

# San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter



Volume 2 Number 2



June 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Our last newsletter gave you a new look and format, thanks to the efforts of Rev. Dr. Brendonly Cunningham, but as we move forward to bring more information regarding the activities of the Branch, we are moving to become "greener" by including our newsletter not only on our website but on "Facebook," also. With the help of our newly formed initiative, Facebook and the appointment of its Manager, Ms. Sakita Martin, you will be able to link to our newsletter. Just type [www.sanaacp.org](http://www.sanaacp.org) in your browser and you will be connected to our account. Become aware of information that we receive from the National Headquarters as well as local information that is pertinent to our mission.

I cannot express my sincere appreciation enough to all our volunteers for the work they continue to perform to make this Branch a viable and relative organization in the community. While the members and volunteers do not get enough credit for the work they do, their work is never ending. The number of complaints and telephone calls received each day, resulting in acceptable solutions for complaints is a testament of their good works but also a testament that this organization is still needed in this day and age.

I pray that health and strength will enable them to continue to work the mission that is before us. Thanks to all of you for your continued support to this organization.

In closing, let us continue to express our condolences to the family of Mrs. Ethel Minor, President Emerita of the San Antonio Branch. She fought a good fight until the end and we will all miss her smile and her wisdom. Mrs. Minor served as a mentor to many of us and she will be greatly missed. In tribute, her obituary is printed on the last page of this newsletter to give many of our members who were unable to attend the Homegoing Celebration an opportunity to read about her life and legacy.

Thanks to all for your continued support to this organization.

*Oliver*

## FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN ELECTED BOARD CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE (Washington, April 20, 2012 Globe Newswire)

Congratulations to Dr. Maya Rockeymoore, daughter of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Hazel Rockeymoore, who will help lead Expansion of Outreach and Education to Communities of Color. Dr. Rockeymoore, president and CEO of Global Policy Solution has been elected to chair the board of directors of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare for a three-year term beginning June 2012. Mr. and Mrs. Rockeymoore are Silver Life Members and Mr. Rockeymoore is a former president of the Branch.

## SAN ANTONIO NAACP BRANCH – THE SPRING UPDATE OF EVENTS.

Mr. Horace Brown, Jr., First Vice President of the Branch has reported the National Assessment Governing Board is an independent, bipartisan organization created by Congress in 1988 to set policy for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the "Nation's Report Card." The Board works to improve the reporting of results to make sure they are communicated to a wide range of Americans and is committed to making NAEP an accessible, useful resource.

The event kicked-off with a reception hosted by Senator Leticia Van de Putte. I thanked her for ensuring we were at the table. She was pleased that the NAACP was there to provide for some diversity. She also expressed her concern that there was **not** a good appreciation for the cultural differences and the fact that in the coming years the minorities will dominate the scene. During the reception the Senator took the time to express how in past years some of the culture aspects of her Hispanic culture were not honored, but through persistence they became a part of the curriculum of the school system (Mariachi music).

The outreach portion of the program began with an overview by the chair. In overseeing the NAEP, the Governing Board identifies subjects to be tested, determines the content and

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achievement levels for each assessment, and approves all test questions, and takes steps to improve the reporting of results.

After the overview, questions were solicited from those invited to the event. Several concerns were expressed, especially from teachers. I took the opportunity to address concerns about culturally biased tests, the "high stakes" nature of the test, and implored the Board to seek input from our National Office in their effort to reach out to the community. I emphasized that we are the largest civil rights organization and have an interest in the area of education, and have people on staff (Doctorates) who deal with educational issues. Mr. Brown concluded the report by giving thanks for the opportunity to attend this event.

**Political Action Committee Chair William B. Johnson, Sr., on April 5, 2012, reported:** Out of respect, and hope for coalition between the "Blacks and Browns" in this town, I participated in the Caesar Chavez march on March 31, 2012. I also participated in a press conference called by the Human Rights Coalition designed to raise the consciousness of the community about the Trayvon Martin Issue.

Mr. Johnson attended a panel discussion organized by Trinity University and national public radio to discuss the voters' rights acts. The panel contained no Blacks. The "Tea Party" representative stated that the act discriminated against his fellow Americans and so did affirmative actions. A representative from **MALDEF** stated that the organization cares only about electing Hispanics whether democrat or republican. The discussion was begun with a tape of the Selma march (which leads to the Act). A professor stated that an attempt was made to close Claude Black Center for early voting but the move was averted when a call was made to a Mexican American organization.

President Hill advised that 28 persons were registered to vote at a recent event at St. Philips.

Our first community wide event will take place on May 5, 2012 at MLK Park from 10: A.M. to 2:00 P.M. All deputized persons are expected to be present. As a part of the primary

committee for our local party, I was a part of a team of individuals who reviewed our ballots for accuracy.

## STATE MEETING HELD IN KILLEEN

On May 5, 2012, at the Rivers of Water Church, First Vice President Bob Lydia called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. Later President Bledsoe resumed chairing the meeting. The invocation was given A. L. Smith and the Host President Tanika Driver gave greetings.

Recognition included Mayor Hancock, the first African American mayor of Killeen. The city manager, Glen Morrison gave gift baskets to the leadership

The agenda included the approval of adding State Insurance. The correction to the minutes noted the approved quarterly report of the San Antonio Branch. Voter registration was emphasized. School districts must register all students age 17 years and 10 months.

President Hill's report noted Partnership with Aflec Insurance. This program requires membership to NAACP.

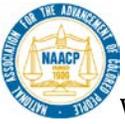
## THALHEIMER AWARD APPLICATION

The San Antonio Branch NAACP submitted an application for the Thalheimer Award for outstanding programs initiated during 2011. Highlights of the application for the award contained excerpts of ACT-SO, Community Outreach, Criminal Justice, Education, Legal Redress, and other committee works.

**ACTSO:** This program has produced several successes: on the National level of competition, the youth of this Branch was awarded the highest medal offered in the Chemistry/Biochemistry category (Silver Medal) and locally, the Gold Medal winners competed nationally in musical instrumental contemporary, oratory, drawing, painting, photography and film-making.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:** An informational brochure was developed by The Community Coordination Committee highlighting the branch activities and other pertinent

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information to encourage membership and participation in the branch. The brochure is also used as a reminder of the relevancy of the NAACP in the twenty-first century in spite of the fact the President of this nation is an African American.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE:** The Branch reestablished the quarterly meetings of the San Antonio Police Department to discuss racial profiling issues that affect the community, such as "driving/walking while Black." Other issues in discussion are family violence and child and adult protective services.

**Ban the Box:** in an effort to assist ex-offenders in securing employment, the Branch contacted the VIA Metropolitan Transit to assist in establishing a vehicle by which ex-offenders may gain employment. The President/CEO of VIA was amenable in partnering with the NAACP in recruiting other agencies to endorse this proposal. This effort is ongoing.

**EDUCATION:** Committee members have mentored students at Eloff and Cameron Elementary and Sam Houston High Schools encouraging them to stay in school and helping students practice test-taking skills. The committee partnered with the State Board of Education Committee member, Dr. Michael Soto, to prevent textbook inaccuracies in the history of this country as it pertains to African Americans and other minorities. The branch has also partnered with the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) for fair funding of school districts in conjunction with the state budget cuts in education.

**LEGAL REDRESS COMMITTEE:** This committee processed more than 200 intake forms alleging discrimination in the work place, police misconduct and unfair labor practices. The committee was able to provide appropriate resources for the complaints. The Equal Opportunity Commission was also contacted for assistance in several complaints which prompted the Interim Director and his training officer to make a presentation at the regular NAACP Branch meeting to further explain the EEOC process and answer questions.

The Legal Redress and Criminal Justice Committee work together in making monthly visits to the County Jail to council with inmates who have contacted the Branch Office.

**PREDATORY LENDING:** The Branch was successful in preventing a predatory lender from obtaining permission to rezone in an area that was already overflowing with these types of establishments. Members of the Branch attended the zoning meeting and addressed the commissioners that more than 10 of these establishments were already located within a 12 block radius. After the Board voted unanimously to disallow the area to be rezoned, a discovery was made by the Branch that the minutes did not reflect the Board's vote. Persistence by the President in contacting the Board Chairman to correct the minute, the correction resulted in preventing the rezoning from taking place.

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT FROM THE LEGAL REDRESS COMMITTEE

The Legal Redress Committee had 30 office calls and 8 walk-ins for the month of May. Office calls were returned, some made appointments to come in, others had called the number in error. The walk-ins were seen and given advice how to resolve their complaints.

**Investigative Report:** Fourteen inmates were interviewed during the month of May; one was released from incarceration. The problems still exist with the attorneys' not representing their clients. However, the situation has greatly improved with the attorneys. Rev. M. Rashad Berry, Complaints Manager/Investigator, Mr. E. F. "Smiley" Williams, Complaints Advisor.

Freedom Fund Dinner

October 26, 2012

Villita Assembly Hall

401 La Villita

7:00 pm

Speaker: Ms. Christina Swarns

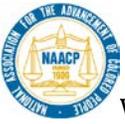
Director, Criminal Justice Practice

NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.

## MARION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

There is an African American family in Marion, Texas that brought our attention to several issues pertaining to their children in the Marion ISD. At the time the family came to

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the NAACP, they had four children in the Marion ISD: one in high school, two in middle school and one in elementary school. It is worth noting that the family history reveals that family members have lived in the community for over one hundred years.

The issue that brought the family to the San Antonio NAACP was a noose was found in the area of the senior's car, along with a very cryptic note with racial comments. This was the second time a noose was found near the area of one of the children of this family.

The family filed a Level One grievance and asked the NAACP's help with the grievance process. The NAACP assisted the family in the preparation for the grievance process. There were three. The family was not happy with the superintendent's response to the first two grievances. The family presented the grievance to the School Board which was Level Three.

There seems to have been a lack of concern about the issues of the African American Community at large. The Marion ISD was offered the name and telephone number of a contact in the Department of Justice (DOJ) that could assist them with diversity issues, but the ISD made no attempt to contact the DOJ. There was no resolution given to the family that satisfied their desire. However, the superintendent did admit that there were problems that needed attention.

Throughout the course of this case the NAACP met with two separate lawyers on behalf of the family, held a meeting with the superintendent of the Marion ISD and The Marion ISD School Board. We prepared presentations for the two meetings as well as assisted the family in determining the relief they sought. We talk with the DOJ and FBI about the issues and tried to get the DOJ involved with the Marion ISD.

On June 10, 2012, the DOJ contacted the Branch to advise that the Marion ISD finally contacted DOJ to assist them with a bullying policy, training on diversity and sensitivity training. The DOJ will attempt to extend the training to the community. The San Antonio Branch is willing to assist if requested.

## **JUNETEENTH FREEDOM DINNER BENEFITTING THE KATHY CLAY-LITTLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

The keynote speaker for the event was Dallas District Attorney, Craig Watkins, Texas' first Black DA and recipient of the American Bar Association's Norm Maleng Minister of Justice Award. Honorees included Charles E. Williams, Founder of Williams Barber College and owner of the historical Landmark Coffee Shop and Café, honored with the Frederick Douglas Emancipation Award. **Dorothy Collins**, Retired Educator, honored with the Harriett Tubman Courage Award. **Nettie Hinton** played a key role with sponsorship of tables and tickets for the Kathy Clay-Little Scholarship

## **MOTION PASSED AT NAACP NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

May 19, 2012, Rev. Dr. William Barber, II, moved, seconded by Alice Huffman:

"The NAACP Constitution affirmatively states our objective to ensure the "political, educational, social and economic equality," of all people. Therefore, the NAACP has opposed and will continue to oppose any national, state, local policy or legislative initiative that seeks to codify discrimination or hatred into the law or to remove the constitutional rights of LGBT citizens. We support marriage equality consistent with the full protection provided under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution."

**Your Power,  
Your Decision,  
VOTE!**



## *In Memoriam*

# *Ethel M. Minor*

**November 26, 1922**

**June 25, 2012**

## **Obituary**

Ethel M. Minor was the only child born to Grace and Mose Jones. She was raised by her uncle, Ben Davis, and grew up working in the family Funeral Home and Drug store in Columbus, Texas. She graduated from Columbus High School after which she attended Prairie View A&M University where she played basketball and developed her love of the sport. She continued her education at St. Mary's University.

After moving to San Antonio she met and married Claudis H. Minor and to that union was born a son, Claudis and a daughter, Deborah. She obtained employment at Kelly AFB where she began as a clerk and retired in 1980 as Equal Employment Officer after 35 years. After retirement she worked for 14 years as church secretary at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church. Her pastor, Rev. J. J. Rector Sr. encouraged her to run for NAACP president in 1986, which she did and won. She served as president from 1986 to 1996 but she remained active with other civic and social groups such as IOTA PHI LAMDA, International Toastmistress and Altrusa. In 2003 Ethel ran for NAACP president again and served until 2006. She remained active with both the local branch and National until her passing.

Her honors were many including, Martin Luther King Distinguished Achievement Award, Kelly AFB Ring of Honor, President Emeritus of the local NAACP, Distinguished Citizen with Amazing Energy, Avance Mother of the Year, Annie's List Champion Award, Sojourner Truth Freedom Award, San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, San Antonio Profiles in Leadership, NAACP Diamond Life Membership, UIW Civil Rights Pioneer, and many, many more.

She leaves to honor and cherish her memory, son, Claudis H. Minor Jr. (Sonny), daughter, Deborah Y. McCoy, seven grandchildren, Terrik A. McCoy, Nathan Minor, Zechariah, Gabriel Minor, Hannah Minor, Corban Minor, and Christopher A. McCoy, seven great grandchildren, Devin Resendez, Natalya S. Minor, Noah J. Minor, Lola Rico, J. Miles Rico, Olivia G. Rico, Chanel T. McCoy, niece, Mattie Bell, two nephews, Eddie Reed and Simon Reed, two special daughters, Dehab Townsend and Santos Gutierrez, and many loved and cherished friends.