

ENCOBRA

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Summer
2003

NATIONAL FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

Building N'COBRA and the Reparations Movement

2003 - 2008



**N'COBRA National Board Meeting & Retreat
Princeville, North Carolina**

ENCOBRA®

N'COBRA

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MISSION

The Commission will serve as the official organizational link for the dissemination and exchange of information on N'COBRA policies, Reparations issues, strategies and actions important to winning Reparations for African descendants in the U.S. and the Diaspora; assist in educating N'COBRA members and the general public about our just demands; and assist in the development of mass based support for Reparations.

DEPARTMENTS

Publishing Team

Publications: REPARATIONS NOW!
{Quarterly Membership Newsletter}
ENCOBRA {Annual magazine/journal}
BLACK REPARATIONS TIMES
{Quarterly public newspaper}

Internet/IT Team

N'COBRA Website:
NCOBRA.org & OfficialNcobra.org
(both .org are same)

Listserv – news egroup

Reparations_For_Africans@yahoogroups.com

Public Relations Team

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Dorothy Benton Lewis

National Co-Chair, N'COBRA

N'COBRA Family!

It has been another spectacular year!!! Everyday, the reparations movement is picking up more and more steam as a result of your hard work, creativity, and genius. Inside this movement, we are discovering our talents and putting them to great use. We are discovering our personal power and using it in service of our community. And we are finding great fulfillment in doing so.

This year, we got our house in order. We completed the first edition of our Policies and Procedures Manual! No more guess work or reinventing the wheel. We have a 5-year Action Plan, with goals, objectives, timetables, and a budget! Yes, each Commission has a budget! No money, of course! But we know exactly how much we have to raise, to carry out our programs. We have a stellar Fund Development Committee with some great projects planned to generate the funds. Even with few funds, most of our Commissions are fully functioning! Just like our ancestors, we make a way out of no way. We have projects that we are excited about. Unlike our ancestors, Callie House, Isaiah Dickerson, Irving B. Davis, Queen Mother Moore, and so many others, we can now clearly see the fruits of our labor. We stand on their shoulders and the work of organizations that came before us, such as the Self-Determination Committee, Black Reparations Commission, African People's Socialist Party, African National Reparations Organization, and the Republic of New Afrika, to name a few. We must always acknowledge those that paved the way. It does not diminish us in anyway to acknowledge the organizations that came before us, for they are we, and we are they. We form coalitions with other organizations to get the work done. A Year of Black Presence is an excellent example of coalition work.

*This movement belongs to all of us, as does N'COBRA. We each have a stake in N'COBRA's success. In N'COBRA, we strive to create a culture of leadership where those with a passion for reparations step up to the plate and assert their leadership and talents by participating in the work of a commission, or in developing a commission that needs strengthening, or making a case for a project or initiative that we don't already have. N'COBRA has a place for anyone who wants to work or take on the responsibility for a project that will forward the movement. No good idea will be turned down, especially if the person with the idea takes the leadership for it. If the idea excites you, you are probably the best one to make it real. For example, Randall Robinson had a good idea, "a year of Black presence in the halls of Congress," which he expressed in his book, *The Debt*. It inspired Milton McGriff who persuaded us that it was doable. In the beginning, we didn't really see how we could do it, but we weren't about to suppress his enthusiasm and energy. So, we got out of Milton's way and supported him in bringing forth the vision that excited him. Our Movement is the richer for it.*

The Dynamic Duo, Kibibi Tyehimba and Wautella ibn Yusuf, who individually are brilliant, but together make magic. They consistently come up with ideas that they take on and bring into fruition, such as Black Reparations Times, and education specific Town Hall Meetings on different aspects of the reparations debate. Baba Imari and Johnita Scott Obadele consistently use their brilliance in the service of N'COBRA: Encobra Magazine, Surveys, Economic Development Commissioner elections. Reparations Ray Jenkins has been the soul of fund raising for the Litigation Commission and its excellent work. Sister JoAnn Watson and Nkechi Taifa have been our Legislative gurus. I could go on for pages because every member of N'COBRA is special in what each brings to the movement. We congratulate N'COBRA Board member, JoAnn Watson for her election as Councilwoman in Detroit, Michigan. N'COBRA is fertile soil for growing ideas and growing people. I know that I have grown in confidence, in leadership and people skills. My greatest gift to the organization is my ability to see God in people. It is easy for me to get out of the way and let God do her/his work through the people that come into N'COBRA.

This year begins my last year as National Co-Chair of N'COBRA. There are two new projects that I plan to take on in my last year: Willie Lynch and Love. In Willie Lynch, I want to create opportunities for us to look at behaviors that are the lingering survival strategies that served us during slavery, but work against us now. In terms of love, I want to create opportunities for us to fall in love with the magnificence of Black people through self-discovery. When Black people see the magnificence in self (not as ego), we can see the same magnificence in other Black people. The work we do in the reparations movement will transform the toxic society in which we live. We must also transform the toxic effects this society has on us. I hope that each of you will find your place and a place for your vision in N'COBRA

For the ancestors and the future,

Dorothy Benton Lewis
National Co-Chair, N'COBRA

PRINCEVILLE RETREAT & BOARD MEETING

N'COBRA's Leaders Retreat to Make Plans to Advance



Imari Obadele, Adjoa Aiyetoro, Ukali Mwendo and Mashariki Jywanza

In attendance (sign-in sheet)

Ajamu Sankofa, Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, Khalif Khalifah, Alvin Brown, Kamau Jywanza, Mashariki Jywanza, Njere Alghanee, Wautella ibn Yusuf, Kibibi Tyehimba, Kupenda Olusegun, Baba Hannibal Afrik, Omowale Satterwhite, James Rodgers III, Imari Obadele, Kalonji Olusegun, Jahahara Alkebulan, Johnita Obadele, Dorothy Lewis, Ukali Mwendo and Milton Bullock

Milton Bullock (center), local N'COBRA organizer and retreat host



Princeville was established by ex-enslaved Africans following the Civil War on the east bank of the Tar River. It was the perfect place to retreat, get close to the land, and walk the river banks - sensing the spiritual presence of those in whose names we fight and speak. In this sacred space our leaders thought deeply about N'COBRA's internal and external struggles, and how best to live up to N'COBRA's founding mission: JUSTICE AND REPARATIONS for Black People.

Dorothy Lewis, National Co Chair lead discussion in the Black historic (137 years old) St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church



N'COBRA'S MISSION

After reviewing the mission as articulated in the founding documents and the proposed policies and procedures manual, N'COBRA's Board of Directors adopted the following mission for N'COBRA:

The mission of the National Coalition of blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) is to win full Reparations for Black African Descendants residing in the United States and its territories for the genocidal war against Africa that created the TransAtlantic Slave "Trade," Chattel Slavery, Jim Crow and Chattel Slavery's continuing vestiges (the Maafa). To that end, N'COBRA shall organize and mobilize all strata of these Black communities into an effective mass- based reparations movement. N'COBRA shall also serve as a coordinating body for the reparations effort in the United States. Further, through its leadership role in the reparations movement within the United States and its territories, N'COBRA recognizes reparations is a just demand for all African peoples and shall join with others in building the international reparations movement.