



### Join Us

**General Body Meetings:** Held from 10:00am to 11:30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.

**Physical Location:** Billy Webb Elks Lodge, 6 N Tillamook Street, Portland, OR 97227.

**Online:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82049279117>

Come Join Us and Make a Difference

### Annual Membership Dues:

Annual Renewals - \$120 / Year (Payments accepted on a monthly basis for those who wish to spread their dues throughout the year.)

First time Member - \$60 / Year

Student member - \$60 / Year

Annual Dues paid by Jan 31st - \$100 / Year (Must be paid in full.)

Hardship waivers are available upon request.

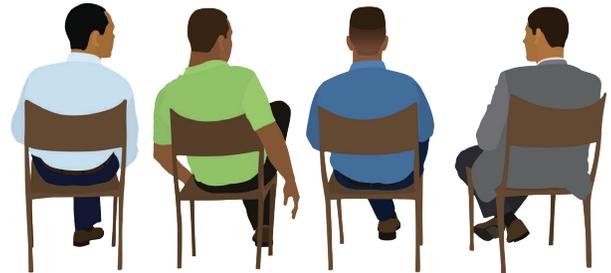
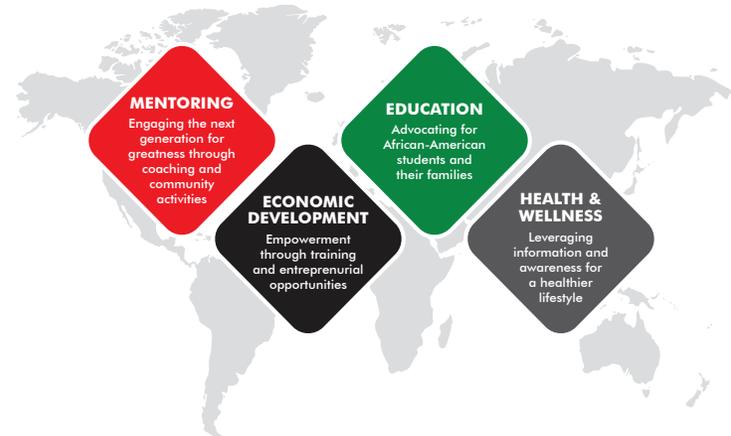
Pay by Cash, Check or Online at [www.cobmportland.org](http://www.cobmportland.org)

For more information, email [info@cobmportland.org](mailto:info@cobmportland.org) or call (503) 919-6804.

 **Office:** 2828 NE Alberta St., Portland, OR 97211

*"We must give up the silly idea of folding our hands and waiting on God to do everything for us. If God had intended for that, then he would not have given us a mind. Whatever you want in life, you must make up your mind to do it for yourself."*

- MARCUS GARVEY



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

## VISION

We seek to serve as a beacon of leadership by utilizing our diverse talents to create an environment where our children are motivated to achieve and to empower our people to become self-sufficient shareholders in the economic and social fabric of the communities we serve.

## MISSION

To improve the quality of life and enhance educational opportunities for all African Americans in our communities.

### About Us

We are Black men who represent various professions and life experiences in the Portland Metro Area. We work to empower our people through advocacy, education, and community programming. Our three main objectives are:

- 1) Fostering bonds among Black men;
- 2) Serving the needs of Black youth;
- 3) Improving the quality of life and economic development in the Black community.



### OFFICERS

Jesse "Kamau" Rogers *Co-President*  
 Robert "Bob" Hamilton *Co-President*  
 Anthony "Tony" Jones *Secretary*  
 William "Bill" Lucas *Treasurer*

### COMMETTEE CHAIRS

John Wolfe *Mentoring*  
 Charles "Chuck" Smith *Health & Wellness*  
 Vacant *Economic Development*  
 Vacant *Education*  
 Vacant *Membership*

Mims Rouse *Executive Director*

## KEY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Support COBM in being a voice and working collaboratively in our community. We desire meaningful participation of African Americans in the local economy. You have an opportunity to help promote economic strategies that addresses institutional and structural barriers. Such barriers impede our ability to accumulate and transfer wealth from generation to generation.

### MENTORING

Volunteer to be a mentor or provide program support for our 'Ambassadors Club' mentoring initiative. The COBM's mentoring program assists young African-American males develop into educated, contributing members of our community. It is designed to develop youth into leaders through responsible personal conduct, educational achievement and cultural enrichment. This is done through group coaching and community activities.

Currently, at [Astor K-8 School](#) and [Ockely Green Tubman Middle School](#) in Portland, this community resource provides mentoring to African-American boys in each of these two schools, once or twice each week. Join us and make a difference in our next generation of leaders.

### EDUCATION

Help the COBM be a voice for African American students and their families as we seek to 1) create an education environment that will inspire students to reach their highest level of achievement 2) drive the school system to evolve into an institution that values all students 3) provide guidance to students that will lead them to achieve a level of excellence in their education and be empowered to make a positive impact in their community.

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Assist us in raising awareness and providing health information to our community. We hope to inspire behavior changes that will result in a healthier lifestyle for African Americans. Volunteer at our Health and Wellness events, such as our Blood Drive, Bike and Bite, Soul Stroll and others.

# SUMMARY OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Economic Development

- Support and advocate for African American Businesses – Ongoing

## Student Mentoring

- In-school mentoring – September thru June
  - Astor K-8 School
  - Ockley Green Middle School
- Annual Mentoring Conference – September

## Education

- School Board Meetings

## Health & Wellness

- What Black Men Think – Ongoing
- Red Cross – Dr. Charles Drew Blood Drive – June
- Bite & Bike – August
- Soul Stroll Wellness Walk – August
- MLK Run – September

## Membership

- Good in the Hood – June
- Mixers (e.g. First Fridays, March Madness, Super Bowl, etc.) – Ongoing
- Adult Mentoring/Career Development – TBD
- Highlight business opportunities – Ongoing
- Social Justice Initiatives – TBD
- Technology Summits – March
- Membership Drives – Ongoing
- Fundraising – Ongoing

## Administration

- Grant Research/Writing – Ongoing
- Marketing – Ongoing



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join us in creating a better community for African American males, our families and the community in the following areas.

Name (First/Last): .....

Home Mailing Address: .....

Phone (Area code with phone number): ..... (circle **home** or **mobile**)

Email Address: .....

## VOLUNTEERING AREAS OF INTEREST

(Please check one or more boxes)

Organization Initiatives - Volunteer			Youth Mentoring - Volunteer		
Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	Guest Speaker	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health & Wellness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Mentoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	Astor K-8 School	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ockley Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Annual Dues: \$60 New Membership/Student | \$120 Annual | \$100 Before Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

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## A Word from the Executive Team

Dear Prospective Member,

**Greeting.** Thank you for your consideration in joining the Coalition of Black Men (the “Coalition”). We understand that you have multiple options when it comes to joining places of fellowship and service. And, like the rest of us, you are probably facing many other competing obligations like work, parenting or even just checking things off your bucket list. However, if you are looking for a place to connect, to exercise your talents in lifting up the Black community, or simply a safe place to voice your concerns, we wish for you to continue researching our organization. We would be happy to field your questions at any time, to include our next scheduled event.

**Mission.** At the Coalition, we seek to be the organization of choice for Black men of all ages, backgrounds and professions, regardless of whether individuals are pillars of the community or new to the area. Established in 1988, our heritage remains deeply rooted in honoring the family as well as driving social and economic change. To ensure our effectiveness, we have identified several key initiatives and request your presence in making them sustainable; see Summary of Volunteer Opportunities within this handout or on our website.

**Framing past and current state.** Without a doubt, we are living in troubled times. However, these times are not uncommon for our people. As children and grandchildren of survivors, we’re endowed with an ability to make something out of nothing at all. Since slavery, many of us, like our parents and grandparents before us, have sought a place of refuge. Still we rise, whether we were drawn to the shipyards of Portland—away from our extended loving families; overcoming the hurdles of settling in an area with the highest Klan activity in the country, or enduring the Vanport flood of 1948 and, more recently, benign neglect. Our current battles include race-based gentrification (a form of legal theft) and a deteriorating school system that was never really designed for our future success. These latter challenges have presented us three sobering statistics:

In 2015, it was reported that only 10% of our Black boys in the 8th grade is reading at the 8th grade level or above. <sup>1</sup>

In 2013, the net worth of White households was \$144,200, roughly 13 times that of Black households, standing at \$11,200. <sup>2</sup>

Non-marital births are more than twice as common among Black mothers as White mothers, and Black children are almost three times as likely as White children to be living with a single parent. <sup>2</sup>

Though these statistics may seem daunting at first, we can meet them with faith and unity. At the Coalition, we choose to believe that these figures simply mean that we have work to do. They are mere starting points. As a resilient people, we refuse to dwell on these hurtles.

**Invitation.** If you are still wondering why you should join the Coalition – what’s its value proposition? In short, we offer you a place of belonging; we also offer you a platform to be heard and an opportunity to serve. Like many of you, I not only work a day job, but I also share your desire to connect and change the educational and economic situation for the average Black man, our male youth and their community. We encourage you to join our journey to success as we strive to live our parents’ and grandparents’ dream.



Audio



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<sup>1</sup> <https://nces.ed.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/06/27/1-demographic-trends-and-economic-well-being/>

