

AN OPEN LETTER  
To

The More Conscientious Among THE One Million

From: Amefika Geuka  
National Co-Convener

Greetings:

It has been three years since Jim Clingman and I, with the assistance of Monica Williams, Samuel Burnham, Errol Hunt and Donnie Bradford, launched the One Million Conscious & Conscientious Black Contributors & Voters (OMCCBCV) movement. In the ensuing period we have had more than 3,000 persons formally join our ranks, with members in 46 states and several foreign countries. Speaking for myself as “an eternal optimist,” I was convinced that we would have long-since achieved our objective of locating and recruiting one million conscientiously conscious Black thinking-activists to our noble cause; however, that has not yet happened despite our best efforts with the resources and resourcefulness we have had at our disposal. Jim recently announced that due to his ongoing battle against ALS, he is officially retiring from writing his weekly column for the NNPA and other black newspapers. If you have not done so already, I urge you to go to Jim’s web site [www.blackonomics.com](http://www.blackonomics.com) and read his two most recent columns in that regard. He has stated that his work with and on behalf of THE One Million will now become his primary vehicle for contributing to the uplift and advancement of our people. He and I need to know what the rest of y’all gon’ DO going forward; who among you will step up and accept the batons we both seek to hand to the next competent and reliable runners in our ‘relay-race’ for our people?

The two biggest hurdles facing us in trying to build THE One Million are: 1) black folks not taking ourselves or our collective interests seriously enough to give the movement their best effort; and 2) the lack of financial resources with which to conduct the business that would be necessary for us to succeed. Clearly, this second point is a direct result of the first. To avoid “putting-the-cart-before-the-horse,” let me address the first hurdle: It is not likely we will ever get all or even most black people to embrace the mind-set necessary to overcome the second hurdle. Therefore, it is prudent that we seek to identify a “critical mass” of the right caliber and quality of individuals to lead the charge on behalf of the collective. After careful consideration we have settled on two percent (2%) of the total number of African-Americans as the target. There are an estimated 45 million African-Americans in this country, so 2% of that number would be 900,000; we have chosen to round that number up to one million for marketing and promotional purposes. (*see my Black Paper titled: “What One Million Conscious Black Voters Could Do!”*) This proposed 2% correlates to the “Talented Tenth” advocated by Dr. W.E.B. DuBois in an earlier era.

Without full-time staff to carry on the day-to-day work of building our movement, we are unlikely to succeed in our efforts. Proposals to create revenue streams which would allow us to eventually employ people to do the critical work have not yet produced results we seek, and there is little to indicate this will change in the foreseeable future unless something dramatic happens. I am not one to wait for things to happen, or for “manna to fall from the sky,” so I am sending out this open letter with the specific intent to recruit capable and reliable individuals to do the interim work

needed to move us to the next stage of progression toward our goals and objectives. In my considered opinion, the most realistic way to approach this given our circumstances, is to call upon our retired members to volunteer to accept leadership roles and responsibilities for calendar year 2018. I'm asking you to make a one-year commitment to this effort. If all our retired members would give a quality and/or quantity of effort commensurate with that which Jim Clingman and I give, we could and will get this done! I have attached the organization chart we developed for the previous movement and organization Jim, Monica, Sam, Errol, Donnie and several others were engaged with (Movement to Bring Back Black; and the Nationalist Black Leadership Coalition) so you can familiarize yourselves with how we structured that initiative. Anyone of you willing and able to accept my challenge to be part of this volunteer campaign can review the chart and choose which position or Division you would prefer to apply your talents and energies to. If you need in-depth information as to what would be required for any position, I am a telephone call away. Otherwise, pick your spot and let me know what it is. Though this letter is intended *primarily* for our retired members, by no means should those of you who are still working day jobs assume your services would not be welcomed. What I do ask is that you not volunteer unless you know you will be able to deliver on whatever promises you make. For what it's worth, the positions most important for us to fill are as follows:

- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Chief Legal Officer (CLO)
- MIS Director
- Administrative Assistant
- State, County, Municipal, and Regional Organizers
- Division Directors (10)
- Clerk-Typist

Jim and I will continue to share the functions associated with the overall Operation of THE One Million. If you all respond to this challenge as I expect you will, our success in overcoming the second hurdle will be assured, and we will have the wherewithal to fund the core staffing that would be needed to carry us into 2019 and beyond.

The ball is now in your courts, and it's GAME TIME! Let's play to WIN!!

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