

## We Shall Tell Our Own Story ...

BWLF came into existence in 2005, in response to a newspaper article published in the Democrat and Chronicle that identified several Rochester African American leaders in it without the benefit of input from the local community.

There began a process of Kujichagulia, (*Self-Determination: to name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves*), where we came together to identify for ourselves, not only who our leaders were, but also to name for ourselves the issues that were important to us.

Since then, we have held annual "Overcoming Internalized Racism Among Black Women" workshops which have served more than 100 sisters. We've also conducted other workshops, book reviews & video discussions, and taken sister trips and retreats to bond together and recommit ourselves to this work. We do all this for the specific purpose of increasing awareness of sisterhood, and extending healing to one another.

We began as a subcommittee of the City of Rochester's Black Heritage Committee, but are now an independent entity supported through membership dues, event registration fees, and donations

If membership in this organization appeals to you, please consider joining our sisterhood, and lending your hand to this work.

Ashe, Ashe, Ashe!

### *"BWLF...Building Sisterhood...Together!"*

*Shirley Thompson, Chair*

*Kesha Carter, Co-Chair*

*Tanya Poyser, Treasurer*

*Sandra Manning, Secretary*

*Tanishia Johnson, Education Chair*

*Keischa J. Higdon, Marketing Chair*

*Khadijah Tillman, Membership Chair*

*TBD, Hospitality Chair*

*Jackie Dozier, Communications Chair*



[www.bwlf.org](http://www.bwlf.org)

## BLACK WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FORUM

*Lifting Up Sisterhood*



**APRIL 1, 2017  
To  
MARCH 31, 2018**

**MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION**

*Join us in doing  
"the work!"*



The Black Women's Leadership Forum (BWLF) is an organization of black women in Rochester, New York, dedicated to improving relationships between and among black women.

#### **BWLF Mission & Purpose:**

The mission of BWLF is to increase our understanding of Internalized Racism, and to support black women in overcoming its impact.

#### **BWLF Vision:**

BWLF envisions a world where our thoughts, words and deeds are positive and supportive of ourselves and our sisters.

#### **Our Guiding Principles:**

- We create and support opportunities to seek truth through knowledge
- We treat each other with respect and mindfulness, and we hold ourselves and each other accountable
- We approach this work with integrity, honesty and transparency

## Membership Information

### Criteria

- Participation in our Annual "Overcoming Internalized Racism Among Black Women" Workshop (in January), to ensure a common understanding and purpose among the BWLF membership.
- Annual dues of \$55, covering April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. **Add \$10 late fee after April 30<sup>th</sup>.**
- Active support and participation in BWLF sponsored events & activities related to our Mission and Vision.

### Dues

Membership dues will cover all or part of one calendar year, April through March. Dues are used to cover the costs of supporting BWLF events and activities that align with the BWLF Mission & Vision.

### Benefits

- Exclusive invitation to BWLF Members Only events;
- **No or Reduced Cost** participation in BWLF sponsored educational events.
- Relationship building and professional development opportunities with other black women of like mind and spirit;
- Workshops, book clubs & discussion groups based on member interest;
- Community involvement projects;
- Social Gatherings (trips, retreats, etc)  
*NOTE: these activities may have related costs not covered by BWLF membership dues.*

## Membership Application

Complete the form below, and submit with your check, cash or money order for \$55 to:

**Black Women's Leadership Forum**  
**P.O. Box 77369**  
**Rochester, NY 14617**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(s): \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Location of the BWLF Workshop You Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Skills/Assets to Contribute to BWLF (*graphics, web design, etc.*): \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

*Send all inquiries to Jackie Dozier at  
bwlf.rochester@gmail.com or (585) 666-0134*