



# Resound ))))

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Newsletter of the National Black Association for Speech, Language and Hearing

National Black  
Association for  
Speech-  
Language and  
Hearing

Website: [nbaslh.org](http://nbaslh.org)



2005 NBASLH  
Convention

ECHO Premiere  
Issue

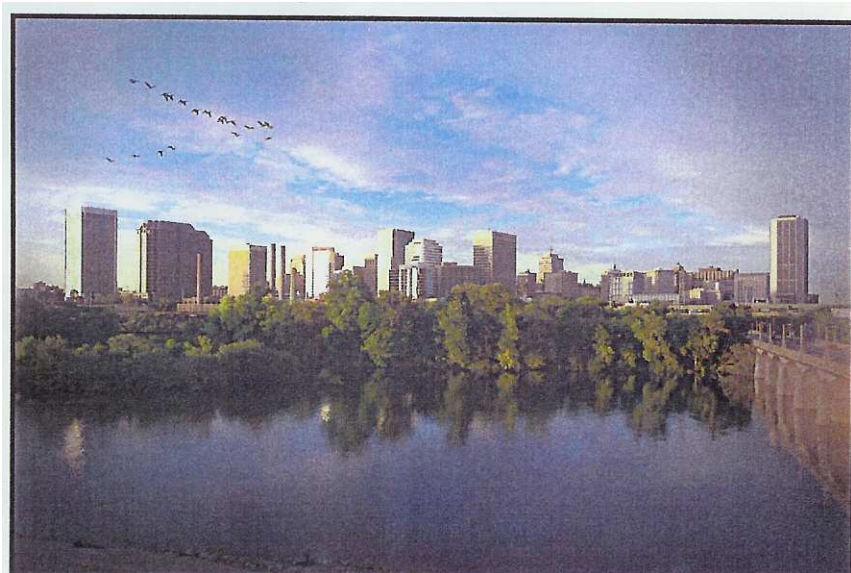
History of  
NBASLH

Affiliate News  
Needed

Dr. William  
“Bill” Cosby

## ***The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Black Association for Speech, Language & Hearing***

**In Richmond, Virginia  
April 21-23, 2005**



**Crowne Plaza Hotel  
555 E. Canal Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
1800.2CROWNE  
[crowneplaza.com](http://crowneplaza.com)**

**April 22-24, 2005**

# **Richmond Restaurants and Nightlife**



**Tropical Soul Sea and Soulfood Café – serves up more than just food. Drop in for the open mic or live jazz on Thursday evenings.**



**Mr. Bojangel's – Restaurant and nightclub that caters to the 30+ crowd. Open for lunch and dinner and showcases DJ and live music on 2 upper levels**



**Hyperlink Café – Virginia's first wi-fi cyber café and lounge is open for business Monday – Saturday. Open for breakfast, lunch and weekend dinners**



## **Shopping**



**17<sup>th</sup> Street Farmers' Marker – in historic Shockoe Bottom where local farmers, artisans and antique dealers sell a variety of goods in an open air market.**



**Carytown – unique residential community with eight blocks of shops and restaurants**

## **Features**



**Black History Museum – collects and exhibits artifacts and objects that illustrate the history of African-Americans with an emphasis Black Virginians.**

For information about the 2005 convention or Registration materials, E-mail:  
[2005conventionchairperson@nbashl.org](mailto:2005conventionchairperson@nbashl.org)

## **ECHO – Premiere Issue**

The transition of *ECHO* to an E-journal is complete; well almost. Although the journal's premiere issue has been scheduled for launching in late February, 2005, the call for papers is still active. If you would like your current research summary, clinical practice review or other scholarly papers considered for publication, send them c/o ECHOeditor@nbaslh.org.



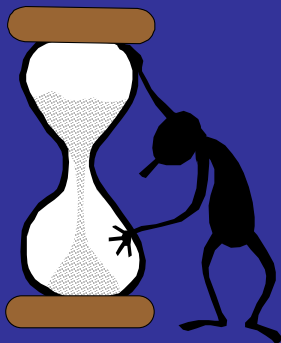
## **How about those Affiliates?**

**We need to know what you are doing? So send me your photos, articles, descriptions of your affiliate activities, etc.**

## **History of NBASLH (a recurring feature)**

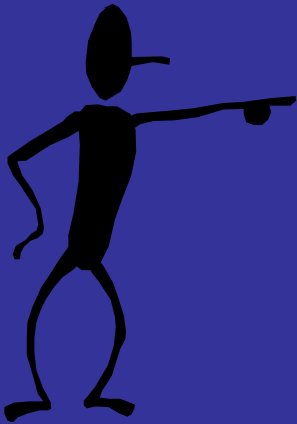
In December, 1977, an Ad Hoc Committee on association development was established. The committee was composed of a number of Black Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists from different parts of the country. The Committee's first formal meeting was held at Howard University in Washington D.C. on January 26, 1978. Their mission was to discuss:

- 1) the concept of a Black speech-language and hearing association
  - 2) to develop recommendations for implementing that concept
  - 3) recommendations for appointing the Board of Directors and Executive Staff
- The Association was incorporated in Washington D.C., June 30, 1978. The committee wanted to establish a viable mechanism through which the professional needs of the Black professionals, students and the communicatively handicapped community could be met.



The first official meeting of the Board of Directors and Executive Staff of the National Black Speech-Language and Hearing (*NBASLH*) was held April 14-15, 1978 at the University of the District of Columbia.

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It is important to note that the concept of a National organization for Black speech-language pathologists and audiologists was a new one. For several years prior to the incorporation of *NBASLH*, a number of people had spoken favorably of the need to establish such an organization. Indeed, it was attuned to the movement of other Black professionals such as physicians, dentists, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, accountants and educators who had established organizations that focused primarily upon interests and concerns of Black professionals and students-in-training.

\*Please note the term Black originally used in 1979 continues to be used by this organization to refer primarily to the populations in American having African ancestry.

## **Purposes of NBASLH**

1. **PROMOTE** an increase in the number of certified Black speech-language and hearing professionals.
2. **PROMOTE** improvement in the quality of speech, language and hearing services of the Black communicatively handicapped.
3. **PROMOTE** the research and development of a body of knowledge of the identification, diagnosis and treatment of the Black communicatively handicapped.
4. **SOLICIT** and provide financial support for the training of Black students in the fields of speech-language and hearing.
5. **BE AN ADVOCATE** for the Black communicatively handicapped at the local, state and national levels.
6. **DISSEMINATE INFORMATION** among the professions and to the public on communication differences and disorders among Blacks.

# **“Continuing to put his money where his mouth is.”**

## **Commentary by Ron Jones**

Dr. William “Bill” Cosby made quite a splash last year with comments about African American speech and language patterns, black parenting skills, and other related issues. He delivered a pointed and controversial message at the NAACP's *Brown v. Board of Education* 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala in May, and was later interviewed by Tavis Smiley on his PBS radio program (see Internet links below for the audio track and written transcript of this interview).

Dr. Cosby is quoted as saying "I can't even talk the way these people talk, 'Why you ain't,' 'Where you is,'" "I blamed the kid until I heard the mother talk—and then I heard the father talk. Everybody knows it's important to speak English except these knuckleheads. You can't be a doctor with that kind of crap coming out of your mouth." Cosby said many young blacks have "very, very thin" book bags and are "going nowhere."

Dr. Cosby responded to his most vocal critics for the first time when he attended the annual Rainbow/PUSH Coalition & Citizenship Education Fund conference in July. Some were saying that his comments may be correct, but were being delivered to the wrong audiences. That he was “airing our (African-Americans) dirty linen in public, and that he was letting white people off the hook.” “His comments also suggest that there is in black America a *cultural* failing.”

In September, at a forum sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Dr. Cosby openly criticized parents who “manage” their children through use of cell phones and who take little interest in their children’s schoolwork. He implored black parents to take charge and to find out what their children are doing.

And finally (well not finally), Dr. Cosby has put more money where is mouth is. Noted for his decades-long philanthropic support of HBCUs and other black institutions, Dr. Cosby delivered a profound and thought provoking message about parenting, education, and social responsibility in the Black community. In November, while at the Frederick Douglass High School, Atlanta, GA, Dr. Cosby announced that he is organizing to “turn the mirror around” by helping to empower African Americans to take action against destructive trends in some of their communities; including the epidemic rate of high school drop-outs, teen pregnancy, AIDS, and other issues. In the last few weeks of the year, Dr. Cosby conducted several community-based programs for parents and community leaders in Newark, NJ, Milwaukee, WI, and Baltimore, MD.

I applaud Dr. William “Bill” Cosby efforts, and can’t wait to see what this black leader and self-appointed spokesperson for improving the communication skills and social behaviors of Black Americans will do this year.



**To Contact the  
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editor@nbaslh.org**

But, doesn't NBASLH have a role to play in Dr. Cosby's movement? Should we be addressing the same concerns, at least the communication issues, Dr. Cosby and others are beginning to address? We purport to be a national organization representing the communication needs of Black Americans, and serving as the representative of Black or African-American communication disorders specialists? If so, I think we need to look closely at what is going on here, and "speak-up". What do you think?

References:

Smiley and Cosby interview and transcript (5/04)

<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200405/20040526.html#>

[http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200405/20040526\\_transcript.html](http://www.pbs.org/kcet/tavissmiley/archive/200405/20040526_transcript.html)

Other resources:

<http://afrigeneas.com/forumb/index.cgi?noframes;read=10984>

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2004/130/32.0.html>

<http://www.wabe.org/>

**Comments printed here are those of the author(s) and are not necessarily the views of NBASLH.**