

NAACP

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Martin Luther King jr.

“The power of the vote is the ONLY place where the power of the poor man is equal to that of the rich man.” Denise Lieberman Esq.

Children Lost Medical Insurance Due to State Errors

100,000 Missouri children have lost insurance coverage over the last two years. The shifting explanations have cited the improved economy, then a change in a federal law and then an upgrade to the system to vet eligibility. Additional explanation cited mistakenly dropping children from the roles but David Wood, R-Versailles said, “I’ve got to put some responsibility back to the family.”

Representative Crystal Quade, D-Springfield thinks that if the state made mistakes they shouldn’t let it stand, they should fix it.

Loyce Starks, RN

Please tell us a little about your background. I was born and raised in Eunice, Louisiana. My father worked for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. My mother was a stay-at-home mom who raised 5



children. My father was frequently gone for days at a time with his job and was a big believer in education. My father would frequently say, “Your only way out of here is education.” My mother was one of three children, the middle one, she was quiet and studious. We had 4 girls in our family and one boy. All 4 of the girls were valedictorians of their high school classes. My brother was gifted academically also and when he was drafted, he was put in a top secret program in Alaska

and stayed in the Army for about three years during the Vietnam War.

Tell us about your education. Because my mother was studious and we had books in our house, I learned to read at an early age. When she took me to enroll in Kindergarten, I was tested and put in the first grade. I later skipped the 6th grade also. When I graduated as valedictorian at age 16 from Eunice High School, somehow there was a counselor that knew about St. John’s School of nursing here in Springfield. They accepted me and I moved to Springfield and started nursing school in 1959. I remember an

Sophisticated and Persistent Efforts to Suppress Black Voters

According to the "State of Black America" (SOBA) and the Brennan Center for Justice report titled, "The Tactics and Tropes of the Internet Research Agency (IRA)" soba.iamempowered.com, there was a sophisticated and persistent effort by the IRA which is a part of Russian Security services, to disrupt our election. These included:

- Attempts to hack voting machines.
- Cyberattack on the Democratic National Committee and subsequent leaks of damaging documents.
- Sweeping and sustained social influence campaign designed to exacerbate social divisions.

Three types of attacks on black voters included:

1. Malicious redirection to create confusion.
2. Candidate support redirection (vote for a third party).
3. Turnout depression, "stay home, your vote doesn't matter."

During the 2016 election campaign, the Russians made 10.4 million tweets. Most using authentic sounding accounts like @WokeLuisa. They made 1,100 YouTube videos and 116,000 Instagram posts. They created 61,500 Facebook accounts resulting in 76.5 million engagements that reached 126 million people.

These were the RUSSIAN efforts. Home grown efforts to reduce black voting included ID laws, efforts to limit locations where black people can vote and gerrymandering to reduce the impact of the black vote.

These efforts make it imperative that black Americans register and vote so our voices are heard.

early encounter with a nun who was on her hands and knees scrubbing dust bunnies out of the corners. She got up and addressed our nursing class and told us, "We are doing Christ's work." The nuns first taught us to be nurse's aides and then marched us right through until we were nurses. When they realized I was 16 years old, they kicked me out and I had to wait until I was 17 in 1960 to start again. When I graduated from nursing school I was just 20 years old and couldn't take my board certification until I was 21.

Tell us about your career. I worked as a bedside nurse in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) full time until 1976 and was promoted to Assistant Director of Nursing. I also worked on the Cardiac floor, Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) and development of the nursing float pool as an Assistant Director. In total I worked for 42 years as a nurse. Although I retired in 2002 I had to go back to work to pay for health insurance.

How have things changed over your career as a nurse? I have been in the hospital a time or two with breast cancer and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and found the "hands on" part of nursing missing. Although some of the nurses have many patients, they are also on their phones socializing. I loved the "servant attitude" that was impressed upon us during nursing school by the nuns.

Have you ever experienced racism? Yes, many times. Coming from the Deep South I assumed things would be better here but they weren't. During nursing school I went in to do a bed change and big white man prevented me from doing my job and told me to go back where I came from. I remembered his anger and his face, later I saw him on T.V. as the preacher of the largest Baptist Church in Springfield at the time. In the 1980's I went into a room to take care of a clean cut cowboy who turned to his wife and said, "Get that n***** out of here". I went to him and told him I would be his nurse for the next 8 hours and did a detailed physical assessment. Sometime later he returned to the hospital on a different unit and as he lay dying he requested to see me, held my hand and smiled as tears ran down his face. He died a short time later.

What advice do you have for youth? Love is the answer; in our actions, how we care for others and how we learn about each other.