

Delaware County Section
National Council of Negro Women

Third African American Women's
Conference Nov. 7, 1998

Shenandoah University

"A Brief History"

Early in the 1970's, Mamie Allen, a resident of Meadow, PA., had a dream... A dream of African American women uniting to create a power structure and a strong base for greater recognition and empowerment in our communities. Mamie's daily performance as a social worker with the Delaware County Child Care Services gave her the insight of a need for an organization such as NCNW whose National Goals fit her dream.

There after a group of five women met whenever possible to discuss

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the possibility of organizing a county-wide section of the NCNW. The women were:

Mamie Allen, Yeason, PA.

Mary Glover - Glenolden PA

Mary M. Edwards - Media PA

Elizabeth Johnson - Media PA

Carol Heddam - Yeason, PA

In May 1975 the National office granted us permission to organize the Delaware County Section of NCNW. Our county membership meetings were held at the West Branch YMCA in Chester, PA.

With the mandatory 50 members we began to focus on our need and purpose to "Build The Black Family."

We held our first ^{charter} Awards Banquet
(2)

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in 1980, recognizing those members who contributed services to the community. The Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune Distinguished Service Award was presented to Mary M. Edwards

Our Second Awards Banquet saluted our youth members Joyce Marie Mitchell and Marianne Jackson. Dr. Velma M. Mitchell was presented the Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune Distinguished Service Award

Our services and activities grew as we became more ^{zed} recognition throughout Delaware County.

Some of our Activities

- 1) Gifts and Visitation to City Nursing Homes.

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Activities

- 2) Scholarship awards to high school graduates
- 3) Regular participation at NCNW National Conventions and Seminars
- 4) Quarterly Newsletter
- 5) Prayer Vigil for Atlanta's Missing Children held at County Court House
- 6) Active participation at the Delaware County Women's Conferences via Workshops and Exhibits
- 7) Yearly NCNW Worship Service at the First Baptist Church, Okola, PA.
- 8) Supported the formation of a College Section of NCNW at Cheyney University
- 9) Programs and fund raisers at The Studevan Lot Plus Community Center in Darby Township, PA.

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The NCNW is an effective
mechanism for Change

move forward to year 2000
with determination to
Build the African American
Family

From memorabilia of
Marym. Edwards, Section Historian