

**The Ohio Federation
For Uplift
Among Colored People**

A Wonderful Find

This movement is not only helping the colored people of Ohio to find themselves, but is also helping the white people of Ohio to find the colored people.

ARE YOU WITH US ?

(OFFICIAL BULLETIN)
1918

**THE OHIO FEDERATION FOR UPLIFT AMONG
COLORED PEOPLE**

There is being written on the records of 1918 *Progress, Progress, Progress*, so far as the Colored people of Ohio are concerned.

A Beginning

The Ohio Federation for Uplift Among Colored People was born of a keen realization for the need of larger co-operation between all the Colored people of Ohio and all the White people of Ohio in every phase of activity, touching the needs of Ohio Colored people.

On the twelfth of July, 1917, there met in the auditorium of the Chamber of Commerce, Columbus, Ohio, nearly 700 representative men and women from every section of the state. The primary object of the meeting was to consider the various acute problems brought about by the unprecedented migration of Colored men, women and children from southern states. This conference was attended by White and Colored men and women, whose interest was unquestioned for each person bore his (or her) own expense.

The organization of the Ohio Federation for Uplift Among Colored People was the outcome of the conference. J. Walter Wills of Cleveland was elected President, J. H. Robinson, Cincinnati, Secretary; and A. G. Bookwalter, Cincinnati, Treasurer. There are five standing committees: Research and Statistics, Organization and Publicity, Welfare, Labor and Housing; the Executive Committee, three state lecturers, a State Director and a Special Finance Committee.

Budget and Memberships

At a meeting of the State Executive Committee in the J. G. Schmidlapp Committee rooms, Union Trust Building, Cincinnati, September 11th, three groups of memberships were arranged: Regular Members, 50c per year; Contributing Members, \$5.00 per year and Sustaining Members, any individual or organization who pays more than Five Dollars per year. A budget for the year of \$3,000 was decided upon—this has been voluntarily increased to \$5,000 to meet the exigencies brought on by war conditions.

Memberships are accepted individually, collectively, and through organizations now in existence, or through organizations

established directly by the State Federation. Any Ohio organization having as its object the betterment of humanity may affiliate with the State Body upon application.

All individuals or organizations, members of the State Federation, will receive all information and literature provided by the State Federation. (*Photographic views of all phases of life in Ohio are being secured.*)

State Wide Work

This Federation in no sense seeks to usurp the prerogatives of any other organization, local, state or national. The Federation is essentially co-operative and plays the role of "Booster" in every instance. "Ohio Points the Way," read the headlines in The Cleveland Plain Dealer, when the Federation was formed. That is it. As organization and individuals we believe in Ohio, we believe in the future of the Colored people of Ohio and it is to help direct that future systematically, intelligently and aggressively, that we work together. Recognizing the fact that each community has its individual problems, we also know there is much to be gained by state wide co-operative effort.

The exchange of ideas, the harmony of effort, the inspiration of achievement, the advantages of fellowship and the creating of a larger vision of life, are but few of the things to be gained by being identified with this work.

State Committees

The State Committees are acting upon the needs of their special fields: Research and Statistics, Publicity and Organization, Welfare, Labor and Housing. Special reports of the work of these committees will be issued from time to time. The State work to be accomplished in the various fields as represented by the committees is perfectly obvious to all.

The problems in each community, large and small, are being attacked with an earnestness that brings quick results. The kind of people who are coming from the south, their conditions of living, the people who have always lived in Ohio, and those who have lived here for a number of years; the health of the people, kind of recreation, where Colored people are now employed, where they are living—the class of houses, whether owned or rented, and dozens of other subjects are being investigated and acted upon for the best interests of all concerned.

War and Soldiers

War conditions are constantly bringing new problems to Colored people as well as all others. It is the purpose of The Ohio Federation to back up with patriotic vigor every step on the march of Victory for complete Justice and Democracy.

To this end the Federation is co-operating with the "War Commission on Camp Activities," and other agencies at Camp Sherman, to "provide for the general welfare" of the nearly 5,000 Colored soldiers in training at the camp.

The Federation is co-operating extensively with the Federal Food Administrator for Ohio in the conservation of food.

The Federation is pursuing a campaign of education in behalf of the new United States Thrift Stamps and hopes through this instrumentality to encourage the purchase of \$500,000 worth of Thrift Stamps during 1918.

The Federation is letting it be broadly understood that "Thrift Stamps" in payment for memberships are not only acceptable but desirable.

General Progress in Ohio

The Federation is deeply conscious of its responsibilities and the trust imposed in it. Usually not much is expected of an organization in the first year. It takes about that long to get the "Big Idea" before the people in the right light. While we are getting the people acquainted, we are also accomplishing some real things, and the interest of the public is asked because of present achievements as well as our future possibilities.

Intensive Human Service

It is impossible here to give a detailed account of all local activities in affiliated work. A few concrete instances are mentioned to give a clearer understanding of the scope and purpose of our work. The Negro Civic Welfare Committee of Cincinnati, branch of the Council of Social Agencies, employs a trained full-time Secretary and assistants. The Committee is composed of leading White and Colored men and women.

The Negro Welfare Association of Cleveland, is co-operating with other social agencies, and is using the available equipment in the public schools, has an expert director, experienced workers, permanent headquarters, and aggressive leadership of both races.

The Dayton organization has secured a "Community House" which is admirably located and suitably furnished.

The Sandusky organization has established a department of "Home Guards" where military training and discipline are proving very effective in physical and social development.

The "Migration League" of Portsmouth is one of the most active in the state and shows easily what may be accomplished in smaller communities by co-operation.

A leading manufacturing concern of Middletown furnishes one of the very finest examples of handling every phase of welfare work from housing to recreation. Here is a truly inspiring, concrete demonstration of mutual helpfulness. The consequent standard of efficiency makes the plan worthy of emulation by all manufacturing concerns in Ohio employing Colored people.

The Akron organization has formulated a plan of secret initiation and degrees, which have added considerably to the local interest.

A voluntary district organization has been formed by Dayton, Springfield, Xenia, Urbana, Piqua and Troy. The small group idea of effort is encouraged, and will enable the employment of a permanent worker.

Chillicothe, because of the presence of Camp Sherman, has become a vital center and the Federation is devoting considerable time to this field.

This by no means includes all of the affiliated efforts. The Colored Baptist State Convention in session in Cleveland, last October, for example, endorsed the Federation and pledged united support.

There is quickened interest everywhere in the work of Human Uplift, and whether formally affiliated with the Federation yet or not, our readiness to co-operate is an "open book." *"Ask, and it shall be given."*

Colored People an Asset

It is being realized more and more each day that the Colored People of Ohio are an invaluable asset to the state's material and economic progress. Upon this hypothesis the Federation seeks to encourage the giving a "man's chance" to all who seek to better their condition and the condition of their families.

Whatever openings are made for the Colored men and women in Ohio in the way of employment, this Federation hopes for, and will encourage only the best. Whether as a day laborer, porter, domestic, chauffeur, waiter, skilled mechanic, farmer or any

other line of work, the motto should and must be "Best."

If then, the Colored people work hard they must have an opportunity for healthful recreation, in order that the highest efficiency may be maintained, for, as always, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

The use of Public Schools for social centers, the development of community singing, the teaching of domestic science, and similar useful arts, is creating a spirit of self-helpfulness and good will, that will be more appreciated as time goes on.

The Federation is encouraging a friendly supervision of help between employer and employee. *A new idea and proving very successful.*

The Federation is making a careful study of delinquents and is co-operating with the courts in minimizing this evil.

The Federation is encouraging the establishment of Free Legal Aid Service, to prevent the unscrupulous person from taking advantage of those not informed on legal procedure.

Executive Offices

The State Executive Offices of The Ohio Federation are located at 2529 Central Avenue, Cleveland. The general work of the Federation is managed by a State Director. Memberships are acceptable at any time. *Further information on any subject touched upon in this bulletin will be cheerfully furnished.*

First Annual Conference

The First Annual Conference of The Ohio Federation of Uplift Among Colored People will be held in the city of Cincinnati, Thursday and Friday, July 13th and 14th. A program never before equaled in Ohio, will be carried out.

Finally

It is hoped that every community, and each individual in Ohio will feel a due sense of responsibility in the work and purposes of the Ohio Federation. If you desire information of any kind concerning Ohio Colored people, ask for it. If we write you for information, please be courteous enough to reply to our letters. If an organization in your community wishes to affiliate with us, or if you wish one established, write us. If you are interested as an individual, we will thank you to tell us, today. If you are not informed what amount your community has given, or is expected

to give, on the \$5,000 budget, we will tell you. If you should wish one of the state lecturers, we will send one. We have the "pep" of desire to "do our bit," if you—individually you—will do yours, we will go "over the top" in Ohio, and point the way to the nation. *It's a job worth while. Don't you wish to be a part of it?*

The Ohio Federation for Uplift Among Colored People.

State Executive Offices:

2529 Central Avenue

Cleveland, Ohio

