

Texas Publishers Association, the black press of Texas, new officers take helm

TPA Newswire - Texas Publishers Association held its first meeting under the newly elected 2007 - 2008 slate of officers, Saturday, May 19, 2007 in Corsicana, Texas. The 21 year old organization was founded in 1985 and is made up of twenty-two black newspapers around the state of Texas including Houston, San Antonio, Lubbock, Dallas, Longview, Tyler, Rusk, Corsicana, Farmersville, Greenville, Mesquite, Plano and Austin, the capital of the great state of Texas.

To be classed as a black newspaper, a newspaper must be owned and managed by black people, intended for black consumers, and deal with the interests and concerns of black people. Most importantly, it should speak for the poor, women, minorities and the oppressed as well as, empower the people politically, socially, and economically.

The black press remains the main source of information for Texas' growing black population. Black owned newspapers are published weekly, bi-weekly and monthly. A recent readership study showed statewide readership exceeding 500,000 weekly, 520,000 bi-weekly and 550,000 monthly.

As with the first founded black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, in 1927 and others of the early 1900's, Texas Publishers Association continues the legacy of its predecessors. It challenges the black press of the past by being better. It uses the latest technology to disseminate the news faster and more efficiently. It uses investigative reporting to tell the facts and shed light on issues of political interest to the black community.

The May meeting was held at the Bethlehem Baptist church with The Corsicana Examiner publisher, Rev. Dairy Johnson hosting the meeting. The publishers enjoyed a barbeque luncheon and listened to special guest speaker, Ester Davis, host of the Ester Davis Television Show. Ms. Davis' show is an ION Media Network Television Production which airs North Texas: Saturdays & Tuesdays-Channel 68 and 42-KPXD-TV@5:30 AM. Houston & Metroplex - Channel 49 - KPXB-TV@5:00 AM San Antonio & Metroplex - Channel 26 - KPXL-TV @5:00 AM. Willie Hobby, 2006-2007 president presided over the meeting until new officers were sworn in. Those sworn into office were Hattie Kelly, publisher Power Pages, President; Mollie Belt, publisher Dallas Examiner, Vice President; Maxine Session, publisher Texas Informer, treasurer; Dairy Johnson, secretary and Tommy Wyatt, publisher The Villager, Parliamentarian. Mr. Hobby is the publisher of Kuumba Heritage, Metroplex South Star and Garland News Journal. The next meeting will be held July 21, in Austin Texas.

Fathers are you raising your sons?

What are fathers: They are men I hardly see anymore. I grew up with a wonderful father who had six girls and one boy. Daddy went to work everyday of my life, leaving before day and making it home at night. My mother never had to cook breakfast for him because he got up and ate whatever he saw from the night before; or if there was cake or pie, that was his breakfast. He also fixed his own lunch because, in those days Blacks couldn't stop and get a hamburger anywhere. He bought his check home and on Saturdays we went to town to shop and buy groceries for the next week. My mother didn't work because daddy took care of the household. Mother and daddy only had one fight. It wasn't about anything but my daddy pulling off his belt to whip my sister who was always sick. She was so devilish that when she was in trouble, she would get a nose bleed. I never saw a can of beer or a whiskey bottle at our house; as a result, none of my sisters drank to this day nor do any of us smoke. We all graduated High School, five out of seven in the top five, and one valedictorian. My daddy whipped me once and he never had to again. My only brother was in jail one time and my daddy let him sit it out. He never was locked up again. At his death he was a wealthy man. I am writing this article because I wonder where are the fathers like the one I had. My daughters are blessed with a good father but I see this as the last generation of GOOD Men. They need to teach their sons to: Not let their

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