

Doctors focus on emergency preparedness strategy

By Herbert L. White
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 North Carolina's African American doctors are preparing for the worst in Charlotte this week.

The Old North State Medical Society and National Medical

NAACP: 'Show some love'

By Hazel Trice Edney
 NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - NAACP Chairman Julian Bond says the 98-year-old organization, which confirmed last week that it is cutting 40 percent of the staff at its Baltimore headquarters, is appealing for public help.

"We've asked our regular supporters to redouble their contributions and are asking anyone who has benefited from the work of the NAACP to 'show some love' by putting a check in the mail and becoming a member," Bond told the NNPA News Service this week.

But, that's not all. He says the organization has also "called upon our board members and SCF Trustees to give or get \$15,000 each by the year's end. That will put more than \$1 million in our treasury," he says. "We have asked our units in local branches and state conferences - to hold fundraisers and set up membership drives."

NAACP leaders have not said exactly how many people will be laid off. However,

Please see NAACP/6A

Association are hosting their annual convention and scientific assembly June 14-17 at the Hilton hotel in Uptown. The focus is on

emergency preparedness, and organizers expect nearly 1,000 physicians and community leaders to attend.

"All disasters are local events," said Dr. George L. Saunders, president of Old North State Medical Society. "Recent disasters only high-

light the challenges to responsiveness and providing services to low-wealth communities in times of great need."

Participants will take part in a disaster preparedness institute that studies the implications of natural and man-made disasters and the best practices for addressing such situations as well as planning options for communities and individuals. Emergency recovery providers will also talk about the work of volunteer organizations during times of disaster.

The key to surviving disasters - whether it's an out-

break of disease or a hurricane - is preparation from community leaders and officials, Saunders said.

"Leaders must be prepared to help those who cannot help themselves during a crisis," he said. "Here we refer to the chronically ill, the elderly, the infirmed, children, amputees, patients receiving life-saving treatments and those individuals with little or no economic or financial means."

"There are many levels of need in all of our communities."

The institute is free and includes lunch on Thursday.



PHOTOWADE NASH

Amanda Farris (left), U.S. Education Department deputy secretary, Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board member Tom Tate, Supt. Peter Gorman board members Vilma Leake, Chairman Joe White and Bill Slatnik of Community Training and Assistance Center celebrated a \$1.9 million grant for a pilot teacher pay for performance program. The federal program will fund teacher bonuses at six CMS schools, including West Charlotte, Garinger, Waddell and West Mecklenburg high schools.



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