



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

NABCJ NOTES

DID YOU KNOW THAT

Message From The President

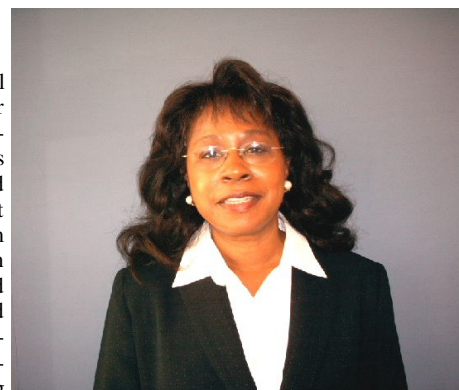
Minster Fitzgerald Hinds is the first international speaker at NABCJ Conference. Minister Hinds is the Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security. This appointment is a result of The Cabinet Appointed Task Force Report on Prison Reform and Transformation released in 2002, which urged the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Services (TTPS) to adopt a restorative justice philosophy to guide its penal practice. As such, this charge led to an appointment in government of a Parliamentary Secretary to move the TTPS to a more rehabilitative model. Because of the Prime Minister's interest and concern for prison reform, he upgraded that position to the "Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security." Minister Hinds is the second person to hold this position. In this capacity, Minister Hinds' is not only responsible for prison reform and transformation, but also police services, fire services, and defense forces (i.e. coast guard, army, etc.).

Since his appointment, Minister Hinds has demonstrated a sincere commitment to literally representing the interests of TTPS at all levels of government to include, Parliament, Cabinet, and Joint Select Committees of Parliament. As such, TTPS has seen a new dispensation as it relates to prison services, programs, management and other activities within the prison system. Moreover, Minister Hinds has worked closely with Commissioner John Rougier of TTPS and plans to implement progressive penal reforms such as the establishment of a nursery to permit mothers to keep their babies until the end of the natural breast-feeding periods; to that of creating facilities to house special categories of offenders such as elderly offenders, juvenile female offenders, persons who need psychiatric care and persons who turn 18 years of age while in the system.

Welcome Conference Participants and Friends:

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the National Board, to express our heartfelt thanks for your attendance of this Conference and Training Institute. We have drawn attendance from experts around the country and from Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Saint Lucia who represent just about every facet of the criminal justice system and a host of other occupations and interests. On behalf of the National Board, I also recognize and thank the Conference planners who have worked exceedingly hard and diligently to bring you together in Denver "the mile high city" at this particular time for the purpose of learning, making connections, and recreating. Certainly, we could not provide this opportunity if it was not for the support and generosity of our sponsors whom I also take this opportunity to recognize and thank on behalf of the Board.

The Conference program will provide concurrent sessions targeting your interest from leadership to management of offenders. We hope that you will participate in as many sessions and workshops as possible. We aim for you to leave the Conference inspired with new ideas, contacts, and practical actions that you can apply in your profession. This conference is decidedly focused on providing maximum value to the varied disciplines within our membership and friends. The topics each year are designed to provide you with ideas and best practices that can be put to work immediately to build your bottom line and to help you meet your career and organizational goals. The continuation of such information sharing and experiences makes the 2006 Conference especially meaningful as the focus of this conference is "Re-entry and Restoration: A Time for Action." We want to effect action in this area by providing you with opportunities to exchange ideas and further mutual understanding concerning the vulnerabilities, needs, and challenges facing offenders as they re-enter the community; as well as identifying and sharing best practice approaches to solutions and strategies to address these issues. We invite you to get involved during this time to contribute and expand your understanding of some of the most critical issues facing criminal justice today. You will find that the Conference is



a perfect balance between learning, networking and recreation. You will also have the chance to join in honoring the very best in our profession, through our Achievement Awards, Distinguished Service Awards, and our Scholarship presentations. This Conference and Training Institute not only benefits you, but also your employers by expanding your knowledge, skills, and expertise.

The 2006 Conference is not over yet, and we are forging ahead with the announcement and plans for the 2007 Conference. The 2007 Conference will be held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Buffalo New York. This Conference will carry forward certain traditions as well as breaking some new ground for NABCJ. We look upon this Conference, among other things, as closing the region divide since this will be our first Conference and Training Institute in the upper Northeast area of the country. So make your plans early to join us and bring a co-worker, friend, and your family as we learn in historic Buffalo and recreate at the moving Underground Railroad and beautiful Niagara Falls, both on the American and Canadian sides.

Best regards,

Fay Lassiter
President

2006 Town Hall Meeting

The 2006 Town Hall meeting, had the highest turnout in recent history with approximately 100 conference attendees in attendance. President Lassiter opened the forum by providing an overview of the "State of NABCJ." Afterwards, President Lassiter introduced the "Special Edition" of the "Minority Criminal Justice Practitioners" Resource Directory, which is a directory of individuals who are members of either the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) or the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ). The resource directory highlights the area of specialization, agency affiliations, education, and professional experience as well as primary and secondary levels of expertise of each person included in the directory. President Lassiter stated that the goal is to increase the number of entries in the Directory as well as have the Directory serve as a major fundraiser through fees generated from marketing advertisement and sale of the Directory. Afterwards, President Lassiter presented the "NABCJ On Track" CD that is symbolic of the progression and accomplishments of the organizations and the fact that the CD contains a host of informational material about NABCJ, such as an informational brochure; membership application; recent copies of "The Commitment;" a sample of the Minority Resource Directory; and the data entry forms for the Minority Resource Directory as a PDF file and Microsoft Word document.

Afterwards, President Lassiter stated that her vision is for NABCJ to become a "Criminal Justice Solutions Organization," and charged each person in attendance with the task of promoting this vision. She stated that we must move from just voicing concerns, to that of when voicing concerns, also voice the solutions.

Afterwards, the forum was opened up to allow members to share and receive information. The forum was facilitated by Board of Directors John Thomas and Dr. Jacqueline Lawshea-Mitchell. The conference attendees preceded to inform the Board of the criminal justice issues they would like the national body to focus on. As well, our Chief Domestic Strategist, Addie Richburg, provided the audience an overview of policy and program initiatives NABCJ has been involved in. Specific criminal justice issues the audience want the Board of Directors to address as well as other questions from the Town Hall meeting will be covered in the Fall 2006 newsletter. As well, after the conference, Ms. Richburg, will release a report entitled "As A Matter Of Fact: An Update of NABCJ Program Initiatives," summarizing NABCJ's policy and program initiatives she provided during the town hall meeting.

WORKSHOP CHANGES AND CANCELLATIONS

Cancelled – "*Youth Violence in Today's Society*" This workshop was originally scheduled for July 17th from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Cancelled – "*Diverting our youth and recapturing their attention*" This workshop was originally scheduled for July 17th from 1:45 pm - 3:15 pm.

Cancelled – Mary Leftridge Byrd "*Leadership and Legacy – Maximize the Moment*", workshop is now scheduled Monday, July 17, 1:45 pm – 3:15 pm. This workshop was originally scheduled for July 18th from 10:15 am - 12:30 pm.

Changed – Mr. Dudley "*Fundamentals of Leadership*" workshop is now scheduled Tuesday, July 18, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm. This workshop was originally scheduled for July 19th from 10:15 am-12:30 pm

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Conference Bag: Inside your conference bag, you will find a copy of the most recent "The Commitment," State of NABCJ Report," and NABCJ On Track CD.

Silent Auction: The silent auction will be begin operating after the opening session and remain open right until 6 pm on Tuesday. Proceeds will benefit Rites of Passage Ridge View Academy - a private youth facility for boys.

Session Evaluators: Evaluators please remember to pick up your packets at the registration counter.

Board of Directors Elections: Elections for the Board of Directors in the South, Northeast, and Midwest Regions will be held from 1 - 5 p.m. on today and 7 am - 12 pm on Tuesday in the Plaza Exhibits. You can only vote for representatives in your region. Write-in nominations will be accepted as long as the nominee is in good standing with the organization.

"Jeans, Jammin, and Jazz:" The Colorado Chapter will host "Colorado Night," from 8:00 pm to 12:00 am in Plaza Ballroom A, B, and C.

Colorado Sampler: Experience downtown Colorado on Tuesday. Buses will transport you to four of the evening entertainment establishments for a small fee of \$10. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Excelsior Youth Center for Girls. So even if you do not want to attend, be sure and purchase a ticket to help this worthy cause!

Race To Incarcerate: Receive a free copy of "Race To Incarcerate" by Marc Mauer when you join the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ). NAFJ has a booth in the exhibit hall.