ways, I not only empathize with each fellow president, but I also can identify with every single member who often-unconsciously resists change of any sort—even in the face of overwhelming need for adjustments in our focus and actions.

Yet, in view of the awesome illiteracy-related conditions engulfing all of us, neither I nor any others of us can sit idly by and be accepting of any aspect of our past patterns which conflict with our newly-perceived needs for reform.

All of us have professed our full commitment to the intent and goals of AOIP. And, in my new role as one of our two National Co-Chairpersons with oversight of our planning, professional education and related functions, I am writing this so-called "personal" memo which might be helpful to reproduce and disseminate throughout your entire membership. So, *first*, I should like to set forth in a *one-sentence* format what I feel is our focus. *Second*, list some of the awesome conditions existing in our communities which are due, in large part, to our own organizational policies and actions. *Third*, "detail" what I think every president (and all others) should know about the *focus and needs of AOIP on which I need your help*. And *fourth*, suggest how I feel we all can get on target quite easily.

I. The Illiteracy Eradication Focus:

AOIP is an all-volunteer "community-building" coalition of nearly 90 national Black-led organizations who are focused in a coordinated way on complementing and supplementing the role of teachers and tutors in overcoming illiteracy—and all of its resultant ills—*primarily* by 1) *reinstilling positive personal values* in our young and older population and 2) *prioritizing* the uplifting of our entire population through supportive *togetherness in every possible way*. Specialized tutorial motivational programs for Black and similarly-situated minorities are one of the major components of AOIP.

II. The Awesome Illiteracy-Based Conditions:

As a constant reminder, *we should share* the foregoing with all of our membership. The conditions, which are in large part due to our past organizational policies and actions (as agreed at our last board meeting), must be changed in a priority-way to ac-

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