

Women's History



featuring
"Women in Retail"



Frances Hamlin & Sandra Frazier
 The National Association
 of Negro Business
 And Professional
 Women's Clubs, Inc.

By Fran Farner-Nash
 THE CHARLOTTE POST

Living out the mission of The National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, to promote and protect the interest of African American business and professional women; to serve as bridges for young people seeking to enter business and the professions; to improve the quality of life in the local and global communities and to foster good fellowship. Sandra Frazier and Frances Hamlin congratulate the four ladies The Charlotte Post has chosen to feature during Women's History

Month. What better time to lift up and promote Barbara Howie LaShanda Millner-Murphy, Robyn Massey and Carla Brown than during their 48th convention in Charlotte. These ladies are the epitome of what NANBPWC is all about, Frazier said. This gives women across the world an opportunity to network, make new friends and business partnerships while fostering our global goals.

Founded in July 1935, when Olhe Chinn Porter, president of a New York business club, extended an invitation to other clubs organized as business and profes-

sional women's clubs, to join and form a national organization, NANBPWC was first organized with women from New York, Philadelphia and Atlantic City, N.J.

After a year of meetings, the first convention was held in Atlantic City July 9-11, 1936, at the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church. Porter was elected the first national president. The aim was then, as it is today, to attract women of high caliber to organize similar clubs within their communities. Facing the realities of the times, their daring and inspiring goals were to share their experiences and to encourage and develop opportunities for black women in businesses and professions. The founders were owners, managers, college graduates and other professionally licensed women, who had managed to realize some measure of personal success.

In 1976, Peggy Beckwith and Anna Hood did the initial planning to form a club in Charlotte. After several meetings, 10 ladies gathered at the home of Clara Mitchell to elect officers. On July 23, 1977, Southeast Governor Carrie S. Hudson formally organized the Charlotte Club. Seventeen women were inducted at the home of Beckwith. The inductees and charter members were: Beckwith, Marion Campbell, Victoria Cleaves, Jacqueline Creech, Thereasea Elder, Theresa Gaston, Charlotte Hampton, Ocie Harrison, Anna Hood, Hester Jones, Betty McCain, Betty McCarrroll, Betty

McLaurin, Clara Mitchell, Wilma Powell, Kathleen Robertson and Shirley Smiths

Hamlin shared that program directives include, but are not limited to, addressing women's entrepreneurial issues locally, nationally and internationally; sponsoring seminars and workshops on topics that enhance professional development; award scholarships and promote educational achievement for youth; and serve as positive role models to youth and women within their respective communities.

Frazier, a candidate for governor said, "The main reason for joining NANBPWC is the networking opportunities. You have the opportunity to meet other African American business and professional women in your own community, state and nationally to exchange ideas, information and experiences."

In addition to North Carolina, members will travel from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. There are eight levels of membership that include youth, young adult and even ombudsmen, which is a men's auxiliary comprised of the husbands, male relatives or friends of adult club members.

Frances Hamlin currently serves as president of the Charlotte chapter, while Sandra Frazier is a candidate for Governor of the Southeast District. For more information, call (704) 536-0112.

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