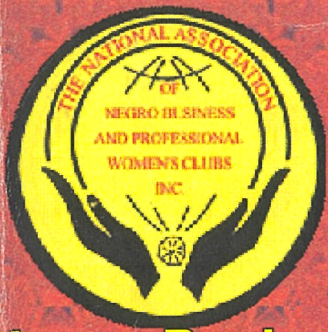




The Lorain Club of The National Association of

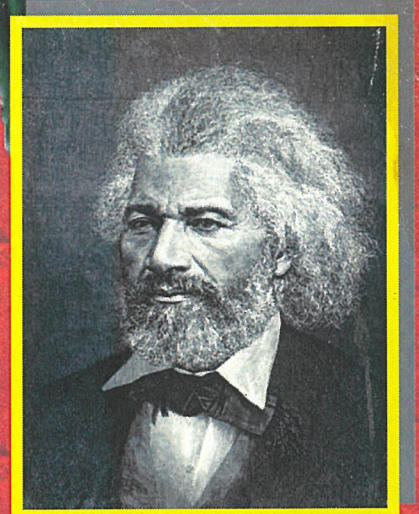
NANBPWC

Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

Sojourner Truth

Welcome To The
32nd Annual
Founder's Day
Award Luncheon

Saturday, April 22, 2006
12:00 Noon
The Lorain Center
2501 Leavitt Road, Lorain, Ohio



Frederick Douglass

Mona A. Atley

Mona is the Manager of Training Projects for the Public Services Institute of the College. The scope of her work entails five major areas: the Training & Development Institute, Lorain County Public Policy & Advocacy Forums; Community Organizer of Voices & Choices, a regional economic initiative: Community Engagement Coordination for Lorain City Small School Initiative and Lorain County Early College; and strategic process design and facilitation for the public and nonprofit sectors. Her extensive work experiences in both Youth Development and Workforce Development have consisted of program design, development, implementation, and evaluation; process facilitation; conferencing planning /delivery; systems building; partnership development community engagement; trainings presentations at a national, state, and local level, grant writing.

As a former Technical Support Consultant for the Ohio Department of Education, Mona worked closely with 7 designated school districts in the development of their Continuous Improvement Plans (CIP) and monitored each district school reform progress. Additionally, Mona's past professional experiences include: School-To-Work Systems Coordinator, which she established and executed the Region 8 School-To-Work Partnership Development Process across five counties: Baldrige Examiner, Baldrige Instruction Trainer, Work Achievement and Value in Education (WAVE) Director, Lorain County Employment & Training Administrative Title II C Contract Manager; Lorain County Urban League Education Director; Family Therapist (Licensed Social Worker); Domestic Violence Supervisor-Counselor; Children Support Group Coordinator, and Mentoring Trainer. Mona has a dual Bachelor Degree in Sociology and Urban Planning and a Master Degree in Urban Studies from Cleveland State University.

Her professional associations and other affiliations are: Sacred Landmark Advisory Board. Lorain County Children & Family Council; Lorain County Board of Mental Health Minority Advisory Committee; Elyria Chapter of NAACP, ACT-Coordinator; Eastern Star Sidonia Chapter# 69 and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Good Samaritan Award

Vera Shephard

Moving by faith is the story of this year's business award winner, Vera Shephard, a member and minister at Cathedral of Praise Church. Currently reaching the end on one career, the ambitious Ms. Shephard has already made preparations to begin another.



Born in Hughes, Arkansas, Ms. Shephard has long made her home in Lorain. A graduate of Erma Lee Beauty College in Cleveland, OH, she opened her first shop in 1970 on Long Avenue. As a divorced mother of two children living on welfare, owning her own business seemed impossible. With the Lord's guidance and help, her dream came true by divine intervention. The Lord not only provided the location of her business, but the financial backing she needed to set up and operate her first salon. She later left Lorain but after operating for a number of years in Elyria, Ms. Shephard again returned to Lorain and became the owner operator of Vera's Beauty Salon at 1855 Oberlin Avenue, a shop renowned for its service and styling know-how.

Expanding her business horizons, she became Senior Manager of her own nutritional products distribution network, featuring GNLD. Ms. Shephard believes that God's desire is that "...thou may prosper and be in good health even as thou soul prospereth." She has presented health workshops at churches, business gatherings, and the Ireland Cancer Center.

Ms. Shephard serves as President of the Pastor's Wife's Aide Committee at her church. She is an avid fitness buff often working out three or four times a week in the wee hours of the morning, all part of her belief that health is a ministry. She is a member of the National Cosmetology Association, Ohio Affiliate 28. She has been a foster parent for 12 years. She is the mother of two sons: Vinson, who still lives in Lorain, and Cornell, deceased. She is the grandmother of nine children. Her future plans include retirement from the grueling beauty business and branching out in other directions. She will expand her nutritional supplement business and begin writing a book describing the experiences that have affected and guided her development as a person.

Business Award