November 20-23, 2014
Carnegie Library, Washington, D.C
Photos of Dr. Bowman’s presentation and attendees
Panel - Activism and Public Works on Saturday, November 22, 2014, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

“We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants: The Role of Howard University Faculty and Graduates and the Commission in the Integration of the Public Utility Industry in the District of Columbia / Dr. Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman
Cleaner Water During the Environmental Decade: Social Action to Protect the Potomac in the 1970s / John Spiers
Where to Build the Second Commercial Airport?: The Decision to build Washington Dulles International Airport near Chantilly, VA / Ray Clark

Moderator: Dr. Ida E. Jones, Moorland/Spingarn Library, Howard University (standing at the podium)
Moderator, Dr. Ida Jones, helping Dr. Bowman with the laptop for showing her slides. Panelists John Spiers and Ray Clark are at the table on the stage.
“We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants”
The Role of Howard University Faculty and Graduates and the Commission in the Integration of the Public Utility Industry in the District of Columbia

By Dr. Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman
Executive Director
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
For the 41st Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies
November 22, 2014
Dr. Bowman giving her lecture
Dr. Jones (below) watching as Dr. Bowman is speaking
Audience listening to the presentations
Dr. Bowman asked Mrs. Elsie Neely, widow of former Commissioner H. Mason Neely (1971-1977), to stand and be recognized. Absent was former Chairman George A. Avery who continued Chairman Washington’s efforts. Dr. Bowman’s husband, John H. Bowman, is applauding while seated.

Dr. Bowman asked the family of former Chairman James A. Washington, Jr. (1961-1966) to stand and be recognized for their father’s pioneering role in the hiring of minorities in the public utility industry in the District.
Roberta Willis Sims, Vice President of WGL, (in purple jacket) with families of Chairman Washington, Commissioner Neely, and Dr. Bowman who attended the presentation. James C. Johnson (middle of back row) became a beneficiary of Chairman Washington’s efforts by joining Pepco as an electrical engineer helping to build the metro system in 1966. In 1969, he became Chairman Washington’s son-in-law by marrying Vivian Washington. He left Pepco for EPA in 1972.
Dr. Jones with families of Dr. Bowman, Chairman Washington, and Commissioner Neely. Chairman Washington’s children are Diana Smith (center front row), Vivian Johnson (right side of Diana), Dr. Grace Cooper (middle second row), Michael Washington (far right second row), Stephen Washington, (left back row), and Carleton Washington (right back row). Front row left is Dorothy Washington, wife of Stephen Washington. Dr. Bowman’s brother Frederick Fauntleroy (next to Dr. Jones), cousin Gretchen Roberts Shorter (red sweater), and sister Jacqueline F. Barber (next to Gretchen).
Dr. Bowman presented binders to the family of Chairman James A. Washington, Jr.
In 1961, James A. Washington, Jr. was appointed by President John F. Kennedy to be a Commissioner of the PUC and President Lyndon Johnson reappointed him to the PUC in 1964. He was immediately elected by his fellow Commissioners to be the Chairman, serving from October 22, 1961 until October 7, 1966. During his tenure, the name of the PUC changed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (PSC) after the agency was given additional authority to regulate the securities industry in the District.

A native of Asheville, NC, Chairman Washington moved to the District at the age of 7 and graduated from Dunbar High School, where he met his future wife. He graduated from Howard University in 1936 and earned a law degree there in 1939. He earned a Master’s of Law from Harvard Law School in 1941 and joined the faculty of Howard University School of Law in 1946. While at Howard School of Law, he served on the legal team for the Bolling vs. Sharpe companion case to the Brown vs. Board of Education case that desegregated public schools.

Upon leaving the PSC, Chairman Washington continued his career as a legal scholar, teacher, and public servant. He became Dean of the Howard University Law School in 1969 after serving as the Langston Professor of Law there for 3 years. President Nixon appointed him to be General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and he held that position from 1969 – 1971, when he became an Associate Judge for the District of Columbia Superior Court. Although he was partially paralyzed from a broken neck during a fall in 1976, after a year of physical therapy, he returned to work as a judge and he retired from the Court in 1984. Judge Washington passed away on August 29, 1998.
Chairman Washington’s lawyer son, Stephen Clark Washington (left picture) and Chairman Washington’s children Carleton Washington and Vivian Washington Johnson (right picture)
Other Attendees

Dr. William (Bill) Rice
President of RCR Consulting, which is drafting a book on the history of the Commission

John Henry (Hank) Ambrose
L&L Consulting, which has contributed to this PowerPoint presentation and the book on the history of the Commission
Dr. Bowman talking to Mara Cherkasky, PSC consultant on DC history with RCR Consulting, who contributed to the slide presentation and Gretchen Roberts-Shorter, who took some of the photos.

This presentation would not have been possible without the PowerPoint expertise of Dr. Bowman’s Executive Assistant, Aminta Daves. Aminta Daves also took some of the photos.