



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### Mission

Mission of **Black Advocates in State Services** is to ensure equal representation of African American in State Services and the community at large, by advocating, training, development, promoting and protecting the interest of all people in the total government process. By participating in policy development that affect educational, economics and employment issues for all California citizens.

***BASS believes equal opportunity employment improves the dynamics of families & communities, one new job at a time one family at a time.***

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*Carl McLaney, BASS SCC President greets current and new members through this new issue of the BASS E-Newsletter. [Read More](#)*

#### Remarkable Women

*March is Women's History Month. Black Advocates in State Services is highlighting notable congressional representatives Shirley Chisholm and Cynthia McKinney. [Read More](#)*

#### When and Where are the BASS Meetings?

*Find out! [Read More](#)*

# Greetings

*By Carl McLaney, BASS SCC President*

As we have just finished celebrating Black History month, it is our honor to recognize Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005) and Former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. These two courageous women made an indelible mark on history in their fight for justice. There is a long and distinguished history of African Americans' courage and achievement in many areas that include the never ending battle for justice. These are the pillars upon which Black Advocates in State Service (**BASS**) was founded in 1975.

Even though the fields of battle may have changed, it is clear that the demands for justice and the need to fight for it are as strong now as ever. Issues related to hiring and promotion opportunities, as well as the statistical probability that African Americans are more likely to suffer harsher disciplinary personnel actions are as prevalent now as some 40 years ago. In addition, African Americans as a percentage of the State of California employee workforce is dwindling and given the climate of racism that is being fostered by newly elected President Trump, the need for BASS advocacy is intense. Our people are suffering at work and in their communities. That is why BASS is excited to host a series of events for African American State employees seeking input and feedback. Our upcoming event is:

**Jazz Mixer & Networking Event**

**2837 36<sup>th</sup> Street (Near Broadway)**

**Sacramento, California 95815**

**Thursday, March 30, 2017**

**5:30pm to 7:30pm**

<http://evite.me/wzwHWvZ5v5>

Come out and join us and meet other professional State employees. Also, stay tuned for a series of upcoming town hall meetings. BASS wants to hear your stories so that we can best determine how we might organize BASS to effectively aid in your efforts for professional and personal success.

We are resilient, we are fighters, we are Black Advocates in State Service! Join Us!

# Remarkable Women

By Lynn Gavin, BASS Secretary

## Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005)

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm (Democrat, U.S. House of Representatives, New York's 12th district, 1969 to 1983) was a former child care teacher who was elected to political office. She was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Her favorite quote was "unbought and unbossed." Congresswoman Chisholm was a pioneer in women's rights, with Gloria Steinem being a former aide to her.



Chisholm was the first African American woman elected to the United States House of Representatives. Upon being elected she was assigned to a committee she did not want to serve on. She immediately demanded to be placed onto another committee and her request was granted.



A force to be reckoned with, Chisholm was truly admired and respected by her constituents, and known for her passionate efforts on their behalf. Some of them such as LL Cool J, Freeway and many other artists would rap about her tremendous work ethic and integrity in their rap songs. She was also known for not being controlled by outside influences that would adversely impact her constituents.

Chisholm also became the first African American woman to run for the Office of President of the United States as a member of a major party.

In her later years Chisholm retired to spend time with her husband. She returned to private sector employment via teaching and public speaking. Former Congresswoman Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm was truly a trailblazer in political office.

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## Cynthia McKinney

Former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, a mother, wife, and doctorate holder whose career choices include high school teacher, university professor, attorney, election to Georgia's House of Representatives and served six terms to the United States House of Representatives: Georgia's 11th district (1993-1997), Georgia's 4<sup>th</sup> district (1997-2003; 2005-2007).



Cynthia McKinney is a renaissance woman. Exposed at an early age to the Civil Rights Movement by her parents, her father Bill McKinney ran for state political office several times. He did not win an election to Georgia's House of Representatives until the passage of the Voting Rights Act that provided federal oversight of the electoral process. Because of the Act's passage, he successfully won a seat in Georgia's House of Representatives.

In 1988 McKinney won her first election to political office. She was elected into Georgia's House



of Representatives. It was a historic moment as Bill McKinney and his daughter Cynthia McKinney were the first father and daughter elected officials to serve simultaneously in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Congresswoman McKinney was confident, assertive, known for being outspoken, a fierce advocate on behalf of her constituents and the moral responsibility owed to every action. She was an outspoken critic of President George W. Bush's Gulf War, the government's response to Hurricane Katrina and other foreign policies (such as military intervention in Libya).

Throughout most of her political career she was a Democrat. However, she changed political parties and became a member of the Green Party. In 2008 Congresswoman McKinney ran for the U.S. Presidency on the Green Party ticket. McKinney has retired from politics but continues her activism for human rights and opposition to military intervention.

# **BASS Meetings**

Join us at our monthly meetings to be apprised of issues related to California state service and communities. Come hear expert speakers and engage in informative discussions regarding issues important to your career and community!

*Dorothy Benjamin, President (Sacramento Chapter)*

## **General Membership Meetings (every third Thursday from 5:30PM to 7:00 PM)**

Location:

1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Room 133

Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

April 20, 2017

May 18, 2017

June 15, 2017

July 20, 2017