

Westside Action Group



Building political power in Westside
San Bernardino since 1972



WPA Means Political Action for Blacks

SAN BERNARDINO — The WPA isn't the Works Progress Administration project of Franklin D. Roosevelt's time, but rather the Westside Political Action group.

But the group does intend to bring about progress

through politics.

Formed some 10-weeks-ago, it meets every Wednesday morning from 8 to 9 over breakfast at a black west side restaurant, Checkers, Goodlet and N. Mt. Vernon.

Membership is made up of black male "resource personnel" who either live or work in the west side community.

"Emphasis shouldn't be placed on the fact that this is a new organization. But it should be emphasized that this is a group of old organizations, the NAACP, the Black Fathers, and so on coming together under one banner.

"Whereas these organiza-

tions tend to be social in nature, the WPA allows the individual to be political," says its temporary chairman, Bob Parker.

The group was formed out of necessity, Parker said. The community has suffered because elected officials have quickly forgotten campaign promises made to individuals, he said.

But a group such as the WPA says Hardy Brown, temporary secretary, "will be able to assist an official in fulfilling campaign promises."

The WPA will also serve as a forum for candidates as well as elected officials, Parker said.

In addition, it will serve as a development stage for young, black political aspirants, Brown said.

"The group could provide guidance and support," he said.

In the future, the group expects to make political endorsements, Parker said.

No endorsements were made during the primary election because of the group's infancy, he said.

BOBBITT MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Mrs. Anna May Hoach
Friday 10:00 A.M. Graveside
Mt. View Cemetery

Mr. M. L. (Jack) Easterling
Friday 1:00 P.M. Chapel
Mt. View Cemetery

1299 E. HIGHLAND AVE. — 882-3761

Howard Arkenburg, Rialto

Howard F. Arkenburg, 68, of 25 E. Mariana St., Rialto, died yesterday in Dallas. He was born in New York and was a 19-year resident of California, including 14 years in Riverside. He had only recently moved to Rialto.

Arkenburg was a salesman for Kodak.

Survivors include his widow, Berle; two sons, David and Howard, both of Riverside; a daughter, Mrs.

Shirley Pfister of Rialto; three brothers, Charles, of New York, Dale, of Ohio, and William, of Florida; five sisters, Mrs. Rosa Brewer, Mrs. Betty Smith, Mrs. Ruth Edwards, Mrs. Louis Harris and Ellen Arkenburg, all of Ohio, and four grandchildren.

Private services will be tomorrow at Ralph Wm. Allen Funeral Home followed by interment at Rialto Park Cemetery.

This is an enlargement of the statements in the article of June 8, 1972 of the Sun News Paper made by Bob Parker and Hardy Brown. This is the first article on Westside Action Group also known as WAG. It also gives the place, location and time of meetings with a brief purpose and need of the organization..

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ACT
NOW!



In 1972, Hardy Brown and Bob Parker founded the Westside Action Group (WAG) with the mission of becoming a political action organization to influence the political and economic agenda for the Black community in San Bernardino.

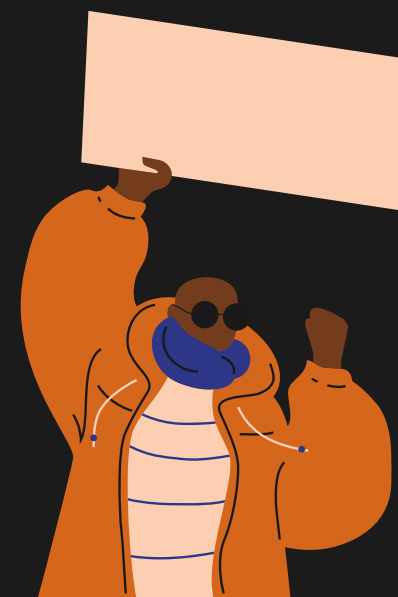


“The group was formed out of necessity. The community has suffered because elected officials quickly forgotten campaign promises made to individuals.”
-Bob Parker, June 8, 1972



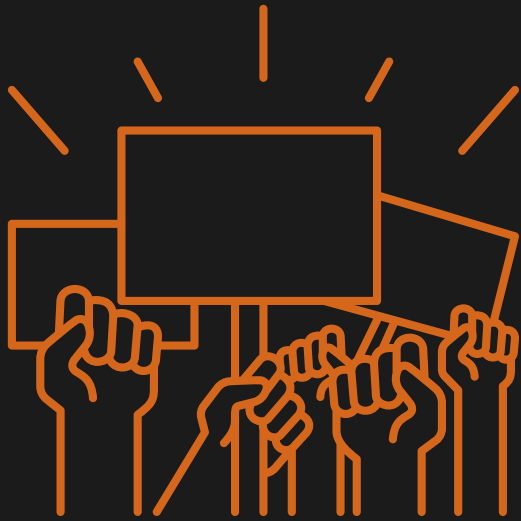
In keeping true to its original mission the membership is made up of other groups like the NAACP members, church leaders, business owners, newspaper owners, government employees and elected officials.





“If you stick around for 40 years, you get a chance to see things happen. We’re not going anywhere.”

-Ratibu Jacocks, *The Sun*, WAG celebrates 40 years



Westside Action Group (WAG) continues to provide citizens of San Bernardino and surrounding communities a place to share community issues, a forum for political candidates and network for business leaders, and provide financial support to causes they believe will move the community forward.



Credits

<https://theievoice.com/the-founding-of-westside-action-group-wag/>
<https://www.sbsun.com/2012/03/11/westside-action-group-celebrates-40-years-in-san-bernardino/>
<https://theievoice.com/wvws-clarence-mansell-jr-speaks-at-westside-action-group-meeting/>

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