

"If One Fails the Community Fails"

THE PUBLICATION OF THE

African American Communication and Collaboration Council (AACCC)

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Selecting the Next MMSD Superintendent

Your Opinion Counts

As a new school year begins, so does the process of selecting the next Superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD). The question of who will be selected will be greatly determined by the desire of our community to seek and obtain input in the vetting of potential candidates.



Therefore, let's begin!

Please access <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22GKTRF5S7J> to view a survey in which you can provide your vision of the characteristics and background of the next MMSD Superintendent.

The results of this survey will be published in the next edition of this newsletter and shared with members of the MMSD Board of Education and Administrators, and the search firm that has been secured to find candidates.

Unsung Hero

Remembering a Fallen Black Pilot on 9/11



This month America marks the 11th anniversary of 9/11, a tragedy that seems as if it only happened a short time ago. As we observe the impact of 9/11 on African Americans who bravely gave their lives for our country, please remember in your prayers Leroy Wilton Homer, Jr., and his family. First Officer Homer was operating the flight that tragically fell in an act of terrorism in Shanksville, PA, on September 11, 2001. Pilot Homer's plane was the 4th attacked that day.

Calendar of Events

[Click here](#) to view the entire AACCC Calendar of Events.

September 2012

4 September
First Day of School - Madison Metropolitan School District

12 September
Mingling, Mentoring and Mama's Treats

15 September
100 Black Men of Madison General Membership Meeting

22 September 2012
4th Annual Black Women's Wellness Day

MISSION

To provide support to positive efforts that are conducted with and on behalf of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin;

To establish mutually beneficial relationships between African American organizations of Greater Madison, Wisconsin; and

The Long Island, New York, native dreamed of flying as a child. He was only 15 years old when he started flight instruction in a Cessna 152. By the time he was 18, Homer had obtained his private pilot's license. That same year, he joined the Air Force and became a second lieutenant. He served in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and later supported efforts in Somalia. During his tenure, Homer was named the 21st Air Force Air Crew Instructor of the Year. Homer achieved the rank of captain before his honorable discharge from active duty in 1995.

For his actions on board Flight 93, Homer received many posthumous awards and citations, including honorary membership in the historic Tuskegee Airmen; the Congress of Racial Equality's (CORE) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award; the SCLC Drum Major for Justice Award; and the Westchester County Trailblazer Award.

Ironically, Homer was depicted by a white actor in the film, *United 93*, the drama that told the story of the passengers and crew, their families on the ground and the flight controllers on the day of the attacks.

Last year, Time magazine published *Beyond 9/11: Portraits of Resilience*, a photo-rich commemorative edition dedicated to 9/11's 10th anniversary. No identifiable African Americans are pictured in its 64 pages.

Homer is survived by his wife, Melodie, and daughter, Laurel. Let's acknowledge and honor LeRoy Homer, Jr., for his outstanding accomplishments and heroic deeds. Let's not permit society to ignore this fallen hero.

Winners in Christ

St. Paul AME Church Wins Bible Bowl

Youth from St. Paul AME Church won the first place trophy for Division I and Division II for the Annual Bible Bowl Competition held at the Milwaukee District during its annual Church School Convention in June of this year at Allen Chapel AME in Rockford, Illinois.

In July, during the 4th Episcopal District's Christian Education Congress, held at Michigan State University, youth from St. Paul AME Church won first place in Division I competition and second place in Division II competition.



The Bible Bowl competition involved youth from various churches in the district, including the group from Madison's St. Paul AME Church (pictured above), who competed by quoting scriptures, completing verses, filling in the blanks, citing where specific verses are found, and identifying true/false statements taken, this year, from the Book of Psalms.

"Not only did they learn God's word, they also developed friendships with other Christian youth," stated St. Paul AME's Superintendent of Christian Education, Saundra Brown. "Our students developed study habits and strategies for learning, strengthened their confidence and poise, and most important, increased their ability to witness more effectively."

Members of the championship team included Destiny Cooper, Dominic Cooper, Dacara Cooper, Nicholas Conklin, Tre'von Walls, and Ciana Looper-Thomas. The teams were coached by Gloria McCarter, Carol Henry and Saundra Brown.

To establish ongoing dialogue concerning common issues of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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4th Annual Black Women's Wellness Day



The 4th Annual Black Women's Wellness Day will be held Saturday, 22 September, from 11:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Urban League of Greater Madison, 222 S. Park Street, Madison, WI 53713.

Black Women's Wellness Day is an annual health summit that endeavors to inform, inspire, and empower women and girls of African descent to build healthy, thriving, wellness-centered lives. Experience life-enhancing information, healthy eating demos, yoga and fitness demonstrations, strategies for healing and overcoming trauma, giveaways and prizes, and delicious catered food!

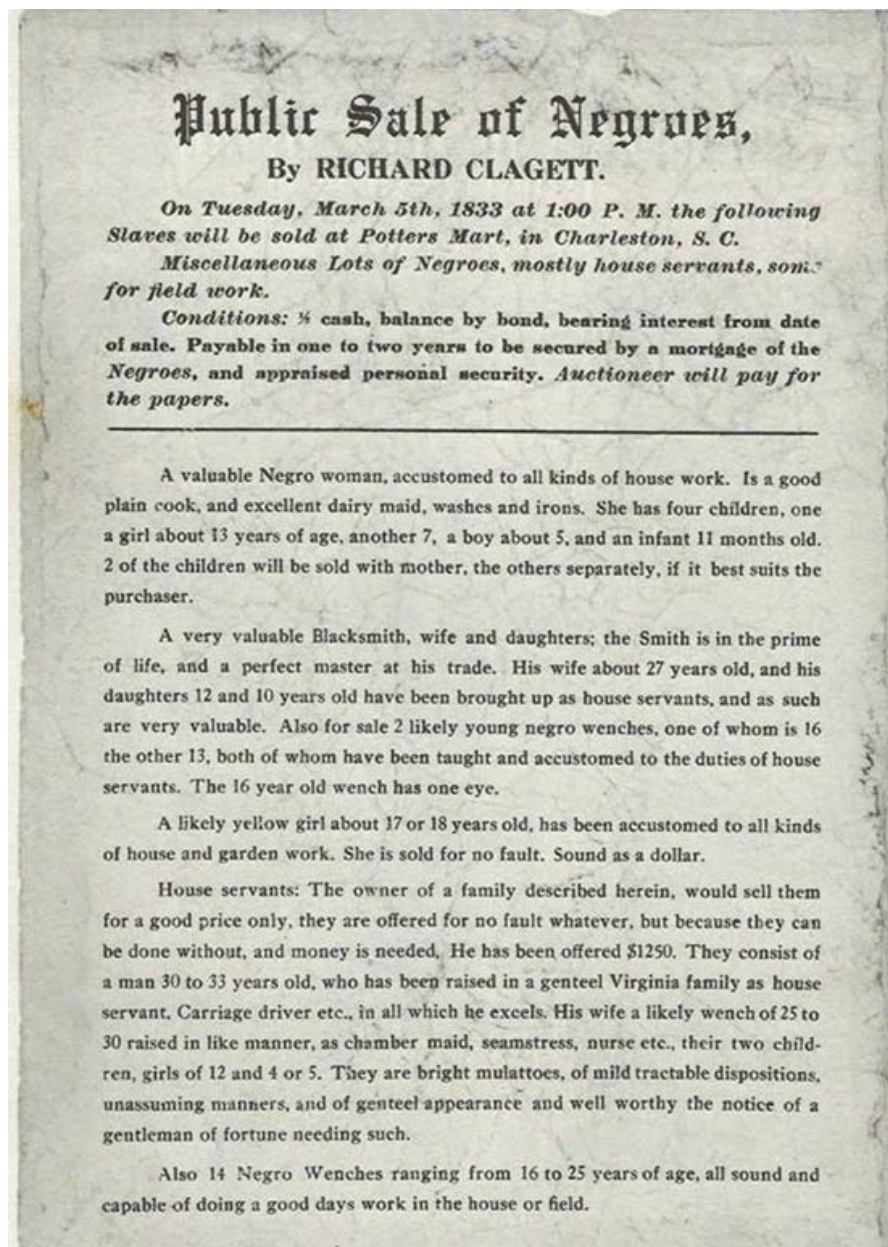
To register, please access <http://bwwday2012.eventbrite.com> or call (301) 741-6774 for more information or to inquire about special discount rates for students, senior citizens, and economically disadvantaged women and girls.

Never Forget

The Freedom to Vote - We Earned It

Our young "folk" have no idea what their ancestors had to bear. There is no excuse for an African American not voting in a public election. We must never forget the price paid by those who came before us.

Note the following:



No breathing African American in the United States today has had to experience the pain of separation or live with the disgrace and humiliation that comes with not being "free." When we allow ourselves to forget our not-so-distant past, we denigrate the efforts of those who came before us.

Voting is not an option but an obligation. **PLEASE VOTE!**

Now Accepting Articles & Photos

We are currently accepting stories and photographs for future issues of "If One Fails the Community Fails." Please submit your stories and event photos for consideration. Submission does not guarantee placement in this publication.

Stories should be 200 words or less and electronic photos should be 300 DPI or better in JPG format (NO SCANNED PHOTOS). Include captions for each photo (who, what, when, and where). Photos without captions WILL NOT be considered.

Submit your stories and photos (with captions) to president@africanamericancommunication.com.