



## Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission

**Earl Ray Tomblin**  
Governor

### Members

Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.  
WVSU, President Emeritus

Dr. Michelle R. Easton  
UC Dean, School of Pharmacy

Rev. Ronald English

Mr. David M. Fryson, Esq.  
WVU, Chief Diversity Officer

Secretary Kay Goodwin  
West Virginia Department of Education  
and the Arts

Ms. Julie C. Palas, J.D.  
Governor's Office of Health  
Enhancement and Lifestyle Planning

Dep. Commissioner Jacqueline A. Protor  
Division of Tourism

Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith  
WV Division of Culture and History

Ms. Sylvia C. Ridgeway  
WV Conference NAACP

Rev. B.J. Roberts  
Kingdom Life Fellowship Church, Pastor

Justice Larry V. Starcher  
Retired

Mrs. Patricia Wilson  
WVSU, Associate Professor

Dr. Anthony T. Woart  
BSC, Professor

Dr. Carolyn L. Stuart, Chair  
HHOMA, Executive Director

Ms. Myisha Robinson  
HHOMA, Administrative Assistant

February 27, 2014

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor  
State Capitol Building  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

Attached is the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission 2014 Annual Report as required pursuant to EXECUTIVE ORDER NO.8-13.

If you require additional information, please contact me at 304.558.3179.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Stuart  
Executive Director

Enclosures: WV Division of Culture & History Budget Statement, Invitation Flyer, 2014 Program Booklet, Daily Mail Article, and The King Center Bell Ringing Event Photo.

Cc: Charlie Lorensen, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
State Capitol Building 1, Room 35  
Charleston, WV 25305  
Phone: (304) 558-3179  
Fax: (304) 558-2722  
[www.wvmlkholidaycommission.org](http://www.wvmlkholidaycommission.org)

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy" (Martin Luther King Jr.)*



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**TO:** Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

**FROM:** Carolyn L. Stuart, Ph.D.  
Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission, Chair

**DATE:** February 27, 2014

**SUBJECT:** 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission Celebration

On November 8, 2013, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin through Executive Order No. 8-13 re-established the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission. The Commission is comprised of 15 members and the Chair. Two resignations were received this year; one cited conflict of interest after being appointed to another board, one cited increased job responsibilities that would hinder meeting attendance, and sadly, one of the longtime members passed away. Membership currently stands at 13 members with ongoing active recruitment.

The Commission is charged with the planning and implementation of West Virginia's celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The Chair of the Commission is Dr. Carolyn L. Stuart who currently serves as the Executive Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs (HHOMA). In accordance with Governor Earl Ray Tomblin's Declare and Order, "The Chair of the Commission may request general assistance from the Division of Culture and History, the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, or both, to further the goals of the Commission, including reasonable staffing, financial and administrative resources, and the use of division-owned facilities. The Division of Culture and History and the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs shall provide reasonable assistance upon request."

In adhering to the Open Governmental Proceedings Act, The Commission held its first meeting on December 2, 2013. Confirmation through the Secretary of State's Office was



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received to hold subsequent meetings every Monday at 3:00 PM through January 6, 2014. This timeframe allowed the Commission a total of five weeks to develop the State's holiday celebration. All decisions made regarding the planning and implementation of the 2014 celebration was done through motions and/ or consensus. A record of each motion is on file in the HHOMA office and can be accessed upon request.

This year's celebration consisted of one day that had four different events. The events included an Ecumenical Service, a march to the Liberty Bell Ringing Ceremony, an Awards Luncheon, and a concert that concluded the day's events. Each of the activities had a children's component. The Appalachian Children's Chorus provided music along with the Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus for the Ecumenical Service and again at the Bell Ringing Service. Students from grades K-12 participated in the Wheeling YWCA Annual "Project on Racism Essay Contest. There were nine winners, and the first place winner in each of the three categories read their winning essay aloud during the luncheon. Additionally, each of the nine winners receives a monetary gift (\$75.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place and \$25.00 for third place). The concert featured two youth groups. The Pan Jammers (steel drums) is a group of young students who reside on Charleston's West Side and Psalm 91 (praise dancers) are from the Beckley, WV area.

The Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission has a website that contains information about previous years' events, and serves to keep the citizens informed about the State's celebration of the holiday. The WV Culture and History maintained the [www.wvmlkholidaycommission.org](http://www.wvmlkholidaycommission.org) website in the past at no cost to the Commission. This year the Department of Education and the Arts requested that the responsibility of maintaining the website be removed from Culture and History. The Commission voted to have WVU oversee the website for a nominal fee. After referring back to the Executive Order requiring that HHOMA and the Division of Culture and History shall provide



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reasonable assistance upon request, the maintenance of the website has been assigned to the HHOMA Administrative Assistant at no cost to the Commission.

The Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission's Chair requested information regarding the \$10,000.00 budget and received the following information from Ms. Heather Jenkins, Director of Administration who reported that the budget appropriation by the state budget bill for FY 2013 was \$10,260.00 ([http://www.budget.wv.gov/approvedbudget/Documents/HB2013 Enrolled.pdf](http://www.budget.wv.gov/approvedbudget/Documents/HB2013%20Enrolled.pdf) as shown on page 143. The 2014 appropriation by the state budget bill was reported to be **\$8,926.00**. The beginning balance as of November 8, 2014 was \$1,334 less than the \$10,260.00 appropriations and can be viewed at [http://www.budget.wv.gov/approvedbudget/Documents/HB2014 Enrolled.pdf](http://www.budget.wv.gov/approvedbudget/Documents/HB2014%20Enrolled.pdf) as shown on page 175.

The expenditures for the January 20, 2014 events are shown below:

- \$ 1,189.00 – Culture Center Staff
  - \$ 1,500.00 – Luncheon (200 @ 10.00 per person = 2,000-500 paid by WVU Diversity Office)
  - \$1,250.00 – (Honorariums, 5@250.00)
    - \$49.97 – (Copy paper for printing programs)
  - \$ 252.00 –Lodging (students traveling more than 100 miles)
  - \$ 580.00 – Awards
  - \$ 200.00 – Asbury United Methodist Church
  - \$1,150.00 – Essay & poster contest awards (450.00/essay awards and 700.00/poster awards. Total for awards was \$825.00 with \$125.00 paid by sponsors, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.).
- TOTAL INVOICE EXPENDITURE: \$6,170.97**





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Marketing –( **in-kind**, Dr. Hazo Carter, Reverend B.J. Roberts WV Division of Tourism, University of Charleston, Department of Education and the Arts, GOHELP, WVU, HHOMA)

\$56.59 – Letterhead (in-kind, HHOMA)

\$27.50 – Flyers, 500 color @ .55 (**in-kind**, HHOMA)

\$ 275.00 – Programs, 500 color @ .55 (**in-kind**, HHOMA)

\$ 400.00 - Culture Center Great Hall (**in-kind**, Division of Culture and History)

\$ 500.00 - Culture Center Theater (**in-kind**, Division of Culture and History)

\$ 200.00 - Culture Center Green Room (**in-kind**, Division of Culture and History)

**TOTAL IN-KIND: \$1,459.09**

**Invoice expenditure total + in-kind total: \$7630.06**

**BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD: \$ 2755.03**

This newly re-established Commission is committed to enhancing cultural opportunities by having a year round presence with the citizens of West Virginia. We would like to invite nationally known West Virginians, as well as other individuals to participate in our State's celebrations in an effort to increase statewide participation in the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission's Commemoration Celebrations. In order to bring the above-referenced individuals to our celebrations, we would have to offer financial assistance (e.g., honorariums, lodging, food, etc.). Additionally, we are planning to have activities throughout the year and not just the one day celebration (e.g., community events to coincide with the Governor's Day to Serve).

One such event would be Juneteenth. It was first celebrated on June 19, 1865 when Blacks in Texas were notified of the Emancipation Proclamation that had been issued two years earlier in 1863. We would like to begin hosting an annual State sponsored Juneteenth Celebration to commemorate some of the rituals that mark the annual celebration of the emancipation of African American slaves.



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The Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission is requesting that the Commission budget be restored to the previous \$10,000.00 level and that \$10,000.00 additional dollars be appropriated to cover the annual Juneteenth event. Adequate funding will help us improve the types of events we will be able to offer and to help improve race relations across the Mountain State.

We are grateful for the re-establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission and for the opportunity to serve our citizens by serving as Commission Members.

Thank you, Governor Tomblin for entrusting us to oversee this Commission. We will do our utmost to be good stewards of the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Stuart, Ph.D.  
Chair

Enclosures: Grant Appropriation Financial Report, Program, Flyer, Charleston Daily Mail article, WV Division of Culture & History email, King Center.org article