

# San Diego Association of Black Social Workers

## Quarterly Newsletter

November 2018 Vol. 1, Issue 4



### MISSION STATEMENT

San Diego Association of Black Social Workers is comprised of people of African Ancestry who are committed to enhancing the quality of life, promoting social justice, and empowering people of African Ancestry through advocacy, human services and outreach.

### CODE OF ETHICS

In America today, no Black person, except the selfish or irrational, can claim neutrality in the quest for Black liberation nor fail to consider the implications of the events taking place in our society. Given the necessity for committing ourselves to the struggle for freedom, we as Black Americans practicing in the field of social welfare, set forth this statement of ideals and guiding principles.

If a sense of community awareness is a precondition to humanitarian acts, then we as Black social workers must use our knowledge of the Black community, our commitments to its self-determination, and our helping skills for the benefit of Black people as we marshal our expertise to improve the quality of life of Black people. Our activities will be guided by our Black consciousness, our determination to protect the security of the Black community, and to serve as advocates to relieve suffering of Black people by any means necessary. (View the full Code of Ethics on our website: [www.sdabsw.org](http://www.sdabsw.org))

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### President's Message

By Carlotta Wright-Fleener, Interim President

Each year, SDABSW host a canned food drive and Adopt-a-Family for Christmas giving. Last year, we provided food, clothes and toys to selected families at Encanto Elementary School and the Black Infant Health Program. This year, we are hoping to help more families.

Please bring your non-expired, can goods and nonperishable items to our holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018.

I would like to thank all SDABSW members for their generous donations and commitment to our mission.



### Jazz on the Patio ROCKED!

By Deborah Fitch, MSW

On September 8, 2018 we held our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Jazz on the Patio fundraising event. This year we raised over \$2000 due to the hard work of chapter members, our jazz band, and some significant donations from contributors. The monies raised will fund the Al Davis Memorial Fund for scholarships to students in high school or in college majoring in human services.

Our sincerest thanks go to the band for donating their time, talent and music. Without them, our fundraiser would not have been as successful. (cont. next column)



### Let's Rock 'Em and Shock 'Em with Our VOTES

By Carlotta Wright-Fleener, Interim President

As an association with a non-profit status, we can't tell you who to vote for, but we can and will strongly encourage you to vote. In our 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this newsletter, Dr. Yvonne Powell wrote about "The Importance of the Vote" and as your Interim President, I encourage all members, community members, and all those you know to get out and VOTE. Before you decide that your vote doesn't count, please remember five crucial things about voting:

- 1) Black people fought and died for the rights to vote;
- 2) We must express our concerns to our elected officials about their dysfunctional governing and what we want changed;
- 3) If you don't vote, don't complain. Remember what happened on 11/8/16?
- 4) All VOTES Matter and Count! Encourage everyone to vote. Be they young, old, Black, brown or white, Vote what is right!
- 5) Take friends and relatives to the polls.

***"Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting."***

***Franklin D. Roosevelt***

**REMEMBER to VOTE on Nov. 6, 2018!**

### Jazz on Patio (cont'd from previous column)

This year's jazz band featured new and returning members Grant Fleener, John Howard, Tom Bishop, Tom Waczek, and Ryan Waczek. They did an absolutely outstanding job! Thank you all for your great playing and enthusiasm.



Our quarterly Newsletter will be distributed in February, May, August, and November.

**September 9, 2018**

Jazz on the Patio supporting the Al Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund was a huge success thanks to SDABSW Members, Fleener/Howard Band and many supporters.



**October 4, 2018**

SDABSW was honored with a Fannie Lou Hamer Food Equity Award and a Special Commendation from Council member Georgette Gomez (See write up on page 3)

**November 10, 2018**

The Association of Black Social Workers of Great Los Angeles celebrates 50 Years of Community Service and Empowerment on Saturday, November 10, 2018 from 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm at the **Sheraton Gateway Hotel 6101 West Century Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045**

**December 8, 2018**

The SDABSW and the Assoc. of Black Psychologist Holiday Party and Food Drive will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018 (see invitation on pg.4)



**A Student's Perspective**  
By Leona Ekanem, Student, Tech Specialist

I was initially introduced to the San Diego Association of Black Social Workers while I was working as a waitress and as a student at Cuyamaca College studying Social Work. One day, a very charismatic customer started a conversation about the career field that I was interested in pursuing. She mentioned a non-profit organization that she was part of and handed me her business card. A little over 2 years had passed when I decided to pull out that old card and finally attend a monthly meeting.

Little did I know that a simple meeting would change the course of my academic career. SDABSW not only welcomed me into their family, but they immediately put me to work. As a first-generation college student, I was extremely nervous and felt underqualified. However, this group of Black professionals believed in me. SDABSW takes great care of their students and collectively provides the tools needed for academic success. I am honored to say that I am an awardee of their 2017/2018 "Al Davis Scholarship" and was sponsored to attend the NABSW 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

SDABSW current student membership number is small but growing. I strongly recommend that every Black student studying human services attend at least one meeting. There was many times where I've felt overwhelmed with my studies and unsure of whether or not social work was the career for me. As students, we oftentimes focus solely on course material and do not know what applying the concepts that we learn about actually looks like. Seeing the drive and passion of these members helped push me to excel in both my studies and helped me to define and make a commitment to serve my community.



**Honorary Member, Grant Fleener**  
By Deborah Fitch, MSW

We offer our sincere thanks and gratitude to our member Carlotta Wright -Fleener and her husband, Grant Fleener. Grant is an honorary member who often donates his time and energy to support SDABSW. In addition to supporting his wife at our Old School Fun in the Sun Day at the Park annual summer event, he has played all eight Jazz on the Patio fundraisers.

This year, we weren't sure that he would be able to play, due to hand surgery. But Grant being the person he is, sped up his recovery with his commitment and determination of continuing to help SDABSW. Not knowing if he would recovery on time, he called on his friends and encouraged them to play in his stead. While we wished and prayed for his recovery, we were not expecting him to play. We were overjoyed to discover he healed well enough to play. Hearing him play up to his normal standards, made the event that much more enjoyable. For that, we thank both Carlotta and Grant for their continuous devotion to Jazz on the Patio and to SDABSW. We LOVE YOU, Grant!

Photos from 2018 Jazz on Patio (see more photos at [www.sdabsw.org](http://www.sdabsw.org) or on Facebook)







## Project New Village and Councilmember Honor San Diego Association of Black Social Workers

By Barbara Greer, Loretta Swanegan and Patricia Kelly

Each year, Project New Village pays tribute to Fannie Lou Hamer by hosting a celebration in her honor. During the celebration, Project New Village honors individuals and community organizations who demonstrate the qualities that Fannie Lou Hamer espoused in the areas of voting, social justice and food equity/food justice.



Fannie Lou Hamer

While we are in the midst of one of the most important voting seasons in the history of America, we must pay tribute to Fannie Lou Hamer, not only for her work in the field of food equity/justice but also in trying to instill the importance of voting amongst Black people. As a civil rights activist/leader, she was often on the front line of danger as she placed her life in peril trying to get Black people to vote.

Mrs. Hamer is famously known for her saying of "I'm sick and tired of being sick and tired." Having started working in the cotton fields of Mississippi at the age of 6 and quitting school at 12 years old to work to help her family (she has the youngest of 20 children), and suffering poor health, it is understandable that she was indeed "sick and tired of being sick and tired." In addition to spearheading voter registration drives, she worked tirelessly to help minorities establish businesses, childcare services and other family services.

Some of the things she did during her short lifetime (she died at the tender age of 59) included co-founding the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, running for Congress, and establishing the National Women's Political Caucus. While she was not successful in her bid for Congress, she successfully brought the country's attention to the plights of Mississippian experiencing civil rights (Cont. next column)

struggles and injustices when she spoke at the televised Democratic National Convention in 1964.

This year, SDABSW was chose by Project New Village to be honored along with several other agencies and individuals.

**Loretta Swanegan**, the President of the CABSW and Treasurer for SDABSW is quoted as saying

*"While we do not do what we do for accolades and fanfares, it felt wonderful knowing that we are noticed. And being honored for work that we do that is aligned with Fannie Lou Hamer's legacy was wonderful. Fannie Lou was very instrumental in leading voter registration drives and we were working diligently to get our people out to vote. It was an awesome event and an honor being selected this year."*

**Patricia Kelly**, former SDABSW President said

*"I enjoy going but I especially enjoyed it this year. Having it outdoors on the patio made it easier to network. I also like how Diane Moss continues to incorporate food fresh from the Mt. Hope Garden into the celebration meal."*

SDABSW Thanks Diane Moss of Project New Village for recognizing and honoring us with the Fanner Lou Hamer 2018 Food Equity Award. The award was given to us "in recognition of active support and involvement in changing the food landscape in Southeastern San Diego." We will continue to live up to this honor. We also thank Councilwoman Georgette Gomez for presenting SDABSW a Special Commendation at the Fannie Lou Hamer celebration.



Dennis Vega, Health Educator Our Place San Ysidro Health

## SDABSW Congratulates and Thank Dennis Vega

By Barbara Greer

SDABSW would like to congratulate and thank Dennis Vega, another recipient of the Fannie Lou Hamer award. He is a Health Educator at San Ysidro Health's Our Place and he is on a quest to ensure that everyone knows his or her HIV and STI status.

Dennis was very instrumental in helping SDABSW during the NABSW 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Health Fair in April. When asked if he could convince San Ysidro Health management to provide HIV testing at the health fair, he did not hesitate and in his true fashion, he said "I got you and I will bring the confidential testing van." He came to the event with his ever present smile and ensured that all who wanted to be tested were tested. His easy going manner and bright smile took the nervousness and fear out of being tested. We thank him from the bottom of our hearts.





**SDABSW MEMBERS**

**Interim President:**  
Carlotta Wright-Fleener

**Vice President:**

**Treasurer:** Loretta Swanegan

**Secretary:** Denaya Kelly-Darby

**National Steering Committee Reps:**  
Dr. Yvonne Murrell-Powell  
Deborah Fitch

**Website Host:** Ronda Felder

**Technology Specialists:**  
Leona Ekanem and Myron Mason

**Newsletter Tech:** Barbara Greer

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Not only will your membership entitle you to be a part of the San Diego Association of Black Social Workers, but it also includes the benefit of being a member of the National Association of Black Social Workers, Inc.

Like the SDABSW, NABSW works to create a world in which people of Black African ancestry will live free from racial domination, economic exploitation, and cultural oppression.

NABSW's vision is guided by the Principles of the Nguzo Saba, which are Unity, Self-determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity, and Faith, and the Seven Cardinal Virtues of Ma'at, which are Righteousness, Truth, Justice, Order, Reciprocity, Balance, and Harmony.

By joining, **YOU** can expect the following benefits:

- Networking opportunities
- Discounted full-time student membership
- Discounted pricing for State, Regional, National and International Conferences
- NABSW Members Rewards Program
- The opportunity to participate in quarterly National Steering Committee Meetings
- The ability to purchase Professional Liability Insurance
- Presenter opportunities at the NABSW Annual Conference



**Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
*"Give thanks for a little and you will find a lot"*  
**Hausa Proverb**

**List 10 non-materialistic things you are thankful for:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

*The San Diego Association of Black Social Workers  
And the Association of Black Psychologists  
Invites you to*

*Oh Come Ye One, Oh Come Ye All  
Oh Come Ye and Let's Have a Ball  
Be Ye Nice or Be Ye Naughty  
You are invited to our Holiday Party*

*Saturday, December 8, 2018 at 6:30 pm  
6924 Avalon Way  
Lemon Grove, CA 91945*

*Please call Deborah Fitch at (619) 288-0200 for directions*

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*\***

*This is also a food drive for the SDABSW Adopt-A-Family Program. Please bring non-expired nonperishable and can goods to the party. With your generosity, we will be able to assist more families this year.*

*The food, music and laughter will get you in the holiday spirit, but if you want special alcoholic spirits, please bring your own.*

*Hope to see you there!*

**SDABSW supports local entrepreneurs by allowing them to sell their products at the 2018 Jazz on the Patio Al Davis Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser**



SDABSW Member, O. Shah Bey Essential Oils & Fragrance and his wife's Mother & Daughter's Desserts



SDABSW Member, Shelia Stittiams Natural Homemade Self Care Products