

Gloria Jean Sweet-Love

PRESIDENT, TENNESSEE STATE CONFERENCE NAACP

Born the 7th girl of a family of 8 girls and one boy, to William Henry (Bill) Bryant and Remel Peeples Bryant in Fayette County, Tennessee, Gloria attended the public schools of Fayette County and graduated with honors from the Fayette-Ware High School. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Tennessee State University and has done further study at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a concentration in Business Management.

Employed by Procter & Gamble at Jackson, TN for 25 and a half years, she served in various administrative and leadership roles in manufacturing and human resources. Her last assignment was as Administrator of Industrial Health & Safety Systems for the Duncan Hines Cake Mix Business. Ms Sweet-Love retired from Procter & Gamble in January of 1999 to devote full time to community interests.



In 1988, she was appointed by the Haywood County Board of Commissioners to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Aubrey Young, on the Haywood County School Board. This appointment made her the first African American Woman and only the 2nd woman ever appointed to the School Board in Haywood County.

In 1992, after being a major player in the lawsuit to abolish At-Large Elections, She was elected by the people of Districts 3 & 7 as their representative on the Haywood County School Board. In 1992, she was elected Vice Chair of the Board and continues to hold that position. Through her leadership, the Haywood County School has employed two African Americans as Deputy Directors. The number of African American principals has gone from one, at her election, to the current high of 6.

She was equally as involved with the Tennessee School Board Association. She served on the Board of Directors; as a Trustee of the Board of the Risk Management Trust; Regional coordinator for the Tennessee Legislative Network and chair of the TSBA Ethics Commission. In 1997 she was elected as District Director of the Southwest Region of Tennessee School Boards Association, in this position she served school districts in Jackson-Madison, Hardeman, Hardin, McNairy, Henderson, Chester and Haywood counties. Gloria completed the requirements and was awarded level IV in boardsmanship in 2000. She has served TSBA as a facilitator and presenter clinics and workshops at the TSBA Conventions.

In 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, she was a delegate to the National School Board Convention representing the state of Tennessee. In November of 2004 the delegates to the Tennessee School Board Convention in Nashville, TN elected Gloria Jean as President-Elect of Tennessee School Board Association, placing her in line to becoming the first African American Woman President of TSBA since its inception.

A member of Haywood County Democratic Women, Gloria served two terms as President. She is also a member of the West TN Title VI Executive Council.

A volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Gloria is currently serving as Community Ambassador & Advocacy Coordinator of volunteers.

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A Subscribing Golden Heritage member of the Haywood County Branch NAACP, Gloria has served as Secretary and Freedom Fund Chair of the Branch. She was Vice President of the West Tennessee Region of the State Conference for 11 years and has been a delegate to the National NAACP Convention for the past 20 years.

In 1995 she was elected as President of the Tennessee State Conference of NAACP Branches. In 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 & 2007 she was re-elected without opposition. Under her leadership 8 branches and 7 college chapters have been revived. One adult branch, one new college chapter and four new youth councils chartered; the State Conference opened a headquarters office in Jackson, TN and staff persons have been employed.

She currently serves Chair of the Southeast Region NAACP Leadership Caucus. In February 2008, she was elected as an at-large member to the NAACP National Board of Directors.

In July 2004 at its Annual Convention in Philadelphia, PA the NAACP presented its highest award, the coveted Kelly Miller Alexander President's Award for excellence in Programs, Development, Growth of Branches, Youth & College Leadership and Membership to Gloria for exemplary service as State Conference President.

An avid and involved Community Activist and champion of Human Rights, in 2003, Gloria Jean was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen as a Commissioner for the Tennessee Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission. She also, currently serves on the South West Human Resource Agency Policy Board & Council and on the Board of Trustees at Jackson State Community College Foundation.

A Born Again Christian, Gloria is member of the St John Missionary Baptist Church in Dancyville, Tennessee

The following quote from a newspaper editorial accurately describes Gloria Jean Sweet-Love.

“An avid public speaker and champion of Human Rights, Gloria’s knowledge, dedication, hard work, and integrity have given her the ability to empower others through her leadership.”

Gjsl.bio/civil rights 2008