

100

BLACK MEN
OF AMERICA, INC.

Alton, IL Chapter

Summer 2009 Quarterly Newsletter

June/ July/ August

ALTON CHAPTER NEWS BRIEFS/ MEETING DATES

Alton Chapter Begins New Youth Financial Literacy Program

The 100 Black Men of Alton's 100 W.A.Y.\$ Youth financial Literacy Program held 16 two-hour class sessions between January 20, and May 12, 2009, at Alton Senior High School. Adult teachers and supervisors included 100 Black Men members, Leonard Hawthorne and Bob Collins, along with teacher, Elam King.

The purpose of the program is to personally develop young men, and to increase financial literacy. We began with applicants (primarily, but not limited to, African-American males) from Alton High School. Our Topics covered included: Money, Banking, and the U. S. Economy; Banking Services (Savings, Checking, and Loans); Personal & Family Budgeting; Economic Value and Earning Power. In addition, students were taught mentoring topics including: Self-Identity and Awareness; Personality Traits and Personal Development; Success and Career exploration.

100 WAYS\$
Students
Meet with
U. S. Bank
Managers to
Learn about
Banking.



Alton Schools Superintendent, David Elson, provided resources to supplement U. S. Bank's start up grant funds.

Student mastery of class curricula was achieved at the following levels as demonstrated on quizzes: Money & Banking 92% high to 44% low; Personality/ Values 90% high to 60% low; and Budgeting & Bank Services 90% to 85%. Only one student attended less than 50% of the time. Group attendance percentage was 84%, with a range from 100% high to 38% low.

100 Members Again Join Bucket Brigade!



Leo Cox Coordinates the activity which includes (L to R) Ed Smith, Leo Cox, Jim Griggs, Michael Cox, and Lawrence Williams.

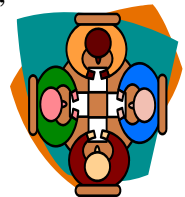
Meeting Notices

Regular Membership Meeting,
Saturday, **July 11, 2009**,

10:00 a.m., Alton Acres Office.

Board Meeting, Wednesday,
July 15, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.,

Alton Acres Office.



Focus on Health & Wellness

(Summary of 2009 Prostate Cancer Education & Screening Project)

Prostate Cancer Education & Screening Project 2009 Final Report



The desired result of educating 200 men in the target group was achieved with the distribution of well over 200 copies of selected print material. Fifty plus copies of the two 100 Black Men's Newsletter, special edition, were mailed to organizations and individuals during the month of March, 2009. The newsletter was also posted on the organizational web site, providing unlimited access to the information. The web site administrator reported that visitation to the web site remains high. Inclusion of the screening dates in Saint Anthony's Health Center's quarterly booklet publication reached over a thousand recipients of that document.

Educational seminars were conducted for approximately 80 plus individuals. The individuals tested and screened all completed the data form, documenting their participation. Most had both the PSA and DRE tests. A 10 minute educational video was offered for viewing at the test sites and individuals were given the packets of educational information.

Tabulated data from completed data forms revealed that 65% or 42 of the participants completing data forms completed both PSA and DRE screening tests, with 100% or 65 completing the PSA test. Four participants or 6% completing data forms had test results that were considered high (>4.0). Over eighty African American men previously identified and tested were sent letters reminding them of the importance of annual testing and inviting

them to participate in the current year screening. Twenty (31%) of those participating were identified as having been previously screened. All of the participants tested and completing data forms, 65 and 100%, were over age 40. Ages of participants ranged from 42 to 83 years old. Sixty-five percent or 42 of the participants completing the forms were African American. The remaining 35% or 23 were Caucasian.

Participants screened were from the following area communities in the numbers indicated:

Alton	30	Godfrey	13
Bethalto	1		
Granite City	1	Brighton	1
East Alton	1.		

Continuing the education and screening tests with both done at the screening sites continued and yielded better results. The use of incentive recruiters was important and more effective in increasing the number of African American men tested. There will be participation in the Mexico Community Health Fair in July, 2009. The local newspaper and continuation of quarterly newsletter advertisements, provided by collaborative partners from Saint Anthony's Health Care Center and Madison County Health Department again increased awareness and participation of Caucasians, and brought in the larger percentage of the targeted population. The African American men responded better to the direct mail invitations to retest, with additional contact by incentive recruiters. There was less but still some reluctance to have the DRE screening test.

**Prostate
Educational
Display With
Handouts and
Video**



Health Care Disparities

(information gathered from American Hospital Association Journal article)

A recent American Hospital Association Journal article pointed out that it has been seven years since the Institute of Medicine presented the stark realities attributed to disparities in health care. The article referenced their landmark report, *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, which comprehensively identified both issues surrounding and opportunities to improve health care for all Americans.

The article further referenced a recent Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) report which notes that over 60 percent of disparities in quality of care have stayed the same or worsened for Blacks, Asians and poor populations while nearly 60 percent of disparities, including but not limited to quality, have stayed the same or worsened for Hispanics.

A notable statistic was that at the same time, America's racial and ethnic composition is rapidly changing. Minority groups will compose almost half of the U.S. population by 2050. The biggest increase will occur within the Hispanic population. The U.S. Census Bureau found over 300 different languages spoken in the U.S. and nearly 47 million people—18 percent of the U.S. population—speak a language other than English at home. Authors noted that the American Hospital Association's (AHA) Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) research found that 80 percent of hospitals frequently encounter patients with limited English proficiency; 43 percent reported daily encounters; 20 percent weekly; and 17 percent monthly.

Exacerbating the challenges are the underinsured and uninsured, both disproportionately represented among racial and ethnic populations. While having insurance does not guarantee timely access to high quality health care, research shows health coverage often equals access to health care on a more consistent basis. Those without coverage typically receive care in the emergency department, putting off needed care until they are sicker and care is more costly. The article concluded "It's agreed that everyone should have access to high quality care

regardless of their racial or ethnic background." The question posed was, "How can hospitals and health systems, deliver such care in the face of expanding challenges?" There are no easy answers. But there were proposed simple actions every hospital and health system can take to address health care disparities within their institutions.

- Tie the elimination of health care disparities to the organization's mission.
- Understand the population that is served. Use community health assessments, forums and other venues to meet the health needs of the community.
- Collect valid and reliable data from the patient, who should self-identify race and ethnicity as well as deaf and hard of hearing information. Data will enable internal identification of areas for improvement and later, benchmarking success.
- Develop targeted interventions.
- Provide culturally competent, patient-centered care.
- Communicate with staff, patients and community leaders on the barriers to care in order to overcome them and communicate success and measurable results.



The article concluded that there are many components within this complex issue. To truly eliminate disparities in health care, there must be fundamental changes to our health delivery system—from providing coverage for all to enabling consistent access to high quality health care to developing national educational and communication strategies. As our nation considers health reform, it's essential that addressing and eliminating disparities be fundamental to that movement.

Scholar Awards Program



Monday, July 13, 2009
Holiday Inn – Alton
Tickets \$25 each

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(Newsletters may be viewed on our web site.)

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