

Central Citizens' Association

"On Tuesday afternoon Nov. 20 1928 the coloured ministers of Windsor and district met at the parsonage of the First Baptist Church 411 Tuscarora St. in response to a suggestion of Rev. Arthur R. James to discuss the general situation of the coloured people of Windsor and district & plan ways & means of betterment." Rev. James outlined the ideas he had concerning the need of fuller co-operation among the ^{ministers} members of the coloured churches and the importance and need of organizing our people as a civic unit in order to protect & develop our interests. "

So reads the opening paragraph - page 1 of the minutes of the Central Citizens Association

A receipt from
organizing for
for the anniversary
Poets

and from this we know the reason for and the facts concerning the birth of the organization. The minutes further state who was present at that meeting. Two of the ministers, Revs. Edwards & Stewart are present this evening. The other two know of this celebration but because of distance are unable to attend. Subsequent meetings were held weekly during which time 16 propositions were drawn up which later became the basis of the constitution. In reading the minutes of Nov. 24-1928, it is interesting to note this sentence, "It was the consensus of opinion that there was always a certain amount of danger to be faced when ministers take the lead in organizations of the kind desired, but under the circumstances it was imperative for the ministers to take the initiative in the hope

that our laymen will eventually realize the importance of giving time and attention to community affairs." At a public meeting held in Baptist Church on April 4-'29 the following people were appointed to draw up the constitution -

Mrs. Rosanna Mc Lowell (chairman)
 Rev. Slater, Mrs. Roland Henderson,
 Mr. P. L. Dunn, Mrs. M. Powell, &
 Mrs. Henry Walker as representatives of social & fraternal organizations.

On May 2-'29 the said constitution was read and accepted by articles but not in full due to an argument on the stand of the organization at election time to candidates seeking office. At the next meeting held on June 6- the question was settled as per constitution. These meetings were all presided over by temporary officers, Rev. F. B. Stewart chairman & Rev. James Secretary. It was not until July 11-'29 that the

following officers were duly elected.

- Pres - Rev. Geo. W. Slater Jr.
- 1st Vice Pres - Mr. Robert L. Dunn
- 2 " " - Mrs. Ada Vincent
- Secretary - Rev. A. R. James
- Assit. Secy - Mrs Rosanna McLowell
- Treasurer - Mr. J. C. Parker
- Sergeant at arms - Mr. Wm. Perry.

Further meetings were held monthly from church to church and at each meeting the membership roll increased to nearly 175.

~~Others who have served as officers are Presidents - Mr. R. L. Dunn - Mr. Morris Mc Shields~~

Next election of officers took place on July 10 - 1930 not in May was pre constitution because of lack of a quorum. - The following officers served. Pres - Mr. R. L. Dunn.

- 1st Vice - Mr. Edmunds
- 2nd Vice - Mrs. C. Munro

Sec - Rosanna Mc Howell

Asst Sec - Morris Deshield

Treas - J. C. Parker.

Sergeant-at-arms - Mr. Chas. Peterson

July - 9 - 31 - duly elected

Pres - Mr. Morris De Shield

Vice - Mrs. Ada Vincent

Secy - Rose Mc Howell

Asst Sec - Chas. Lawson.

Treas - Miss Ann Smith & to the

Advisory Executive Board - Mr. Taylor

Mr. J. Richardson, Mr. J. Evans.

May - 12 - 32 - officers all returned

June 9 - 33 - duly elected

Pres - Mr. C. Lawson

Vice - Mr. Arthur Mc Howell

Rec. Secy - Mrs. R. Mc Howell

Asst Secy - George Talbot

Treas - Mrs. A. Jacobs

Advisory Executive board.

Mr. Taylor, Ethel Christine & Naomi Edmonds.

Other Committees appointed by chair

Ways & Means - Miss Ann Smith
 Mrs. Vivien Hall
 Rev. J. H. Edwards.

Entertainment Mrs. O. Richardson
 Miss J. Lawson
 Mrs. E. Hughes
 Mrs. L. Rock.

Members hip - Rev. Stewart
 Mr. J. Smith
 Mr. F. Edmonds.

Employment Mr. J. Evans
 Rev. Talbot
 Rev. Byrd.
 Mr. Thomas Milburn

Auditing - Mrs. Small
 J. Richardson
 Mr. J. C. Parker

This last named list of officers was the last election held due to the lack of interest of the members. Various reasons, change of address

lack of interest, etc has been the cause of many not filling the positions they were appointed to. There were replaced from time to time until now those serving me. Pres. C. Lawson.

From time to time the following issues have been looked into consult yellow sheet.

The following speakers heard in addresses Mrs. Ada Kelly Whitney
 Senator Popbrough & attorney Cassey
 Mr. Lessing of the Labor Party
 Attorney Evans Detroit Pres. N.A.A.C.P.
 Lawyer Russell Rodd
 Mr. Maxwell Schott
 Mr. Louis Swartz
 Mr. Leach - Lantern slides on Africa
 Mr. McDonald Historian
 Mr. Woodson - Y.M.C.A. Detroit over

Mr Carlton Gaines

Mr. L. C. Blount - N. A. A. C. P.

Rabbi Schulman - Mr. Julian ^{Perry}
Mayor Wigle and others.

Other meetings we had various discussions on problems concerning us such as: Is it Ignorance, Deliberation, Racial Prejudice, social status or inferiority complex that is responsible for the economic status of our group. led by science arts & crafts club.

Current Events, Negro History. are some of the issues discussed at meeting.

In Feb. 1936 - Junior Groups were organized to try to benefit the younger set. Of the 4 groups organized 1 survives with a membership exceeding 50

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Monies raised for dues & memberships
were expended as follows.

Hall rents, typewriter
donation to Red Cross, citizen
Service Commission.