

# Newell Oversees Million Dollar Club

By KAREN M. HANNON  
Community News Reporter

Virginia Newell is spearheading an effort to help increase entrepreneurship in East Winston. Founded as a self-help organization, the Million Dollar Club is on its way to helping more African-Americans own their own homes and creating more black-owned businesses in the community.

"Unless we do it ourselves, it won't be done," she said. "Most of the financial institutions known for helping blacks have been black institutions themselves, like Winston Mutual. They were respected early on for helping black people own their own homes."

Newell said individual investors within the Winston-Salem community are now being solicited to make contributions to an account at Mechanics and Farmers Bank. Once a million dollars is raised and as deposits continue to grow, the funds will be used to make home and business loans to qualified African-American applicants.

Newell said the fund may help some people who were previously turned down for mortgages by larger, more conventional lending institutions.

"White commercial banks don't mind lending us money for cars," Newell said. "But when you become a property owner, you become a genuine citizen. So by December 1993, we hope to have at least a million dollars to help make that possible."

Newell said she started the club because of her own concerns about the alarming number of African-Americans who were turned down for mortgages. She referred to a Nov. 30 *Wall Street Journal* article that uncovered a disparity in the ratio of blacks and whites being turned down for home loans across the nation.

But proving that the numbers are a result of racial discrimination in mortgage lending practices is nearly impossible, due to the many factors lenders consider in granting loans.

A recent series of *Chronicle* articles revealed the inequalities hit even closer to home. During our investigation, a number of African-Americans from the community came forward to tell their horror stories of trying to capture the American Dream of home ownership.

Newell said the Million Dollar Club will turn the dream into a reality by providing a property ownership opportunity that will increase wealth in the black community.

"If we can produce more property owners, we will have more power to make decisions in the community, because we'll have something to use for collateral," Newell said. "Minorities are sleeping giants. We don't know our power. We may not have much as individuals, but collectively, we have a lot of power."

"There are millions of dollars that come into East Winston annually, and it hurts me when we say we do not control a portion of that amount," Newell said.

"The reason we're at the bottom of the barrel — the reason we're not called to the bargaining table — is because we are poor," she said. "Black folk in Winston are ignored because we don't have anything. We've not made the move to build an institution we will be proud of in the future."

She also said more black-owned businesses need to be established in East Winston.



Virginia K. Newell

"It's a terrible indictment for blacks to be in this community and not get a first-class restaurant in this community. If nothing else, that could be our goal. All we need to do is to pool our resources," Newell said.

She said the ultimate goal of the club is to create self-empowerment.

"We want to develop a mechanism so blacks can work together. For years, we've allowed the other guy to do it. Other ethnic groups come together and do it for their own people," she said.

Newell said a group of nearly 30 people have already met to organize the investment club, but plans are still under way. A board of directors will be established to narrow down the specifics of the club, which will be regulated by state and federal lending laws.

# Hill And Lewis First Place Winners

Monday, January 25, 1993 - 2:00 p.m. - Carl Russell Recreation Center

First Place = Geneva Hill and Elizabeth Lewis

Second Place = Inez Gerald and Leslie Hatton

Third Place = Rudolph and Sarah Boone

Irma Gadson, Reita Thompkins-Segers, Olivia Thompkins and Rudolph Boone, Sr. (Vice President). The president, Richard H. Bowling (Greensboro) made committee chairperson appointments. The group heard a report of progress relating to the upcoming Grade "A" Tournament on the weekend of February 19-21. The

(Greensboro). Richard Bowling directed the game.

Congratulations to all winners of the week! It appears that bridge activity has picked up, since the tournament is drawing near. We are urging all players, new and old to polish up your game skills by practicing more often and actually studying some fundamentals for

Tuesday, January 26, 1993 - 7:00 p.m. - Winston Lake Family YMCA

Winston-Salem Duplicate Bridge Club

First Place = Bessie Allen and Sarah Boone

Second Place = Sandra Brown and Leslie Hatton

This was a "team game" and no master points were awarded.

Thursday, January 28, 1993 - 7:00 p.m. - Rupert Bell Recreation Center

Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club

First Place = Billie Mathews and Ruth Washington

Second Place = Irma Gadson and Monica Lett

Nine local players traveled to Greensboro on Tuesday, January 26th to participate in a meeting of the Triad Bridge Unit's Executive Board meeting. Those persons attending were: Ruth Washington (Secretary), Billie Mathews (treasurer), Inez Gerald, Charles and

## BRIDGE NEWS

By RUDOLPH V. BOONE SR.



big event will be held in Burlington. This particular unit-sponsored is expected to be one of its most successful tournaments, attracting more players and shoppers due to the package deal offered. The cut-off date for making reservations is February 1, 1993. By the time this article is published all one hundred rooms set aside for this event should be filled. As of the board meeting, eighty rooms had been reserved.

Following the board meeting, the Gate City Duplicate Bridge Club held their regular weekly game. All of the Winston-Salem players stayed for that game. Official winners were: 1/2 Place Tie = Ella Mae Smith and Wilma Peterson (Greensboro), 1/2 Place Tie = Inez Gerald and Rudolph Boone, 3rd Place = Billie Mathews and Ruth Washington, and 4th Place = Harold Minus and Arthur Totten

better understanding and use. New officers for the Kings and Queens Duplicate Bridge Club will be published in a later edition.

A schedule of the upcoming tournaments will be published within the next two weeks. The 25th Spring National will be held in Dallas, Texas during the week of April 9-17, so make plans in advance for that big event.

In the coming months, members of the Triad Bridge Unit will be discussing some possible realignment of the clubs. Local players and clubs will be adding this item to their regular agendas. Until next week, learn something new and put to some of that stored up knowledge!

Rudolph V. Boone, Sr. - 767-4087

## WSSU Graduate Appointed Judge

Rayford A. Means, Esquire, a former resident of Winston-Salem and a graduate of Winston-Salem State University, was appointed by



Rayford A. Means

Governor Robert Casey and confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate as a judge in the Common Pleas Court on Nov. 25, 1992. On Dec. 11, 1992, Means was sworn in by Judge James A. Lineberger to the Criminal Trial Division of the Common Pleas Court of Pennsylvania.

Means is a 1973 graduate of WSSU and a 1979 graduate of North Carolina Central University Law School. He is currently serving on the WSSU Board of Trustees.

Before being appointed a judge, Means served as an assistant district attorney and deputy district attorney of the pre-trial division.

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