

PLAN OF WORK

The following objectives were derived from the 1980-'81 Plan of Work. The objectives are broken down into three categories. Each category is stated in the order of importance in terms of establishing the Black Women's Caucus as a viable organization within Washington State. The objectives of the Black Women's Caucus for 1981-'82 are:

I. Organizations Survival

- A. To increase by 50% the membership of the BWC. To recruit at least 100 associate members.
- B. To sponsor two major State fund raisers.
- C. To become financially solvent

II. Important and Necessary Tasks

- A. To develop a power base covering major Black organizations. To implement a communications network that draws together other existing Black organizations. Through this effort, provide a mechanism for a Black Lobbyist.
- B. To plan and implement a Third Black Summit Conference for the fall of 1982.
- C. To continue monthly newsletters encompassing information of this organization and others. Content should include coming events, position papers, feature articles, and general information of importance to the Black community.

III. Ongoing Activities

- A. To strengthen our Public Relations program, with emphasis on media coverage, both print and electronic.
- B. To continue toward increasing the number of Blacks in political offices and positions of power. Provide political workshops which educate Black citizens about the political process. Assist in identifying potential office holders. Work with and support other existing Black political organizations to assure Black representation in political offices.
- C. To continue to impact boards and commissions in order to insure that every major city in the state has Black representation in areas that make decisions which impact the lives of Black people.
- D. To develop a public recognition program to honor outstanding Black women in the State.

BLACK WOMEN'S CAUCUS OF WASHINGTON STATE

The Black Women's Caucus is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Washington. This caucus has been in existence since the State Women's Year Conference in July, 1977, in conjunction with International Women's Year. It is the outgrowth of numerous meetings of Black women throughout the State during that time.

The purpose of the organization is to define the barriers preventing Black women from fully participating in the mainstream of society, and to set forth a course of action directing their efforts, resources and talents towards the removal of these barriers.

The fate of Black Americans as a racial minority group, and the development of Black women in the U.S. are intricately bound together. We have a long history of vital concern for civil liberties, and each generation of Black women has contributed mightily to the long struggle for the rights of women. The social political, and cultural background of Black American women differs greatly from that of other women and, as a consequence, we view the world differently and have different priorities and experiences.

It is doubtful that anyone else can or should speak for us and our communities. We assume the responsibility of our own interpretation of women's mission, believing that it is only on the basis of sound, historically correct analysis that we may organize effectively around our specific experiences as Black women and press not only for women's rights, but more importantly, for human rights.

A constitution governing the operation of the Caucus was adopted on January 7, 1978, in Seattle at a statewide meeting of Black women. The State organization is divided into four areas, basically regarded as the Northwest, Southwest and Northeast quadrants. Officers serve for a one-year period at the State level as well as the regional level.

The activities of the Caucus have centered around issues identified by Black women. A plan of work has been adopted and we are constantly up-dating and evaluating progress on that plan.

In October, 1978, the Black Women's Caucus sponsored the First Annual Black Summit Conference in Yakima. This Conference was a huge success... positive information and positive participation. Blacks from all over the State were in attendance. In October, 1979, the Second Summit Conference was held in Seattle, with the same positive results. We are now preparing for our Fifth Annual Meeting to be held in Tacoma, with Dr. Maxine Mimms, Faculty, The Evergreen State College, as keynote speaker.

With the active participation of Black women throughout Washington, the Caucus has the potential to be a very powerful force in our communities and can effect those changes from which we can all benefit.