



CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG
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70 Percent Of Black Children Receive Benefits

Special To The Post
About seven of every 10 black children under age 18—some 6.5 million—were in households that received means-tested benefits during the fourth quarter of 1984, according to a survey by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

Means-tested programs are based on specific income and asset guidelines. They include Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and other cash assistance; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); food stamps; Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); free or reduced-price school meals; Medicaid; VA pensions; public or subsidized rental housing; and energy assistance.

About half of the nation's 9.5 million black children lived in households that participated in free and reduced-price school meals. Proportions for other programs were about one-third each in food stamps, Medicaid, and cash public assistance. 17 percent in public or subsidized rental housing; and 11 percent in WIC programs.

Here are other highlights:
-The average monthly household
See 70 PERCENT On Page 2A

Fair Housing Month

On Monday, April 7, Mayor Harvey Gantt and Ms. Carla DuPuy, Chairman of the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners, signed a joint proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Present for the signing of the proclamation were representatives of the Charlotte Board of Realtors, the Charlotte Apartment Association, the Home Builders Association of Charlotte and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee.

Fair Housing Month is observed annually to inform the public that fair housing practices are supported by both the city and county governments, and are endorsed by the local housing industry. Local ordinances prohibit discrimination in housing practices because of race, sex, religion, and national origin and provide a procedure for the resolution of complaints of unfair housing practices.

Persons believing that they have been discriminated against in housing practices may call the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations Committee, 338-2424, to file a complaint.



"Golden Sorors" have been members of Alpha Kappa Alpha for more than 50 years. Charlotte's Alpha Lambda Omega graduate chapter boasts five "Golden Sorors." They are, left to right, Annie W. Roberts, Mildred P. Alridge, Cecelia J. Wilson, Laura S. Malone, and Lillie Belle Blue.

"Golden Sorors" Are Backbone Of Local Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

**By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer**

With Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority being the oldest black women's Greek letter organization, and with Charlotte Alpha Lambda Omega graduate chapter having been founded 57 years ago, it's no surprise that some of its members have been around a while.

In fact, the sorority recognizes those women who have been members 50 years or more as "Golden Sorors." Alpha Lambda Omega has five such members.

One of the five, Lillie Belle Blue, was a charter member of both the Charlotte graduate chapter and the Gastonia chapter. She joined AKA in 1926 while a student at Atlanta University, which did not have its own chapter. Sorors operated under the supervision of Kappa Omega graduate chapter. When she came to Charlotte to teach at Second Ward High School, she joined Alpha Lambda Omega. Ms. Blue is the only remaining charter member in Charlotte.

Laura Spears Malone entered the sorority in 1932 as a charter member of Alpha Chi, the undergraduate chapter at NC Central University in Durham. "I had always wanted to go into the sorority," she confirms, adding that it was the first sorority on campus. A group of 19 young women, including her late sister, Louise Spears Meadows, went in at the same time. Upon graduating, Ms. Malone joined the Charlotte chapter.

Annie W. Roberts first joined the chapter at Fisk University in 1928. In 1947, she came to Charlotte and entered Alpha Lambda Omega. In between, Ms. Roberts was the only soror in Lexington and Shelby, NC. She once had the honor of hosting the founder in her home for a week while working with the founder's son.

Golden Sorors Cecelia J. Wilson and Mildred P. Alridge graduated Shaw University, which did not have sororities on campus. Instead, they were inducted directly into Alpha Lambda Omega in 1931 and 1933, respectively.

All five have been active in sorority life. Ms. Alridge hasn't missed a year of involvement during her 53 years of membership. She's held every office except parliamentarian, has worked on a multitude of committees, served as Dean of Pledges, went as a chapter delegate to the national boule, and currently chairs the chapter's service committee. She started off with a bang by starring in a fund raising play shortly after joining.

Ms. Wilson also jumped right into

sorority activity after entering. She helped plan the first regional conference to be hosted by the Charlotte graduate chapter in 1932 and hasn't slowed down since. "Over the years, I've held every office in the chapter," she notes. The Golden Soror has been active in the financial affairs of the chapter, served on a number of committees, and was a delegate to several boules.

Laura Malone has been the chapter's basileus, tamlouchos, parliamentarian, and political action chair. Lillie Blue served her chapter as parliamentarian. Annie Roberts has been active on many committees.

Ms. Roberts, a retired elementary teacher, commented, "I love the fellowship, friendship, and service to others. I hardly miss a meeting."

Ms. Alridge agreed. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship in the chapter and the joy of rendering service to others." A retired elementary teacher, Ms. Alridge also appreciated learning new

things through various chapter activities.

Ms. Wilson also cited service as a particularly meaningful aspect of sorority membership. She is a retired English teacher.

Ms. Blue, a former math teacher at Johnson C. Smith University, said the sorority's encouragement of scholarship was most important to her.

Ms. Malone, who retired as Associate Director of Administration at Smith, commented that friendship and the opportunity to become involved in political action were of foremost importance to her.

Alpha Kappa Alpha seems to be a family affair. Four of the Golden Sorors had sisters who also joined the sorority. Ms. Blue's daughter was a member, as are Ms. Roberts' daughter and two of her nieces.

Ms. Roberts summarized all the Golden Sorors' sentiments in wishing for Alpha Kappa Alpha "that it would still hold its place in the community and the nation that it has held all these past 78 years."

"Fulfilling Dreams Of Young Kids" Spurs Rev. George Battle

**By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer**

School board veteran Rev. George Battle is running for his third four-year term on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

Voters may choose four candidates from a field of 12 in the May 6 election.

Battle cites his love for children as his main reason for serving on the school board. That love, he says, is a prerequisite for a position on the board.

The pastor of Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church sees his school board service as a way of "fulfilling dreams of young kids" who might otherwise never finish school. Providing input into school policies is part of this process. He thinks he has been able to "listen and make a difference," he comments.

Battle says he wants to see to it that "we have competent and qualified teachers and we pay them more."

He's proud of a number of board of education accomplishments: raises for classified personnel, programs to motivate students, the minority program whereby gifted minority students are identified and given



Rev. George Battle
...CMS School Board candidate

extra help to motivate and encourage them, the career development program for teachers, and efforts to get parents involved in the education process.

Battle calls the board of education seat a "challenging position" and one which he enjoys. "People tend to do better when they enjoy what they're doing."

He adds, "I have a broad base of support that I'm very proud of."

National Baptist Congress Will Attract 35,000

**By Alisa Brewer
Syndicated Writers & Artists Inc.
Special To The Post**

The educational auxiliary of the largest black organization of black ministers and laymen in the world will convene in Indianapolis June 16-20 when the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education of the National Baptist Convention U.S.A. meets in the Midwestern city for the first time in its 81-year history.

Among the numerous participants will be Dr. T.J. Jemison, president of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A. Inc., and Dr. T. Oscar Chappelle Sr., president of the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Also participating are Congress secretary Florence Stanley; and Congress dean, Dr. John H. Corbitt, and Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, secretary of the National Baptist Convention.

The more than 35,000 delegates expected to participate will be entertained the first evening of the Congress by a community-wide 2,000 voice Congress Choir.

According to Dr. Melvin B. Girton Sr., Congress general chairman and Indianapolis convention entertainment coordinator, the choir will perform in a musicale June 16 at the Indianapolis Convention Center and Hoosier Dome.

"We're trying to show the religious impact (of Baptists) on the city of Indianapolis and the country," said Dr. Girton, pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church.

Singers and musicians are now being recruited to take part in this historic event, which will include voices from all Christian faiths, said Dr. Girton and Dr. F.L. Lyons, convention publicity chairman and pastor of Galilee Baptist Church.

Indianapolis-area pastors are encouraged to send members to join the Congress Choir, which will be directed by Al Hobbs, general manager of WTLC-FM and a leader



Rev. R. H. Leak
...Trip coordinator

in the gospel community, and William Wheatley, minister of music at Pilgrim Baptist Church, of which Dr. Stacey R. Shields is pastor and general chairman of the musicale.

In addition to being a welcoming gospel musical experience for delegates, the Congress Choir will give a special salute on June 17 to Indianapolis Mayor William H. Hudnut III for his "stalwart position on affirmative action," said Dr. Girton.

Persons interested in joining the choir as singers or as musicians should immediately contact Denise Martin at Pilgrim Baptist Church, 317-925-4563.

It was through the efforts of Dr. Girton and the Indianapolis Baptist Ministers Fellowship, of which Dr. Girton is chairman-coordinator, that the Congress will convene in Indianapolis.

The Indianapolis Baptist Ministers Fellowship extended an invitation to the Congress during its 1983 convention in Memphis, Tenn. With support from local bodies, the convention was scheduled to be held in Indianapolis.

President of the Indianapolis Baptist Minister's Alliance, Dr. Arthur Johnson, pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, is vice chairman of the Baptist Minister's Fellowship and president of the Indiana Congress of Christian Education, the body over which Dr. Shields is dean.

"The Indianapolis community - other than the ministry - is totally unaware of what a great body this is," said Dr. Girton, who added that at least 4000 speakers will conduct instructional classes for ministers, laymen and church workers and members, adults and children.

Before the official opening of the Congress, a parade is scheduled to be held in downtown Indianapolis on June 14. Bands, drill teams and church and civic leaders are being sought to participate in the parade. Doris Wheatley, who can be reached at 317-283-4292, is heading the parade organizing effort.

Then on Sunday, June 15 and again June 22, visiting pastors will sit in the pulpits of any church which welcomes them, said Dr. Girton. Ministers interested in a visiting pastor joining them in the pulpit should contact the Rev. M.L. Williams, pastor of Mt. Horeb Baptist Church, 923-3139.

On June 18, the Congress opens with a variety of activities planned for everyone. Details will be announced later.

Then June 17, Tuesday morning, Dr. John H. Corbitt, Dean of the National Baptist Congress, and a resident of Greenville, S.C., will give the keynote address at the See NATIONAL On Page 17A

TURTLE-TALK

The most difficult secret for a man to keep is his own opinion of himself.