WOMAN'S COLUMBIAN

Auxiliary Association

AIM and PLAN of ACTION,

Constitution and By-Laws.

CHICAGO FEBRUARY 1891.

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013

WOMAN'S COLUMBIAN AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION.

ORGANIZED FEB. 27th—1891

Aims and Plan of Action.

The organization of the Woman's Columbian Auxiliary Association represents the earnest efforts of colored women who desire to secure for the coming World's Exposition the best possible representation of art, science, industry and various achievements of the colored race.

The members of the Association recognize that the best opportunity of the present century will be afforded by the coming World's Fair to give evidence to the world of the capability of the race. After a period of citizenship continuing through a quarter of a century, the race will have the privilege of showing to the world just what it has accomplished since Emancipation and by that showing give promise of what may be expected of it in years to come.

This Association welcomes the opportunity thus offered, firmly believing that the work of the race

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will be a credit to the Exposition and an honor to itself. But one fact it holds to be self-evident, that the race must itself exemplify

THE WORK OF ITS HANDS.

It cannot expect for the American white people to expend their energy and tax their best efforts to help any one class of American citizens; still less can this be expected when we consider that toward the colored race there exists a well defined prejudice which in almost every avenue of action tends to work against us. We must be satisfied if we are allowed a fair field in which to direct our efforts. Being allowed this we shall be glad to unite our interests and work with unflagging zeal and honesty unselfishly to bring to the Exposition the very best possible work of which we are capable. The race must work for itself: we must originate our own plans of action and depend upon no one else to make our exhibit.

How shall this work be done? In what way shall we best direct our efforts to accomplish the purpose desired?

SHALL WE HAVE A SEPARATE EXHIBIT

or shall our work take its place in the departments in which it belongs? Upon this question the Association takes no uncertain stand. We are unalterably

OPPOSED TO A SEPARATE EXHIBIT.

We are American citizens and desire to draw no line that would tend to make us strangers in the land of our birth. We desire to compete in every line of American industry and effort, not as colored citizens but as Americans. We desire, however, that among those who shall win honorable mention for successful work, the colored people shall be well represented. Our aim is to bring to every possible department some work of our hands and let it speak for us more than any boastful words. The ablest minds of our r ce are unmistakably opposed to a separate exhibit. Hon. Frederick Douglass, Minister to Hayti, Ex-Senator Blanche K. Bruce, Ex-Congressman John R. Lynch, Ex-Congressman John M. Langston are all on record as opposing any separate exhibit, but all of the leading minds of our race earnestly desire in some way to secure a full and complete representation of our efforts in all departments of thought and action.

Having this object in view this Association was organized as a corporation under the laws of the State of Illinois. Its constitution and by-laws have been adopted and the work has already begun.

THE SPECIAL AIM OF OUR ASSOCIATION

is to help the Lady Board of Managers in their

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work of securing exhibits for the Exposition. In the prosecution of our duties we propose, however, to embrace every possible opportunity to secure knowledge of our race work and bring to the Exposition authorities every exhibit which stands to the credit of the colored race. It this line we therefore work not only for colored women but for men as well, our aim being to acquire valuable information and use the same for the benefit of the race.

To do this we have established a number of bureaus all of which we have placed in the hands of capable and honest persons whose work will be unselfishly directed for the benefit of the race.

The bureaus now formed are as follows:

BUREAU OF WOMAN'S WORK

whose duty it shall be to promote all kinds of work in which the women of our race may make a creditable display. To encourage them by co-operation and if necessary by furnishing such assistance as they stand in need of.

BUREAU OF MUSIC

whose duty shall be to collect any original music of the race and any data concerning music which has our race characteristics and preserve the same for reference and use.

BUREAU OF ART

whose duty shall be to secure information concerning any and all artistic work done by any and all members of the race and classify the same in reference to states and report as to the condition of art work in the schools of our race.

BUREAU OF CHURCH WORK

whose duty it shall be to report upon the number of denominations of religious thought among the colored people, their membership, clerical and lay, charitable work, hospitals, asylums, missionaries and home school work.

BUREAU OF EDUCATION

whose work shall be to report upon the educational facilities in the several states opened to colored people: the amount appropriated for colored schools when appropriations are made separately, the number of months to the school year, the number of colored teachers employed, the number of colored children who are of school age and the number of scholars in school, to report also the number of schools of higher education under race management, the number of pupils and teachers in the same; also, the number of colored pupils who have graduated from schools of higher education and their standing in their respective classes.

COURTESY OF ONONDAGA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE

the duty of which shall be to investigate the subject of agriculture as the same pertains to our race, to secure information as to the number of farms owned by colored people, the amount of capital invested in agriculture and the actual proceeds of our agricultural work.

BUREAU OF MINING

whose duty it shall be to investigate the mining industry, ascertain the extent of colored labor employed in the same and the total output as a result of that labor.

BUREAU OF SKILLED LABOR

whose work shall be to investigate and report upon the trade industries in which the race is engaged, the number of artisans and apprentices, the amount of remuneration received and the extent of their privileges to enter the same as well as the disadvantages which deter them.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS

whose duty shall be to compile statistics in all lines of industry not included in any of the above bureaus, also to work in conjunction with any of the above bureaus by way of giving or receiving aid in this work.

It is the purpose of this organization in the management of these several bureaus to secure the co-

operation of responsible and zealous members of the race in each state to encourage the forming of similar branch organizations in each state and county and thus extend this work among all colored people of the several states.

With this statement of our aims and purpose we

APPEAL TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR OWN RACE

for co-operation, suggestion and advice. While our work is intended to supplement the labors of the Board of Lady Managers we also hope to do our share as women to develop the energies of our race and create a sentiment of earnest endeavor among all branches of industry for the best representation in the World's Fair. In order that every interested member of the race may have the intelligent understanding of our methods of work, we append a copy of our constitution and by-laws.

The Association earnestly hopes that the movement will meet with the approval of the race in all parts of the country. We suggest that all persons having interest in the cause proceed at once to aid in the development of the plans herein suggested. We suggest that in each city and county of the several states organizations be formed and we submit to such organization our Constitution and By-Laws. We further suggest that

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such organizations organize under the same name and as nearly as possible with the same plans as co-operation in name and plan would tend largely to give strength to the work. We look forward to the time when these organizations in the various states shall form a central body composed of representatives and clothed with power to act as a national body.

In conclusion we invite the critical consideration of all to whom these presents may come and solicit suggestions and advice on all points embraced in this appeal.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

—of—

WOMAN'S COLUMBIAN AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION.

PREAMBLE.

We the undersigned for the purpose of stimulating increased interest among the colored people of the United States in the WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION and contributing so far as we can to a creditable exhibit of the progress of our race, do herein and hereby organize ourselves into an association and pledge our earnest efforts for the accomplishments of the purposes named above.

NAME.

Section 1. The name of the Association here formed shall be the WOMAN'S COLUMBIAN AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION.

CHARTER.

Section 2. Before the election of the officers of this Association and their installation, this above named Association shall procure a charter from the State of Illinois, duly empowering it to transact business as a corporation.

OBJECT.

1st. The object of this Association shall be to awaken an interest throughout the United States among the colored people in the WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

2nd. To organize Associations of a similar name and nature in the several states of the Union for the purposes of this Association.

3rd. To encourage worthy and capable colored persons who may have the ability to prepare exhibits but are financially unable to do so.

4th. To supplement the labors of the Lady Board of Managers by such efforts as we may be peculiarly enabled to make.

MEMBERS.

Section 4. Any woman of good moral character may become a member of this Association by subscribing her name to the By-Laws, avowing her sympathy with the movement and endorsement of plans and by paying such initiation fees as shall by the By-Laws be hereinafter decided upon.

2. The membership of the Association shall also include male officers who shall from time to time be selected by this Association to discharge duties in its By-Laws hereinafter set forth.

OFFICERS.

Section 5. The Officers of this Association shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Marshall, Board of seven Directors and an Advisory Board of seven members.

TERMS OF OFFICE.

Section 6. The terms of office of this Association shall continue one year excepting the first term which will end December 31, 1891.

QUORUM.

Section 7. Ten members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any stated meeting or any special meeting called with one week's notice to the members.

BY-LAWS.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association, preserve order and see that the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws are faithfully observed.

She shall appoint all committees, whose appointment is not otherwise provided for; call such meetings in her discretion under the By-Laws. She shall sign all money orders upon the Treasurer and all documents requiring her signature. She shall decide all questions of debate, and perform such other duties as usually pertain to her office.

Section 2. The Vice-President, in the absence of the President shall preside with the same power; if both are absent, a Chairman pro-tem shall be appointed by the Association.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of all the proceedings of every meeting, and report its action at its next regular meeting. She shall keep in her possession all documents usually belonging to the office of Recording Secretary.

2 The Corresponding Secretary shall have complete and sole control of the correspondence of the Association. She shall receive and file all communication received by the President, make a minute of the same and also of the answer returned to such communications. She shall keep letter file for the systematic arrangement of all correspondence of the Association, and have the same ready for inspection on call of the President and with one day's notice.

3. The Financial Secretary shall have charge of the financial account of the Association, shall keep an exac record of all the fines and dues which may be assessed against any member of the Association, she must give receipt for all moneys paid her, and shall p y all money so received into the hands of the Treasurer, taking receipt therefor and filing it with her permanent record.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all moneys from the hands of the Secretary, giving her receipt for same; keep a strict account of all moneys received by her and give just and true account of all receipts disbursments, and report at each stated meeeting.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Marshal to open and close the place of meeting; to serve all notices on members for money or of other nature; to keep order in the society at the time of meeting, and to take charge of all incidental offices.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to have full control of all the property belonging to the Association; investigate the books of the Secretary and Treasurer every three months, and report the same to the Association in writing.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the Board of Advisers to consider all bills and resolutions passed by the body and to advise the Association upon the proprietys force and effect of all such motion, upon the written request of ten members of the Association, which said request shall be filed with the Secretary at the time of its presentation.

In case the Advisory Board decides adversely to the bills resolutions or motions uponrequest as before set forth then said action shall be referred to the Association for

reconsideration and in order to become of full force and effect it must receive a two-thirds vote of the members present. Notice of reconsideration last mentioned must be given at least one week in advance.

Section 8. The regular business meeting shall convene on the first Monday in each month at 7 p. m. Special meetings at the call of the President

Section 9. Application for membership may be made at any meeting of the Association and acted upon at the time.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Roll call.
2. Reading of the Minutes
3. Reception of New Members
4. Report of Committees.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. New Business.
7. Adjournment.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NY HISTORICAL

OFFICERS.

OF THE W. C. A. ASSOCIATION.

Pres., Mrs. R. D. Boone, V. Pres., Miss Emma D. Lewis
Rec. Sec., A. L. Harvey, Fin. Sec., Mrs. Arthur Wells,
Cor. Sec., Mrs. Lloyd Curl, Treas., Mrs. J. M. Johnson,
Marshall, Mrs. A. C. Booker.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Mrs. J. C. Plummer, Mrs. Julia Williams,
Mrs. Agnes Moody Chairman. Mrs. Sattie McCary,
Mrs. Jennie C. Turner, Mrs. Rebecca Hatton,
Mrs. Gabriella Taylor

ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. R. M. Mitchell Mr. R. E. Moore,
Mr. H. C. Carter Rev. J. L. Thompson,
Dr. D. H. Williams, Mr. F. L. Barnett
Mr. Sol. Taylor.

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