

THE FEDERATION JOURNAL

"Listen to our Clarion Watchword—We are Lifting As We Climb"

VOLUME 12

APRIL, 1955

NUMBER 2

Our Distinguished Guest Speaker Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines of Chicago

Born in Ocala, Florida, Mrs. Gaines was brought to Chicago when an infant. She began her training at the old Armour Mission Kindergarten; graduated from elementary and high schools of Chicago and is a graduate of Fisk University. She has studied Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago and at Loyola. She resides at 3262 Vernon Avenue, Chicago, Illinois with her husband, Attorney Harris B. Gaines, former Representative in Illinois General Assembly, and her two sons, Harris, Jr, and Charles.

Mrs. Gaines has served as president of the Chicago and Northern District Association of Colored Women; president of the Illinois Association of Colored Women; is the present first recording secretary of the National Association of Colored Women; is serving her 10th term as president of the Chicago Council of Negro Organizations, the coordinating agency of nearly one hundred civic, educational, religious and labor organizations; Past Matron of Northern Light Chapter No. 28, Order of the Eastern Star; member, Board of Directors, Chicago Branch NAACP; Illinois Child Labor Committee, Citizens School Committee, Women's Conference on Legislation; Vice Chairman, Women's Joint Committee on Adequate Housing.

In April, 1941, she led the first "March on Washington" in behalf of fair employment practices, and other civil rights for Colored people. During subsequent years she has participated in many efforts which have taken her to Washington, Springfield and other places in behalf of justice and democratic practices toward all people. She made a plea in behalf of minority rights before the United Nations Assembly at Lake Success, N. Y. She was chairman of the Illinois Delegation to the National Emergency Mobilization to Washington, D. C. (Jan. 1950) for the passage of FEPC and other civil rights legislation.

APPOINTMENTS: She served as a member of President Hoover's Plan Commission; and was appointed by him as a member of the President's Housing Conference. She was appointed Republican State Central Committeewoman of the First Congressional District; appointed by Major Kennelly a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Chicago Plan Commission; and also serves by appointment of Superintendent Hunt a member



MRS. IRENE McCOY GAINES
15th President of National Association of Colored Women's Clubs

of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Intercultural Activities in Chicago Public Schools.

Mrs. Gaines worked for fifteen years as an employee and social worker in the Cook County Bureau of Public Welfare (Chicago). She has also served as Case Work Consultant for the Chicago Urban League, and Director of its Woman's Division; as director of a recreational project for teen-agers for Parkway for Parkway Community House, the YMCA and YWCA; for several years served as Industrial Secretary, Chicago YWCA; during World War I was a County Organizer for War Camp Community Service; during World War II was an active member of AWVS, and a member of Governor Green's Women's Division, Illinois War Council.

During the 1950 Primary and general elections she was the only Colored woman on the ballot running for a County Office, that of County Commissioner from the City of Chicago. This was the first time a Colored woman had been endorsed by either of the two major parties for a County office. Although not elected, Mrs. Gaines polled 743,316 votes, the highest number of votes received by any Republican candidate running in the city of

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An Opportune Place For Convention

Toward the close of the meeting in High Point last year, when the matter of the time and place for the 1955 convention was being considered, Mrs. Emerlyne Hawkins moved rapidly but gracefully to the front of the auditorium, and after addressing the Chair, proceeded to extend to the Convention as cordial and as pleasing an invitation as any organization would ever wish to receive, urging our acceptance of Concord as the place for our 1955 convention. The applause that Mrs. Hawkins received was an indication of the great desire of our women to extend the borders of our club work into an area where more clubs are needed and where the stimulus of our Convention would be highly beneficial. This is true of the area including Salisbury, Greensboro, Charlotte, and Gastonia. Our delegates are delighted to meet with the Concord clubs. Surely the meeting of the state Federation, May 13, 14 and 15 will awaken a deeper interest in club work by women throughout this section of North Carolina.

Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Louise Bost, the president of the Concord Federated clubs renewed the invitation at the meeting of the Executive Board at Palmer Memorial Institute, January 15, 1955. It is with great pleasure that the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs greets the Concord Federated clubs with sincere appreciation for their most cordial invitation.



MRS. H. H. HAWKINS