From the Fifteenth National Assembly
The Pierians, Incorporated
October 21-24, 2010
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre
Flint, Michigan

“Creative Expressions and Impressions: Past, Present and Future”

- Assembly Gala Ceremony:

  The gala ceremony of the assembly took place Thursday evening and began
  with messages of welcome from local governmental officials and dignitaries
  from the Flint arts community. The artistic program was outstanding and
  showcased the talents of Soprano Sylvia Pittman (Flint chapter), performances
  by dancers from the Creative Expressions Dance Studio, and swing dance
  performances by Pierian Janice Dismond (Flint chapter) and her husband. All
  of the artists were superb, but Pierian Janice and her husband were sublime.

- Plenary Sessions:

  The Plenary session opened with the introduction of the dais and an
  inspirational message. Following greetings by the Flint chapter, Pierian
  Frances Faithful opened the Fifteenth National Assembly.

- Chapters Represented:

  Atlanta
  Baltimore City
  Baltimore County
  Columbia
  Flint
  Montgomery County
  Pittsburgh
  Prince Georges County
  Washington, D.C.

  The Raleigh-Triangle chapter was not represented at the assembly.

- Voting Strength/Delegates:

  Atlanta  7 delegates
  Baltimore  8 delegates
  Baltimore Cnty  6 delegates
  Columbia  8 delegates
  Flint  5 delegates
  Montgomery  4 delegates
  Pittsburgh  6 delegates
  Pr. Georges  7 delegates
  Raleigh  3 delegates (disallowed)
  Washington  3 delegates
TOTAL delegate votes, 57 of which 54 delegate votes allowed.

- Minutes of the Fourteenth Assembly:
  The minutes of the Fourteenth Assembly were distributed and were accepted by common consent. They are available in the Members Only section of the Pierians website.

- President’s Report:
  Frances Faithful presented the report of the National President and highlighted the accomplishments made during her term of office. She stated that we had made tremendous strides in the past 52 years and have matured as an organization. Our success in establishing our Foundation was also highlighted. Committees were applauded for their work, and The Archives Committee in particular, was cited for its efforts. The complete report is available in the Members Only section of the Pierians website.

- Vice President’s Report:
  Veronica Hill presented the report of the National Vice President. Highlights were presented of the manner in which each chapter had implemented the national theme. The complete report is available in the Members Only section of the Pierians website.

- Treasurer’s Report:
  The organization continues to be on solid financial footing and the detailed financial record was distributed to the group. The opening balance within the checking account was reported as $42,963.81. The balance in the certificate of deposit account is $11,585.61. The ending checking balance is stated at $44,246.39. Total Pierian assets are $54,549.42. The complete report is available in the Members Only section of the Pierians website.

- Constitution and Bylaws Report:
  Merlene Adair presented the report. It was noted that recommended bylaw changes had been circulated to chapter presidents at the September 25, 2010 Executive Council Meeting. The changes were approved for final vote during the 15th Assembly in Flint. Bylaw changes were regarding the Pierians Foundation and specified that grants, contributions and dispensing of funds for special projects would be handled by the foundation. Changes affected Article IX, Article X, Article XI, Article XII, Article XIII, and Article XIV. There was one additional bylaw change that was presented. It affected Article II and specified that the two-year term of officers would be temporarily suspended after the 2005 National Assembly to allow officers to serve until the Fourteenth Assembly (50th Anniversary), after which time, the bylaw would revert to two-year terms for officers. This change was voted and approved at the 2005 assembly but was presented at this assembly to ensure that it appeared in the current written national bylaws for our organization. Members voted to ratify the changes approved at the September 25 Executive
Council Meeting. The complete report is available in the Members Only section of the Pierians website.

- National Committee Reports:

  Reports of National Committees are available in the Members Only section of the Pierians website.

- Pierian Interest Groups:

  Currently, the national office is investigating interest groups in Philadelphia and Detroit. Also, it is expected that the Richmond, Virginia chapter will be revived.

- Nominating Committee Report:

  Verna Jackson presented the report of the Nominating Committee and noted the following slate of officers for 2010-2012:
  
  President: Veronica Hill (Prince Georges)
  V.President: Alice Bey (Columbia)
  Rec.Secretary: Cara Walker (Pittsburgh)
  Cor.Secretary: LaNesha DeBardelaben (Flint)
  Fin.Secretary: VACANT
  Treasurer: Linda Woodfolk (Columbia)

  For the Nominating Committee to serve from 2010-2012:
  
  Evelyn Chandler (Columbia)
  Anita Walker (Pittsburgh)
  Mildred Smith (Flint)
  Meta Hairston (Pittsburgh)
  Mary Jane Short (Prince Georges) *Chair
  Peggy Drayton (Baltimore Cnty)
  Verna Jackson (Baltimore)
  Alvanell Thompson (Montgomery Cnty)

  There were several potential nominees for the office of National Financial Secretary but none were eligible to serve for a variety of reasons. The office will be filled at a later time.

  The slate of officers and members of the Nominating Committee were elected by majority vote and will serve until the next assembly.

- Assembly Luncheon:

  The assembly luncheon was very well received and featured a performance by Kendall Reeves (poetry) and a vocal duet by Claudia and Alfreda Duncan. The winner of the Annette C. Johnson Award was announced, and the winner of the National Project Award was announced.

- Annette C. Johnson Award Winner: Barbara Jarvis (Columbia)

- National Projects Award Winner: Jonathan Woody (Vocalist)
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- **Recommendations of the Audit Committee:**

  The Audit Committee reported that it was unable to conduct a complete audit because financial activity from September 30, 2010 until the present was not available. It was decided that accounts must be reconciled by the January Executive Council meeting. It was also noted that the closing date of the reports of the Financial Secretary and of the Treasurer must agree. The committee made the following recommendations:

  1. IRS form 990 must be filed by February 15th of each year. Maryland financial forms must be filed by April 15th of each year.
  2. The National Treasurer and the Financial Secretary must be bonded.
  3. A ten-day deadline is recommended for checks to be deposited after they are received by the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer.
  4. The records of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer must coincide.
  5. Each chapter should secure its own individual EIN number and must submit chapter tax returns annually.
  6. The next administration will direct each chapter president to provide its EIN number to the National Treasurer. The National Treasurer will review each chapter’s name, EIN number and bank account number to ensure that each is distinct from other chapters and from the accounts of the national office.
  7. Complete audits require the most recent bank statement.
  8. Art. II Sect 3F addresses documentation to be used by the National Treasurer. The check register from the bank will be used as the official ledger (omitting 3-column ledger books used in past years).
  9. Each chapter must establish its separate account number, account name and EIN number by December 31, 2010 and will send this information to the National Treasurer.

- **Memorial Service:**

  A Memorial Service for departed Pierians was held on Saturday morning. Chapter photos were taken at that time.

- **Foundation Meeting:**

  The first national assembly of The Pierians Foundation was held on Saturday morning.

- **Saturday Evening Gala:**

  The gala evening event was very creative. The evening began with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at the Mott Warsh Gallery. Dinner was an elegant affair at the Flint Institute of Art. We were surrounded by wonderful art and were treated to the sounds of a jazz ensemble. Dessert was at the Flint Institute of
Music where we enjoyed a wonderful program by Sylvia Pittman and several of her students.

- Closing Session:
  Sunday activities featured the recognition of outgoing officers and committee chairmen, installation of officers and transfer of gavel to the newly elected National Officers. In addition, the National Transition Ceremony took place and was inspiring. Following remarks by the outgoing National President and the newly elected National President, there was an invitation from the Atlanta chapter for the 2012 National Assembly. The National Assembly adjourned at 11am October 24, 2010.

- Assembly Documents:
  All reports and documents of the National Assembly are available on-line through the national website in the Members Only section.