

Howard tabbed for new post

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The NAACP Tri-State Conference which includes Idaho, Nevada and Utah was recently held in Pocatello, Idaho. The featured speaker for the conference banquet was Ray Pierce from the U.S. Department of Education who addressed critical issues that affect our schools and communities daily. Elections were held and newly elected Tri-State officers are:

Ed Lewis, President, from the Salt

Lake City, Utah Branch.

Linda Howard, vice president, Howard is currently first vice president of the Las Vegas Branch.

Daphne Smith, secretary, from the Ogden, Utah branch.

Bertha Woodard, treasurer, from the Reno, Nev. branch.

These officers will serve a 2-year term and for the first time in many years the Tri-State Conference will be held here in Las Vegas next fall (September '98).

"I am excited about representing the members of branches in Idaho, Utah and Nevada," Howard said. "It has been a long time since the conference was held here in Las Vegas and I am really looking forward to it. All the workshops and social events being planned will be positive and will help to uplift and empower the African-American community."

To contact Linda Howard, call 459-0107 or 264-8684 or Tarsha Crockett at 431-7213 or 263-1589.

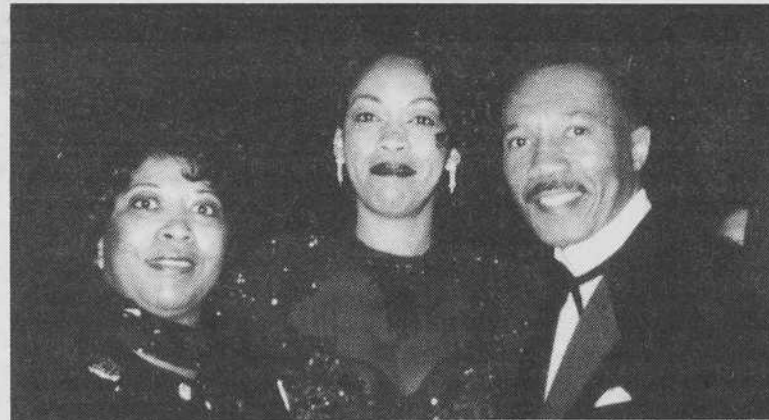


Photo special to Sentinel-Voice
Linda Howard (middle) laughs with NAACP National Board Member Jeanetta Williams and NAACP National President and CEO Kweisi Mfume.

Funeral services held for newspaper publisher

Special to Sentinel-Voice

CHICAGO — Funeral services for Al-Hajj Osman Ibn Sharrieff, chief executive officer, founder and president of Tri-World Communications, Inc., and publisher of the *Tri-City Journal*, a Chicago weekly newspaper, were held Tuesday, Oct. 28.

In the early hours of Friday, Oct. 24, Sharrieff died in an automobile accident in Taylor, Mich. en route to Detroit for a business appointment.

Born in Corinth, Miss. May 9, 1935, Sharrieff came to Chicago as an infant. He attended Crane High School, Loop Junior College and the University of Chicago. He also attended the Chicago Islamic Center and Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.

He served in the United States Army from December, 1957 to November, 1959. He was stationed in France in a transportation unit. He got his honorable discharge in 1963.

Sharrieff began his weekly publication in 1978 after serving

as publisher/general manager of *The Observer* newspaper, a weekly community newspaper owned by The Woodlawn Organization (TWO) from 1968-1980.

Sharrieff was an active member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). At the time of his death, he served as chairman of the International Committee, appointed by president Dorothy R. Leavell. He also served on the group's board of directors in 1988.

In 1991, he served as president of the United Black Fund of Illinois, a not-for-profit corporation affiliate of the national United Black Fund, which raised money to finance organizations conducted for charitable, health, welfare, recreation and allied purposes within the black community.

Well-known for his expertise in the Arab language, both spoken and written, Sharrieff was often called on to interpret, and speak in Arabic at public and private functions.

As a journalist, he attended international conferences and symposiums in Europe, North Africa, Middle East and Central

America.

He also had far reaching contacts in the Middle East including Saudi Arabia, Libya and Jordan.

His other professional affiliations included membership in the Masjid Al-Fatir, the Muslim Community Center, (director) Chicago Institute of Islamic Culture, Mid-American-Arab Chamber of Commerce, American Islamic College and East-West University in Chicago; area vice president of Black Resources Inc., New York; and board member of the International Human Rights of American Minorities in Canada.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria Sharrieff; son, Sabakhan; daughter, Laela; stepson, Damion Coffey, one grandson, Elijah; father, Osman Sharrieff; three brothers, Dawood, Hassan, Karriem Sharrieff; three sisters, Aminia Sharrieff Hassan, Jalela Sharrieff Pointer and Durriyyah Sharrieff Hoskins, all of Chicago.

The family requests donations be made to the *Tri-City Journal* newspaper, 18 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60603, telephone (312) 346-8123.

WESCO Inc. promotes minority business enterprises

Special to Sentinel-Voice

PITTSBURGH — WESCO Distribution, Inc. is launching a nationwide initiative to expand its supplier base to include more minority and women-owned businesses.

Named the "Extra Effort Initiative," the new program is designed to create opportunities for Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) that provide value-added services and products.

A leading, full-time wholesale distributor of electrical and industrial products, it sells more than 130,000 different product items from more than 5,000 suppliers.

The company's major markets include commercial and industrial construction, industrial processors and manufacturers, large industrial manufacturers and electrical utilities.

James V. Piraino, vice president of marketing, said the new MBE program is "largely driven by market dynamics, business opportunities, and more considerations."

"We have developed a proactive initiative to address the unmet needs of our customers," he said.

The Extra Effort Initiative consists of two components — one is a program that serves customers directly through MBE service

providers who have formed strong partnerships with WESCO. The other is a separate program that customers can employ indirectly by purchasing products through MBE suppliers listed in the new Supplier Diversity Catalog.

WESCO created its Supplier Diversity Catalog to address the growing number of requests from customers who want to work with MBEs.

The program presents a wide range of electrical and industrial products and materials available from participating minority and women-owned businesses that it works with.

Now being distributed to all locations, the catalog includes more than 20 MBE companies throughout the United States and is growing steadily.

"The companies featured in our Supplier Diversity Catalog are fully qualified participants in our Extra Effort Initiative," Piraino said. "They are MBEs we know well and work with everyday, and they truly do add value to the supply chain."

Through its alliances with MBE service providers, the company will offer a variety of services including engineering, project management, energy conservation and industrial

automation.

This new program will help selected minority engineers set up their own engineering service companies to offer energy-management, industrial automation and panel building services to key national account customers.

The first such MBE developed under the Extra Effort Initiative is Jaymore Electrical Products and Systems of Pittsburgh. It is headed by Jim Moreland, an engineer with Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Moreland's training with WESCO over the past several months prepared him to provide a variety of energy-management services for commercial and industrial customers, including energy audits, system design and installation and distribution.

Kevin J. Callahan, the company's director of marketing programs, and Laura Nicolazzo, supplier diversity coordinator, are responsible for implementing and coordinating the new program.

They serve as a clearing house for all communications regarding minority business development, manage and track the minority supplier database and interface with various minority business organizations.

"Many MBEs are often under-utilized because they simply don't have the opportunities or the access that some others take for granted," Callahan said. "WESCO is committed to creating opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses that qualify as service providers and product suppliers for our Extra Effort Initiative."

To qualify as a participant in the new program, a business must be at least 51 percent owned, controlled and operated by a United States citizen who is either female or a member of a minority group.

The program recognizes five groups as minorities: Black-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-Pacific-American, Asian-Indian-American and Native-American.

WESCO Distribution, Inc. is a privately held electrical and industrial distribution company.

Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pa., it operates 321 full-service branches throughout North America.

Their 4,500 employees are responsible for generating and supporting annual product sales of \$2.5 billion. These sales represent more than 130,000 of the most recognized and commonly used industrial and construction products.

Marion Barry recall effort falls flat

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON — An effort by a local activist to recall District of Columbia Mayor Marion Barry ended Tuesday after organizers failed to amass enough signatures to force a vote on ousting the four-term mayor.

Tuesday was the deadline for submitting the recall petitions to the board of elections.

Sandra Seegers, a local activist, led the recall effort. She contends that Barry is incompetent and responsible for what she calls a decline in the city's quality of city life.

So as not to reveal the names of her supporters, she shredded the petitions in front of reporters.

It would have taken 33,475 signatures — 10 percent of the electorate — to force a recall election.

Barry, through a spokeswoman, declined to comment. Aides said he was doing well after having undergone a minor outpatient procedure Tuesday related to surgery he had two years ago for prostate cancer.

If the signatures had been upheld, an election on the recall question would have been held

in February or March.

Barry is up for re-election next year. He has not made a formal announcement, but it is expected to run for an unprecedented fifth four-year

term.

His only absence from the mayor's office since 1979 was 1990-94 after he went to prison for six months for drug possession.

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