

PRIME MERIDIAN PRIME MERIDIAN

Volume 3, Issue 2: Winter/Spring 2017

“Onward and Upward as We Grow to Higher Heights ”

CHICAGO TOP TEN OF 633

1. The Art Institute of Chicago
2. Millennium Park
3. Cloud Gate
4. Wrigley Field
5. Walking Tours
6. Museum of Science & Ind.
7. The Magnificent Mile
8. 360 Ob. Deck
9. The Field Museum
10. Boat Tours



Greetings Meridianites, Family, and Friends

The Northern Region is excited with anticipation on hosting the Fifty- First Annual National Council of Meridianites Convention and Picnic in Chicago, Illinois at the Midway Marriott Hotel. The theme for the 2017 Convention festivities is: **“Onward and Upward as we Grow to Higher Heights”** Come prepared to experience a successful convention and an enjoyable stay in the **Windy City**.

We look forward to seeing you there.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Ask Ida Jones: 773-430-2742
- Picnic: McCormick Woods (across from Brookfield Zoo) 3051 1st St. Riverside, IL 60546
- NCM 52nd : Atlanta, Here we come!

Note: NCM now a 501 (c) (3): all donations tax deductible

Chicago Marriot Midway

6520 South Cicero Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60638
708-594-5500

Room Rate: \$129.58 ; \$151.58 night with tax

TICKETS: Member - \$85.00
.. Non-member: \$95.00

Children: \$30/\$35 (M)
\$40/\$45 (Non-member)
4 and under free

Regional Director: Milton Huggins
Asst | Director: Ida M. Jones

NCM 2nd VP Brings Red Tails to Meridian



The Wechsler Foundation with Mable Oatis, NCM 2nd V P, JoAnn Hooper, and other Meridianites brought to Meridian the Red Tail Traveling Exhibit and P51c Mustang that highlights the courage and determination of the Tuskegee Airmen who overcame obstacles and became pilots during WWII. The Wechsler Foundation's mission was to urge students to rise above as the Tuskegee Airmen did and to:

SAVE WECHSLER AND PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE.



The Eastern Region / Metro-Atlanta Chapter of the Nat. Council of Meridianites, Inc.

The NCM, Inc.® has matured into an organization that gives Meridianites the opportunity to reunite with their families, renew old friendships or make new ones, and provide educational support to future generations of Meridianites and their descendants through its Roots Scholarship program.

About Our Organization...

**NATIONAL
COUNCIL OF
MERIDIANITES,
INC.
VALERIA
BURWELL, PRES.**

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We're on the Web!

*See us at:
nationalcouncilof
meridianites.org*

The **National Council of Meridianites, Inc.** (NCM), a 501(c)(3) non-profit, had its beginning in the mid-1960s after several Meridianites (**Steve Jackson, Lessie Hill Cole, Lucile Kennedy Jackson, Curtis Cole, Clarice May Thomas, Annie B. Kennedy Horton**) reunited at the funeral of a friend (**Amos Ruffin**) in Detroit. Because the friends had not seen each other in over ten years, they decided to plan more fellowship gatherings. This evolved into the **first picnic of the Meridianites held in 1967 in Detroit, MI.**

At first, the event's location alternated between Detroit, MI and Cleveland, OH. However, as Meridianites residing in

other cities began attending the picnic, they started forming chapters in their own cities. Meridianite chapters are now located throughout the nation which is divided into five regions (**Western, Eastern, Northern, Midwest and Southern.**)

The Convention and Picnic rotates among the regions and returns every five years to the Southern Region with the **Council of Organizations, home chapter** as host.

Roots Scholarships (one for each region) and the **NCM/JSC Foundation Scholarships** are awarded each year. To date NCM/JSC has awarded \$50,000+.

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF
MERIDIANITES, INC.
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Louise Gaddy, 1st VP
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Liaison to the President
Alinda Rush Brown, Chaplain
Irene Wade (d), Immediate
Past President

Chronology

1967: FIRST PICNIC OF THE MERIDIANITES WAS HELD IN DETROIT.
1974: PICNIC RETURNED HOME TO MERIDIAN, MS; 6,000+ ATTEND;
... FEATURED IN THE 1974 OCT *EBONY* MAGAZINE.
1976: RATIFIED CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS;
1980: ESTABLISHED ROOTS SCHOLARSHIP
1996: ESTABLISHED NCM/JSC. FOUNDATION
1998: NCM INCORPORATED
1999: NCM RECEIVED REGISTERED TRADEMARK
2005: KATRINA RELIEF TO MERIDIAN, MS
2014: NCM -- 501 (C) (3)



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