

SAN ANTONIO
BRANCH NAACP

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Next Branch Meeting is January 14 at 5:45 PM, Barbara Jordan Center

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San Antonio Branch

NAACP Newsletter

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2009

Keynote Speaker Excites Freedom Fund Dinner Crowd

On Friday, October 23, 2009 the San Antonio Branch NAACP held the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner at La Villita Assembly Hall at 7:00 pm. The San Antonio NAACP honored State Representative, Mrs. Ruth Jones McClendon, and Mr. Milton Lee, CEO of CPS Energy, for their outstanding work in the community. The speaker, Reverend Charles White Jr., National Director of Field Operations, NAACP, spoke of “Bold Dreams, Big Victories” in an amazing speech that moved people to action as well as allowed people to recognize the progress the NAACP has made in their one hundred year journey. The following is an excerpt of Reverend White’s speech:

I bring you greetings...on behalf of the entire NAACP Family.

THE LARGEST AND LOUDEST
THE BADDEST AND BOLDEST
THE MOST LOVED --- THE MOST HATED
THE MOST FEARED AND REVERED
THE MOST CUSSSED AND DISCUSSED
CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD --- THE NAACP

I greet you in the name of those whose names may never utter aloud, but who in the greatest Christian tradition, gave all, blood, sweat and tears, just for us to be here tonight. ...As we celebrate, we know that one man climbing to the mountaintop (although the climb was very steep) does not mean the climb is over for everyone else. Or as we say, the NAACP doesn’t stand for the National Association for the Advancement of one Colored Person – but Colored People.

Yes, we have to help make America a better place not only for African Americans, but for all Americans. For 100 years we have been and still are the conscience of America. Despite the threats of violence and official government policies that were racist, we have continued to persevere! This has been a movement that built on the collective courage of thousand of people. People of all races, nationalities and faiths; that fires hoses couldn’t washout, dogs couldn’t bite out, and white racists couldn’t beat out.

THE CORE OF WORK OF THE NAACP TODAY, AS IN THE PAST, STILL DEPENDS ON VOLUNTEERS --- LIKE YOU...DEDICATED, DEVOTED AND LOYAL CIVIL RIGHTS SOLDIERS HERE IN TEXAS --- SAN ANTONIO AND THROUGHOUT THE NATION.

You are the voice for the voiceless and the hope for the hopeless. You are part of a great and noble tradition. You are the heart and soul of the NAACP. You are on the front lines of democracy and fairness in your communities. You are the men and women who hear the complaints of discrimination, who monitor the school boards, the city councils and county council meetings, who police the police, who register the voters,

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NAACP Centennial Convention: “Bold Dreams. Big Victories

The NAACP ... *Who Needs It?*

Part II

Several emergency resolutions were presented including Resolution #4 supporting clemency for Reggie Clemons, a 37-year old African American man sentenced to death in Missouri. Mr. Clemons, a teenager with no criminal record when he was arrested, reportedly was subjected to police torture, gross prosecutorial misconduct and ineffective trial counsel. The Missouri Supreme Court has ordered a review of his case.

Delegates gave a standing ovation to the following: an attendee in her nineties who had never missed a national convention, and a 85-year old U.S. Veteran Oliver Vincent Shields of Missouri who was among the group of 2,500 black men who integrated the U.S. Infantry during World War II. Mr. Shields has been an active NAACP member for over 60 years and is a Diamond Life Member.

Mr. Richard Trumka, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, was the featured speaker at the Labor Luncheon. He stated that many companies oppose the Employee Free Choice Act due to a fear of having to go to the bargaining table with unionized employees. To emphasize the important role of unions, he cited the case of Billy Mason, an Alcoa Company employee in Hampton, Virginia. After working for the company for 23 years, Mason earned \$6,000 less than his salary at the start. Mason endorsed the formation of a union. Intimidation tactics used by management included having a union-bashing meeting at the beginning of each shift and a 2-week suspension without pay for Mason. Although he won his case before the National Labor Relations Board, the plant is still not unionized. Mason is still working. The following is a memorable quote from Mr. Trumka’s speech: “We can’t change the sins of the past, but we can learn from them.”

At Wednesday’s Mass Meeting on International Affairs, I experienced a greater appreciation of how well respected the NAACP is in promoting “peace, justice, self-reliance, and development” abroad. Speakers included Ambassador Cyrille Oguin from the Republic of Benin, Ambassador Nathaniel Barnes from Liberia, and President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal. President Wade emphasized the importance of economic investment so that his and other nations may develop their natural resources. Ambassador Ramon Josef from Haiti reminded the audience that Haiti has been independent for 205 years. He informed us that many Haitians trace their lineage to Benin. I also learned that the guns exported from the United States are used to foment culturally based killing sprees in the Motherland. The tentacles of colonialism are still strangling our brethren.

When it was time for Thursday’s Spingarn Awards Ceremony, Secret Service security was tight because of the anticipated arrival of President Obama. Those fortunate enough to be seated in the main ballroom wondered why there was a delay in starting the program to honor retiring Board Chairman, Julian Bond. I later learned from a national headquarters staffer that President Obama met with the staff members, thanked them for their service, and shook hands with each of them prior to his address.

The audience greeted the President warmly. He touched on many issues including the HIV/AIDS crisis and challenged those assembled to remember that ordinary people can do extraordinary things. There were several expressions of call and response during his address. Many chuckled regarding this comment about education: “If Al Sharpton, Mike Bloomberg, and Newt Gingrich can agree that we need to solve the education problem, then that’s something all Americans can agree we need to solve. Those guys came into my office...sitting there in the Oval Office...I had to do a double take.” The President’s address was followed by an extended standing ovation.

I am very grateful for the singular privilege of serving as a first-time branch delegate at the centennial convention. More than 5,000 people (including approximately 2,000 delegates) attended the convention. It was an inspiring experience...the memory of which I will always treasure.

The founders had a bold dream in 1909...and yes, we have claimed some civil rights victories through the years. However, there is still plenty of work to be done during our second centennial. In 1922 the NAACP placed large ads in major newspapers denouncing lynching. However, our citizens are still being lynched, and we suffer with inadequate health care, unemployment, predatory lending, discrimination in education, voter suppression, and the cradle to grave prison cycle. Please contact President Marvinette Smith and volunteer to help us. We need YOU!

Maria Stevenson Greene, Secretary

Note: If you have a personal experience with predatory lending, please come by the Branch office to pick up a data form, or contact the NAACP Legal Department directly at 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215. The Legal Department is collecting data regarding this important issue. (However, there is NO offer, agreement, or representative to provide legal services.)

Editor’s Note: Part I appeared in the September 2009 newsletter. For the complete article go to: www.naacp-sanantonio.org.

Why the 2010 Census Is Important

What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. conducts a census of the population by sending a form in the mail to every household in the country.

Why do we have a Census?

Census data is used by the government in a variety of important decisions, including allocation \$400 billion in federal funds each year; determination of where roads, bridges, and schools will be built; and apportionment of federal, state, and local government representatives for communities.

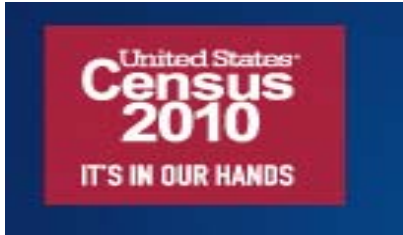
Who is counted in the Census?

The Census counts everyone who is living in the U.S. —

regardless of citizenship.

How is the Census taken?

Census forms will be mailed to households in March 2010. Census forms must be mailed back on or before April 1, 2010. If assis-



tance is needed filling out forms, Questionnaire Assistance Centers and Be Counted Centers will be available. For people living in group quarters such as nursing

homes, student dormitories, or prisons, a Census Bureau worker will visit those facilities in April and May 2010 to take a count of those facilities.

Why should NAACP units care about the Census?

Many communities that are served by NAACP units are at risk of being under-counted in the Census, resulting in less funding and resources being allocated to those communities. Groups with the highest risk of being under-counted are Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans, low-income people, and the homeless.

Jo McCall

Chair, Political Action Committee

Civil Rights Heritage Stamps

From time to time the United States Postal service recognizes someone or someone or some entity by placing their likeness on a postage stamp. Recently during the NAACP's Centennial Convention in New York City, the sacrifices of 12 civil rights pioneers were recognized by the unveiling of postage stamps in their honor. It was indeed fitting to honor these brave souls during

the celebration of the NAACP's 100th anniversary convention. The stamps were dedicated by U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors member, Thurgood Marshall, Jr., son of the famed NAACP general counsel and later Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Sr.

The stamps honor the achievements of Ella Baker, Daisy Bates, J.R. Clifford, Medger Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Charles Houston, Ruby Hurley, Mary Ovington, Joel Spingarn, Mary C. Terrell, Oswald G. Villard, and Walter

White. All served as founders of the NAACP or were otherwise organization leaders in their own right. I believe it would behoove people of good will and freedom lovers everywhere to ask for these stamps when visiting your local post office. I would hope there is more pride and meaning for us in Black Heritage stamps than in "Dick Tracy" or "Mickey Mouse" stamps.

*William B. Johnson, Sr., 2nd
Vice President*

Did You Know?

Bill Burman, a member of our Economic Development Committee, wrote an article about Pullman Porters for AARP that will be published in the AARP magazine.

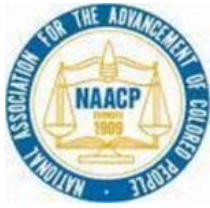
The American Heart Association wants you to know what to do in the event of a heart attack. First call

9-1-1 immediately. While waiting for paramedics, dissolve an aspirin in your mouth (if you're not allergic) and swallow it with a bit of water. If you can, phone a neighbor or close family member and say "heart attack." Take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door (unlocked), and wait for the paramedics to arrive.

Dr. Derrick Boone from Wake Forest University has an opportunity for minority students to attend its MBA program for free.

Syracuse University is offering ten full scholarships set aside for African Americans. The degree would be for Architecture.

Teaira Parker, Volunteer



San Antonio Branch NAACP

2803 E. Commerce Street
San Antonio, TX 78203

Phone: (210) 224-7636
Fax: (210) 476-0989
E-mail: sanaacp@satx.rr.com

Fighting to Advance Social Justice

www.naacp-sanantonio.org

Freedom Fund Dinner Keynote Speech

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educate the voters, and who are directly responsible for getting the voters to the polls on Election Day.

ENTRUSTED IN YOUR CARE --- THROUGH THE NAACP --- ARE THE DREAMS OF OUR SLAVE FOREFATHERS --- OF A LIFE BRIMMING WITH POSSIBILITY;

ENTRUSTED IN YOUR CARE --- THROUGH THE NAACP --- IS THE FUTURE OF THIS CURRENT GENERATION WHICH IS CLOUDED BY FEAR --- AND IN TOO MANY INSTANCES MIRED IN THE QUICKSANDS OF HOPELESSNESS; AND

ENTRUSTED IN YOUR CARE --- THROUGH THE NAACP --- ARE THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF GENERATIONS YET UNBORN.

For 100 years the NAACP has been America's staunchest champion of freedom, not just black people, not just for some people, but for all people. We've done it by practicing one strategy very, very well: As the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, we are premier advocates for those who cannot speak for themselves. We stand today uniquely positioned as an effective counterweight to Hatred, Racial Polarization, and Discrimination of all types. We ARE the conscience of THIS Nation! And we must call America on the carpet and demand that she treat every citizen ... All of her citizens ... And yes, even the President of the United States, with dignity and respect. That is why we must move from being reactive to proactive.

BOLD DREAMS, BIG VICTORIES

Synopsis prepared by Teaira Parker, Volunteer