

Reparations Now!

N'COBRA Quarterly Membership Newsletter - Summer 2006

N'COBRA First Dues Increase in Over Ten Years

By Johnita Scott

By a vote of the members present at the annual meeting, the fee for an individual N'COBRA (National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America) membership received its first hike in over ten years.

The new fee structure allows a person to pay either \$15, \$20, or \$25 based on his/her financial ability at the time. It is an honor system that leaves the choice entirely with the individual as to which of the three amounts to pay. It is the intent of the Coalition to keep the dues

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The Simba House Young Dancers
N'COBRA 2006 Conference

N'COBRA 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

By Kamau Jywanza

The venue, Martin University (Indianapolis, IN) was excellent; the administration and the staff were warm and welcoming, helpful and supportive, and they learned about Reparations. An example of one of the anticipated outcomes happened Saturday morning, when an instructor brought her class to the "Gathertorium" to interview Reparations activists and veterans from across the country.

Hoosier Hospitality, venue staff, shuttle service, bed & breakfast, registration, conference bags, t-shirts and other material and supply donations were all a credit to the volunteerism of Indianapolis and National Reparations supporters and activists. Their commitment to this conference and the comfort of the conference guests made this a pleasant and productive experience. Mashariki and I would especially like to thank our family (our beautiful children), our cultural collective, our conscious community and friends for their assistance and support. We couldn't have done this without them and you.

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2006 CONFERENCE NEWS



Election of New National Board Members

National Female Co Chair - Kibibi Tyehimba (incumbent) *(Photo - 3 from left)*

National Treasurer - Kamau Jywanza (incumbent) *(Photo - 4 from left)*

At-Large Board Members - Sis. Barbara Baker, Chicago, Ill.; *(Photo - 5 from left)* Atty. Mawuli Davis, Atlanta, GA. *(Photo - 2 from left)*

Midwest Regional Rep - Sister Fatimah Smith of Cincinnati, OH *(not shown)*

Northeast Regional rep - Brother Ari S. Merretazon of Philadelphia, PA *(not shown)*

Youth Commission. The new Co Chairs (appointed) - Menelik Pope of Atlanta, GA *(Photo - 6 from left)* and Kameelah Miller of Cincinnati, OH *(Photo - 1 from left)*

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Reparations Now!

The official information letter for members of the

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America

N'COBRA
PO Box 90604
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202.291.8400

Prepared by the Information & Media Commission

Questions or Comments? Email us at: InformationMedia@aol.com or call 202.291.8400

YOUTH COMMISSION

By Menelyk Odinga

The Youth Commission is in full effect as of the 2006 conference in Indianapolis. Menelyk Odinga, former male co-chair of the Atlanta chapter Youth Commission will be serving as our new co-chair and Kameelah Miller from the Cincinnati chapter of NCOBRA will be serving as our female co-chair. Menelik has served in NCOBRA for two years. In his time he has helped to revive the NCOBRA Youth Commission of Atlanta and has done great work in leading relief missions to the Gulf Coast area in support of Hurricane Katrina survivors. Kameelah Miller is a genuine reparations activist of youthful age and brings the experience of being born into the liberation movement. Also serving in a national capacity are Joseph Jarret of Atlanta (Minister of Information), Ayo Mawusi of Detroit (Marketing & Design), Vicki Jo Washington of Atlanta (Assistant Female Co-Chair) and Nuri Madina of Chicago (Co-Chair Emeritus).

Over the coming year, you can look forward to a make over of this commission starting with a MySpace.com site which will be a precursor to the forthcoming website. In addition, we are seeking to revitalize the membership of this commission and are working in the areas of fundraising and marketing in order to accomplish this goal. Details and progress of our work will come shortly. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact the Youth Commission at ncobrayc@yahoo.com or you can contact Menelyk Odinga @ (404) 758-8375. Thank you for your support at the conference and in our work.

May 2007 be heralded with the sound of the Akoben!

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION

By Njere Alghanee

HRC continues to support the Hurricane Katrina Crisis Survivors organizing and mobilizing efforts such as the Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund (PHRF), Saving Our Selves (SOS), the US Human Rights Network, and the Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign. HRC supported the recent protest by hurricane survivors at the FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC.

HRC came together at the National NCOBRA Conference in Indy to brainstorm and pull together strategies to establish a National Health Commission that will examine the health disparities and injuries that we as African descendants continue to experience under oppressive conditions here in Amerikkka.

Look for the HRC Resolutions on the list-serve so that you can give your input. If you want to coordinate public hearings in your town, HRC will provide resource information soon. Check out the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) opportunities in your county, this is critical training that aids in surviving any crisis or disaster, and it's FREE.

Send any information that HRC can use to: abisa7@yahoo.com or call Sis. Njere @ 404/587-2709.

EDUCATION COMMISSION OF NCOBRA

By Mashariki Jywanza

An Education Colloquy of seasoned educators, and members and supporters of the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI) included Education Commission Co-chairs Mashariki Jywanza and Jomoke Ifetayo; Kofi Lomotey, Baba Hannibal Afrik, Kimya Moyo, and Woullard Let. The Mission Statement and Purpose: "To produce transformed and empowered Black African descendents who will work towards achieving reparations. To that end, the Education Commission will identify, develop, produce and disseminate educational tools and processes." Short Term Goals for the first year include:

1. Identify an education coordinator from each NCOBRA chapter so as to have a contact person for follow up on tasks.
2. Each chapter should report on activities related to education at the Annual NCOBRA conferences so as to keep the national membership aware of the various chapter activities as well as to increase the awareness of said programs within the larger community.
3. Each NCOBRA chapter should compile a list of progressive activist organizations within their region (e.g., survival encampments, rites of passage groups, et cetera) so as to raise awareness of such organizations.
4. To have the members of each NCOBRA chapter read and study at least one of the following books so as to further the educational goals of NCOBRA.

Carter G. Woodson: *The Miseducation of the Negro*
Marimba Ani: *Yurugu: An African Centered Critique of European Thought and Behavior*
Ayi Kwei Armah: *Two Thousand Seasons*

5. Incorporate activities in Reparation Awareness Day that follow from the required reading so as to reinforce the ideas reflected in the books.
6. Facilitate the provision of study guides for the three books so as to guide readers as they read the books.

(Continued from page 1) **Dues Increase**

at a rate of affordability for all segments of our community while at the same time encouraging those who can support at a higher financial level to do so.

The fee increase becomes effective immediately for new memberships and at the time of renewal for current members. Other fees remain unchanged: Life Members - \$500 Local Organizations - \$25 National - \$50

Chapters will continue to set the amount of fees to be paid to the local chapter. Only national members are eligible for local chapter membership.

Questions about membership should be addressed to the Commission on Membership and Organizational Development at azena@intergate.com or 225/357-7909.

Attached is N'COBRA's new national Annual Membership Application. Please discontinue using any other national membership forms.

N'COBRA CONFERENCE'S ORGANIZATION & FUND DEVELOPMENT SESSION

The planning meeting was presided over by the National Co-Chairs, Kibibi and Milton, and facilitated by Johnita Scott Obadele, Co-Chair of the Membership and Organizational Development Commission and Robert Bell, Northeast Regional Representative. The focus of the discussion was on (1) Membership Development and (2) Methods of Fundraising. Secondary topics centered on, but not limited to, staffing needs of the national office, and other critical operating expenses. The membership generated a list of ideas and recommendations to increase membership and support for the Coalition specifically, and the movement in general, and fund the staffing and general operations needs of the National Office:

Best and Most Successful Practices

1. Network with community organizations to increase membership and support; Use informal networks
2. Engage supporters with no funds to pass out flyers to spread the word
3. Co sponsor town hall meetings to bring people together and raise awareness. Educational forum and teach-ins; Provide a quality product
4. Use radio promotions. Build relationships with radio stations
5. Full disclosure of financial records to build trust.
6. Pass out flyers at all events. Be prepared with literature
7. Engage churches; Establish a Reparations Baptist Center; See Reparations as a mission of God
8. Follow "50 ways to raise \$500" (to be provided by James Rodgers)
9. AYBP – A Year of Black Presence ongoing lobbying campaign
10. Fish Fries
11. Establish a Resource Library
12. Support the "Case against Wachovia" campaign to engage your community
13. Develop an annual plan
14. Engage community in research of slavery & Jim Crow Laws in your area
15. Engage local & federal elected officials
16. Develop a product - Reparations NOW cookies (Philadelphia led project)
17. Raise issue during political campaigns
18. Connect peoples' issues. All things can lead to Reparations discussion
19. Regularly scheduled meetings; Consistency; Follow-up & focus
20. ASK for support! Engage family & friends, church members, sororities
21. Seek co-sponsorship for community events; Extend beyond immediate pool of supporters
22. Publish successes to build awareness of NCOBRA's work
23. Film festivals
24. Encourage the youth by incorporating information in school curriculum
25. Use state-of-the-Art technology
26. Use all opportunities to expose injustices. Connect the dots
27. Engage our children –"charity starts at home and spreads abroad"
28. Raffles - Hold members accountable for the sale of tickets
29. Invest funds to raise interest
30. A "Run-for Justice" fund raiser

NCOBRA's International Commission Goes Global!

By Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa Ohema
(Ms. Dorothy B. Lewis)

Beginning July 19, NIAC, led a 15-member delegation of African descendants from North America to the Global Pan Afrikan Reparations and Repatriation Conference (G-PARRC) in Accra, Ghana and Benin West Africa. Mission: Develop a mutually supportive action plan that harmonizes and forwards the diverse reparations movements around the globe, resulting from the Maafa/Mangamizi, Holocaust of African Enslavement and Colonialism. The delegation built on the yearlong work of a 21-member Planning Team spanning 4 continents, and an extensive Ghana ground team headed by Nana Gyepi III of SUCARDIF Association of Ghana, and IMAHKUS Nzinga of One Africa. Sister IMAHKUS is a repatriate and author of the book, *Going Home Ain't Easy but It Sure is A Blessing*.

The North American delegation was joined by delegates from the Caribbean who met up with the European delegation in London, headed by Sister Esther Sandford and Kofi Klu. Sister Esther, a proponent of Pan Afrikan reparations is a longtime representative of N'COBRA in Europe and was an inspiration for the conference. Her concern for the British anti-African propaganda leading up to the 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the so-called, Transatlantic Slave Trade, by the British, inspired Queen Mother Lewis, now Queen Mother Nana Yaa Asantewaa, to get a headstart on creating our own conversation around the Bicentenary, as the US Bicentenary will take place in 2008.

While the US reparations movement has inspired reparations movements throughout the world, we are challenged to take on Pan African reparations recognizing that we are One Afrikan Family torn asunder by the longest running crime against humanity in human history. By working together we can win. www.ncobra-intl-affairs.org

The workshops and events provided an excellent information flow and learning opportunities for all attendees. Workshops were well received and attended. The NCOBRA internal organization and fund development sessions were extremely productive in setting out strategies for stabilizing, sustaining and growing the organization in order to continue the reparations work that must be done to honor our ancestors; for our liberation; and for our children's and our nation's future. Workshop evaluation comments were collected and comments have been passed on to workshop conveners who we anticipate will summarize injury repair action items and submit for the national newsletter and archives and to share with the national membership for implementation. Events of the conference were equally exciting. The membership meeting was productive, and provided an opportunity for members to fully participate in the decision-making process. Special recognition was also given to Queen Mother Dorothy Benton Lewis (Nana Yaa Asantewaa Ohema) and General Chui of the Black Legion during the conference weekend.

As edu-tainment, the dinner on Friday evening , the opening ceremony on Saturday morning and the rally on Saturday evening were conference highlights. These opportunities to showcase some homegrown, local cultural talent, hopefully showed that we too have generations of talented, committed reparations activists and supporters.

Throughout the conference and at the rally, in addition to the NCOBRA Leadership and Reparations veterans, special guest speakers were from New Orleans, Sister D.; from Chicago, Chairman Fred Hampton, Jr.; Bro. Muhammad from Georgia Black Farmers; and Bro. Bob Brown who it seems hails from all over the world

At the Callie House/Queen Mother Moore Ancestors dinner, special guest participants, Sis. Kai Mwaafrika (M.C.), Rev/Mama Muriel Jones "Take It Off", Dr. Valethia Watkins, Sis. Njere Alghanee and Sis. Portia Jackson, creatively showcased the contributions of Reparations Ancestors. Their creativity made the event unforgettable.

Again, Mashariki, Kamau and Indianapolis thank you for the opportunity to host the 2006 NCOBRA Annual Reparations Conference and hope that this "Meeting at the Crossroads" event will prove pivotal for the coalition and inspire and motivate all of us to continue to work toward the repair of our people.

(Continued from page 1) **Conference News**

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the general membership:

1. Wachovia Corporate Divestment Resolution - Coalition wide support and participation in the divestment initiative with Philadelphia NCOBRA serving as lead agent.
2. August Black Community Month of Prayer – Reparations must be a sacred mission on behalf of our ancestors. Coalition members should observe and organize in their communities to encourage maximum support and participation.
3. Youth Empowerment Initiatives – Support Youth Commission efforts to grow youth leaders in the Reparations Movement and participation of youth to ensure victory. Baba Hannibal Afrik will serve as the Elder Advisor.
4. Support the Reparations Demand March and Conference in Jackson MS on August 19, 2006.
5. Include a list political prisoners in NCOBRA publications to increase visibility and support.
6. Develop an alternative dispute resolution avenue - a Truth and Reconciliation Commission on behalf of political prisoners.
7. Major Fundraising Drive: A minimum fundraising goal of \$50,000; raise \$12,500 in ninety (90) days. Each member will make a pledge; each chapter will make a pledge; Chapters' support for a membership drive. Fund drive progress will be tracked and reported quarterly.

The 2007 Conference Committee for the Philadelphia Chapter distributed "Save the Date" flyers announcing the 2007 conference celebrating the 20-year anniversary of NCOBRA.

S/E Regional Report

By Njere Alghanee

Thanks to strong commitment from Atlanta, two representatives of Atlanta Chapter were installed onto the NCOBRA National Board of Directors, Menelyk Odinga as National Youth Commission Co-Chair and Atty. Mawuli Davis as an At-Large member.

News from around the region includes: **Florida-** MIA Chapter has been consistently supporting the efforts of ACLU to alleviate the challenges of ex-offenders restricted entry back into the general population with opportunities through protests, community forums, and petitions. Efforts are also underway to improve the truce and peace making between the gangs. A statewide meeting is planned.

Mississippi- "Justice For Emmett Till," The Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta, in pursuit of full justice. This event takes place on Saturday, September 9, 2006. Mississippians For Reparations will depart from Jackson, Miss, then caravan to Money, Miss, the murder site, then on to the gravesite of Mother Fannie Lou Hamer. and will be followed with more protests, petitions and town hall meetings around the unsolved murders of Black people at the suspected hands of racists in the past that need to be brought to justice today. In Port Gibson, a series of monthly community and state-wide gatherings are planned including: Movies with a Message; Computer classes; Exercise classes with Sis Anana Nyamui; and a Newsletter. **North Carolina-** member Theresa El-Amin of Durham hosted the prep-conference for the World Social Forum that will be held in Atlanta, Georgia in 2007.

South Carolina- Members of the Charleston community are mobilizing to build a monument to honor Denmark Vesey. S/E Regional Rep is in contact with the descendants of Denmark Vesey for future needs of NCOBRA. **Virginia-** Planning for a Marcus Garvey Day Rally and a Townhall Meeting is scheduled for August 17-18, 2006 by Newport News member, Dawud Muhammad.

N'COBRA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW

Please become a member or renew your membership and send a donation today.

National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America

N 'COBRA

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PURPOSE

We believe that the descendants of Africans, who were captured, taken from our homeland (Africa), enslaved, colonized and held captive for hundreds of years in the Americas and throughout the diaspora, believe that we should be compensated for the injustices, cruelties, brutalities, inhumanities and exploitations of racism, white supremacy, economic discrimination and oppression imposed upon our people past and present.

DEFINITION

REPARATIONS: Payment for a debt owed; the act of repairing a wrong or injury; to atone for wrongdoings; to make amends; to make one whole again; the payment of damages to repair a nation; compensation in money, land, or materials for damages. In the Ancient African, Kemetic sense, Reparations means to rise up. Repair and restore the ruined and damaged, develop the underdeveloped, and create a just society.

INVITATION

Please help continue the organizing and expansion efforts of N'COBRA in building our National & International Movements for Reparations. Reparations are obtainable in our lifetime. A committed people with a righteous cause is a force that cannot be denied.

Mail the National Office N'COBRA,

P.O. Box 90604, Washington, DC 20090-0604

Tel: 202. 291. 8400 * Fax: 202. 291. 4600 * Website: <http://www.ncobra.org>

N'COBRA National Annual Membership Application

Select appropriate categories. Make check/money order payable to NCOBRA.

Please select dues amount best for your budget : One year \$15 \$20 \$25

Multiple Years Membership: # of Years Amount \$ or \$500 Life Membership

There may be additional fees for local membership

I would like to support (with a donation) the Commissions (check one or more and enter \$ amount):

Economic Development; Education Human Resources; Information & Media;

International; Legal; Legislative; Youth

Membership Dues: \$ Donation for Commission \$ General Donation \$

Total Amount Enclosed \$

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE OUR MAILINGS

Name Street Address

City State Zip Home Phone ()

Work () E-Mail FAX ()

Sign: Date:

Collected by (NCOBRA Member Name)