



African American Unity Caucus NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE AAUC COORDINATOR

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Coordinator

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*The AAUC is a program of the
Constituency for Africa.*

CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA
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On behalf of the Members of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC), I welcome you to our first, quarterly newsletter. In this and in future newsletters, we will inform our stakeholders of AAUC news and activities, provide news on Africa and U.S.-Africa relations, and provide a forum

for thoughts on Africa by our leading policy and decision-makers. Having recently concluded the second annual AAUC retreat – renamed the AAUC Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. Leadership Retreat – we enter an exciting period as the AAUC agenda is advanced. The AAUC, a program of the Constituency for Africa, was formed to bring together a number of Africa-focused organizations in the United States to help develop a common agenda and increase collaborative efforts to improve and strengthen U.S.-Africa relations. The AAUC is truly an historic undertaking, and is fully-consistent with the Diaspora outreach activities of the African Union, as evidenced by the recent establishment of an AU Mission in Washington, DC. There is much to be done and those of us who work on Africa-related issues daily recognize the importance of our calling. The development of the African-American community will never succeed without the development of Africa. The AAUC is positioning itself to be an important part of this success.

Stanley Straughter
AAUC Coordinator



NEWS

AAUC News & Events

AAUC TO CONVENE 2007 LEONARD H. ROBINSON, JR. LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The AAUC successfully convened its second annual leadership retreat on April 19-21, 2007 in Potomac, MD. Named in the honor of the late Leonard H. Robinson, Jr., the theme of this year's retreat was "*Establishing a Strategic Agenda for the AAUC: Africa Driven, Africa Focused.*" Over 40 AAUC Members participated in a structured program to help shape and refine the objectives, goals, and strategic initiatives of the AAUC.

AU ESTABLISHES U.S. MISSION

The African Union has established a permanent representative mission in the U.S., to be located in Washington, DC. The mandate of this Mission will be to develop, maintain, undertake resource mobilization and consolidate constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and Africans in the Diaspora, the Bretton Woods Institutions as well as with the Government of the United States of America through marketing of the African Union. For more information, visit www.africa-union.org.

DR. ELSIE SCOTT NAMED NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CBCF

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) has named Dr. Elsie L. Scott as its new President and CEO. Dr. Scott joined the CBCF in October 2005 as its Vice President of Research and Programs and since July 2006 has served as the Foundation's interim President and CEO. For more information, visit www.cbcbf.org.

CFA TO CONVENE 2007 RONALD H. BROWN AFRICAN AFFAIRS SERIES, SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 2, 2007

CFA will partner with the new Washington, DC Office of the African Union to organize the 2007 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. The theme will be, "*Work-*

ing with the African Union to Build Diaspora Links," and will focus on how the African Diaspora can participate and support the AU's Sixth Region initiative. For more information, contact David Saunders on 202-371-0588.

GHANA TO HOST THE SIXTH AGOA FORUM

Ghana will host the sixth African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum on July 17-19, 2007 in Accra. AGOA was signed into law as part of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 on July 18, 2000 to promote economic development and expedite integrating African economies into the world trading system. AGOA provides a framework for government-to-government, private sector, and civil society to work together to build trade and investment capacity and to expand business linkages. For more information, visit www.ustr.gov or www.agoa.gov.

AAUC Initiatives Update

☛ NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

The objective of the next Generation of Leaders Initiative is to mentor and create opportunities for the next generation of African-Americans and Africans who are inclined to pursue careers in Africa-related fields. This process will include peer review, mentoring, and training. Networking activities will be developed to enable next generation leaders to establish linkages with Africa-focused groups, government agencies, and private-sector organizations.

☛ NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON AFRICA

The objective of the National Dialogue on Africa Initiative is to increase and improve the dialogue on U.S.-Africa policy by engaging African-American and African constituencies across America. Discussion roundtables, town hall meetings, and other forums and media events will be convened. Outreach events will take place in targeted U.S. cities and will also serve to introduce AAUC and its members. This initiative will build on the success of CFA's Town Hall Meetings.

NEWS

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The initial AAUC Leadership Retreat was convened in February, 2006. The second annual retreat, named in the honor of the late Leonard H. Robinson, Jr., was convened on April 19-21, 2007. The primary purpose of the retreat is to further enhance and strengthen the AAUC's purpose by implementing lessons learned, best practices, and next steps to refine the AAUC's objectives, goals, strategies, and methods of evaluating performance.

SECRETARIAT CAPACITY-BUILDING

For sustainability, the AAUC requires an effective Secretariat with the proper infrastructure. The Secretariat will provide program management, program coordination, operating guidelines and procedures, and management and financial systems. The long-term objective is to create a standalone, independent AAUC that will add value to its member organizations through its program activities.

Thoughts on Africa

The AAUC Leadership Retreat was held in Potomac, Maryland on April 19-21, 2007. Renamed the AAUC Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. Leadership Retreat to honor the former founder and CEO of the Africa Society, the theme of this year's event was "*Establishing a Strategic Agenda for the AAUC: Africa Driven, Africa Focused.*" Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. devoted more than thirty years of his adult life working in international affairs with Africa and Asia as regions of specialization. He was the President and CEO of The Africa Society of The National Summit on Africa. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, from 1983-85, where he was responsible for economic and commercial policy and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State from 1990-93, where he was responsible for U.S. policy towards Central and Western Africa. Robinson spent six years as President of the U.S. African Development Foundation and also worked with the US Agency for International Development. He served in the Peace Corps as a volunteer, Associate Director for India and Director of Minority Recruitment for the United States. He was recognized as a tremendous voice of reason on behalf of a robust U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda and a strong advocate of the AAUC. Over 40 AAUC Members participated in a lively, productive three-day session to debate and advance the AAUC agenda. Members reflected on the accomplishments of the AAUC over the previous year, and

established a roadmap for the next twelve months. Individual and organizational experiences were shared and lessons learned incorporated to help shape a dynamic agenda that will help differentiate the AAUC from other organizations and add value to the U.S.-Africa policy dialogue.



Dr. Jendayi Frazer (right) confers with AAUC Member after her remarks.

In addition to the working group sessions, AAUC Members also had the opportunity to hear from a number of distinguished speakers from the public and private sectors. Ambassador Jendayi Frazer, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, U.S. Department of State, addressed AAUC Members and provided insight into U.S.-African policy and priorities for the Bush Administration. Dr. Frazer talked about the accomplishments and major Africa initiatives undertaken by the current Administration, and her thoughts on how U.S.-Africa relations can

be strengthened. Dr. Frazer said, *"I am convinced that free enterprise will ultimately address the issue of poverty in Africa... [U]ltimately, jobs, education, and expectations will prove to be the answer, not emergency aid alone."*



Dr. Benjamin Chavis (4th from left) poses with AAUC Next Generation Members.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, President & CEO of the Hip-Hop Action Network, addressed AAUC Members to inform them of how best to involve and engage the Hip-Hop generation in conversations about Africa, and how the development of Africa is tied to our development as African-Americans. Dr. Chavis said, *"We need to understand and help our youth understand the proper place for Africa in our lives."* In 1993, Dr. Chavis became the youngest person ever to be the Executive Director and CEO of the NAACP. In 1995, as National Director of the Million Man March, Dr. Chavis pulled off arguably one of the largest, most vocal, most effective gatherings of our time.



Ambassador Amina Salum Ali (2nd from left) with (from left to right) Mr. Stanley Straughter, AAUC Coordinator, Ms. Bonnie Jenkins, Ford Foundation Program Director, and Mr. Mel Foote, CEO of the Constituency for Africa.

AAUC Members were also addressed by the Honorable Amina Salum Ali, the African Union's Permanent Representative to the U.S. With the African Union (AU) having recently established its representative mission in



Dr. Jendayi Frazer and Mr. Frank Fountain (center) receive AAUC plaques recognizing their participation in the 2007 AAUC Retreat.



Mr. Frank Fountain (2nd from left) discussing his remarks with (from right to left) Mr. Charles Stephenson, Global AIDS Alliance Board Member, Mr. Stanley Siraughter, AAUC Coordinator, and Judge Mary Terrel, Chairperson of the African Judicial Network.

Washington, DC, Ambassador Ali stressed the need for more engagement and cooperation between the AU and the Diaspora, including specific activities to connect African and African-American youth.

Representing the private sector, Mr. Frank Fountain and C. Payne Lucas delivered remarks to AAUC Members and shared their thoughts on how the AAUC can help strengthen its Member organizations, and effectively engage the private sector. Mr. Lucas, the founder of Africare – the largest African-American NGO working in Africa – urged AAUC Members to establish its strategic agenda and to secure resources to help strengthen the AAUC and its Member organizations. Mr. Lucas also encouraged the AAUC to prepare now to engage the next U.S. Presidential Administration, *"The time is now... We need to help determine the Africa-related priorities for the next administration and to put forth qualified African-American candidates for inclusion in the next Administration."* Mr. Fountain, Senior Vice President,

DaimlerChrysler Corporation, stressed why African Americans need to be better educated about Africa and the connection between African-Americans and Africans.



Mr. C. Payne Lucas (2nd from right) after addressing AAUC Participants.

Mr. Fountain believes the success of free enterprise will ultimately help determine the future of Africa. Having made his first trip to Africa in 1997, Mr. Fountain shared his experiences working with Africa-focused organizations and encouraged the AAUC to continue to engage the private sector in the U.S. and throughout Africa. The 2007 AAUC Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. Leadership Retreat successfully shaped a new agenda for the AAUC, established goals for the next twelve-month period, and strengthened the organizational and decision-making capacity of the AAUC through the establishment of working committees on AAUC Governance, Policy, and Next Generation issues. A committee on Women's Issues was previously established and has been active throughout the previous year.



AAUC Members participate in a general session.

A comprehensive report on this year's retreat will be released in July, 2007, and the AAUC Strategic Plan is being developed and will be released in the next few months.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2007 LEONARD H. ROBINSON, JR. LEADERSHIP RETREAT

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

Khalil Abdullah
Director, New America Media

Chinua Akukwe
Chairman, Technical Advisory Board
Africa Center for Health and Human Security
George Washington University

Mary Appah
National Academy of Public Administration

Eurica Huggins Axum
Co-founder, African Diaspora Ancestral Commemoration Institute

Louise Bailey
Special Assistant, African Union Mission to the United States

Patricia Baine
Program Director, The Africa Society

Cynthia Ferguson Colas
Director of International Programs,
National Council of Negro Women

Dina Epale
Public Affairs Officer, Action Canada for Population
and Development

Melvin Foote
CEO, Constituency for Africa

Badi Foster
President, Phelps Stokes Fund

Vernice Guthrie-Sullivan
Africa Group, American Bar Association

Luddy Hayden
Manager of International Government Relations, Chevron

Bob Hill
President, American Association of Blacks in Energy

Gloria Herndon
Chairperson, American and African Business
Women's Alliance

Barbara James
Attorney at Law

Bonnie Jenkins
Program Director, The Ford Foundation

Sylvester John
Regional VP for Africa, Students in Free Enterprise

Crispian Kirk
Director of International Affairs,
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Kahlil Kuykendall
International Programs, National Council of Negro Women

Leslie M. Watson Malachi
Consultant/AAUC Facilitator

Angelique Mutombo-Davis
Executive Director, Black Professionals in International Affairs

Claire Nelson
President, Institute of Caribbean Studies

Samuel Nixon, Jr.
Director for Africa, Lott Carey International

Sola Omole
Manager for International Government Relations,
Chevron

Lauri Fitz-Pegado
Principal, The Livingston Group

David J. Saunders
Program Director, Constituency for Africa

Jeannine B. Scott
Senior Vice President, Africare

Gregory Simpkins
Vice President for Policy and Program Development,
The Leon H. Sullivan Foundation

Shirley Rivens Smith
President, U.S.-Africa Sister Cities Foundation

Charles Stephenson
Board Member, Global AIDS Alliance

LaSandra Stratton
Chairperson, Trade Committee,
Black Business Association

Stanley L. Straughter
AAUC Coordinator, and International Foundation
for Education and Self Help

Mary Terrel
Chairperson, African Judicial Network

Marcia Thomas
Executive Director, USA for Africa

Zakiya Uzoma-Wadada
Regional Director, Emancipation Support Committee

Jacques Walker
CEO, Southall Walker International, LLC

Sheila Walker
President, Afrodiaspora, Inc.

Adryan Wallace
Program Officer for Africa,
International Association of Women Judges

Walker Williams
President, Education Africa



AAUC Member Spotlight

Africare works in partnership with African communities to achieve healthy and productive societies. Africare's approach places communities at the center of development activities. Africare believes that only through strong communities can Africa feed itself, appropriately exploit its natural resources, educate, care and protect its children, promote the economic well being of African people and live in peace.

Over the course of its history, Africare has become a leader among private, charitable U.S. organizations assisting Africa. It is the oldest and largest African-American organization in the field. And Africa is Africare's specialty. When founded in 1970, Africare concentrated on helping to alleviate the effects of severe drought in West Africa. By the mid-1970s, Africare had shifted its emphasis to development programs in the areas of food, water, the environment and health — expanding in the late 1980s to include civil-society development and governance.

In the area of health, special achievements have been in child survival, river blindness control, national-level pharmaceutical management and HIV/AIDS prevention at the grassroots. Africare has constructed thousands upon thousands of wells and irrigation systems, bringing safe, reliable water supplies to some of the most isolated, desertified communities in Africa. Food production, food monetization and food security continue to represent major focal points of Africare's work — as does assistance to small-scale entrepreneurs, from edible oil producers throughout Southern Africa to women farmers and women-owned co-ops Africa-wide. To date, Africare has delivered more than \$590 million in assistance — representing 2,000 projects and millions of beneficiaries — to 36 countries Africa-wide. Today, Africare's 150-plus programs reach families and communities in 25 nations in every region of the African continent. In mid-June 2002, C. Payne Lucas retired after 31 years as president of Africare — and Africare welcomed as its third president, Julius E. Coles, a 28-year veteran of the U.S. Agency for International Development, first Director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University and, most recently, Director of the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs at Morehouse College.

For more information, please visit www.aaionline.org.

About the AAUC

Established in 2002, the AAUC is a non-partisan alliance of committed leaders and organizations of African ancestry focused on issues affecting Africa and the African Diaspora. The mission of the AAUC is to marshal human, material, and social capital to enhance the overall sustainable development of African people. Through strategic decision making, the AAUC will initiate and foster actions and forge effective partnerships among public and private entities in Africa and the African Diaspora and impact U.S. foreign policy (Adopted February, 2006). The AAUC is a program of the Constituency for Africa.



AAUC MEMBERS

Africa-America Institute
 Africa Center for Health and Human Security
 Africa Society
 African Judicial Network
 African Union
 Africare
 American and African Business Women's Alliance
 American Association of Blacks in Energy
 Black Business Network
 Black Professionals in International Affairs
 Chevron
 Constituency for Africa
 Education Africa
 Emancipation Committee
 Institute of Caribbean Studies
 Lott Carey International
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
 National Council of Negro Women
 Phelps Stokes Fund
 Students in Free Enterprise
 The Leon H. Sullivan Foundation
 TransAfrica Forum
 USA-Africa
 U.S.-Africa Sister Cities Foundation

In Remembrance...

The inaugural AAUC Newsletter is dedicated to the memory, life, and continued vision of Mr. Leonard H. Robinson, Jr., President and CEO of The Africa Society of The National Summit on Africa; Dr. Philip Rutledge, Professor Emeritus of Public and Environmental Affairs and Political Science at Indiana University, and Senior Fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration; Mr. Stanley Straughter, Jr., son of AAUC Coordinator, Stanley Straughter; Mr. James Foote, Jr., brother of CFA's CEO, Melvin Foote; Ms. Texiera Nash, one of the CFA founders; Mr. Robert Cummings, former Chairman of the Department of African Studies at Howard University; and Ambassador Elliott Skinner, former U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso and Chairman of the Association of Black American Ambassadors.

The AAUC is a program of the Constituency for Africa.

For more information, please contact:

CONSTITUENCY FOR AFRICA

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