

THE NACWC- Who are we and why we exist?

“National Association Of Colored Women’s Clubs”

Our History

We are women of color, African American women, black women.

Long before the founding of the of the organization, our forbearers, had organized ourselves into self-improvement and charitable organizations. These organizations were led by women named **Harriet Tubman and Helen Appo Cook (both NACW founders), Sojourner Truth, Anna Julia Cooper, Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and a plethora of unnamed others whose lives were devoted to the struggle to free people of color from the bondage of slavery, illiteracy, and prejudice in an unforgiving world that treated them as less than human.** It was also the time of **Ida B. Wells Barnett** and her **Red Record, a voluminous documentation of the lynching of black Americans.**

But then came..... The Letter

In **1895** James W. Jacks, president of the Missouri Press Association, received a letter from **“Florence Baggott”** of the **English Anti-Lynching League** asking American journalists to help battle lynching. Jacks’ now infamous specifically, black women. Jacks wrote that, **“The Negroes in this country are wholly devoid of morality.** They know nothing of it except as they learn by being caught for flagrant violations of law and punished

therefor... They consider it no disgrace but rather an honor to be sent to prison and to wear striped clothes. The women are prostitutes and all are natural liars and thieves....Out of 200 in this vicinity it is doubtful if there are a dozen virtuous women of that number who are not daily thieving from the white people.”

The Founding of NACWC (copied from the NACWC notes)

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Today, the organization is made up of numerous races but of women wanting to improve society and the conditions of living in America. Still the organization consists of more than 99% Black or African American Women..