During September 11-14, 2014, the NBDA Senior Citizens Program hosted their 2nd NBDA Black Deaf Senior Citizens Reunion at the beautiful Sea Mist Oceanfront Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The NBDA Board of Directors conducted their business meeting during Friday and Saturday. Attending the business meeting were Benro Ogunyipe and Sharon, co-chairs of the upcoming 2015 NBDA National Conference that will take place in Louisville, KY during August 4-9, 2015.

The reunion committee were: Thomas Samuels (NYC), Director of the NBDA Senior Citizens Program and reunion chair, Jerry Webster (MD), Reunion Treasurer, Cynthia LaCour (LA), Registration Chair, Beth Williams (LA), Registration Assistant, Carlton West (VA), Transportation Chair, Edwin King (VA), Prayer Vigil Coordinator, Andrew Robertson, (MD) Photography, Delores Radford (CA), General Assistant, Jeanette Webster (MD), Hospitality, Glenford and Cynthia Miller (VA), General Assistant.

Free airport/hotel transportation was provided by the NBDA Senior Citizens Program and also for those who didn’t have transportation to Myrtle Beach State Park on Friday for our tradition BBQ cookout and a trip to the Myrtle Beach Boardwalk and Promenade.

An ASL/Deaf Culture session was provided on Thursday for hotel receptions, food services, and administrations. Many attendees were surprise to see some of them use some of the signs that they learned such as ‘hello’, ‘good morning’, ‘your name’, ‘thank you’, and food signs during serving dinner during Saturday evening such as ‘chicken’ and ‘fish’, ‘coffee’, ‘tea’. After the reunion, we received a special message from Sea Mist Resort congratulating us on having a successful reunion and they are looking forward to having us again in the future.
The welcome reception was held in an outdoor area called the ‘Live Oak Deck’, a beautiful tree lined site. The reception opened with a warm welcome from Samuels, reunion chair and Patrick Robinson, NBDA President. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief outline of their background. Edwin King the Prayer Vigil coordinator gave a description of the Prayer Vigil, those who we will honor, and where the Prayer Vigil will be held. Special thanks were given to Celeste Owens-Samuels and others who help create and serve refreshments such as sandwiches, salad, fruits, and a list of various beverages.

Special buffet breakfast coupons were given to those who made room reservation at the Sea Mist Oceanfront Resort under the NBDA special room discount rate that included; bacon, eggs, waffle, pancake, sausage, bagel, muffin, coffee, tea, fruits, and a list of other breakfast items. Also a ‘made to order cook’ was available to prepare Pancake, Waffle, French Toast, Eggs, Omelet the way you request. The cashier and waitresses who provided us with friendly and excellent services were mostly senior citizens.
Waiting for Transportation to Myrtle Beach Park
BBQ Time!!!

Prayer Vigil
12 Years a Slave is a 2013 epic historical drama film and an adaptation of the 1853 slave narrative memoir Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup, a New York State-born free African-American man who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C., in 1841 and sold into slavery. Northup worked on plantations in the state of Louisiana for twelve years before his release. Of the four, Magnolia is nearest to the actual plantation where Northup was held. The film won three Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Supporting Actress for Nyong'o, and the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay for Ridley. The Best Picture win made McQueen the first black producer ever to have received the award and the first black director to have directed a Best Picture winner.

- by Wikipedia
Seniors Open Forum

- A clear definitions of NBDA senior citizens membership and age clarification.
- More quality Workshops for Seniors at NBDA Bi-Annual National Conference.
- Create a list of educational and social activities for the next NBDA Senior Citizens Reunion.

Diner & Entertainment

- The Use of CDI (Deaf Interpreters) at NBDA National Conference.
- Selection the year, month and location for the next NBDA Senior Citizens Reunion.
- Select a coordinator for each reunion activities.

The list of issues that was discussed during the forum will be submitted to the NBDA Board for feedback and recommendation.

DINER MENU

Chicken, Flounder, Macaroni, Mash Potato, Collard Green, Apple Pie, Coffee & Tea.

ENTERTAINMENT

“Aunt Martha and Friends”
Special Thanks for Photography Services

Andrew Robertson

Andrew Robertson is not only a deduction committee member but also volunteers to photograph our reunion. Photography has been a prominent part of his life since he graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology. He is best known for his articulate colorful and black and white pictures that capture the unique spirit his photography work. He is also recognized for taking professional-quality photos of Gala Banquets, Dance Events, Photo Manipulation, and Individual Photography. He has a love for creating amazing images and capturing moments that others appreciate.

Most of the photos from this newsletter as well as other photos that were taken during the 2nd Black Deaf Senior Citizens Reunion can be purchased via the Andrew Robertson Photography website: http://andrew-robertson.smugmug.com/Existing-Pictures-Folders/Old-NBDA-Gallery/NBDA-Senior-Citizens/SC-page. To view a list of photo, type in Andrew’s web site address or cut and paste it. When viewing the main page, click on each of the 3 photos to view all the photos. For more information, you can contact Andrew at: Email: aorleansman@aol.com – VP: 240-292-6800.

Heartfelt Thanks to the Reunion Committee

A barrel of thanks goes to these individuals for their generous donation and contributions.

• Jerry and Jeanette Webster, two of NBDA most loyal and dedicated members for their generous donation of $500.00 to the NBDA Senior Citizens Program to help defray the cost of reunion expenses. Jeanette also personal donated a beautiful designed logo printed bottle holder to each reunion registers.

• Beth Williams who resides in New Orleans and a long time NBDA supporter and active member of NOBDA. She also serve as a committee member of the 2nd NBDA Senior Citizens Reunion. We personal thank her for her voluntarism and generous donation of $100 to the NBDA Senior Citizens Program.

• Dr. Laurene Simms for her contributions her valuable time to provide us with an amazing show; “Aunt Martha and Friends”. She was present with a special award for her services and support that contributed to the success of the reunion.

• Thanks to Harris Communication and Hear More for their contribution of books, pens and written pads and other deaf related materials to all the attendees.

• Last but not least, the NBDA Senior Citizens Program proudly thanks all who attended the 2nd NBDAS Black Deaf Senior Citizens Reunion. Your present, support and contribution help made this event an awesome one!

Please continue to check the NBDA web site (nbda.org) for information on the NBDA Senior Citizens Program’s activities during the 2015 NBDA National Conference in Louisville, KY and other announcements.