

MARCH IS SOCIAL WORKERS MONTH

Membership Drive Underway

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc., is designed to promote the welfare, survival and liberation of the Black Community. Members of NABSW recognize the necessity of Black Community control and accountability of self to the Black community. NABSW offers linkages through its members with all Blacks, having an open membership which is not predicated upon degrees or experience.

The National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc., was born May 1968 in San Francisco, California. It resulted from the coming together of various Black groups who had been working in different parts of the country under various names, but with a common goal of Black Liberation. This coalition of Blacks had been confronting the Social Welfare System around the issues of racism and poverty, with a concern for the delivery of services in the Black Community. These groups banded together as the National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc., offered for the first time a National unified force to combat individual and institutional white racism in the Social Welfare System.

The new organization became involved in two levels of work simultaneously: making demands for change within existing welfare structures, and building an organizational network on a local and national level. The years of 1968 and 1969 were years of demand upon racist organizations and the welfare system for change. At the same time, emphasis was placed upon expanding and strengthening the National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc. on a local and national basis.

The National Conference on Social Welfare was presented with a Position Statement of NABSW at its Conferences in 1968 and 1969. The National Association of Social Workers at their Delegate Assembly meeting in 1969 was presented with a Position Statement. These organizations, after recovering from the shock of Black Confrontation, have made some changes. They have increased the number of Blacks in committees and offices, and have given lip service to the fact that racism does exist. What change has occurred within these organizations has been because of the thrust of the National Association of Black Social

Workers, Inc.

With recognition that White Racism is a White Problem and should be addressed by whites, NABSW advisedly re-directed its energies. NABSW focused its attention upon the accountability of the Social Welfare System in the Black Community, and the delivery of those services which are a reflection of the Black Experience. NABSW has been concerned with decision-making and policy setting which has previously been denied to Blacks. Energies have been devoted to alternative plans of service delivery and building a solid Black base of operation rather than focusing upon confrontations with non-Black groups.

NABSW has been an agent for change in the Social Welfare System. Beginning in 1969, NABSW has sponsored National Conferences which have offered an exchange of ideas on a National level between Blacks from all over the country, with the ultimate focus being improved services in the Black Community. The First Conference was held in Philadelphia, Pa. in a Black Church. The theme of the Conference was "The Black Family." With this as the starting base, conferences have been devoted to a steady progression in the unification and thrust toward liberation. The Second Conference in Washington, D.C. was "The Black Social Worker as an Agent for Change," the Third Conference in Chicago, Ill. was "Blueprints for Black Unity," the Fourth Conference in Nashville, Tenn., was "Diversity — Cohesion or Chaos; Mobilization for Survival," the Fifth Conference in New York, New York was "Nation Building," the Sixth Conference in Los Angeles, Calif., was "Survival and Beyond," and the Seventh Conference which was held in Detroit, Mich., April 2-5, 1975 had as its theme, "Promises of Power: Actual or Potential." There have been 12 National Conferences since 1975 with the 1988 Conference being held in San Francisco, Ca.

NABSW has taken stands on and been concerned about such issues as the strengths of the Black family, trans-racial adoption, with major emphasis on preserving the Black Family. NABSW has a reference booklet entitled *Preserving Black Families: Research and Action Beyond the Rhetoric*. Other areas NABSW has taken stands on

are community control, health services, the aged, law and corrections, accountability, Nation Building, practice and training in social work, and much more. The NABSW Office of Student Affairs, which is supported by



NABSW, is concerned with the recruitment and retention of Black students in Schools of Social Work, as well as curriculum development and Black Faculty. NABSW is developing a Position Statement on the practice of Social Work in the Black Community, being ever concerned for the quality of service delivery and practitioner with the Black Community.

Publications of the organization are The National Black Caucus Journal and the National NABSW Newsletter. Also published have been the proceedings of the conferences. These publications reflect historical and current thinking of our Black Scholars on education and service delivery within the Social Welfare System as it affects the Black Community and Black practitioner. Copies of publications may be secured from the National Office for a small fee.

The International focus of NABSW was represented by the contribution of over \$11,000 to Relief for Africans in Need in the Sahel. This 1974 contribution was well received by Congressman Charles C. Diggs on behalf of the Organization. In addition, NABSW sponsored the twelfth International Conferences held in 1987 being No. 13 and sponsored and located in West Africa — Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast.

The Las Vegas Chapter of NABSW was formed November 1, 1976, and is one of over 140 chapters throughout the nation. In addition to March being Social Workers month, the Las Vegas Chapter of NABSW is having a membership drive. For further information, please contact Myrtle Banks, membership chairperson at 649-3479 or Flo Gray, president, at 451-7714.

W. Keith Lively Appointed Deputy Executive Secretary

HHS Secretary Otis R. Bowen, M.D., today announced the appointment of W. Keith Lively of Dumfries, Va., as a deputy executive secretary for the Department of Health and Human Services, effective immediately.

Lively, 40, had served in the Pentagon since December 1983 as principal director to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for information systems and strategic planning. Since July 1985 he had handled planning and management for health and information systems for the Defense Medical Support Activity.

During 1981-1983 Lively was director of health planning and analysis in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Defense and in 1980-1981 was director of health data and information, OASD. From 1976 to 1980 he was senior operations research analyst for OASD (health affairs). He went to the Pentagon in September 1974 as a management intern.

He was chairman of a number of Department of Defense steering committees and working groups dealing with health issues, including the Researches Analysis and Planning System model covering the distribution of health care in peacetime.

Lively served in the U.S. Army with a Nike Hercules Unit in New Jersey, being discharged as a lieutenant in 1974.

Lively is a native of Sea Isle City, N.J. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Morgan State College in Baltimore, 1970; a master's in mathematics from Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pa., 1972; and performed post graduate studies in mathematics and operations research at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

He and his wife, the former Mary Mayes of Vineland, N.J., have three daughters and a son: Denise Moore, Frankfort, Germany; Renae Parker, Dale City, Va.; Faith Lively, San Diego, Calif.; and Bryan Lively, residing with her parents.

Membership intake will be held on March 18 at 5 p.m. at a Happy Hour held at Desert Lounge, 2343 W. Gowan Road (west on Cheyenne right on Coleman to Gowan). For directions, please call 646-2443.

Come out and join!

LAS VEGAS RESIDENTS TAKE ACTION WITH TOWN MEETINGS

Several Las Vegas residents have started town meetings to bring together people who are interested in taking action on quality of life issues in their community.

The meetings are planned and led by Nathan and Laura Dorman and George Ormsby, all of whom are members of People to People Initiative.

People to People Initiative is about Americans helping Americans, says Ormsby, who is volunteer regional coordinator for the organization in the southwestern United States.

The Dormans and Ormsby stressed that their role in the meetings was not to endorse any particular cause or to suggest courses of action. The meetings serve as an arena for people to discuss any and all issues and to devise solutions themselves.

Although attendance at the initial meetings, held in February, was small, Ormsby

says the group was heartened by the results. Several participants are investigating a volunteer transportation network to help the homeless get to and from jobs until they can make contacts of their own at work.

Some individual contacts were also made, including one where two people discovered a common interest in combating adult illiteracy. Other issues discussed were the need for an AIDS hotline and an employment program for school dropouts.

In March, meetings will be held on Thursday, March 3, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on Friday, March 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Both meetings will be held in the auditorium at Clark County Library, 1401 East Flamingo Road.

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