



# SISTER CIRCLE

FALL 2008

LAS AMIGAS, INC • 3700 THE PLAZA • CHARLOTTE, N.C. • 28205

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Calendar of key dates and deadlines inserted in this issue
- Executive Board meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Greensboro, N.C., November 14-15, 2008
- Founder's Day and Chapter Organizer Appreciation celebrations throughout February 2009
- 2009 is an election year! Contact Nominations' Chair Joyce Waddell for more information
- 51st Annual Conclave hosted by Gastonia Chapter and held in Charlotte, N. C., June 24-28, 2009

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sisters,

Once again, I am humbled to greet you on behalf of the National body. As we

start our second year together, we have much to be proud of and much that still needs to be done. I encourage you to read the second edition of our newsletter, *Sister Circle*, so you can stay abreast of the happenings in Las Amigas, Incorporated.

Thanks to the 2008 Conclave co-chairs, our Liaison, the Tidewater Central Region, and all who attended the Conclave for its success. I hope each person enjoyed all efforts put forth to make it successful.

As I work toward this next year, I see Las Amigas moving higher. In order for us to get there, your commitment is needed as never before. I was given the

green light to pursue our 501c3 at Conclave 2008. If we want this, we must follow ALL guidelines in place for us to maintain our 501c3. First, chapters must look at your local donation giving. We are currently a 501c7 organization and are requesting to become a 501c3 organization. Second, all funds raised must be used for what it was intended for. Lastly, chapters must keep good and accurate financial records. Presidents, it is my plea that this huge task be accomplished. I am sure you can handle it.

Our 2007-2009 theme, **PLAN, EXECUTE and CONQUER**, was designed to implement procedures that would move us to higher heights. New chapters, and new members will increase our membership, however, as we increase our chapters and the membership, we must continue to be visible in our

communities with your volunteerism. I challenge you to **PLAN** your year, **EXECUTE** your plans, and **CONQUER** your goals.

I await the outcome. Let us always be mindful of our motto: ***“Those who apply themselves too closely to little things, often becomes incapable of accomplishing great things.”*** Let's make this a year to remember.

Sisterly,  
Joann W. Williams

Las Amigas, Inc.,  
17th National President



*At the 2008 Fall Southeast Regional Meeting, National President Williams talks with Delores Smith during a break in session.*

## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sisters,

YES WE CAN!!

Dear Sisters,

What a wonderful week this has been!

Very few of us

ever thought that we would witness such a history making event in our life time—an African American as President of the United States. President Elect Obama started his campaign with a slogan “Yes, we can”, “Si, se pueda!” And, we are now

ecstatic that we can now say “Yes, we did”.

We have seen our organization start with a few members and we have grown tremendously over the years. I say to you, we could and we did increase our membership. But, can we do more? Yes, we can! This past year, we have increased our membership within existing chapters and with the installation of two new chapters. Yes, we did!

We want to sound the challenge again and ask you to go out and encourage more ladies to join this great organization. We know we can do it— Yes, we can!

Lets end this year with record numbers of new members, new chapters. Will you join in and say Yes, we will; Yes, we can!!

Brenda Gilliam

National Vice President

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Las Amigas sister's are on the move and in the news...

- Welcome to our newest chapter—**Lumberton Chapter**; Chapter charter members are **Ter-rasine Brown, Betty Crawford** (organizer), **Angela Faulkner, Mazie Gibson, Linda Hammonds** (organizer), **Rosemary Hemingway** (organizer), **Jean McCall, and Angela Stephens**; Congratulations Sisters!
- New members have joined our sisterhood; Welcome to the new members of the **Red Springs and Forestville Chapters - (Red Springs) Musheerah Ali, Kimberly Vanessa Carter, Stephanie Huey, Shari Danyel Manning, Eddye (Faye)**

**Murray [reinstated], and Evelyn Jemison-Coleman;** (**Forestville**) **Valerie Health, and Deni Antoinette Mazingo-Mayrone**; Welcome!

- **Verna Smith** (Washington-Metro) attended the NCNW National Black Women's Town Hall Meeting which was aired on CSPAN;
- **Velma Greene** (Seat Pleasant ) was the 100 millionth person to attend a game in Orioles baseball franchise history. She received \$100,000 and season tickets for 5 years. She was in the local news—both tv and newspaper.

- Congratulations to chapters for their efforts to strengthen Las Amigas' name in the community; Orchids to the **Greenville** and **Gastonia Chapters** on their Mother/Daughter luncheon/banquet and Orchids to the **Cincinnati Chapter** on their 2008 Orchid Luncheon celebrating women in community service;

- Thank you to all sisters who helped to “Get Out the Vote” through non-partisan efforts to register voters, serve as poll-workers, elections observers, and other efforts during the 2008 Presidential and state elections.

Orchids to all Las Amigas sisters for all that you do!

*Las Amigass, Inc.*

National Officers

*Joann W. Williams*  
President

*Brenda S. Gilliam*  
Vice President

*Betty A. Crawford*  
Recording Secretary

*Barbara Howerton*  
Corresponding Secretary

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Parliamentarian

*Rosemary Hemingway*  
President's Advisor

*Ethel D. Hart*  
Immediate Past President

Regional Directors

*Roberta Epps*  
Northeast Region

*Katie Moore*  
Southeast Region

*Yvonne Cooley*  
Southwest Region

*Frances Robinson*  
Tidewater Central Region

## CONCLAVE 2008 HIGHLIGHTS AND PHOTOS

*This is an excerpt of a Conclave 2008 news article written by our National Reporter, Brenda C. McCaskill, that has appeared in several newspapers in local chapter areas.*

Las Amigas, Inc., a national, African American, women's public service organization, recently held its' 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave and 51<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, hosted by the Henrico County Chapter and the Tidewater Central Region, in Richmond, Virginia at the Sheraton Park South Hotel. The convention theme – "Uniting Pride, Respect, and Dignity" - was the cornerstone of organizational meetings and community events throughout the June 25 – 29, 2008 conference. Said keynote speaker, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, Chair and President Emeritus of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), "The news is out about you [Las Amigas, Inc.]... empowered women."

Empowered women committed to public service, Las Amigas, Inc. - "the friends" - has convened annually for fifty years to further the organization's programmatic thrusts: education, family, health, political awareness, and economic development. Said Joann W. Williams, Las Amigas, Inc., 17<sup>th</sup> National President, "Las Amigas is making an impact in our communities and our voice is being heard. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave is a continuation of arming ourselves with the necessary tools to make an impact on humanity."

Throughout the 2008 Conclave, members engaged in informative workshops led by Dr. Thelma Daley, humanitarian and counselor-educator, and Linda Wilson, Executive Director of Student Health at North Carolina A&T. Las Amigas officers, delegates, and members convened to plan organizational growth and advancement to enhance the quality of life and promote the general improvement of the communities in which members serve across the United States. With chapters serving communities within the states of Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, and our nation's capitol, Las Amigas, Inc., a lifetime member of the NAACP, is an affiliate member of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). During the 2008 Conclave, Las Amigas held an NCNW new member campaign that resulted in 48 new members joining NCNW onsite at the Conclave.

The 2008 Conclave was yet another example of the organization engaging in public service. This year's Conclave's public service initiatives focused on outreach – global and local. Las Amigas hosted a shoe drive during the 2008 Conclave and collected over 1,356 pounds of shoes which Destined4Success, a company that collects used shoes to be repaired, picked up and will send to third world countries. In addition, 700 books were collected as part of a book drive to collect age appropriate books to benefit Ratcliffe Elementary, an elementary school in Richmond, VA. Said Ingrid Grant, Ratcliffe Elementary Principal, "700 books is the most books ever given to our school."

A memorable and motivating highlight of the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conclave was the 2008 Dora R. Mason Awards Luncheon during which a living legend gave an inspirational message, numerous community and organizational awards were presented, and past National Presidents of the organization were honored.

(continued on page 4)



CONCLAVE 2008 (CONTINUED)



The luncheon featured a powerful and insightful message of empowerment presented by keynote speaker Dr. Dorothy I. Height. Said Dr. Height, "Don't hesitate to volunteer. God has a plan for you." At the luncheon, Dr. Virgie M. Binford, an educational consultant and motivational speaker, received the Las Amigas, Inc., 2008 Humanitarian Award for her involvement in community service in the Richmond, Virginia area. Clovia Lawrence, news director for Radio One stations *IPower 92.1*, *Praise 104.7 fm*, and *99.3 & 105.7 KISS fm*, and Executive Director of the Tom Joyner Morning Show for the Richmond, Virginia market, was named the Las Amigas, Inc., 2008 Community Service Award recipient for her untiring community service. Nine of the

organization's seventeen National Presidents were on hand and recognized for their invaluable leadership to Las Amigas. At the culminating Mary Q. Moore Orchid Gala dinner and dance, Mrs. Tara Wilson-McGee, a member of the Newport News-Hampton (Va.) Chapter and the Tidewater Central Region, was crowned Las Amigas, Inc., Queen 2008-2009.

Other highlights of Conclave 2008 included: The American Cancer Society selected to receive the Las Amigas, Inc., \$1,000 National Partnership Award; Bettie McNeill-Long Attendance Award presented to the Greenville (S.C.) Chapter; Lorraine Walker Attendance Award presented to the Red Springs (N.C.) Chapter; Mary Q. Moore Outstanding Chapter Award presented to Whiteville (N.C.) Chapter (1<sup>st</sup> place), Newport News-

Hampton (Va.) Chapter (2<sup>nd</sup> place), and Portsmouth (Va.) Chapter (3<sup>rd</sup> place); Dora R. Mason Outstanding Member Award presented to Zeler Raspberry of the Portsmouth Chapter (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Ann Wyatt of the Philadelphia (Pa.) Chapter (2<sup>nd</sup> Place).



*Las Amigas, Inc.*  
3700 The Plaza  
Charlotte, N.C. 28205

**Northeast Region**  
Baltimore  
Cincinnati  
Forestville  
Philadelphia  
Seat Pleasant  
Washington-Metro

**Southeast Region**  
Greensboro  
Lumberton  
Red Springs  
St. Pauls/Bladen County  
Wilmington  
Whiteville

**Southwest Region**  
Charlotte-Mecklenburg  
Gastonia  
Greenville  
Kannapolis  
Mooresville  
Morven

**Tidewater Central Region**  
Ahoskie  
Chesterfield  
Henrico County  
Newport News/Hampton  
Portsmouth  
Richmond  
Suffolk

"Those who apply themselves too closely to little things, often become incapable of accomplishing great things."