

### Alton Chapter Elects Officers

#### 2008 Brings Some Changes

The Alton 100, at a recent membership meeting, elected its 2008 officers. Those reelected include president, Robert Wills; vice-president, James Gray; and Bobby Collins, Sr., treasurer. New officers will include Brad Malone, secretary; Andy Hightower, parliamentarian; and Gary Woods, sergeant-at-arms. Members elected to the board of directors were Leonard Hawthorne and Lawrence Williams.



**President Wills**

The New Year 2008 will bring about more challenges and opportunities for the 100. President Wills is currently planning for committee assignments and chairs. New membership recruitment and planning is also underway. All members will be asked for renewed commitment to the strategic vision and purpose of the organization, and to do their part individually to help fulfill the organizational mission and purpose. Let's make it great in 2008.



**Happy New Year**

### February Is Black History Month



#### Pioneers for Freedom

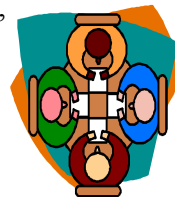
"I said to my children, 'I'm going to work and do everything that I can do to see that you get a good education. I don't ever want you to forget that there are millions of God's children who will not and cannot get a good education, and I don't want you feeling that you are better than they are. For you will never be what you ought to be until they are what they ought to be.'"

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

#### Meeting Notices

Regular Membership Meeting,  
Saturday, **January 05, 2008**,  
10:00 a.m., Alton Acres Office.

Board Meeting, Wednesday,  
**January 16, 2008**, at 6:30 p.m.,  
Alton Acres Office.



**REMINDER: MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2008 ARE NOW PAYABLE!!**

## Tax Tips

(Reprinted information from *Black Enterprise Magazine*, December, 2003)

Everyone is looking for ways to reduce expenses, reduce taxes, and keep more year-end income. The more information you have regarding deductions and expenses, the more you will save. The list of deductions that come with our tax return is only a fraction of the total deductions you and your family may be entitled to. It is your responsibility to find those missing deductions, because the IRS will not help you do so. However, the IRS does remind you to avoid common errors that may include some of the following:

- Check your math, particularly if someone else is doing your taxes for you.
- Make sure your Social Security Number is written correctly on the document.
- Make sure you've claimed all your deductions, including children away in college and elderly parents depending upon you for support.
- If you are single with dependents living with you, you may qualify for a lower tax rate as head of household or surviving spouse.
- If married, explore the option of filing separate returns. In some cases it is more beneficial than filing jointly.
- If you are blind or 65 years of age or older, you might be eligible to claim for additional standard deductions.
- Double check that your W-2 and form 1099s are accurate. If they are wrong, have them corrected immediately.



**CARTER G. WOODSON**, often called the Father of Negro History, for his own work and for inspiring others, was born into a large, poor family in Buckingham County, Virginia, in 1875. His parents were former slaves

who became farmers. He was basically self-educated until the age of seventeen, when the family moved to Fayette, West Virginia. His educational career then took off. He studied at Berea College, in Kentucky, earned a B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1908, and completed a Ph.D. at Harvard in 1912. While doing graduate research, Woodson taught (1909-18) at Washington's M Street Dunbar High School. He helped found the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1912; four years later he established the *Journal of Negro History*. Named dean of the faculty at Howard in 1919, Woodson had difficulty with the administrative environment there and left after one year. In 1921 the resourceful devotee of black history organized Associated Publishers, a black owned company, to bring into print scholarship dealing with blacks. Throughout his career he worked to demonstrate the importance of historical research in combating the prejudices of white Americans. His writings include *The History of the Negro Church* (1921) and *The Miseducation of the Negro* (1933). He died in Maryland in 1950.

Source: *William Banks, Black Intellectuals: Race and Responsibility in American Life* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1996)

## Focus on Economic Development

*(Information summarized and reprinted from The Chronicles of Black Wealth, 2004)*

### Managing Your Money

Volume 1, Chapter 3 of *The Chronicles of Black Wealth* discusses “Managing Your Money.” It advises forming a vision for your future and using charts to help map out the goals that support your values. If education is a value, then attending college and graduate school could be listed as goals. Individual family members are asked for input on the following:

1. Share your vision of one thing you want to accomplish.
2. Name something you can do today to move toward that goal.
3. What real obstacles exist?

Goal-setting is described as an important part of creating wealth. Considering saving for college or retirement can seem overwhelming, but breaking down long-term goals into more manageable mid-term and short-term goals, investing for your future will help make creating wealth more achievable. Examples may include saving a few months to buy a lawn mower to start a lawn care business as a short-term goal, attending business school or college as a mid-term goal, or buying a house, business property or saving for retirement as a long-term goal.

A spending plan can provide a map to meet your goals so that you will always know where you are going. The plan lets you see how much money is coming in, how much is going out, and how much you can save or invest. To do this, you need to understand income and expenses. Income is money received from working or investments; expenses include money paid for daily or monthly items you purchase and use. Daily expenses could include magazines or video rentals; monthly expenses are usually for larger items such as

rent or utility bills. A spending plan for a shorter period of a week or month can be expanded for a longer period such as a season or year.

Making a budget primarily involves four steps: listing income, listing expenses, comparing income to expenses, and making necessary changes. These can be charted one month at a time. A comparison of monthly income and expenses will help identify whether income is greater than expenses or the other way around. If income is greater, you are earning enough to keep expenses under control and may have enough to start investing toward your goals. If expenses are greater than income, you will need to make changes by either spending less or earning more.

You will need to be disciplined in making decisions about how to spend money. You could ask yourself the following questions:

1. What solutions can you see to overcoming obstacles to your vision?
2. Are some purchases you consider expenses actually investments in the future?
3. Do you consider purchasing insurance an expense or an investment for the future?

Financial literacy can mean educating yourself on how money can work for you based on what you do with the money you earn. Individuals can assess their financial literacy by answering questions and reflecting on how they currently use money earned. Questions could include: How much did you invest in yourself by saving for a future goal? Did you pay off a debt? Are your dreams for long-term goals guiding your decisions on a daily basis?



## Reflections in Black

*(Reprinted from African American Wisdom, a book of quotations and proverbs)*

Excellence is not an act but a habit. The things you do the most are the things you do the best.

--Marva Collins, educator

Two things everybody's got tuh do for theyselves. They got tuh go tuh God, and they got tuh find out about living for theyselves.

--Zora Neale Hurston, writer

Presumption should never make us neglect that which appears easy to us, nor despair make us lose courage at the sight of difficulties.

--Benjamin Banneker  
mathematician & astronomer

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### Newsletter

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