

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS (Continued)

CA JOINS FORCES WITH NABVETS TO EDUCATE VETERANS

The Consumer Action Agency (CA) has officially entered into a partnership agreement with NABVETS, creating a national capacity to mutually provide access, manpower, and resources to offer MoneyWi\$e financial educational materials and trainings at various national events that provide a forum on African American and minority veterans' issues.

Consumer Action is a national non-profit education and advocacy organization with offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. For more than three decades, CA has worked diligently to advance consumer literacy and protect consumer rights in many areas, including banking, credit, privacy, insurance healthcare and utilities. The organization actively serves consumers nationwide with non-legal advice through its no cost hotline.

Through its partnership with Capital One, CA's dynamic Outreach staff train the staff of grassroots agencies on the MoneyWi\$e curriculum. Once trained the agencies "play it forward," some with the assistance of a small stipend from Consumer Action use the MoneyWi\$e curriculum to train diverse groups of individuals, including teens, the disabled, immigrants, low-income families, veterans and seniors.

MoneyWi\$e is being successfully used by grassroots agencies across the nation to educate consumers on a variety of topics such as banking basics, money management, saving to build wealth, avoiding trouble with credit, becoming successful homeowners, and starting a micro business. CA will work with NABVETS chapters in targeted areas by telephone, email and in person to assist in implementing the MoneyWi\$e Financial Education Program.

This year, CA and NABVETS are expected to participate in the following events:

- (1) Nat'l Day of Honor - Blacks & Minorities of WWII - Philadelphia, May 23rd;
- (2) NAACP National Convention - New York City, July 11-16th;
- (3) Congressional Black Caucus Conference - Wash. DC, Sept 23-25th;
- (4) National Urban League Conference - Chicago, July 29-Aug 1st;
- (5) Blacks in Government National Conference - Baltimore, Aug 24-28th; and
- (6) National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conf - Wash. DC, May 20-22nd.

Linda Williams will be the primary CA representative assigned to this initiative.

In her position as Community Outreach Manager she has aggressively pursued Consumer Action's mission—to ensure that individuals at all income levels interested in learning their rights as consumers, are reached. The single mother of five one of which is a Sergeant in the United State Marines Corp, notes the importance of providing financial training to military veterans and their families, because all too often they fall victims to sub prime financial products and payday loans.

Joe Wynn, NABVETS' Legislative Liaison and Regional Director for the National Capital Area will be the primary contact for NABVETS. This initiative will also include the Veterans Enterprise Training & Services Group, the NAACP-DC Veterans Affairs Committee, and the Center for Minority Veterans to further assist with outreach, training and support to veterans and their families on financial education, federal procurement and veterans' benefits.

This collaboration will assist NABVETS in its mission to address issues concerning Black and minority veterans, including veterans who are women, disabled, incarcerated, homeless or of limited means. The MoneyWi\$e informational seminars and brochures will help veterans to better understand financial management and to become better financially literate in an effort to improve their lives and the lives of their families.

For more information visit Consumer Action's website at www.consumer-action.org. Linda Williams can be reached via email at Linda.williams@consumer-action.org. Contact Joe Wynn at (202) 365-0482 or JoeWynn.Nabvets@Verizon.net.

