

Savannah the "Port City of the Civil Rights Movement" Brief History

The very beginnings of the SCLC can be traced back to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The Montgomery Bus Boycott began on December 5, 1955. The boycott lasted 381 days and ended on December 21, 1956. The boycott was carried out by the newly established Montgomery Improvement Association in which the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King served as president. As bus boycotts spread across the south, leaders of the MIA and other groups met in Atlanta, Ga. on January 10-11, 1957 to form a regional organization and to coordinate protest across the United States. Further organizing was done February 14, 1957, in New Orleans, Louisiana and they announced the new name being that of the Southern Leadership Conference. The organization established an executive board of directors and elected officials including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as president. The first convention was held in Montgomery in August 1957 the new name of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was adopted. SCLC is now a nation-wide organization made up of chapters and affiliates with programs such as:

- ◆ conflict resolution
- ◆ economic empowerment
- ◆ quality education
- ◆ community empowerment
- ◆ voter education/voter registration
- ◆ youth development

In 1959 under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Hosea Williams the SCLC Crusade for Voters was formed and helped change the course of leadership in Savannah, Ga.

Through the leadership of the SCLC Crusade for Voters we have been able to move from "what is" - to "what ought to be". The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said "because of the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Hosea Williams and the crusade for voters Savannah is the one of the most integrated cities in America"

Programme

Prmise & Worship

Brandon Holt

Processional

Mistress of Ceremony

Dr. Vanda Trappio Patton
Savannah Coastal Board

Welcome

Mrs. Martha Dawkins Massey
Savannah Coastal Board

Invocation and Blessing

Special Dance Tribute

Ayoluwa African Dance Theatre Inc.

Dinner is Served

Viewing of the Documentary

"Rev A. D. King" Behold the dream

Introduction of the Speaker

Dr. Babs Onabanjo

President, Rev. A. D. King Foundation/ Vice President Henry County SCLC

Speaker

The Honorable Mrs. Naomi King

Presentations

Congressman John Barrow
Congressman Jack Kingston
Senator Saxby Chambliss
State Representative Craig Gordon
Senator Lester Jackson

Special Presentation

Chatham County Commission Chairman Pete Liakakis
Savannah Coastal SCLC

Remarks and Appeal

Rev. Carl W. Scott Gilliard
President, Savannah Coastal SCLC President