

2008 – 2009 Program Year

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Dear Members:

What a phenomenal year it has been as we've witnessed history in the making with the Democratic Party's nomination of the first African American for the office of President of the United States of America. Citizens young and old shared, minute by minute, a monumental journey to the White House via e-mail messages, blogs, newspaper clippings, You Tube videos, TV, radio, news and talk shows. They tirelessly worked to register voters, raised funds, attended rallies, chanted Senator Barack Obama's axioms "Yes We Can" and "Change We Need" and ultimately stood in long lines exercising their right to vote in what has been declared the most unprecedented and well organized campaign in the history of Presidential elections. At long last, we sat glued to our TV sets and computer screens on election night with anxious anticipation, momentum building as the results came in and then...a plethora of emotions exploded when it was announced that a country united elected Senator Barack Obama the 44th President of the United States by a landslide. Oh, "Yes We Did!"



How fitting it is that the inauguration will take place the day after we honor the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As the world witnesses President Elect Barack Obama taking the oath of office with our new First Lady Michelle Obama and First Daughters Malia and Sasha at his side, perhaps we will contemplate Dr. King's words, delivered on the same mall, in front of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963, "*I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.*" Dr. King, and our ancestors, will undoubtedly be smiling down as we take part in what most of us thought we would never experience in our lifetimes. It can only be the beginning of many more firsts to come.

Of course, our instincts as historians and genealogists have ignited as we document personal experiences; collect and preserve campaign buttons, rally signs, newspaper clippings, political cartoons and other significant memorabilia for future generations. My pile is certainly growing!

"I'm asking you to believe not just in my ability to bring about change in Washington...I'm asking you to believe in yours."

*President Elect Barack
Obama*