

# THE FEDERATION JOURNAL

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

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## President's Message

By MRS. E. M. SPELLMAN

Thank you, kind ladies of the North Carolina Federation of Negro Women's Clubs for allowing me to represent you at the recent 66th anniversary of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs held at Washington, D. C. My only regret was that each of you could not attend.

Further appreciation is deserved by the clubs which responded to the appeal for funds for the support of the National and Southeastern Associations namely: The Women's Club of Edenton, Les Vingt Femmes of Beaufort; Junior Matrons, Matron's Social Literary and Art, Negro Women's Community, Woman's and Neighborhood No 1 Clubs of Elizabeth City; Baneker Literary and Social Bridge and SOHS Clubs of Kinston; Book, Flower and Art Clubs of Rich Square; Woman's Business and Fraternal Club of Weldon; Book and Garden and Mary McCloud Bethune Women's clubs of Wilson; Daughters of Dorcas, Junior Utopia and Utopia Clubs of Durham; Woman's Progressive Club of Oxford; Charlotte A. Percival Club of Concord; Garden Club of Salisbury; and Silver City Community Club of Raeford. Contributions from the above mentioned clubs made 8 votes possible for our N. C. Federation. There were many states which had far more than ours and a few which had less. After all 8 has been our largest number thus far and we have hopes of surpassing that with the support of a larger number of clubs.

Appreciation is due the members of the N. C. Federation who caught the vision of participation in the National program and attended the meeting at Washington, namely: Mesdames F. T. Newsome, M. N. Leitao, Lucille Albright, Willie Moultrie, Edith P. Johnson, Esther D. Moore, Amy Foster, Sarah Smith, Esther Davis, Alice Davis, and Alberta Johnson; Misses Virginia Johnson, Lolita Rogers, Ouida Bell, Hilda Gillard, Cathy Johnson, Corena Alston, Gwendolyn and Linda Brown. Each participated in the wonderful program wholeheartedly, serving wherever there was an opportunity.

Surely you are interested in our awards. We were justifiably proud of winning first place for scrap-



**DOUGLAS HOME A MONUMENT** — President Kennedy signing a bill making the home of Negro leader Frederick Douglass, 1411 W St. SE., a national monument. Mr. Kennedy called Douglass "an outstanding leader of the movement for abolition . . . and an articulate spokesman for racial equality." Watching are Sen. Philip Hart (D-Mich.), House Speaker John McCormack, Rosa Gragg, president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, Rep. Charles C. Diggs (D-Mich.), Mary E. C. Gregory, chairman of the Douglass Trustee Board, and Joseph Douglass, great-grandson of the man honored.

books for the second year in succession, thanks to the untiring effort of our scrapbook chairman, Mrs. F. T. Newsome, the committee, and clubs or institutions which responded to the call for materials. Winning first place this year instead of second at the last meeting for statistical reports may be credited to Mrs. M. N. Leitao, her committee and to those clubs which completed and returned the forms which are sent annually to summarize many of your club activities.

Only in one phase of the National program did our federation fail to make a favorable showing. Our only entry in the Arts and Craft Department was a three piece suit made by the blind lady who was so kind to attend our annual meeting at Durham and express per appreciation for our support of the Braille Magazine. Her entry received an award and certainly it was due one. It should be the hope of each of us that we shall begin now in our individual clubs to make use of our artistic ability, have local displays, exhibits at our district meetings and

certainly at our state meeting then we can easily have work for display at the National and Southeastern Associations.

To give complete coverage for the meeting of the National with its theme, "Dimensions In Democracy for Today's Women and Youth" would be impossible so I shall only mention "highlights."

After attending a meeting of the Executive Council which began on Saturday afternoon, July 28th and went far into the night a pleasant night's rest was welcomed. Then to awake on Sunday morning and be able to attend services especially planned for the ladies of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs at 19th Street Baptist Church, birthplace of the NACWC and hear a message especially for us on "Never Stop Trying," bringing to mind the pioneers in the organization, was truly an inspiring experience, gave spiritual rejuvenation and a wonderful beginning for the convention.

Despite inclement weather a large number of ladies attended the garden reception held at the Douglas Home at Ancoxia. Many

saw the place for the first time. Pardon the diversion but I am sure you rejoiced that the Douglas property has been made a national shrine and that many of our clubs had responded to the call to financially support the Douglas project.

Business sessions began with the usual official opening with President Gragg and vice presidents presiding, inspiring devotions, the posting of colors etc. The seating of delegates according to states and the display of state banners for each takes time but proves interesting always. Other sessions included reports of the national, regional and state presidents. We were pleased that our Southeastern president's report and that of your N. C. Federation president compared favorably with others.

Forceful and impressive speakers during the convention were numerous. Among them were Honorable Edith Greene, Judge Juanita Stout, Atty. Edith Sampson, Dr. Zelma George, Atty. Jean Capers and others. Our need of striving to improve conditions among

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