

Close-Up

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oratorical contest for high school students that netted \$200 for the local winner and a trip to the state competition. A \$16,000 scholarship goes to the national champion.

Five scouts in a local troupe who could not afford uniforms are sporting new outfits courtesy of Post 220. A letter from their leader explaining the need was all it took to get a check in the mail for the boys' new duds.

Nicole Bell, a member of Twin City Track Club, is going to out-of-state meets on a tab picked up by Post 220. And, every Christmas, money is sent to the Veterans Hospital in Asheville to buy gifts for 30 to 50 patients. Their Santa Claus resides at 2332 North Liberty St.

Area grocery stores know the generosity of Post 220. Whenever necessary, arrangements are made with local food vendors to let someone needy shop for groceries and send the bill to the Legionaires. Every winter, the organization's checks find their way to fuel companies to pay heating bills for people in danger of going cold.

Elderly citizens receive free lawn care, errand trips and general clean-up chores from the SAL. Disabled veterans who belong to Post 220 are provided with rides to veterans' hospitals by their fellow members.

At Halloween, about 300 youngsters from across the city gather for a party at Post 220 headquarters. Costumes are judged in various categories and calculators, watches, and radios are given as prizes. All kinds of edible goodies are provided for the trick-or-treaters.

"Halloween is a dangerous time now you know," says McWillis, adding that the organization wanted to offer the kids a safe alternative to the traditional door-to-door candy campaign of the past.

Another holiday project is the auxiliary's annual Christmas party at the veterans' hospital in Salisbury, says Mary Thomas, chapter president. They serve cake and punch, sing caroles and pass out books of coupons redeemable in the hospital's gift shop.

The women's group also contributes to a President's Project selected by the state auxiliary presi-

dent. This year they raised money for an Alzheimer's disease fund set up to educate, fund research and help families of victims of the disease.

"There is no color barrier in helping people," says Jackson. Several times, white veterans have been stranded while traveling through Winston-Salem. Post 220 paid to get them to their destinations.

Anyone calling and showing they need aid is considered by the group McWillis says. But they do have a special committee that reviews each case and follows up to make sure that any money is spent in the way it was requested. Whenever possible, bills are paid by check for the services or goods rendered.

Quarterly the Legionaires and their auxiliary attend church as a group. Different members invite the organization to visit their place of worship. The Post donates \$100 and the auxiliary \$50 to the Sunday School of the host church.

A service officer from 220 visits weekly in a veterans' hospital and makes the rounds of shut-in veterans in Winston-Salem.

About five schools a year receive gifts of American flags from the post.

On Veterans Day, auxiliary members cook a pot luck dinner for any veteran who wants to drop by for fellowship and a meal. Usually representatives of the city's other four posts gather at the North Liberty Street location to share a meal of fried chicken, ham, Swedish meat balls, potato salad, string and pinto beans, maccaronie and cheese, corn bread, pies, cakes and cookies.

When a member of Post 220 dies, his fellow veterans attend the wake and funeral as a group. At the families request, a nine man-team of two flag bearers, two color guards, a four-man firing squad and a bugler are available to carry the flag with the casket and to give the deceased a 21-gun salute. Taps are also blown at the end of the service.

"We try to do our best in helping the veterans, their families, and the people of the community," Mrs. Thomas says. "It's a rewarding experience, knowing that you've accomplished helping somebody."

District

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bons; and Flora Buffs, one ribbon.

Mrs. Ervin received 18 ribbons.

Ribbon-winners with more than two first place ribbons included Cora Broome, four; Mrs. Ervin, eight; Emmaline Goodwin, three; Theodosia Patten, five; Chlories Shore, five, Thelma Small, six, and Virginia Stewart, four.

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Caucus gains strength through committee seats

WASHINGTON -- The expanding 24-member Congressional Black Caucus is assuming new strength and influence in the 100th Congress as its members take command of 25 committees among the 435 seats in the House of Representatives this year. This empowerment reflects a record number of black members serving on congressional committees.

The Congressional Black Caucus, or CBC, membership now includes chairmen of five full standing committees, two select or temporary committees and 18 subcommittees in the Democratic-controlled Congress.

Among the full committees, Rep. Louis Stokes heads the newly formed Intelligence Committee, currently involved in the investigation of Irangate and the reported diversion of hostage funds to Nicaraguan rebels.

Subcommittee chairmen include Reps. Mervyn Dymally, D-Calif., Census and Population; George Crockett, D-Detroit, Foreign Affairs Western Hemisphere; Gus Savage, D-Chicago, Public Works and Economic Development, and Major Owens, D-N.Y., Educational Institutions. Dymally is the new CBC chairman.

Other full committee chairmen are Reps. Augustus Hawkins of California, Education and Labor; Ron Dellums of California, District of Columbia (and the Subcommittee on Military Installations); Julian Dixon of California, Standards of Official Conduct, and William H. Gray III of Pennsylvania, the Budget Committee, one of the most influential committees in Congress.

Rep. Charles Rangel of New York is chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotic Abuse

and Control, although he lost his bid to become majority whip, a top post. Rep. Mickey Leland of Texas, past CBC chair, remains chairman of the Select Committee on Hunger which has been seeking more legislation and funds to combat worldwide poverty and hunger.

Subcommittee chairmen from the CBC ranks include Reps. John Conyers of Michigan, Criminal Justice; William Clay of Missouri, Labor and Management; Rangel of New York, Select Revenue Measures; Fauntroy of the District of Columbia, International Finance and Fiscal Affairs and Health; Cardiss Collins of Illinois, Government Activities and Transportation; Dixon, District of Columbia;

Leland, Postal Operations and Services, and Dymally, Judiciary and Education and Postal Personnel and Modernization, and Rep. Alan Wheat of Kansas, the Subcommittee on Government Operations and Metropolitan Affairs. Fauntroy switched from the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy because of his interest in developing legislation for Africa.

Reps. John Lewis of Georgia, Mike Espy of Mississippi and Kwame Mfume of Maryland, freshmen in Congress, have not been considered for chairmanships.

Consistent with current Congress procedures, committee chairmanships are generally based on seniority of service. Rep. Walter E. Fauntroy often says, "When we were first elected, we were opposed to the seniority system, but the longer we stay, the better we like it." He is referring to the tradition of electing a chairman according to his years of service.



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