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# "If One Fails the Community Fails"

## The Publication of the African American Communication and Collaboration Council (AACCC)

[AfricanAmericanCommunication.com](http://AfricanAmericanCommunication.com)

January 2012

Greetings, Floyd.

### SURVEY - 2012 Issues Affecting the African American Community

Given the challenges and opportunities of a new year, please take a few minutes to complete the survey below and share the issues you believe to be of greatest importance in 2012.



As a result of the survey, our publication, "If One Fails the Community Fails," will focus attention, investigation and commentary in future issues on those topics that readers have selected as priorities.

Please click the survey link below and "have your say!"  
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22EAYJMNERG>.

**NOTE: If you cannot access the survey via the above link, please copy and paste the link into your browser's address bar and press Enter.**

### Nichelle Nichols to Run for the Madison School Board



Nichelle Nichols, mother of four sons and graduate of West High School and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has announced her candidacy for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) Board of Education.

Ms. Nichols will contest for Seat #1 currently held by Ms. Arlene Silveira.

A respected local nonprofit leader, Ms. Nichols has been compelled to run based on her belief that accountable leadership at the highest level of the MMSD administration is needed to eliminate the achievement gap and create a culture where EVERY child in the MMSD can and will thrive.

### African American History ... Did You Know?

Watch Night Service

### Calendar of Events

[Click here](#) to view the entire AACCC Calendar of Events.

#### January 2012

**11 January 2012**  
African American Achievement Team at LaFollette High School

**14 January 2012**  
"I Have a Dream" Scholarship Banquet and Ball

**15 January 2012**  
28th Annual Martin Luther King Youth Recognition Breakfast

**17 January 2012**  
Orchard Ridge Elementary School Reading Program

**21 January 2012**  
100 Black Men of Madison Annual Meeting

**31 January 2012**  
Orchard Ridge Elementary School Reading Program

### MISSION

To provide support to positive efforts that are conducted with and on behalf of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin;

To establish mutually beneficial relationships between African American organizations of Greater Madison, Wisconsin; and

To establish ongoing dialogue concerning common issues of the African American Community of Greater Madison, Wisconsin.

As 2011 dawned and a new year began, many African Americans participated in "Watch Night Services" at various churches during New Year's Eve.



Typically, "Watch Services" begin before 10:00 p.m. and end at Midnight with the start of the new year. But did you know that "Watch Services" have a very special, historical meaning for African Americans and African-American congregations?

The staging of Watch Night Services can be traced back to gatherings across the South, also known as "Freedom's Eve," starting December 31, 1862. On that night, African Americans came together in churches and private homes across the nation anxiously awaiting news that **the Emancipation Proclamation had become law**. At the stroke of Midnight, January 1, 1863, all slaves in ten Confederate states were declared legally free. It has been written that when the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy heard throughout the South as African Americans fell to their knees and thanked God.

Since then, African Americans have traditionally gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve, praising God for bringing us safely through another year and not realizing that our blessings are far beyond one calendar year.

Isn't it interesting that our decedents realized that all they had was God. And, at the end of the day, all they needed was God.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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