



Martin Luther King, Jr.
State Holiday Commission

1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
State Capitol Building 1, Room 35
Charleston, WV 25305

TO: Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

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

DATE: December 31, 2015

SUBJECT: 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission (MLK State Holiday Commission) Commemoration Report

The Commission was originally comprised of 15 members and the Chair. Two resignations were received the first 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. During the second year another member resigned without explanation, and as a result membership currently stands at 11. Subcommittees were formed that includes Program, Awards and Budget Committees. Ongoing active recruitment continues, and several names have been submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration to be named to serve as members of the MLK State Holiday Commission.

The Commission is charged with the planning and implementation of West Virginia's celebration of the MLK holiday. The Chair of the Commission is 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 West Virginia (WV) Division of Culture and History and the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs shall provide reasonable assistance upon request." The Executive Order requires that HHOMA and the Division of Culture and History shall provide reasonable assistance upon request. The WV Department of Education and the Arts, The WV Division of Culture and History and HHOMA work collaboratively to ensure that the Commission can meet the commemoration needs to ensure that West Virginia's celebration is a success.



Meetings are held on the last Monday of each month at 3:00 PM. Meeting dates that fall on holidays will be cancelled. Changes to meeting dates are given to the Secretary of State's Office and does meet the five day notification requirement. Because the MLK holiday commemoration occurs in January the Commission does not meet during the month of January. All decisions made regarding the planning and implementation of the commemoration is done through motions. A record of each motion is on file in the HHOMA office and will be made available for review upon request that is submitted at least 48 hours prior to requested review date.

The 2015 MLK Holiday celebration consisted of a one day event that had three components. An Ecumenical Service, Living the Dream Awards presentation and a march to the Liberty Bell Ringing Ceremony comprise the components of the celebration. A light reception was held immediately following the ecumenical service and awards presentation. The Appalachian Children's Chorus and the Martin Luther King Jr. Male Chorus provided the music for the ecumenical and bell-ringing services. Girl Scout Troop 1853 served as Ushers and Parade Marshalls. Officers from the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department posted the colors and officers from the Charleston Police Department served as the escort and controlled traffic along the March route.

The Commission decided that it would like to have events throughout the year, and not just the one event in January. This year K-12 students from around the state participated in the Black History Month Celebration of Diversity held in the Great Hall of the WV Division of Culture and History in February. Governor Tomblin gave remarks and presented the winners their awards. Music was provided by the Spring Hill Elementary School Choir of Huntington, WV. The Wheeling YWCA Annual "Project on Racism Essay Contest was held in conjunction with the national Stand Against Racism Day event held in the Lower Rotunda of the State Capitol. First place winners from each grade category read their winning essay. Winners received awards in the amount of \$75.00 for first place, \$50.00 for second place and \$25.00 for third place). Music was provided by violinist, Stephen Spottswood, Director of Urban Strings Youth Orchestra, Columbus Ohio.

The HHOMA continues to maintain the MLK website that contains information about previous years' events, and serves to keep the citizens informed about the State's celebration of the holiday. After reviewing, the maintenance of the website is assigned to the HHOMA Administrative Assistant at no cost to the Commission. This year the HHOMA joined Twitter where news about the MLK State Holiday Commission can be found.



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The expenditures for 2015 are shown below:

Beginning Balance: \$11,931.03 (Includes 2014 balance carried forward, grant appropriation and other income from AKA Sorority, Inc. \$250.00)

In-Kind: \$1,776.25

Beginning Balance + In-Kind = \$13,707.28

Total 2015 Expenditures: \$ 12,003.72

\$ 1,000.00 - Ecumenical Program Reception

\$ 750.00 - Black History Poster Contest Reception

\$ 615.00 - Stand Against Racism Essay Contest Reception

\$ 5,577.41 - Marketing & Advertisement

\$ 500.00 - Ecumenical Service Venue (Asbury United Methodist Church)

\$1,607.06 - Awards for Living the Dream, essay & poster contest winners

\$ 178.00 - Lodging (students traveling more than 100 miles)

TOTAL INVOICE EXPENDITURES: \$10,227.47

In Kind:

\$ 167.00- (Honor Roll Plaque - HHOMA)

\$ 750.00 - Unique Productions Catering - (paid through HHOMA for half the cost of the Black History Month Celebration of Diversity Reception)

\$ 209.25 - (Printing by WVSU Printing and paid for through WV Department of Education & the Arts)

\$ 250.00 - Honorarium for Violinist paid through WV Department of Education & the Arts)

\$ 400.00 - Culture Center Great Hall (WV Division of Culture and History)

TOTAL IN-KIND: \$1,776.25

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD: \$ 1,703.56

The Martin Luther King, Jr. State Holiday Commission remains committed to enhancing cultural opportunities by increasing our presence to extend throughout the year. Currently the Commission co-sponsors events that take place in February (Black History Month Celebration of Diversity Poster Contest with the WV Division of Culture and History and AKA Sorority, Inc.), April (Stand Against Racism Day Essay Contest with the YWCA-Wheeling) and October (Minority Business Expo with HHOMA). We also encourage other organizations to share their events with us so that people across the State know what celebrations are taking place in areas near them.

The Commissioners are grateful for the opportunity to serve our citizens by serving as members of the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission. Thank you, Governor Tomblin for entrusting us to oversee this Commission. We will continually strive to do our utmost to be good stewards of the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn L. Stuart, Ph.D.

Enclosures: Grant Appropriation Financial Report, Program, Flyer, Charleston Gazette Mail article