

ABFE's: History and MILESTONES

1971 Several organizing meetings take place in New York, Atlanta and elsewhere among Blacks in philanthropy. Eight Black foundation executives (Ronald Gault, Bryant George, Harriet Michel, Carl McCall, Ernie Osborne, Roland Johnson, James Joseph, and Eldridge McMillian) attend the spring COF meeting in Montreal Canada and challenge the nomination process due to the lack of Black representation on the governing body.

ABFE's Articles of Incorporation are filed in Indianapolis on November 15, 1971.

1975 ABFE sponsors Harlem Seminar on Accessing Foundations. President of the Board is Ernest Osborne, of SEEDCO. ABFE has 55 members.

1977 Program – The Philanthropic System and Its Response to Black Needs: Past, Present and Future. President of the Board is Adrienne Bailey, of the Chicago Community Trust.

1982 ABFE sponsors Howard University seminar, Justice in the Black Community.

1987 Program – The Black Family Today: Exposing Myths, Defining the Challenges. President of the Board is Megan McLaughlin, Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies.

1988 Member's retreat on Managing Stress.

1971 1973 1975 1977 1979 1981 1983 1985 1987 1989 1990

1974 ABFE collected data on affirmative action policies adopted by foundations. Data is released and published in Foundation News under the title: Foundation Trustees: The Need For Diversity.

1973 ABFE establishes a national office in New York and appoints an Executive Director. ABFE conducts a survey of grants reported to the Foundation Center to develop a profile of foundation contributions to minority communities.

1980 President of the Board is Steve Minter. Program – Affirmative Action in the Foundation Community.

1989 ABFE has 101 members, representing 60 foundations.

1986 President of the Board is Jacqui Burton, of the Lilly Endowment.

1985 ABFE has 71 members. Sponsors Delta Blues Festival as part of annual membership retreat in Mississippi.

1984 ABFE sponsors program – Problems Confronting Blacks in Employment, Education, Housing and Other Areas.

1983 President of the Board is Hugh Burroughs, of the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. ABFE sponsors program on Media Portrayal of Blacks.

1978 Program – Black Needs: A Challenge to Foundations; seminar on Opportunities and Responsibilities of the Private Sector in Africa.

1981 Keynote speech at annual program by Georgia State Senator Julian Bond. President of the Board is Charles Blair, of the Lilly Endowment.

1976 ABFE attends the National Association of Attorney Generals conference focusing on the regulation of the charitable sector. At the invitation of the Conference sponsor, ABFE made a number of specific recommendations on the subject of equal opportunity and philanthropy.

1990 Program – Youth: Values and Self-Esteem.

1991 Programs – Africa: The Forgotten Continent and Poverty and Racism.

1992 Program – Racism in the 90's: What Makes It Different Today. Boycott of Council on Foundation's Miami Conference.

1993 Program – Community Economic Development, Race Relations and Public Policy.

1998 ABFE launches new strategic planning initiative and establishes Professional Development Institute. President of the Board is Terri Lee Freeman, of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region.

2001 ABFE relocates to New York City. Anna Faith Jones receives Distinguished Grantmaker Award. ABFE has 100 members.

2002 Program – Race and Health Care Disparities in America: The African American Community Experience. JAG and ABFE co-sponsor New Research on Diversity and Philanthropy.

2003 Nicole Jones receives inaugural Emerging Leader Award and 21st Century Foundation receives inaugural Institutional Leadership Award. Kenneth Austin is appointed Executive Director. ABFE launches website, abfe.org.

2009 Dwayne Proctor, of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is Chair. Susan Taylor Batten becomes President and CEO. ABFE convenes its fifth class of Connecting Leaders Fellows at a Leadership Summit in Newark, New Jersey and organizes the Black Philanthropic Network of regional Blacks in philanthropy groups.

2010 K.C. Burton, Trustee, Black United Fund of New Jersey is Chair. ABFE and members of The Black Philanthropic Network collaborate on strategies to increase Black participation in Census 2010. ABFE unveils its Responsive Philanthropy in Black Communities framework, associated field trainings and webinar series.

2011 ABFE celebrates its 40th Anniversary in Philadelphia with founding members in attendance. 300+ members.

1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011

2000 Third Annual Professional Development Institute on Recruiting and Retention of African Americans in the Foundation Community. Chair of the Board is Paul Spivey, of the Edwin Gould Foundation.

1999 Archbishop Desmond Tutu addresses annual conference. Program on Case Study: Affirming a Future for African American Youth.

1997 Program on The African American Community in an Environment of Change.

1996 Program – Racism and Remedies: Where Do We Go from Here? President of the Board is Patricia White, of the New York Community Trust

1995 Program – Out of Control: Youth Violence in America. Office is moved to Indiana University, Center on Philanthropy.

1994 ABFE publishes monograph, Exploring African Civil Traditions. President of the Board is Emmett D. Carson, of the Ford Foundation. Programs on A New Deal for Africa: Forging Constructive Collaboration and The Black Presence in Philanthropy Project.

2008 ABFE releases, Stepping Up and Stepping Out: Profiles in Philanthropy Responding to an American Crises and Cultivating Change: A Statistical Review of Grantmaking that Impacts the Lives Of Black Men and Boys addressing the issues facing Black males in the US.

2007 ABFE, along with Ford Foundation, Open Society Institute and others co-hosts foundation leaders in Seattle to discuss the plight of Black males and the role of philanthropy. Loren Harris of the Ford Foundation presents at ABFE Leadership Summit on Privilege, Power, Gender and Race: Philanthropic Collaboration in Action.

2006 Judy Ford, of the American Legacy Foundation, becomes Interim Chair. 209 members. ABFE holds 35th Anniversary Celebration.

2005 ABFE launches the Connecting Leaders Fellowship program with 10 Fellows at a Leadership Summit at the Ford Foundation. W. K. Kellogg Foundation presents ABFE with the Leadership in Action Award.

2004 Annual meeting held in Toronto, Canada. Membership grows to 148 members. Tim Russell, of the Sara Lee Corporation, becomes Chair.