

# New Kemet Harambe Chapter's Events and Activities in 2005

**RECRUITMENT EFFORTS:** NKHC had two Membership drives: February 14 -18, 2005 and December 12- 16, 2005. We set up tables in the food court of the Metcalfe Federal building during the core hours of 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. **January 1, 2005 we had 28 members in which 11 were Life members; 4 of the Life members were also Gold Plus members. As of December 31, 2005 we recruited 13 new members 4 of them are Life members. We ended the year with 37 members including 15 Life Members which move our chapter to the "Sliver Elite Chapter Level".**

**RETENTION EFFORTS:** On December 14, 2005, NKHC's Executive Committee sponsored an employee appreciation luncheon where we presented each member with a basket of BIG paraphernalia and a "Most Valuable Player" Certificate of Appreciation, **over 80% of the membership was in attendance.** In January 2005, our Executive Committee prepared a survey that was sent to each member asking them for suggestions on what activities the chapter should pursue, ideas to make the chapter better and a member skill assessment. **Over 75% of the membership responded** and the Executive Committee will incorporate the results in the 2006 work plan. **We had 14 renewals out of 18, with 96% retention during this period.**

**INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY STUDENT COMPETITION (ISSC):** On April 20, 2005, NKHC hosted its Information Superhighway Student Competition (ISSC). Our participant was Jonathan McReynolds, a sophomore from Whitney Young High School. His website, entitled "Food, Water and the Internet". It demonstrated how students use the Internet for entertainment, research and homework. He presented his website at the Great Lakes Regional Council Meeting on June 11, 2005, in Collinsville, Illinois; Jonathan won "First Place". On August 5, 2005, Jonathan represented the Great Lakes Region V Council at the National Information Superhighway Student Competition at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual BIG National Training Conference in Orlando, Florida; **Jonathan won the Second Place Prize.**

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:** NKHC participated in the Conference Registration Assistance Program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year. In 2005 we used this program to send the chapters recording secretary, Deena Sheppard, who could not afford to pay the registration fee. Ms. Sheppard attended the NTC and came back motivated and even more excited about BIG. **Ms. Sheppard was so motivated that she worked hard to be elected the 2006- 2007 Chapter President.**

**NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE (NTC):** Ten (10) members of our Chapter attended the NTC in Florida (2005), these 10 members were asked to provide feed back at 10 lunches and learn sessions on at least one of the classes that they individually attended. These sessions were helpful to the members that could not attend the NTC and over 50% of the membership attended each lunch and learn session. Other government employees where invited and also attended each session. This also gave the members who presented the sessions an opportunity to work on their presentation skills.

**NATIONAL DELEGATES ASSEMBLY:** NKHC participated in the Delegates' Assembly in 2005 were we had 4 delegates and 2 alternates attending. Our Chapter had three (3) Chapter members appointed to the National Delegates Assembly Team (NDAT). Our Members Deena Sheppard, Donna Coleman and Ethel Crisp served on the Credentials team and were responsible for credentialing the largest Region (Region 11) with a zero error rate. Ms. Crisp was also the National Resolutions Chair for the 2005 Delegates Assembly, which resulted in the adoption of 10 resolutions by the delegates.

**REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AND TRAINING:** NKHC sent 3 representatives and 2 alternates to the March and October meetings, and 5 members to the June Training Conference. One of our members, Ethel Crisp served as the Regional Parliamentarian and the Chair of the Regional Bylaws Committee. Another member Stephanie Kimble served as the Chair of the Regional Elections Committee.

**(LOCAL) STRESS MANAGEMENT SEMINAR:** On May 10, 2005, NKHC hosted a stress management seminar featuring Lois Severson, Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Public Health Service, and the Federal Occupational Health Unit. The Federal employees who worked in the Ralph H. Metcalfe Federal Building as well as the downtown Chicago Loop were invited. **We had 50% of our membership and 5 non members to attend this Seminar.** The benefit of this Seminar was learning that we encounter stressors continuously in our everyday life, how stressors manifest themselves in our lives; how to be aware of negative self-talk; and the services offered to government employees through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP). These types of training Seminars allows our Chapter to be considered as an employee support group with resources to help and counsel.

**Millions More Movement:** NKHC participated on the planning committee to help organize the women in the city of Chicago to attend the "10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the Million Man March". The "Millions More Movement" issues were: Unity, Spiritual Values, Education, Economic Development, Political Power, Reparations, Prison Industrial Complex, Health, Cultural Development and Peace. Most of these issues are congruent with the mission and goals of BIG.

**ENGLEWOOD BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INC.:** NKHC became members of the Englewood Black Chamber of Commerce in April 2005. This chamber is dedicated to supporting Black economic development in Englewood. The Englewood community is an African American community that is a symbol of urban despair, where jobs are scarce, homes are headed toward foreclosure and dreams are chased between gunfire in the streets. **We partnered with the Chamber to help develop job training for residents once the Chamber creates new businesses that will bring employment to that community.**

**American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE Local 704) and The U.S. EPA's Black Employment Program:**

During Black History Month NKHC partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Black Employment Program and the American Federation of Government Employees (**AFGE Local 704**) to sponsor an Educational Program and Tour of the **A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum**, in Chicago. The event was **February 24, 2005, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** The cost of the tour was **\$10.00 per person.** This event was an educational opportunity for government employees to learn about the pioneering efforts of African Americans who created the first bonafied union for the African American Sleeping Car Porter workers. NKHC gave a presentation about BIG and passed out membership information. **One (1) bus of 45 government employees including 50% of NKHC members participated. We received one (1) new membership from this event.**

**100 Black Men of America, Inc.:** In May 2005, NKHC participated at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Benefit Gala for the 100 Black Men (Chicago Chapter). We volunteered to be "gaming operators" during their "After Gala" Las Vegas Night. We were able to simultaneously share BIG membership information with the Gala attendees. Over 500 people were in attendance. The mission of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. is to improve the quality of life within our communities and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans. These organizations goals are congruent with ours and a partnership has been proposed.

**Annual Let's Talk Let's Test "I Need You to Survive" HIV/AIDS Walk:** On May 21, 2005, the New Kemet Harambe Chapter participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Let's Talk, Let's Test Foundation's **African American HIV/AIDS Walk.** The Let's Talk Let's Test Foundation provides money to African American service providers to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS. Each team member that participated in the walk solicited pledges to be determined based on the completion of the 5-mile walk. **Approximately 40% of the NKHC members raised a total of \$600.00 for the Foundation and walked 5 miles.**

**Gentlemen's Closet (Clothes Drive) Fashion Show & Steppin' Set:** On June 18, 2005, the NKHC hosted the Gentlemen's Closet Fashion Show & Steppin' Set at the Taste Entertainment Center in Chicago. This fund-raising event featured ex-offenders and our chapter men modeling professional attire, raffles and stepping. **Attendees donated new or moderately used men's business clothing and/or shoes.** The \$250.00 proceeds from the raffle and clothing were donated to **Affirmation House's Ex-Offender Employment Program**, whose mission is to assist "men in transition" and provide them with business attire from their Gentlemen's Closet. **The event raised \$2,000.00 in cash and approximately \$5,000.00 worth of business attire, the coat room that stored the donated clothing was filled to capacity.**

**U.S. Postal Service Christmas All Year Program:** The U.S. Postal Service in Chicago's Christmas All Year/Letters to Santa Campaign is an opportunity to make a wish come true for needy children and their families. The children write letters to Santa and the postal service provide them to individuals and groups to grant the children's requests. **We blessed 14 children with a \$75.00 gift card to purchase a holiday meal and \$100.00 worth of toys for each child.** NKHC delivered the gifts to each home on Christmas Eve; **approximately 50% member participation.**

**WTTW Channel 11 Fundraising Telethon:** On December 10, 2005, our Chapter volunteered to participate in the WTTW Channel 11 Public Television's Telethon. Public television is a very important vehicle for news, information and children's programming. This event gave BIG exposure to the Chicago land Communities and reinforced our teamwork efforts. **We invited the other Chicago Chapters to participate, the Chicago Midwest Chapter sent two (2) representatives and 40% of our members participated.**