

MOCHA SISTERS ORGANIZATION®

MOCHA EXPRESSIONS & INSPIRATIONS NEWSLETTER



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2009 National Conference

By National Office

Plans are well underway for the year 2009 National Conference. This Conference will take place in **Dallas, TX, August 6–9, 2009**. Once again, our ultimate goal is to have informative and thought provoking presentations and educational programs for our attendees. We plan to have well organized workshops, which will take place on Saturday, August 8. Bring your friends to the Empowerment Areas and learn about building wealth, starting your own business, maintaining good health.

Topics for our 2009 Annual National Conference include: Health & Fitness, Personal, Sisterly Relations, Business Image, Business Consulting, "Embracing the Vision" and many more. Dallas' new slogan "Live Large. Think Big." describes the essence and vitality of a city built on big dreams, freshly blazed trails and an attitude that all things are possible. This richly diverse city offers a thriving culinary scene, leading arts district,

National Office Projects

By Ladi Mallam

Members may serve on the National Office Focus Group. What is the National Office Focus Group?

We are looking for interested members that will be assigned to assist with special national events held through out the year. Typical duties may include membership surveys, communication with branches for newsletter assignments, preparing materials for national programs, assisting national board on the newest project, and MSO Intranet. The first task of the National Office Focus Group

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countless luxury accommodations, professional sports, trendy entertainment districts and endless shopping opportunities. For budgeting and travel arrangements, please consider arriving at Dallas Lovefield Airport, which is about ten minutes from the hotel. The conference registration will be \$50 (\$55 after 3/31). Group registration is available at \$40 for ten or more (\$45 after 3/31). The committee continues to work to ensure that this will be an exciting and educational program for you and your friends. Please mark your calendars now and join us for MSO's 3rd Annual National Conference. **Register NOW at www.mochasisters.com/conf/2009** – Don't miss out...

will be to give suggestions and ideas for MSO's new members only website portal! Currently, the website portal (intranet) is being reviewed by the National Board for content. Our goal will be to have this program introduced to members in 2009.

Aside from a limited amount of front-end viewing, the Intranet section of MSO's site will be a members' only system. Individual members can view and update their basic personal details. Members will be able to view in-depth details for

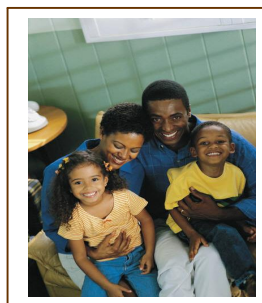
Please see *National Office Projects* on page 4

Family Finance

By National Office

Every family needs to keep track of its finances. Sometimes, as a family grows, this becomes a difficult task. Budgeting, saving, and finding ways to do so are all tasks we must not ignore during the holiday season. A little holiday preparation can save you money on gifts—and more. And who couldn't use a few extra bucks in this economy?

1. Make a list, and check it twice. Did you know that research has proven that people who shop at the grocery store with a list spend between 30% and 40% less than those who don't plan their purchases? **2. Stash away a little extra cash.** Even



And who couldn't use a few extra bucks in this economy?

when you're great at sticking to a holiday shopping budget, often the spirit of the season causes generosity to beat out frugality. **3. Hunt down online deals, especially for big ticket items.** It's unusual these days to find big ticket items like jewelry, computers, or electronics in stores for less than you can buy the same product online.

Branch Spotlight– Houston

By National Office

On September 27, 2008, Mocha Sisters Organization welcomed its newest branch located in Houston, TX. The Houston Branch is currently being led by Crystal Streety. Charter Members include: Angela L., Barbara S., Tassandra A., Crystal S., Luneicia W., Tracee B., Doniell L., Evelyn R., Joslyn C., Kristina H., and Rita H. Newest members are: Franchesca L., Flomara M., Elayne E., Toleda W., and Tiffany W.

Branch Goals

Mocha Sisters Organization Houston Branch will

continue each year to strive to improve the lives of others within our community.

Branch Mission:

To be among women who want to improve the lives of others within our community while promoting sisterhood among women of color in all shades and inspiring women to know their worth, so that we may leave a legacy for the generation to follow.

The Houston Branch is off to a great start. The

Please see *Branch Spotlight* on page 5

“Improve the lives of others within our community while promoting sisterhood.”



*Houston Branch
Sisterhood Social: Movie Night*

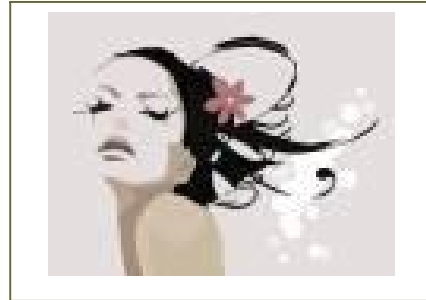
“Fashionably Fierce”

By Melissa Emerson, Frisco Branch

The past 50 years of Ebony Fashion Fair has indeed been a long glamorous journey. As if in honor of Ebony Fashion Fair, designers turned up the glamour on the runways for the 2007/2008 fashion season.

Many of the glamorous looks of seasons past were showcased on the runways of the world in remixed versions to create new trendy glam for today. Color blocking made popular in the seventies gave inspiration to exciting color, rich patchwork, knit dresses and matching coats. The sparkle and shine of the eighties was reflected in fresh new metallic shades of mercury and old gold that highlighted jackets, coats and fancy party dresses.

Designers accented tunic sweaters, daytime skirts and evening gowns with the exotic ornamentation of feathers creating modern looks reminiscent of the



roaring twenties glamour.

Platform shoes and boots are a blast from the past that have remerged to be the must have glam accessory. Glam sleeves are also a stylish point of interest, be they leg of mutton sleeves, billowing bishop sleeves or shaggy fur Rastafarian sleeves.

An intricately craft worked bag of multi-adornments or a large stitched crocheted hat or fur hood will give you that touch of glam you'll need to be in the fashion mix this season. The look is glamour and the trends are glamorous!

Branch Reports Reminder

By National Office

This is a reminder that the MSO branch **Annual Work Plan (FORM 701)** for fiscal year 2009. The Annual Work Plan is developed and approved by the Branch Board of Directors.

In the Annual Work Plan, the Branch leadership projects and plans its year's activities including such functions as fund raisers, educational activities and Branch meetings, and then establishes an appropriate activities budget that will support the work plan.

Please complete this work plan proposal and the attached budget proposal and submit to Mocha Sisters Organization National office on or before October 15th of each year. The National Office has

extended this deadline for January 10, 2009. Please have all reports to the National Office no later than this date.

The following sections of the annual report are mandatory:

1. Top three priorities
2. Educational Activity(s)
3. Fundraiser(s)
4. Branch Meetings
5. Meetings and Recent Activities
6. Upcoming Activities
7. Authorization and Signatures
8. Finalize Report

Please see *Branch Reports Reminder* on page 4

National Projects from page 1

events, online training courses, conferences to come in the near future, and receive periodic membership communication.

MSO's intranet will provide members with a wealth of information to assist each member with day-to-day activities as a member of organization. Members-only section is only accessible to members.

Branch Reports Reminder from page 3

National Policy states that a "branch shall turn in reports to the National Office on or before the deadlines set by the National Office. If branch fails to turn in reports in a timely manner, a written warning will be set out in any kind of communication to the Branch President and Branch Secretary from the National Office.

After one week from written warning, a Branch will be fined \$10 per report. If a Branch fails to report after three (3) consecutive quarters or

Website Portal Phases

Phase 1: Introduction to National Board Members
November 16, 2008

Phase 2: Introduction to National Focus Group
Now – December 15, 2008

Phase 3: Introduction to Branch Presidents
December 16, 2008

Phase 4: Membership Rollout and Intranet Testing
January 10, 2009

finer up to \$100, Mocha Sisters Organization National Board of Directors may suspend a branch.

2 Quick Reminders...

1. Remember fill **FORM 602:** Community Service Report Form for all 4 quarters and return them to Liz Pollard if you have not done so in 2008

Volunteer@MochaSisters.org and copy info@mochasisters.org. 2. Remember to use **FORM 705** when making deposits. If you have any questions on the annual report or the chapter web account, do not hesitate to contact the National Office.

Advertisement

Daphne Ali- Augusta Branch

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www.myspace.com/phirtypheet

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PHirty PHridays (every Friday) 10% off entire purchase. If they use **MOCHA** they will receive an extra 15%. Any other day if they use **MOCHA** they will receive 15% off. I'm going to set this up tonight. PHirty PHeet Free Monthly Shoe Giveaway...

Each month PHirty PHeet will give 1 lucky customer a pair of shoes. Winner will be announced by the 5th of the following month. I.e... the December winner will be announced via website on or before January 5th. The only way they can enter to win is by shopping with PHirty PHeet during the month. The cut off date is by the 28th of each month.

"You'll need to be in the fashion mix this season."

Branch Spotlight from page 2

branch will host its very first signature event, KEYAH (Good Health) Health Fair event scheduled for December 13, 2008. Welcome aboard ladies!!

Health Fair Advertisement:

Healthcare vendors wanted!!

Vendor applications available at request contact Tassandra Allen at TAAllen@mochasisters.com

"Ask an Expert" Breast Cancer Awareness Forum

Saturday, December 13, 2008
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (central)
Living Word Fellowship Church
7350 W TC Jester Blvd
Houston, TX 77088

Mocha Sisters Organization–Houston Branch
P. O. Box 6505
Houston, TX 77265–6505
www.mochasistershouston.org
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*Houston Branch
Meet the National President
September 6, 2008*

Embracing the Vision – LSV Program (Leadership, Signature Events, Volunteerism)

By National Office

What is L.S.V.?

L.S.V. is a Mocha Sisters Organization National Campaign that provides a Branch blue print, for the goals set forth by the National Board for the 2009 calendar year. The goals of the L.S.V program are to establish uniformity of the MSO "vision", develop the branch Leadership, enhance the visibility of MSO Signature events, and Excel in Volunteerism.

Benefits of L. S. V 2008–2009

The L.S.V Campaign will allow each branch to creatively develop,

Signature events and volunteer activities that embody the theme. The L.S.V. program will encourage the full participation of ALL members associated with their consecutive branch, thus forming a bond or connectedness with the Organization. The L.S. V Program will establish a Leaders that Lead mentality that will boost the membership and the quality of membership within MSO. **MOCHA SISTERS ROLE IN L.S.V.**

"How you can be a part of Embracing the MSO Vision. Make a commitment to know why you have joined the Organization. Is it volunteer related?"

"Forming a bond or connectedness with the Organization"



*Embracing the Vision:
Workshop Series
September 27, 2008
Dallas, TX*

Please see *Embracing the Vision* on page 6

Mocha Sisters Organization

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**“The chance of a lifetime
volunteering through
Mocha Sisters”**

We're on the Web!

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www.mochasisters.org

Embracing the Vision from page 5

Purely Social? Business Related?

- Actively serve on Committees that you feel passionate about
- Attend and inquire about various Leadership workshops available within your branch
- Attempt to attend as many Signature and Volunteer events as possible for the 2009 year.

Send us your definition of one of our core values. It could be featured in our program or next newsletter.

Sisterhood.

Knowledge.

Integrity.

Network.

Unity.

Community Service.

The National Office would like to thank Christina Taylor- Dallas Branch President and Melissa Emerson-Frisco Branch for their contribution National Newsletter.
**Join the staff at
news@mochasisters.org.**

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