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## Message from the Interim Chair

Greetings Everyone,

Spring is finally here! I think most of us are looking forward to sunshine and warmer weather.

At our February Commission meeting we featured a panel discussion on equity in education. Commissioner Hardiman served as moderator. Discussion centered on barriers students encounter in receiving equal education; how to reduce racial/ethnic academic achievement gaps; and disparities in treatment/discipline for minority students.



It is important to note that April is Fair Housing Month. As part of recognition of this month, PHRC is launching a video aimed at educating young adults about housing discrimination. Additionally, a housing section has been added to the homepage of the website. There is more information on page 3.

Upcoming PHRC events include holding our annual Partnership Summit on June 19, here at PHRC headquarters.

The June 26, Commission meeting will be held in Pittsburgh at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Homewood Branch. We will be reaching out to the community to encourage the public to come and listen during our informational session. Getting out to our regions is important to the commissioners on it helps them keep in touch with activities that are happening in the regions.

On March 2, I attended the Rally against Hate at Independence Mall in Philadelphia. Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro made very forceful statements condemning the vandalism at the historic Jewish cemetery and other threats against the Jewish community.

I would like to congratulate Diana Medley (Philadelphia) and Lyle Wood (Pittsburgh) for recently being named Regional Directors. Their hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

I would like to commend JoAnn Edwards for being featured in [Business Woman Magazine March 2017](#) edition and for being chosen for the [Harrisburg Area Community College's 2017 Distinguished Alumni Association Award](#), which will be awarded in June at the York HACC Campus.

M. Joel Bolstein, Interim Chair

### PHRC Partnership Summit:

The annual Partnership Summit (formerly known as the HRC Summit) will be held on **Monday, June 19, 2017** at the PHRC Headquarters Building at 333 Market Street, in Harrisburg, in the Heritage Room on the Lobby Level.

This year, we will be discussing issues such as community relations, community policing, service animals and transgender issues. HRC staff and advisory council members are encouraged to attend.

Information and registration will be coming soon!

## Advisory Council News

The PHRC's 10 Advisory Councils (AC) activities include the following:

- Montgomery County AC is holding town hall meetings in other areas throughout the county to provide information on the AC and PHRC.
- York County AC and the York HRC continue to work with community groups to address school and community issues.
- Lebanon/Lancaster/Berks AC at their March meeting toured ELL classes in Lebanon County.
- Centre County AC is working with the local housing authority to co-sponsor a Public Accommodations and Fair Housing Program on April 27.
- Cumberland/Dauphin/Perry AC is continuing to hold committee meetings every other month to address community issues and look for ways to provide support within the community.
- Lehigh Valley AC is working on issues relating to education equity in the Allentown school district.
- Southwestern PA (SWPA) AC is focusing on issues related to education in southwestern Pennsylvania schools.

*The PHRC promotes equal opportunity for all and enforces Pennsylvania's civil rights laws that protect people from unlawful discrimination. It is our vision that all people in Pennsylvania are able to live, work and learn free from unlawful discrimination.*

*Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission  
333 Market Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
717.787.4410 (phone)  
717.214.0584 (fax)  
[phrc@pa.gov](mailto:phrc@pa.gov)  
[www.phrc.state.pa.us](http://www.phrc.state.pa.us)*

### Meetings for Advisory Councils

Johnstown – Cambria County Johnstown SD Admin. Bldg. 1091 Broad St, Johnstown Third Monday of every other month Next meeting: 4/19/17	Monroe County Is reforming and will have more information in the next newsletter.
Blair County Kings Restaurant 3000 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave., Altoona Last Tuesday of each month Next meeting: 4/26/17	Montgomery County Montgomery County Community College 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell Third Thursday of each month Next meeting: 4/19/17
Centre County State College Borough Bldg. S. Allen St., State College Second Wednesday each month Next meeting: 4/12/17	SouthWestPA (Allegheny, Westmoreland and Washington Co) For information contact Jelani Cooper at 717-783-8499 Third Wednesday of each month Next meeting: Date to be determined
Cumberland/Dauphin/Perry Co. 333 Market St., Harrisburg Second Tuesday of each month Next meeting: 5/9/17	York County Crispus Attucks Center 605 S. Duke St., York Third Wednesday of the month Next meeting: 4/19/17
Lebanon/Lancaster/Berks HACC Lebanon Campus 735 Cumberland St. Lebanon Meet every other month Next meeting: 5/18/17	Lehigh Valley Lehigh Valley Charter School 675 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem Third Tuesday of the month Next meeting: 4/18/17

## April is Fair Housing Month

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), state and local agencies and community organizations across the country are recognizing the importance of fair housing for everyone during the month of April in an effort to promote a better understanding of housing discrimination.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission is recognizing Fair Housing Month by launching a campaign aimed to educate young adults about their housing rights and discrimination. The campaign was developed in partnership with HUD.

PHRC's campaign includes a short, two-minute video designed for young adults that is now posted on YouTube. The video promotes the PA Fair Housing Hotline and drives interested individuals to the PHRC website which has updated housing information on the homepage. Commonwealth Media Services developed the video and Harmelin Media is responsible for the promotion of the video. Harmelin will also be providing feedback to the PHRC on the impact of the campaign. To view the video visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVKVGOS28xc>

Additionally, the PHRC is partnering with the Fair Housing Rights Center of Southeast Pennsylvania to provide an educational program on housing discrimination to students in high schools throughout the city.

For information on Fair Housing visit the PHRC website: [www.phrc.pa.gov](http://www.phrc.pa.gov)

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## Fair Housing Training Conference

**SAVE THE DATE!**

PA Human Relations Commission's

**1st Annual**

**Fair Housing Training Conference**

(Sponsored by the US. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

**Wednesday, August 9, 2017**

**7:45 AM – 3:30 PM**

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission Building  
700 S. Eisenhower Blvd. • Middletown, PA 17057

Guest Speakers:  
Sheryll Cashin, Author of "Place, Not Race" Sara Pratt, Esq., Housing Expert

For information, contact [Nokum@pa.gov](mailto:Nokum@pa.gov)

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## PHRC Outreach Activities

The PHRC staff has been busy reaching out to communities with training and education. Here are some highlights:

- In January, Lyle Wood spoke at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit against Racism held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- In February, Heather Roth provided training to the City of Harrisburg and was a guest speaker for a business class at HACC.
- Morgan Williams attended Rep. Dan Miller's Unity Event in Mt. Lebanon in February.
- The Pittsburgh Regional Office Staff participate in the Thomas Ezzera fundraiser for Autism dodgeball tournament in February.
- On February 18, Lyle Wood and Morgan Williams carried out a training session with Bhutanese/Nepalese community representatives along with a member from Governor Wolf's Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs in response to bullying issues occurring in several schools in the South Hills school district.
- JoAnn Edwards and Christina Reese attended a commonwealth agency event recognizing Black History Month on February 21.
- Tameka Hatcher carried out a Fair Housing Five and the Haunted House book reading at Scott School in Harrisburg on February 25.
- Christina Reese attended Sen. Vincent Hughes town meeting held at the Montgomery County Community College on February 27. PHRC information was provided at a booth at the town meeting.
- On March 1, Geoff Biringler joined WITF's Smart Talk to discuss the rash of local bomb threats against Jewish Community Centers and incident at a Philadelphia cemetery. Speakers included Sen. Daylin Leach, Jennifer Ross, CEO of Harrisburg JCC, Nancy Baron-Baer, Executive Director of the Anti-Defamation League of Philadelphia and Rabbi Carl Choper.
- In March, Jelani Cooper participated in the Crisis in Black Education Forum as part of the commonwealth's recognition of Black History Month.
- Jelani Cooper took part in the Community Responders Network Diversity Forum on March 16.
- Tameka Hatcher carried out a Fair Housing Five and the Haunted House book reading at the Carlisle YWCA on March 25.
- Members of the Education and Outreach Division participated in S.P.I.R.I.T programs at Carlisle High School, York Tech, Saucon Valley High School, Harrisburg High School and Plum High School.
- Geoff Biringler and Jelani Cooper participated in the Millersville Colloquium – School to Prison Pipeline.
- PHRC worked with PA Department of Education and Office of Safe Schools to develop an Equity and Inclusion Toolkit for schools that was released this week.



### Things to remember:

- Discrimination questionnaires in Spanish are available on the website.
- Employment discrimination questionnaires can be submitted online.
- Housing information can be found on the PHRC's website homepage.
- PHRC provides training to organizations and businesses on discrimination, diversity, and community policing.
- PHRC can provide brochures and information on discrimination to your organization for fairs or special events.
- If you feel you are a victim of a hate crime, contact your local police or state police office.

If you have questions about discrimination or your civil rights, visit the PHRC website at [www.phrc.pa.gov](http://www.phrc.pa.gov) call one of our three regional offices:

Harrisburg – 717-787-9780  
Philadelphia – 215-560-2496  
Pittsburgh – 412-565-5395



### Fair Housing Month

Through a funding grant from HUD, the PHRC has launched a media campaign featuring a two-minute video with the purpose of driving viewers to the PA Fair Housing Hotline (855-866-5718) and PHRC website.

The campaign's intent is to promote a better understanding of housing discrimination to young adults particularly those who are aging out of the foster system.

To view the video and find information on housing discrimination, visit [www.phrc.pa.gov](http://www.phrc.pa.gov)

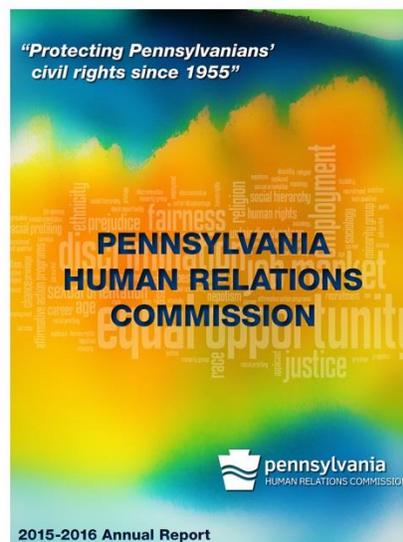
### Now Available!

### PHRC 2015-2016 Annual Report

Find information on outreach activities, legislative activities and yearly statistical update.

You can get your copy by visiting our website:

[www.phrc.pa.gov](http://www.phrc.pa.gov)



## Photo Gallery

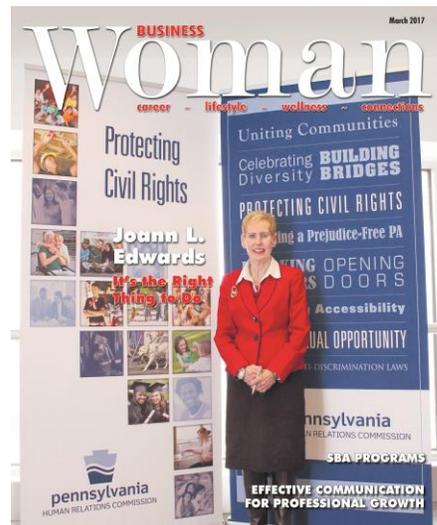
PHRC partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. on MLK Day of Service to provide “A Shower of Love for Seniors” at the Morrison Towers Senior Living Center in Harrisburg. Senior residents were provided a luncheon and personal care items. Games and a movie were also part of the day’s activities.

At the luncheon, Mark Morrison, whose father, Judge Clarence Morrison (for whom Morrison Towers were named after), received a special recognition honoring his father who was also a civil rights advocate.

In the photo to the right:  
L to R – Kathy Morrison, Esq., PHRC Chief Counsel, Kathleen Dormer-Carusone, PHRC Commissioner, JoAnn Edwards, Executive Director, Mark Morrison, Esq., Christina Reese, Communications Director and Tameka Hatcher, Outreach Coordinator.



Geoff Biringer live on WITF’s Smart Talk on March 1



JoAnn Edwards was featured in the March 2017 edition of Business Woman magazine.