

Report submitted by:
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50th National Education Conference A. Philip Randolph Institute **50 Years Later...What's Going On??**

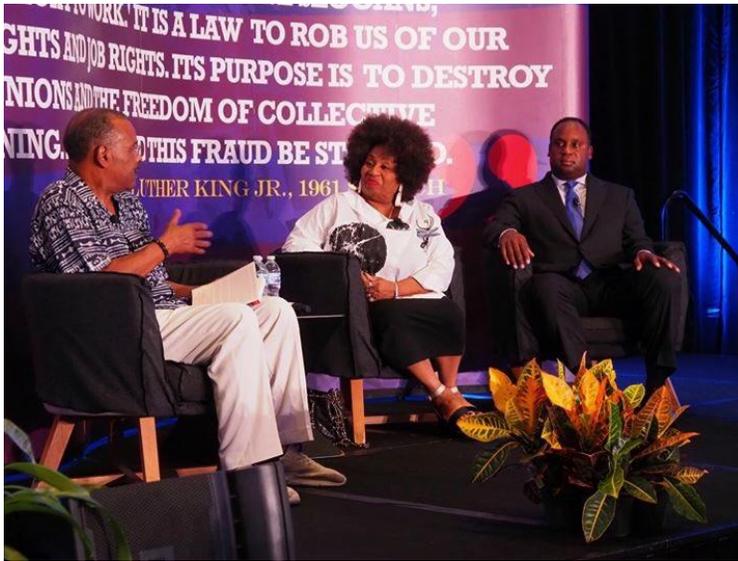
The 50th Anniversary Convention was dedicated to reinforcing the training and political action needed to organize and mobilize our communities to expand upon the work accomplished in 2018. While working together we exhibit courage, strength and unity, with growing ranks of those committed to advancing as one fight, the causes of social and economic justice.

First Time Attendees:

- A. Philip Randolph born in Crescent City, Florida. He was the nation foremost spokesmen for black labor and in 1925 he organized and served as the 1st president of the all-black Int'l Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.
- In 1964, Bayard Rustin, a strategist and activist in the struggle for human rights and economic justice, also help found APRI. In 2013, President Barack Obama bestowed a Presidential Medal of Freedom in his honor.
- Norman Hill, a trade unionist and activist for over 50 years, now 94 years old spoke about the goal to continue its focus to secure economic and social justice through political action and grassroots movement. He served as the leader for APRI for years. Mr. Hill quoted A. Philip Randolph, "At the banquet table of nature there are no reserved seats. You get what you can take and keep what you can hold. If you can't take anything, you won't get anything; and if you can't hold anything, you won't keep anything. And you can't take anything without organization." Welcome was given by Mrs. Clayola Brown President of APRI Int'l been with APRI for 15 years; Mrs. Clayola made everyone feel like a part of a family and comfortable with each other. We went around the room and introduced ourselves and our affiliation chapters and unions.

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Town Hall Meeting: “50 Years Later: Has the US Criminal Justice System Changed?”



- Town Hall was moderated by Joe Madison, “The Black Eagle” from Sirius XM Radio. He discussed his radio station which talks about political issues and he has been inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame. He interviewed Mrs. Jacqueline Jackson, wife of Reverend Jesse Jackson and her son Jonathon Jackson whereby she discussed the book she wrote. “Loving you, thinking of you, and Don’t forget to Pray, Letters to her Son in Prison”.
- This was very good learned a lot about the Jackson family. Jesse Jackson diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and are having trouble finding health insurance to care for him. APRI National made a monetary donation to the family for support.

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Plenary Sessions:

The primary focus of the conference was to organize to bring in the next generation of activists.



In 2018, there 156 youth sponsored to attend the APRI Conference in Arizona.

In 2019, there were 165 high school and college students sponsored. The Youth were being trained of their importance and how they can make a difference in the Community. The goal was to provide a better understanding and to provide knowledge of the importance of APRI. Also gave insight on how the black community was impacted by the political arena.

These students were from Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington. Cost per student was \$2,000. These students were sponsored.

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Many major guest speakers such as:



- Ilhan Omar serving US House of Representative for Minnesota 5th Congressional District was a former AFSCME member. Mrs. Omar told the audience that as refugee kid that she was welcomed by the Minnesotans and was sent to represent them in Congress. She said that she knew is important to have internal liberations so that we can fight for external liberations. As a child, her grandfather would tell her and her sisters that they were to be proud of you are and to always consider yourself as powerful. She said to never let anyone make you believe that what they see on the outside is what you should see on the inside of you. As a former ACFSME member she learned that you don't get into the ring unless you're ready to fight. She got into the ring because she's ready to fight. We're fighting for our dignity and humanity. She said she will not bow down to her counterparts and will not allow her counterparts to quiet her voice.



- Keith Ellison, the 30th Attorney General of Minnesota. Mr. Ellison is the first Muslim to be elected to Congress and the first African American representative from Minnesota.

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- Awood Workers local based in Minnesota are fighting for immigrant workers. They were instrumental in leading 80 workers from Amazon. These workers walked off the job because of the working conditions.
- Tefere Gebre, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO is the highest paid labor fighter. In 2013 became the first immigrant, political refugee, black man and local labor council leader elected as a national officer of the AFL-CIO. He congratulated the creation of the newest APRI chapter in Charleston, South Carolina. He said we are under attack and are not getting any help from spineless government officials in Washington D.C. Our country is in crisis. He quoted A. Philip Randolph, "Freedom is never granted, it's won. Justice is never given, it's expected." We must demand justice for those who lives and works here.



- Danny Glover, Actor/Activist spoke on the right to vote and the importance of education. Mr. Glover said very few students get 21st century education. Congressman Bobby Scott of Virginia has introduced a bill "America School Act". He said this is a great start, but we have to understand what this means. He said quality education is the passport to citizenship and is a civil right. The question is how do make changes to education that will affect children and future children.

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- Maggie Anderson, the Empowerment Experiment Foundation CEO & Cofounder, wrote book on "Our Black Year." All about buying black. She discussed the struggles with finding and supporting all black businesses.

Workshops:**Census:**

Maybe electronic but you will still get something in the mail and to make sure all our people in our community to file out the consensus. Check your mail Mid-March 2020; April 2020 collaborate with your communities, union, etc. and by May 2020 the US Census Bureau will follow up.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, Historically Black Colleges & Universities, hospitals, roads, public works and other viral programs.

What the Census used for? Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories and stores which create jobs. Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

Make sure people are inform that this Census is used by local government for public safety and preparedness and community initiative and programs, federal funding, and grants. It is also about redistricting.

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Retiree Caucus:

Highlighted key retiree issues like Medicare, Social Security, affordable health care and prescription drugs.

Social Security benefits and urge them to require that the Social Security Administration base future COLAs on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E), which much more accurately reflects the cost of things retirees purchase, including health care and housing.

Health Care Security - Medicare celebrated its 50th Birthday in 2015. Help make sure it last another 50 years.

Increases the special minimum benefit for low-wage earners.

Helps widows and widowers by ensuring that surviving spouses receive 75% of the total household Social Security benefits that they received prior to their spouse's death.

Increase the solvency of the Social Security Trust Funds by raising the cap on earnings subject to Social Security contributions, which is capped at \$132,900 in 2019.

Midwest Regional Meeting- Andre Washington:

A long discussion about the National rising the local chapter yearly dues from \$100.00 to \$500.00. Mr. Washington asked that the presidents share the information with their members and respond accordingly as to their chapter's position on the request. Mr. Washington disagree with the proposed assessment increase.

All Chapters provided updates.

Chicago closed over 50 black school the largest closing in the nation. The effect of the closing:

- Crime wave is greater
- Lower property value

Upcoming event for Midwest Educational Conference:

Date: March 27 - 29, 2020

Location: Crowne Plaza Airport

2501 South High School Road, Indianapolis, IN 46241

The National Black Worker Center Project:

Working While Black Expo

Date: August 24 & 25

Location: Coppin State University Baltimore, MD