

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Juneteenth Celebration to be held on June 19th
- San Antonio Branch NAACP meeting Thursday, June 12th, 7 PM, Barbara Jordan Community Center
- NAACP National Convention in Cincinnati, OH in July

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# THE HERALD

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## Branch Activates Website

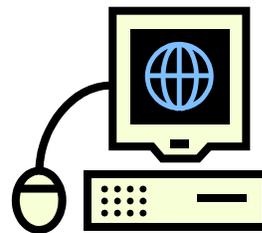
The San Antonio Branch NAACP has taken a major step forward in connecting with the community. For the first time the Branch has established a website, and is working hard to get it fully constructed. The URL address is: [www.naacp-sanantonio.org](http://www.naacp-sanantonio.org).

The website will feature a rich assortment of information from current issues and initiatives to the history of the Branch. There will be reminders of upcoming events in the Calendar, and listings of agencies that can be helpful in solving problems and resolving disputes.

The Join Us page gives you the convenience of renewing your membership with an easy

form you print out and mail in.

The Legal Redress page will give a detailed description of



Go to: [www.naacp-sanantonio.org](http://www.naacp-sanantonio.org)

the elements of a valid discrimination complaint that has a reasonable chance of a successful outcome.

We're also going to post the quarterly newsletter on the website with links to the current and archived editions.

We need your assistance to get the maximum benefit from the website. We need to know which members have internet access and therefore don't need to receive the newsletter by mail.

We want to send email notification to announce the appearance of a new newsletter on the website each quarter. Please send us your e-mail address if you'd like to receive these messages. This will permit us to reduce our postage costs. Contact us at: [sanaacp@satx.rr.com](mailto:sanaacp@satx.rr.com).

## Discrimination Complaints Update

Helping resolve discrimination complaints is an important function of this Branch. Here are some things we've done for complainants:

1. Through written documents we were able to assist a complainant in receiving over \$60,000 in a settlement.

2. We assisted a complainant who was suspended from his job to instead receive a cash award and a reversal of the suspension.
3. Assisting a complainant who was told he had a debt with Social Security we were able to get the debt reversed.

4. Working with a complainant who was suspended for 10 days from his job we were able to get the 10 day suspension mitigated to five days.
5. Helped numerous complainants frame their case before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

# What Makes a Good Discrimination Complaint?

Have you been discriminated against? How can you tell and can you prove it? These are the first two questions asked when you come into the San Antonio Branch office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). It is one thing to say you have been discriminated against but it another thing to prove it.

If you want to file a complaint of discrimination and prevail you should have the following

information at your finger tips:

1. The name address and phone number of the discrimination party.
2. The date(s) and time of the incident.
3. The names and contact information of all individuals that witnessed the event.
4. Know what you would like the local Branch to do for you.
5. Know what remedy you would want.
6. If you have any documentation to support your position bring it with you.

It is important to note that the local NAACP Branch can not represent you in any legal proceeding. If you are seeking advice and guidance we can help. But if your complaint gets to the point you want to sue or you have to go to court we can not represent you. Having said that you may say "Well what can you to for me?" The answer to that question is "We don't know what we can do for you until we review your situation.

*E.F. "Smiley" Williams*

**"It is one thing to say you have been discriminated against, but it's another thing to prove it."**

## From the President's Desk: Dr. Howard Anderson

I am excited that we have The Herald to communicate with the Branch membership. We extend kudos to Sloan Blocker and Rev. Robert Petty for their commitment and knowledge to get this project underway. The Branch has a website ([www.naacp-sanantonio.org](http://www.naacp-sanantonio.org)) and we encourage you to visit the site and give us your feedback.

Our future plans are to share The Herald via the website. To that extent we would like for you to share your email address

in order that we can send the newsletter and other information in a timely manner. Our email address: [sanaacp@satx.rr.com](mailto:sanaacp@satx.rr.com).

Time really flies when every day is filled with opportunities and transitions. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President of the San Antonio Branch. Our Branch was organized in 1918 and we are currently in our 90<sup>th</sup> year as a part of the oldest and most effective civil rights organization in the world. We are fortunate to have four past presidents alive and well: Mr. Joseph Luter (1959-1968), Mrs.

Ethel Minor (1987-1996 and 2002-2006), Mr. Oliver Hill, (1997-1998), and Mr. Thomas C. Rockeymore (1999-2001).

The NAACP was founded in 1909 and will hold the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio July 12-17, 2008. Plans are already underway for the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to be held in New York City.

In over 90 years, the mission of the NAACP remains to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. The goals of the Branch are aligned with the National Office; however, we have asked the Committee Chairpersons to develop a strategic plan to accomplish their objectives. A major step in a discernment process is for everyone to have a clear perception of the options before them.

## Education: Sam Houston HS Launches High-Tech Learning

The MET is an exciting new initiative at Sam Houston High School that incorporates pathways for students to follow their aspirations in the fields of high-tech manufacturing, engineering, and technology.

MET – which stands for Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology – is the result of SAISD partnerships with the

Alamo Community Colleges, the Alamo Area Academies, St. Philip's College, Project Lead the Way, the National Academies Foundation, and the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. These partnerships will create academies at Sam Houston this fall and professors from St. Philip's will teach students at the high school during their junior and

senior years.

Students will receive dual credit opportunities that can be applied toward an Associate's Degree, summer internships, and certifications to enter the workforce prepared to land those coveted high-skill, high-wage positions. The 2006 average yearly salary of high-tech manufacturing employees was \$41,496, 13% above the San Antonio average, according to the San Antonio Manufacturers Association.

Equal to the significance of manufacturing, Project Lead the Way (PLTW) forges the way for students  
*Continued on page 3*

# Dates to Remember



- June 12: NAACP Branch Meetings** are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 P.M. at the Barbara Jordan Center located at 2803 E. Commerce Street
- Upcoming events to put on your calendar**
  - July 19: A Juneteenth Parade and Celebration** will begin at the Martin Luther King Jr Statue and continue to the Coliseum. Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 that slaves in Texas finally learned that President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation years earlier and they were free.
  - July 12-17: NAACP 99th Annual Convention in Cincinnati, OH.** This convention will carry the theme, "Power, Justice, Freedom, Vote."
  - August 9: Health Fair:** The Branch will sponsor a health event at the Ella Austin Community Center to bring information and testing equipment to help attendees learn how they can improve their health.
  - October 24, 2008: Freedom Fund Dinner**

## Recent Events

### NAACP Elects New Leader

in March 2007.

Thirty-five year-old Ben Jealous was elected president of the National NAACP last month. Jealous, an activist and former newspaper executive, will be the 17th and youngest president in the 99 years history of the organization. He will assume the office in September.

Jealous succeeds Bruce Gordon, who resigned abruptly

### WIN Honors Mrs. Minor

Women in the NAACP (WIN) honored Mrs. Ethel Minor at the Sixth Annual Mother-of-the-Year Breakfast on May 10, 2008 at Tommy Moore's Café & Deli. Mrs. Minor was recognized for her life of dedicated service to the community.

### Health Committee Stages Seminar

The Branch Health Committee, in partnership with New Birth Baptist Church in Kingsbury, TX, hosted a seminar for young adults on "Misconceptions About Sexually Transmitted Diseases." The presentation was delivered by a representative of the Texas State Health Department. Mrs. Deloris Mosley, Committee Chair, and Mrs. Wanda Sykes worked with Rev. Russell Mellieon, Pastor, to organize the event.

## Education: The MET

*Continued from page 2*  
 who want to pursue a career in engineering. PLTW is a program that inspires students to be the inventors and designers of products, teaches them problem-solving skills in the areas of engineering, biomechanics, aeronautics, and other applied mathematics and sciences, and gives them hands-on experience and training in real-life engineering situations. Through

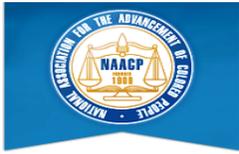
their connection with PLTW, Sam Houston was invited to become one of only four members in Texas of the National Academy Foundation (NAF).

Sam Houston already offers pathways such as Media Technology, Information Systems, Allied Construction and Hospitality and Tourism. These programs serve to provide Sam Houston students with a variety

of options when choosing what they want to do with their future.

At NAF Academies the graduation rate of more than 90 percent is far above the 50 percent average in urban areas – proving that the NAF model works. In addition, more than 80 percent of NAF graduates go on to college. SAISD





## San Antonio Branch NAACP

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](mailto:sanaacp@satx.rr.com)

[WWW.NAACP-SANANTONIO.ORG](http://WWW.NAACP-SANANTONIO.ORG)

# NAACP Puts Major Focus on Health

Health in minority communities is a major concern of the NAACP. It is a glaring example of how historical disparities can converge to needlessly shorten the lives of many and degrade the quality of life for many more. It is a critical element on the path toward political, educational, social, and economic equality.

The NAACP has targeted five areas where health among minorities lags behind the general population and has specified a goal in each area.

**Ensure access to high-quality affordable healthcare.** Minorities are less likely to be insured and more likely to receive substandard care than non-minorities even when access-related factors, such as patients' insurance status and income, are controlled.

**Eliminate disparities in HIV/AIDS.** There are now an estimated 1.3 million Americans

with HIV; nearly half of them are Black. African Americans represent over 51% of the new HIV infections in the United States.

**Reduce obesity disparities and related diseases—diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease.** The alarmingly high number of overweight Black men and women contributes to why we lead in many statistics for obesity-related conditions, like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

**Promote the development of good mental health practices and programs.** Mental health needs for minorities are more likely to go unfilled. The quality of the care received is often poorer.

**Reduce disparities in respiratory diseases.** Despite similar rates of smoking, African Americans are much more likely to develop and die from lung cancer.

The NAACP is emphasizing the importance of learning your health status by seeking out health screening opportunities for blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and HIV testing. If you smoke cigarettes, quitting will give you the biggest health benefit.

Under the guidance of Health Committee Chair, Mrs. Deloris Mosley, San Antonio Branch actively supports these health initiatives and programs, and tries hard to promote the message in the minority community.