



President – Milele Robertson
First Vice President – Jernine McBride
Second Vice President – Gloria Chichester
Recording Secretary – Lisha Smith
Corresponding Secretary – Beverly Powell
Treasurer – Gwendolyn Heard Nelson
Parliamentarian – Gerri Foxall-Kater
Chaplain – Noella Buchanan
Bethune Center Exec. Dir. – Marlene Davis

INLAND EMPIRE SECTION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC
General Member Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 22, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

President Milele Robertson called the General Meeting of the Inland Empire Section, NCNW Inc. to order at 6:05 PM. Parliamentarian Gerri Foxall-Kater read the Bethune Legacy, followed by Chaplain Noella Buchanan who delivered the opening prayer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS/BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

President Robertson welcomed members to the virtual meeting and then recognized all June and July birthdays.

MINUTES

Recording Secretary Lisha Smith

Members reviewed the minutes of the May 18, 2020, meeting. Recording Secretary Lisha Smith made the motion to accept the minutes as read. Member Ola Faye Stevens seconded. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Corresponding Secretary Beverly Powell

On behalf of Corresponding Secretary Beverly Powell, Treasurer Gwendolyn Heard Nelson shared that the Section received thank notes of appreciation from Members Martha White and Sheriann Johnson-Ferguson.

President Robertson also shared that the Section had sent a letter to the Rialto City Manager regarding our MOU with the City allowing the Section to continue operating at the Resource Center.

PROGRAMS

1st Vice President Jernine Williams

None

MEMBERSHIP

2nd Vice President Gloria Chichester

On behalf of 2nd Vice President Gloria Chichester, Gwendolyn reported that our current membership stands at 49, including Life Membership dues paid by Mary Saxon Hobbs, annual dues by Betty Muhammad, and a new membership, Che' Wright.

FINANCIAL

Treasurer Gwendolyn Heard Nelson

Treasurer Gwendolyn Heard Nelson delivered the May 1-31, 2020, financial report. The balance on hand as of May 31, 2020, was \$14,506.02. After deductions for the Teamster's Scholarship (\$300), Option House (\$335), Life Member Installment Plan (\$250) and a \$7,830.00 hold for Hamilton, the available balance is \$5,791.02. The report is to be filed for audit.

Donations for the Bethune Center Appeal, totaling \$1,245.00 and the Section's legal fees, \$1,545.00, were also reported.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

President Milele Robertson

The Nomination Committee officially opened elections for the 2020-22 Executive Board term with the following nominations taken from the floor:

President Nominee: Deborah Smith-Gilbert (accepted)

Motion by Deborah Robertson; Seconded by Joanne Gilbert. Motion carried.

1st Vice President Nominee: Che' Wright (accepted)

Motion by Deborah Smith-Gilbert; Seconded by Deborah Robertson. Motion carried.

2nd Vice President Nominee: Geraldine (Gerri) Foxall-Kater (accepted)

Motion by Lois Carson; Seconded by Deborah Robertson. Motion carried.

Recording Secretary: Natasha Broome-Shaw (accepted)

Motion by Gerri Foxall-Kater; Seconded by Deborah Robertson. Motion carried.

Corresponding Secretary: Pamela Pete (accepted)

Motion by Deborah Robertson; Seconded by Lisha Smith. Motion carried.

Treasurer: Gwendolyn Heard Nelson (accepted)

Motion by Gwendolyn Heard Nelson (self-nominated); Seconded by Gerri Foxall-Kater. Motion carried.

Parliamentarian: Noella Buchanan (accepted)

Motion by Gerri Foxall-Kater; Seconded by Lois Carson. Motion carried.

Once complete, the slate was moved and approved by the majority. Following is the elected 2020-2022 Executive Board for the IE NCNW Section.

President	Deborah Smith-Gilbert
1st Vice President	Che' Wright
2nd Vice President	Geraldine Foxall-Kater
Recording Secretary	Natasha Broome-Shaw
Corresponding Secretary	Pamela Pete
Treasurer	Gwendolyn Heard Nelson
Parliamentarian	Rev. Noella Buchanan

BETHUNE CENTER REPORT

Executive Director Marlene Davis

Before allowing Executive Director Marlene Davis to give her report, President Robertson thanked Marlene for her work and contribution to the Bethune Center. Marlene's last day is June 30, 2020, nearly three years after her hire.

Marlene expressed her appreciation for the opportunity. She shared that the CDBG goals for the current grant year have been met and that she will have the files in order for the next executive director. She also asked for continued prayers for Shirley.

EXECUTIVE

President Milele Robertson

President Milele Robertson reported on the following:

Voting on Section Bylaws

President Robertson called the vote for the bylaws change to add the Financial Secretary to the Executive Board. Founding Member Lois Carson made the motion to accept the amendment to the Section bylaws. Member Natasha Broome-Shaw seconded. Motion carried.

Envision Donation to the Bethune Center

President Robertson that the Center has received a \$2,000 donation from Envision for a student exchange program.

Bethune Center Program Director Announcement

President Robertson announced Ms. Barbara Williams will be the new Program Director. Barbara has the experience and passion to take on the position. She will manage grant operations and the Center staff. Among her duties Barbara is charged to identify, apply for, and hopefully secure at least three grants per quarter. For grants over \$5,000 she is charged to consult with the Executive Board to determine if a grant writer is needed.

Barbara thanked the Executive Board and shared that she is excited and anxious to take on the opportunity.

City of Rialto CDBG Award FY 2020-2021

President Robertson announced that the City of Rialto awarded the Section/Bethune Center just over \$40,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars for fiscal year 2020-21. She thanked everyone for their hard work and support.

Member Deborah Robertson echoed thanks for the support and shared that the City Council tomorrow will hold a public hearing to distribute \$114,000 in federal CARES Act funds to areas affected by COVID-19. The funds will be divided into three portions to address: workforce development and job readiness; rental assistance; and small business assistance. Comments regarding this item must be submitted to the City Clerk of the Board by 4PM tomorrow.

Founding Member Lois Carson shared that ongoing articles continue to damage the Section's reputation as an organization that has successfully achieved its funding goals year and year. Deborah Robertson, added that the articles are examples of how the SB Sun has sought to bolster systemic racism through its disparate/negative coverage of the Black community.

President Robertson shared that a press release prepared by the Section's attorney will be distributed to the community papers as well as a letter to the editor of the Sun newspaper.

MOUs with City of Rialto

President Robertson added that now that the findings are complete, the Section will send a follow-up letter to the City Manager regarding the City's MOU with the Bethune Center, asking for a year extension. Our current Prop. 47 MOU allows us to maintain occupancy of the Rialto Resource Center through November 2020.

Gwendolyn suggested that we think of a Plan B should the City not wish to extend the MOU. Deborah Robertson shared that space would be available at Baseline and Riverside as of November 15, 2020.

SoCal:

President Robertson publicly acknowledged SoCal's support for our Section during our recent ordeals. Also, the NCNW National Convention will be virtual September 25-27, 2020. Registration is now open.

Other Business

- For future discussion, hosting of an annual fundraiser/membership drive in the fall.
- Member Mary Welch shared that there is \$600 billion available to help small businesses during the pandemic. For more information visit, [COVID19.sba.gov](https://www.covid19.sba.gov).

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34PM. Next general meeting will be September 22, 2020, at 6:00PM via Zoom.

Minutes Prepared by Recording Secretary Lisha Smith