

# FOCAL POINT

Volume 2, Issue 1



The Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Blacks In Criminal Justice



## *From The President's Pen*

Greetings NABCI Family,

During Women's History Month, we heard from two dynamic women having a conversation amongst girlfriends. Thank you to Dr. Wanda Suber and Linda Pringle-Evans. April was Minority Health Month. Two virtual workshops were held during the month. We were able to educate the community on Health Disparities in the African American community and Infant and Maternal Mortality.

Our Dr. Bennett J. Cooper Day of Service in June was a great way to honor Dr. Cooper's 100th birthday and celebrate how far we have come as a chapter. Remember "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth" – Shirley Chisholm

Thank you all for serving in your communities. Our affiliates handed out diapers, diaper bags and baby wipes to deserving women and families in the communities in which they serve. Kudos to all of you.

The 48th Annual NABCI National Conference and Training Institution was held virtually. We had several Ohio members who received awards, honors and presented workshops. Ohio continues to stand TALL and SHINE as the BEST OF THE BEST in the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

The highly anticipated Risk Need – Responsivity (RNR) Framework and the African American Offender Population workshop was held July 22nd and it did not disappoint. The workshop presented by Dr. Joanne Lunceford was well attended and received.

Our Dr. Bennett J. Cooper Golf Outing was another huge success. The event was held on Friday, August 13, 2021 at Kyber Run Golf Course in Johnstown, Ohio. The event was our annual chapter fundraiser and proceeds benefitted deserving students in our communities helping them further their educational endeavors.

Get Ready for the 2021 Annual State Conference. The date has been set for Tuesday, October 26, 2021 from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm. This conference will be held virtually. During this time, we will swear in our new Ohio Chapter administration.

I look forward to seeing you all at our annual conference. Thank you for your continued commitment to NABCI and to the Ohio Chapter. I appreciate your support of the S.O.A.R. administration.

Sincerely,

*Staci G. Freeman*

President

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# Justice Sunday Around the Clock

By: Vernise Robinson

The National Alliance of Faith and Justice partnered with the 400 Years of African American History Commission to bring our supporters *2021 Justice Sunday Around the Clock, a compelling tribute to the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.* As the nation was impacted with the COVID-19 Pandemic, there needed to be a shift in the way that Justice Sunday Service was held. The leadership quickly pivoted and decided to coordinate a 12-hour virtual experience. The theme was “A Charge To Keep We Have To Serve This Present Age” The program was hosted by Mr. Ernie Hudson, who many of you may know from the 80’s movie Ghostbusters.

Each hour had a designated theme, academicians, clergy, poets, politicians and recording artist throughout these United States of America as well as Trinidad contributed to this masterpiece. 3 Ohio NABCJ Members were selected to participate, they are the Rev. Dr. Jermaine D. Covington, Pastor of St. John AME Columbus, Ohio; The Honorable Judge Terri B. Jamison, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division; and Dr. Chenelle A. Jones, Assistant Dean of Community Engagement, and Chair of the Public Safety Programs at Franklin University. President Terri McGee and Immediate Past President Carlyle Holder of the National NABCJ contributed as well.

In 2000, the National Alliance of Faith and Justice, [www.nafj.org](http://www.nafj.org), invited the nation for its first year to join in extending the holiday and service weekend beginning on the Sabbath and continuing through the formal national observance of Justice Sunday, observed on the day before the federal holiday. The observance was so named in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his vocation as a faith leader and drum major for justice. The word “justice” appears in many of the most cherished documents of the United States to include the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Pledge of Allegiance. Each year, NAFJ, municipal, faith, and national partners like the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) continue the tradition of the commemorative weekend to honor the diverse armies of faith, justice, and compassion of all ages, past and present, whose sacrifices continue to illuminate the human spirit and dignity

The 400 Years of African American History Commission Act, signed into law January 8, 2018, established a 15-member commission to coordinate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the English colonies. The Commission’s purpose is to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities throughout the United States that recognize and highlight the resilience and cultural contributions of Africans and African Americans over 400 years; Acknowledges the impact of slavery and laws that enforced racial discrimination on the United States; Encourages civic, patriotic, historical, educational, artistic, religious, and economic organizations to organize and take part in anniversary activities and assists states, localities, and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration and coordinate public scholarly research about the arrival of Africans and their contributions to the United States. Visit our website at [www.400yaahc.gov](http://www.400yaahc.gov).

You can view the program in its entirety at <https://www.400yaahc.gov/justice-sunday-2021/>.

# ***The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice, Ohio Chapter Hosts its 33rd Annual Conference...A Virtual Success***

***By Roni Burkes Trowsdell, Chairman and Keisha Allen, Co-Chairman***

On December 15, 2020, the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice held its 33rd Annual Conference virtually. Over 500 members and friends of NABCIJ from many places to include Ohio, Texas, Virginia, Illinois, Washington, DC, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Belize were in attendance. This one-day event was loaded with great information, dynamic speakers on diverse topics. The Conference began with an opening prayer from Paula Harris, Ohio Chapter Chaplain welcoming remarks by our phenomenal chapter President Staci Freeman and greetings from our national office by President Terri McGee. We were graced with opening remarks from Director Annette Chambers-Smith, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction and Director (ODRC) Ryan Gies, Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS). Dr. Wanda Suber served as the Mistress of Ceremonies and she was excellent at connecting with the speakers and maintaining the flow of the conference.

Director Angela Cornelius Dawson from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health discussed the racism as a public health issue and how social determinants of health impacts incarceration and our community. She challenged the membership to get involved and act. The latter part of the morning focused on a Justice Forum featuring panelist Emilia Sykes State Representative – 34th District, Yolanda Frierson, Bureau Chief – Office of Quality, ODYS, and Donald Christian, Chief Executive Officer – Akron Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs (UMADAOP). Our panelists shared sentiments on our theme of “Improving the Criminal Justice System by Reviewing the 3 R’s – Review, Restructure and Reform. Their discussion focused on the disparities that exist in the minority community and the need for criminal justice reform. These panelists were very knowledgeable, transparent, and informative.

The conference had nine dynamic workshops. Jamar Williams, Founder – Living on Purpose presented a workshop called “Blueprint 101: Building the Foundation of Successful Re-Entry. This workshop focused on the plight of those who are formerly incarcerated and their re-entry into society.

Dr. Zaria Davis, Senior Associate, Advocacy & Community engagement, and Cherise Fanno Burdeen, Executive Partner – Pre-Trial Justice Institute presented a workshop titled “There is No Pretrial Justice Without Racial Justice.” Their workshop focused on the history of racial equity in the pretrial system and how it impacts the current system.

Damon Butts and Eric Harmon, Chaplains – Mansfield Correctional Institution presented on “The roots of Faith: Exploring the Black Christianity identity Amongst the Incarcerated.” This workshop shared information that was both informative and eye-opening concerning religion and our incarcerated population. During the workshop they asked the question “Why do I exist? What is my purpose? And what should I believe.? Questions that I am sure many of us have asked ourselves.

David DeVillers, United States Attorney – Southern district of Ohio presented on United States of America V. Deshuane K. Stewart. The information that Mr. DeVillers provided in this workshop was phenomenal. He spoke about how the Department of Justice approaches mental illness and violent crime. To further explain this topic, he presented on a recent case study involving the murders of

two postal workers by Deshaune K. Stewart a postal employee who was adjudicated “Not Guilty Only by Reason of Insanity.” This five-star workshop was powerful and focused on the tough issue of mental illness.

Charlotte Garnes, Executive Director-RENFORCE presented a workshop titled “Re-Integrating Formerly Incarcerated into the Workforce Successfully.” This workshop focused on how businesses and companies hire formerly incarcerated individuals and the perception of barriers and obstacles to consider in working with formerly incarcerated individuals.

Hope Lane, Public Policy & External Affairs Associate – The Center for Community Solutions introduced us to the landscape and analysis of the intersection between behavioral health and African Americans in the criminal Justice system. Her workshop was titled “Criminalizing Mental Illness: Bad for All, Worse for Blacks.”

Tammi Lampkin, Unit Manager, ODYS, Dr. Lynn Williams, Forensic Psychologist, Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court and Dr. Chris Van Huysee presented an interactive workshop called “Mindful Therapy/Yoga.” This workshop taught us about inner peace and relaxation away from the stress and anxiety of life. Due to our current situation this conference was right on time.

Annette Chambers-Smith, Director ODRC presented a workshop called “Reform Inside Out.” Her workshop included discussion about reform within Ohio’s correctional system and its impact on incarcerated adults, corrections professionals, and the community. It is great to work under the leadership of a Director who understands the importance of reform.

Dr. Zaria Davis, Dr. Noel Vest, and Dr. Stanley Andrisse presented a workshop titled “Ban the Box/ Fair chances in Higher Education: Local Movement Building Strategies and support.” Their workshop focused on building supportive environments for formerly incarcerated students in colleges and universities nationally.

The day concluded with a Justice Forum titled “Reentry Professionals Improving the Criminal Justice System by Reviewing the 3 R’s – Review, Restructure and Reform.” Speakers for this forum were Charlotte Garnes, Yolanda Flournah, Robin turner and Pamela Winn. This workshop should have been televised. The speakers were transparent, passionate, and candid. The information they provided was impactful and necessary for correctional professionals to hear.

The following scholarships were awarded:

The Ohio Chapter of NABCJ awarded two \$1000.00 Dr. Reginald A. Wilkinson Second Chance Scholarships to recipients to Lana Mendis attending Ohio Christian University and Corey Hendricks attending Columbus State Community College. Additionally, The Ohio Chapter of NABCJ awarded three \$500.00 scholarships to Prester Pickett II, Modupeola Sawyer and KeVonn Rayford.

The Cleveland Affiliate awarded \$500.00 to Prester Pickett II, a Sophomore attending Cleveland State University and Modupeola Sawyer, a Junior attending Cuyahoga Community College.

The Columbus Affiliate awarded \$500.00 to KeVonn Rayford, a Freshman at Central State University and \$500.00 to Cheyenne Williams, a Sophomore at Ohio Dominican University.



The Dayton Affiliate awarded \$500.00 to Aniya Montague, a Freshman at Metropolitan Community College.

Mansfield Affiliate awarded \$500.00 to Jayden Price attending Cleveland State University.

President Freeman selected several honorees to receive the following:

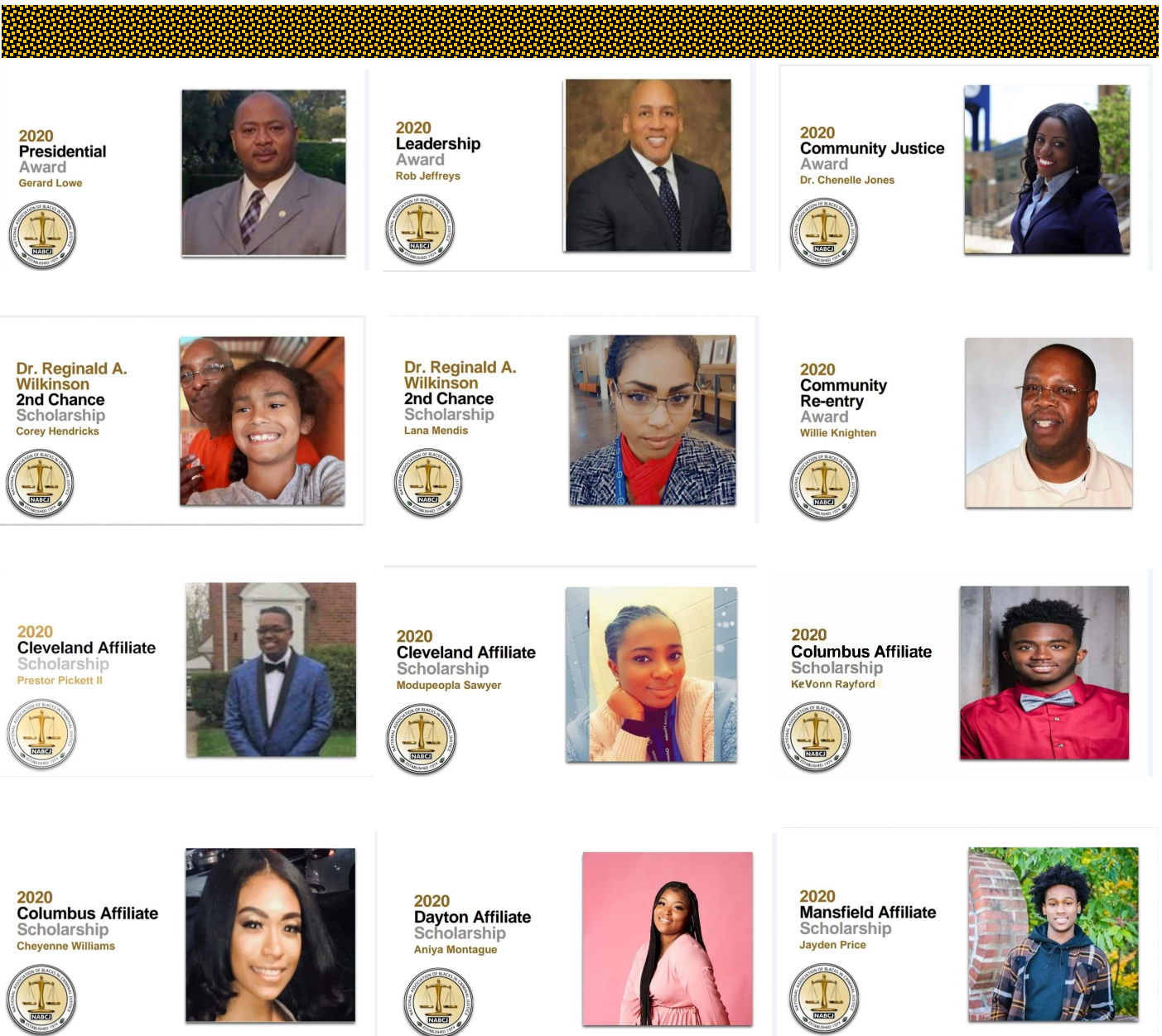
Gerard Lowe received the Presidential Award.

Willie Knighten was honored with the Community Reentry Award.

Rob Jeffreys was selected for the Leadership Award.

Dr. Chenelle Jones was bestowed the Community Justice Award.

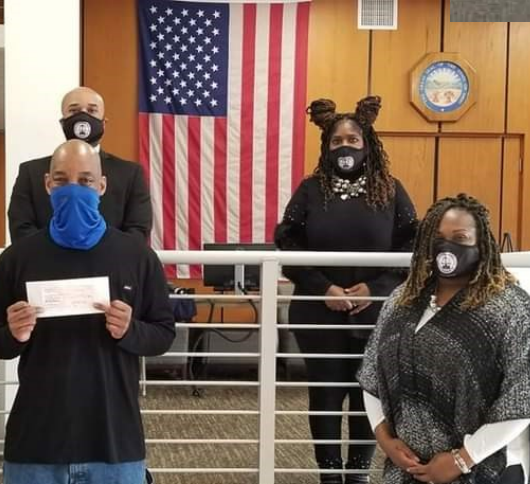
The conference, from beginning to end, was fantastic. Congratulations to the Conference Planning Committee and our Technology Vendor Robert Lyons of Confluence Consulting, Dayton, Ohio on a phenomenal job.





# NABCJ Ohio Chapter

## Scholarship Winners

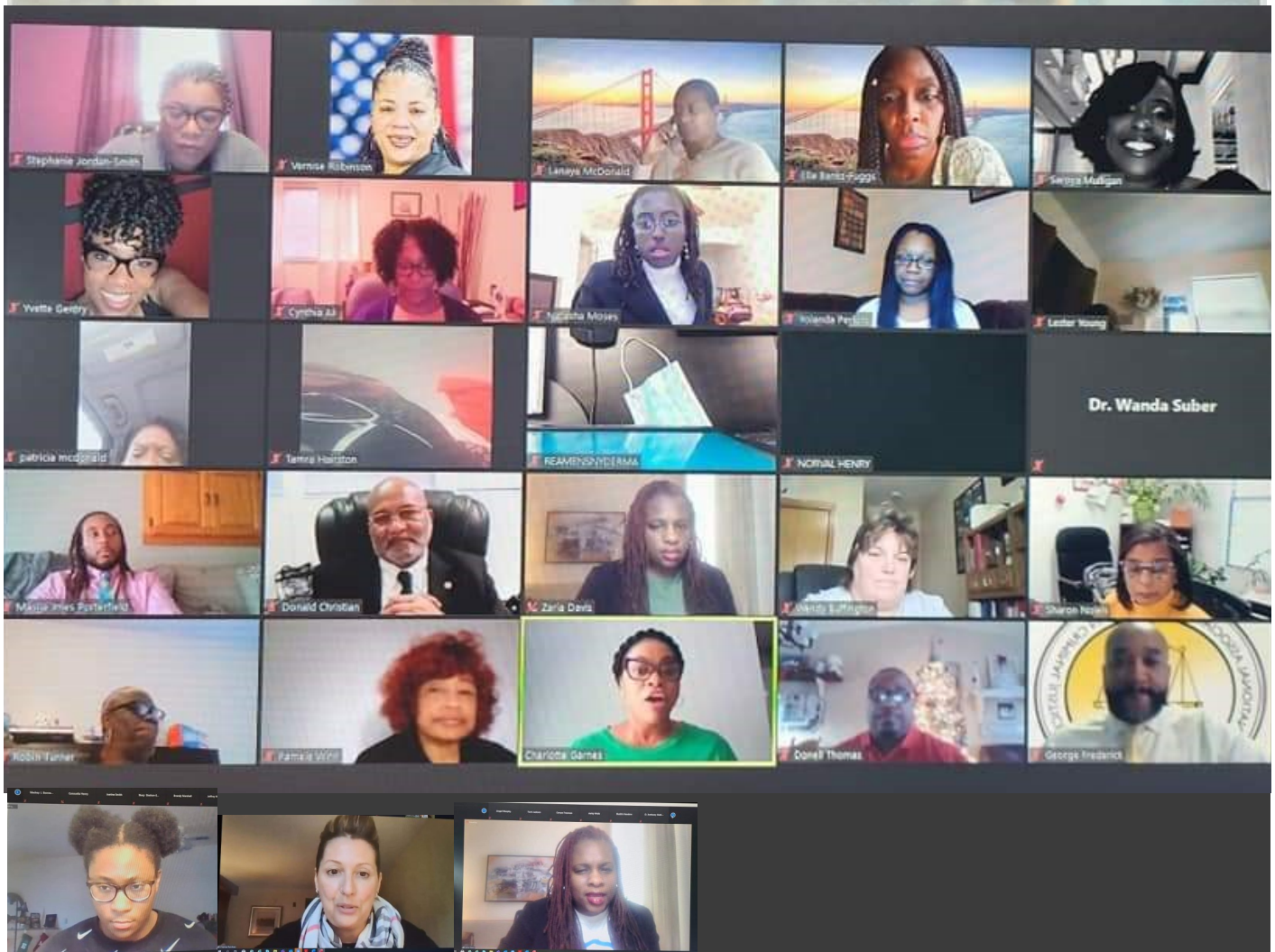






# Welcome to the 33rd Annual NABCI Conference

Improving the Criminal Justice System by Using the Three R's:  
Review, Restructure and Reform



Improving the Criminal Justice System Using the Three R's

Review, Restructure and Reform

# Membership Spotlight



Congratulations to Cleveland Affiliate Member, Destiny Miller on receiving her Masters Degree from Cleveland State University.



Congratulations to Lyneal Wainwright, ODRC 2020 Warden of the Year.



Congratulations to Dr. Chenelle Jones for being named Citizen of the Year by the National Black MBA Association - Columbus.

Also, congratulation on receiving the Wittenberg University, Professional Achievement Award.



Congratulations to Warden Kimberly Clipper who retired from ODRC after 31 years of service.

Also, congratulations on being named the Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility



Congratulations to the Affiliate of the Year – Dayton Affiliate.



Congratulations Jennifer Black on her promotion to Warden at the Lorain Correctional Institution



Congratulations to Chuck Bradley on being recognized by Shiloh Baptist Church in Mansfield, Ohio for his leadership and dedication in the field of corrections.

# Membership Spotlight



Congratulations to Life Member, National Secretary, Ohio Membership Chair and President-Elect Vernise Robinson as she is a recipient of a Presidential Award presented by President Terri McGee of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.

*This award is for appreciation for your commitment, dedication and outstanding service to The National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.*



Congratulations to Sylvia Moseley for the publication of her book, "You Can't Heal What You Hide"



Congratulations to Ruchelle Pride on being named the Director of the Office of Justice Policy & Programs with the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.



Congratulations to Dr. Joanne Lunceford on receiving her doctorate degree from the University of Southern California.



Congratulations to Judge Terri Jamison on being named the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Community Leadership from Franklin University



Congratulations DeAnna Hoskins as she is the recipient of the Medgar Evers Award from the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.



Congratulations to Darryl Hogan on his promotion to Deputy Warden at Madison Correctional Institution



# Membership Spotlight



Congratulations Tammy Fournier-Alsaada as she is the recipient of the Mary Church Terrell Award from the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.



Congratulations Lifetime member Director Chambers-Smith as she is the recipient of the Jonathan Jasper Wright Award from the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice.



Congratulations to Vernise Robinson who received the President's Silver Volunteer Service Award from the National Alliance of Faith and Justice.



Congratulations to Gerard Lowe on being elected as the NABCJ National Vice President



Congratulations to Tracy Tyson Parker who was sworn in as the NABCJ Midwest Regional Representative. She will represent the Ohio Chapter



Congratulations to Charlsie Edmonson on her promotion to Warden's Assistant at the Corrections Reception Center

# Membership Spotlight



Congratulations to Erica Daniel on being installed as Pastor of Bread of Heaven Ministries in Dayton, Ohio.



Congratulations to Life Member Larome Myrick for successfully defending his dissertation from Capella University on "Support, Attachment, and Religiosity as Predictors of Desistance Among Formerly Incarcerated Women".



Congratulations to Lamont Sapp on being assigned as a Chaplain from the National Church Residences class of 2021

## New Life Members

Congratulations to New Life Member Gwendolyn Williams





# CONGRATULATIONS Dayton Affiliate

## 2020 NABCJ Chapter/Affiliate of the Year



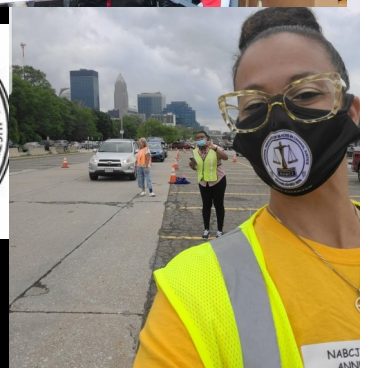
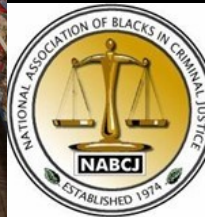
## DAYTON AFFILIATE





# Dr. Bennett J. Cooper Day of Service

June 3, 2021





# NABCJ Workshops/Events

July 22, 2021

“Responsibility (RNR) Framework and the African American Offender Population”

The grid displays 48 video conference thumbnails arranged in 4 rows and 12 columns. The thumbnails show various participants in a virtual meeting. Many thumbnails feature the NABCJ logo, which includes a scale of justice and the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CRIMINAL JUSTICE". Some thumbnails have text overlays like "BLURRY adjust your focus" or "HEALING PTSD". The participants are shown in various settings, some with professional backgrounds and others more casual. The grid is organized into four main sections, each with a 4x6 sub-grid of thumbnails.

Participants visible in the thumbnails include:

- Joanne Lunceford
- Felicity Weathers...
- Cynthia Ali
- Vernise Robinson
- Leslie Gates
- Franklin Buzaki
- Muata Fisher
- Blair Bogner
- Jason Conrad
- Richard Brooks
- Jessica Soileau
- Robert Frazier
- Cindy Wall
- Emily Grieshop
- Nyisha Stewart
- Sy Harris
- Cathy Jo Vanderp...
- Steve Murphy
- Michael Flannery
- monica harvell
- Selma Tumbey
- Stacey Alvarez de ...
- Joanne Lunceford
- Cynthia Ali
- Felicity Weathers...
- Tracy Parker
- Staci Freeman
- Leslie Gates
- Franklin Buzaki
- Muata Fisher
- Blair Bogner
- Richard Brooks
- Robert Frazier
- Emily Grieshop
- Nyisha Stewart
- Sy Harris
- Travis Mathes
- Stephanie Pryor
- Cathy Jo Vanderp...
- Michael Flannery

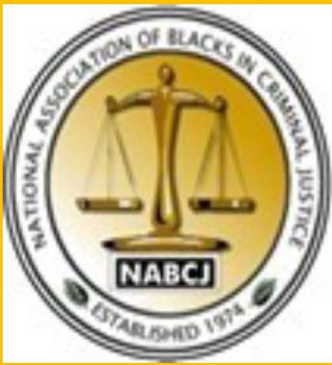


# Dr. Bennett J. Cooper Golf Outing

August 13, 2021







## NABCJ 34th Annual Virtual State Conference

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

8:30am-5:00pm

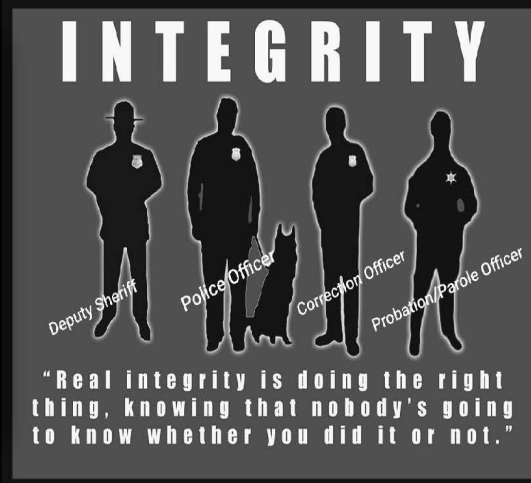
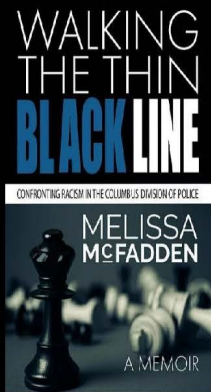
THEME:

NABCJ - Advocating Transparent Justice and Accountability in the Criminal Justice System



KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER:

LT. MELISSA  
MCFADDEN



### JUSTICE FORUMS

Ohio Police Chiefs Panel

The Federal Reentry  
Court Panel & Pip Program

Workshops and Presenters

*This is a FREE VIRTUAL event, click here to [register](#):*

## WORKSHOPS AT A GLANCE

**Workshop Title:** Behavior Intervention, De-escalation, Staff Created Jeopardy

**Presenter(s):** Annette Chambers-Smith, Director, Ohio Department Rehabilitation & Correction and Jocelyn Lowe, Chief Legal Counsel, Ohio Department Job and Family Services

**Description:** There are shifting policies regarding behavioral intervention and this workshop will be an opportunity to hear where Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is, where we are going and why. Questions will be answered so come prepared to dialogue.

**Workshop Title:** Beauty Between the Thorns: The Hidden Goodness in Life's Painful Experiences

**Presenter(s):** Marica Phipps, Founder & CEO Battered Not Broken, Inc & amp: All Good Things Life, LLC

**Description:** True transformation occurs in the process, not the result; transformation is an inside job and transition is the process that gets us there. *Beauty Between the Thorns: The Hidden Goodness in Life's Painful Experiences* is a workshop that introduces attendees on how to embrace the process in order to transform their limiting beliefs tied to adverse or traumatic events.

Marica Phipps, a nationally recognized speaker and survivor for domestic abuse, candidly shares her life-altering, near-fatal experience with domestic violence. In addition to domestic abuse, Ms. Phipps discusses her experience with other traumatic experiences such as loss/grief, depression and addiction.

*Continued on next page*

**Workshop Title:** Moving beyond the bars to reduce recidivism! Let's not look at the "what is"- Let's look at the "what if!"

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Robin Jones, PhD, PMO office, Inc.

**Description:** Let's talk 'what if'. What if an education was given to those waiting to exit the system? What if that education was a vocational training? What if that education was a college degree? What if the education was an industry certification in technology? A program is not effective without a program plan. This workshop will include program guides and materials to roll these programs out to the prisons to meet the needs of halfway houses and other community service centers for our prison population, soon to be citizens within their communities. There will be communications plans, marketing plans, and institutional plans to assist with the development and implementation of this training program.

**Workshop Title:** Addiction, Incarceration, and the Change Process

**Presenter (s):** Lamont Sapp, Regional Recovery Services Administrator, Ohio Mental Health & Addiction Services

**Description:** This presentation will focus on the progression of addictive and criminal behavior, incarceration, the need for treatment and on-going recovery support during and after incarceration. This presentation will be interactive, allowing for the exchange of ideas and information. The presenter will facilitate an environment and conversation that focuses on how to better serve the chemically dependent and criminally involved population, to increase the probability for a successful transition back to the community.

**Workshop Title:** Integrity is the Foundation to Credibility

**Presenter(s):** James A. White Sr., CEO (Lead Trainer) Performance Consulting Services

**Description:** The greatest challenge to our societal stability growth and development is that of structural/ systemic racism. The inability to recognize and understand the impact that behaviors have had on our society is an egregious offense to societal growth, equity, and dignity to the oppressed, the oppressor, and those who are committed to anti-racism. This presentation will create the foundation for advocating transparent justice and accountability in the criminal justice system by creating the foundation for culturally competent service in the execution of the duties and responsibilities of law enforcers. We will unpack the historical mindset of the USA since 1619 and how it has manifested behaviors that has not always been equitable, supportive, and inclusive to all populations, thus validating the need for integrity and credibility.

**Workshop Title:** Gender Differences in Confinement: Effective Engagement with Male and Female Populations

**Presenter(s):** Ramona Wheeler, VP-Support Services/PREA Coordinator, Alvis, Inc.

**Description:** The concept of Mars and Venus in the Workplace provides guidance for effective workplace communication between men and women. When gender differences are understood, communication improves, and positive working relationships increases. This workshop will use real examples in correctional facilities, statistics of sexual abuse in confinement facilities, and benchmarks for combining trauma-informed approach with gender-specific communication techniques when engaging with victims of sexual abuse. This will enable correctional staff to utilize learned concepts in gender-specific communication techniques to have more knowledge and shape their engagement with inmates, accordingly. Attendees will identify communication breakdowns and participate in group exercises to help them to understand this important factor in developing positive rapport and maximizing effectiveness of PREA-related investigations.

**Workshop Title:** Emerging Paradigm for Prison and Reentry Ministry

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Michael Davis, Religious Services, ODRC and Reba Collins, Director, All in Community Initiative, United Methodist Church

**Description:** If we truly believe that God is at work creating anew in the midst of a society impacted by a global pandemic, then what new paradigm for Prison and Reentry Ministry is forming? Join Dr. Mike Davis, Religious Services Administrator for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, and Reba Collins, All In Community Director for the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, as they walk through the emerging collaboration needed to appropriately position chaplains, faith-based partners, community members and justice-involved church ministry servants in a restorative continuum of care where restorative and racial justice are central to ministry. This session will help you expand your efforts beyond a particular place for ministry to a comprehensive approach for ministry rooted in restorative practices for "doing justice."

# FOCAL POINT

The Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Blacks In Criminal Justice

Heather Smith, Editor

Volume 1, Issue 4



***Get In Touch With Us Today***

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