



THE CPAC INFORMER

*Political Issues Impacting the
Caribbean American Diaspora*

Volume 5 Issue 1 Winter 2020

Letter from the Chair

Dear C-PAC Members, Supporters, Well Wishers and Friends.

This year has been challenging. Like most other organizations, C-PAC has had to adapt to the health and safety demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. But, with the support of our members and supporters, we expect to emerge from this period of anxiety stronger and better able to advocate for the political goals of the Caribbean-American community. And, we look forward to connecting with you in person soon. For now, though, know that your Caribbean-American spirit is the foundation on which we stand.

Thanks to the oversight and management of our treasurer, Roy Layne, C-PAC continues to remain in good financial standing with the DC Board of Elections and the Office of Campaign Finance. Our financial reports have been audited routinely, and we are pleased to report that they have never been questioned.

One of our key goals this year and next, is to increase the membership of our 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation Caribbean-Americans who may have overlooked the significance of their Caribbean connections. This is vital if we are to maximize our political potential. Our goal remains to be the political voice of the DMV's Caribbean-American community. Our American born children, grandchildren etc., must be brought into the fold. And we are determined to see that they are.

We continue to address issues of importance to our members and supporters in our monthly C-PAC Chat. This year's issues included immigration; local, state and national voting rights; COVID-related concerns, as well as a variety of regional political matters. And again, this year, during Caribbean-American Heritage month, we acknowledged our DMV Caribbean-American stalwarts, many of whom are C-PAC Founding Patrons. Also, during Black History Month, we highlighted a number of lesser-known Caribbean stalwarts who made significant contributions to the life of America.

C-PAC sees itself as a bridge builder. As such, we continue to reach out to other Caribbean Organizations in our effort to build a culture of trust and collaboration. Several organizations (see below) have accepted our outreach and joined us in planning some of our events, including the second annual Caribbean-American Ecumenical Service. The service was held (virtually) on Sunday, July 28th at St. John's Episcopal Church, under the auspices of the Rector, The Reverend Joseph M. Constant. The Reverend, Canon Dr. Kortright Davis, was our Guest Preacher. He charged us to have C-PAC become a living and life-altering verb! That C-PAC should become not just what we say, but what we do: C = Create; P = Participate; A = Advocate; C = Consecrate.

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Letter from the Chair (continued)

Some of our collaborative partner include:

- The Caribbean Council of Prince George's County;
- Caribbean and African Faith Based Leadership Conference;
- Caribbean American Intercultural Organization;
- Jamaican Nationals Association;
- Montgomery County Caribbean Advisory Group; and;
- St Kitts & Nevis Nationals Association of Washington DC.

We look forward to continuing to build this pool further.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Executive and Advisory board members, and our members and supporters for your support of C-PAC in general, and for me as Chair. I have served as Chair for the past two terms (six years). It has been as challenging as it has been rewarding. And I could not have done it without your active support. Together, I believe, we have made our community politically stronger and more respected. Thank you.

Annual Founding Patron's Luncheon:

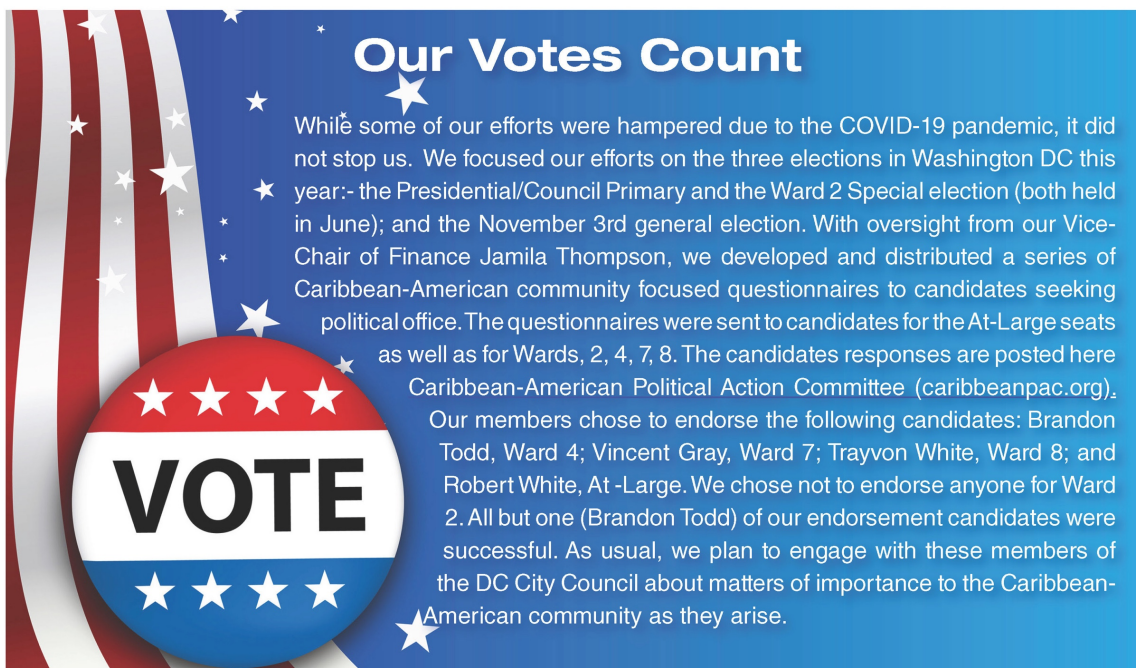
AFRICANS UNITE SUMMIT

Because of the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to cancel our annual Founding Patrons luncheon this year. Instead, C-PAC organized and hosted the *Africans Unite Summit* on October 10th, the scheduled date of the luncheon. The purpose of the summit was to explore how we, Africans, and the African Diaspora worldwide, could unite for the benefit of people of African descent, and in so doing, realize Marcus Garvey's dream. We used this date to mark the 100th

anniversary of Marcus Garvey's bringing together 2500 delegates from Africa and the Africa Diaspora worldwide in 1920, to discuss, "The rights of the Negro Peoples of the World." This first-of its kind event for C-PAC logged almost 500 registrants from across the globe, with almost 400 in attendance.

The Summit was expertly moderated by Dr. Ivan Walks, C-PAC's Advisory Board Chair. Our distinguished panelists were Dr. Julius Garvey, son of Rt. Hon-

orable Marcus Garvey; Dr. Ife Williams, President of the African Heritage Studies Association; Jacob Ali Wetheimer, Social Justice Activist and grandson of boxing great Muhammad Ali; and Dr. Baffour Adjei Bawuah, Ghana's ambassador to the U.S. A "white paper" post-summit, which will be the "Africans Unite" Manifesto is being developed by the Summit leaders. We are pleased to provide the link (https://youtu.be/ptV_9TC3lks) to the Summit video.



Our Votes Count

While some of our efforts were hampered due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not stop us. We focused our efforts on the three elections in Washington DC this year:- the Presidential/Council Primary and the Ward 2 Special election (both held in June); and the November 3rd general election. With oversight from our Vice-Chair of Finance Jamila Thompson, we developed and distributed a series of Caribbean-American community focused questionnaires to candidates seeking political office. The questionnaires were sent to candidates for the At-Large seats as well as for Wards, 2, 4, 7, 8. The candidates responses are posted here [Caribbean-American Political Action Committee \(caribbeanpac.org\)](http://caribbeanpac.org). Our members chose to endorse the following candidates: Brandon Todd, Ward 4; Vincent Gray, Ward 7; Trayvon White, Ward 8; and Robert White, At -Large. We chose not to endorse anyone for Ward 2. All but one (Brandon Todd) of our endorsement candidates were successful. As usual, we plan to engage with these members of the DC City Council about matters of importance to the Caribbean-American community as they arise.

UPDATES

Bylaws Update

One of our most significant accomplishments this year was updating our bylaws. The Bylaws review committee (*Advisory Board Members Dr. Rudolph Douglas, and Attorney Jaye Ann Lowe - Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board; Executive Board Member Jamila Thompson, and C-PAC's Co-Founder Chris Gardiner*) were instrumental in updating the document. Thanks, also to our committed Advisory Board members who joined the Executive Board to discuss and agree on the final product. Visit our website <http://www.caribbeanpac.org/documents/CPAC-Bylaws.pdf> to access the updated bylaws.

Membership Update

As we get ready to begin a new member year. We acknowledge and thank everyone who has renewed their membership, especially those who have decided to become Life members. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so. It is essential especially for the continuance of C-PAC, and if you plan to run for office. Membership renewal is usually

held during our Annual Founding Patrons' Luncheon. Since the Luncheon was not held this year, we encourage those of you who did not get a chance to renew your membership during 2020 to pay both 2020 and 2021 dues ASAP. You must be a paid member for two years to run for office. Renew your membership or become a member here [link](#).

General Elections Update

The Board has voted unanimously to delay the general elections until March 30, 2021 because of the challenges presented by COVID-19. We believe that this is the best way to ensure the integrity of the process. We encourage each eligible member to consider running for office and become involved in the leadership of this dynamic organization. Bring your experience, viewpoint and connections to further build alliances and make a powerful, positive impact for our Caribbean-American community. You can do it! Be on the lookout for election updates. Please email us (at cpac.dmv@gmail.org) if you are interested or have questions.

Marcus Garvey Jr., Dies

As we go to print, we have learned of the passing of Marcus Garvey Jr., the eldest son of the late leader of the Pan-Africanism movement Marcus Mosiah Garvey.

He was 90 years old. He was a distinguished electrical engineer, physicist and mathematician. Garvey served as president of the United Negro Improvement Association which his father founded decades ago. He is survived by his wife Jean Garvey. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Julius Garvey and the rest of his family.

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Share with us some things you would love to see! Have an idea? Send us a message!

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STAY INVOLVED

C-PAC celebrates 15 years this year.
Stay tuned for more information on how you can get involved in our activities this year!

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