

WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF
COLORED WOMEN

HISTORICAL NOTES

Organized August 1917, Spokane. Mrs. J. Mapps, founder and first president.

First Title: State Federation of Colored Women's Organizations of Washington and Jurisdiction. Later, the title became — Washington State Federation of Colored Women's Organizations; the present title is "Washington State Association of Colored Women" (Constitutional amendment changed in 1950, at Yakima). Affiliated with the National Association of Colored Women, Inc., and the Northwest Regional, with whose policy, purpose, and program, we are pledged to cooperate and support. Like the N.A.C.W. we are "Christian in origin, educational in character, charitable in spirit, non-political, non-denominational, and non-profit. Objectives, as recorded in the preamble to our Constitution, is "to bring the women of the State into closer communication and acquaintance for mutual helpfulness, and for the promotion of higher social, civic and moral conditions"

ACHIEVEMENTS IN BRIEF:

Purchased a tree in "National Park" of WSFWC (on Sunset Highway). Mrs. N. J. Asberry, State President, 1925 - 29.

Awarded approximately \$8,000 in scholarships.

Continued cooperation with various agencies in fund-raising and community uplift.

Established a State Bulletin.

Compiled State History of Association from 1917 - 51.

Re-organized N. W. Regional, at 27th Annual Convention. Endorsed and assisted by Mrs. Adah B. De Ment, 12th president of NACW, on official visit, Seattle 1944.

Hostess to N.W. Regional Convention, Tacoma 1945. Mrs. Pollyanna Reed, presiding.

Entertained Mrs. Christine S. Smith, 10th president of NACW 1946, Tacoma.

Observed Golden Jubilee of NACW at 29th Annual Convention. Colorful pageant, Seattle, 1946.

Hostess to 26th Biennial Convention of NACW 1948, Seattle. Ella P. Stewart elected national president. Mrs. V. L. Penick, general chairman.

Antique "Love Seat" sent to National Headquarters — this special courtesy of Mrs. Adah Bryant (deceased) of Bremerton, 1950.

Published a state directory, 1944 - 55.

Conducted a series of "Clinics" on "Job Discriminations in our State.

Official delegates have been sent to 6 consecutive Biennial Conventions of NACW as follows: Washington, D.C. 1946; Seattle, 1948; Atlantic City, 1950; Los Angeles, 1952; Washington, D.C., 1954; Miami, Florida, 1956.

Mrs. Iola W. Rowan, former Administrative Secretary and Field Representative of NACW, visited our Wash. Centennial Convention in 1953, and installed our State officers, assisted by Mrs. Elenorah A. Banks, N. W. Regional President, 1957.

Mrs. Ora Brown Perry, National Supervisor of Sears Roebuck Foundation Neighborhood Projects was entertained with a luncheon during her official tour.

Entertained Northwest Regional Convention, 1955. Mrs. Cecelia Thompson, President. Mrs. Irene McCoy Gaines, 15th president of NACW, guest of honor.

Published State Handbook, 1958.

Club property is being purchased by our women of Seattle and Tacoma.

Five Clubs participated in the Neighborhood Improvement Project sponsored jointly by Sears Roebuck Foundation and NACW.

A single club of 10 women in Longview, Washington changed the complexion of a whole town, winning prizes totalling \$6,500.00.

Mrs. Victoria Freeman, President, Longview Women's Study Club, was the moving spirit of the drive. Impatient with dusty, muddy streets, trash-filled alleys and other inconveniences, these club women undertook a Crusade for Community Improvement. They saw the streets in front of their homes graded and covered with bituminous topping and concrete sidewalks laid. They surfaced three avenues and two cross streets. For this outstanding contribution to their city, they received the first prize of \$1,500.00 and the sweepstakes prize of \$5,000.00 June, 1957. These prizes were later donated to their City Council to begin the construction of a public playground for all the children of the city. This park, Clearview, was dedicated by the Mayor of Longview in very impressive services on May 16, 1959.