

SAN ANTONIO  
BRANCH NAACP

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner: October 24, 2008, La Villita, 7:00 PM
- San Antonio Branch NAACP meetings: Thursdays, September 11, October 9, and November 13, at 7:00 PM
- Health Fair: Ella Austin Community Center, Saturday, November 1, 2008, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Texas State NAACP Convention: October 9-11, 2008, Hilton San Antonio Airport

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:

- On Active Membership 2
- National Convention Highlights 2
- NAACP Fights Predatory Lending 2
- SAPD Changes Proposed 3
- Digital TV Conversion 3
- Notice of Branch Election 4

# The Herald

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2008

## “Arrive with 5”: Voter Empowerment

It is the goal of the NAACP to empower African Americans and people of color by increasing awareness and participation in the electoral process. Voting is a fundamental right and a tool to express your opinion about how the government should function and who should be its leaders.

Historically African American voting performance has lagged behind whites about 4% in registration and turnout. Our 2008 goal is to increase African American

The San Antonio Branch NAACP will hold its Annual Freedom Fund Dinner on October 24, 2008, at the La Villita Assembly Hall, at 7:00 pm. The theme for the event is “Power, Justice, Freedom, Vote.”

The dinner is the main fundraiser for the Branch, and provides support for all operations, from civil rights com-

voter turnout by 5% over the 2004 turnout.

The NAACP's "Arrive with 5" campaign is a national voter empower-



**Register to vote before October 6th. Cast your ballot early or on November 4th.**

ment initiative aimed at increasing voter registration and participation in

plaint resolution to funding for the Youth Council and ACT-SO activities.

In this year of the 60th anniversary of the desegregation of the U.S. Army, the guest speaker will be Major General Russell J. Czerw, Commander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam

the November 4th elections. During the last two election cycles we witnessed a surge in African American voter turnout, but we also encountered a wave of voter suppression strategies that continues to hinder our vote.

As elections fast approach, now is the time to prepare. The NAACP asks participants to identify five (5) friends or family members who are committed to helping register others to vote and to "Arrive with 5" to the polls on Election Day. Value your Vote by doing more than simply casting a ballot. Help someone else register to vote and cast their ballot as well.

Houston.

This year the Branch will honor Rev. Dr. E. Thurman Walker, Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, and Mr. Oliver Hill, former Branch president, for their years of service to the African American community.

For more information, please call 224-7636.

## On Active Membership

*"In order to carry out our mission in San Antonio we need the support of the community."*

*"...[We] need to use all our resources, including the brain trust available here in San Antonio."*

NAACP's mission is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of **all persons** and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination. How do we accomplish this mission? We do it with a group of **volunteers** who are dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals needing assistance. Can we help everyone? No, but if you have an issue you feel is the result of racial hatred or discrimination, we will en-

deavor to assist you toward getting an equitable resolution. Equitable means a resolution that allows both parties to walk away with dignity.

Can we do this alone? No. In order to carry out our mission in San Antonio we need the support of the community. We need **members** and workers who will actively participate in

resolving issues. We need people who are concerned about the rights of all citizens in San Antonio. We need people who do more than just pay their dues. We need people who understand what an involved community really means. You probably think our executive committee is composed of leaders in our community, but to date we do not have an Attorney,

*Continued on page 3*

**Dennis C. Hayes,**  
**Interim National**  
**President, spoke**  
**on the issue of**  
**flying the**  
**Confederate flag**  
**in South Carolina.**

## National Convention

The 99<sup>th</sup> Annual NAACP Convention was highlighted by the appearances of the incoming President and CEO, Benjamin Jealous, and presumptive presidential nominees, Senators Barack Obama and John McCain. Julian Bond, Chairman of the National Board, delivered remarks

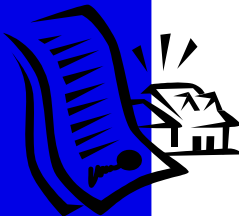
emphasizing the importance of all Branches being vigorously engaged in voter registration and get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts this election season. Dennis C. Hayes, Interim President, spoke on the issue of flying the confederate flag in South Carolina. He indicated that the NAACP is developing an action plan that

will be revealed soon. A debate was held on Monday evening pitting youth teams from Stockton, California and Detroit, Michigan arguing the issue of universal healthcare. Nate Parker, the actor from "The Great Debaters" was one of the judges. Stockton won the contest. Region VI voted to only send one name for election to the National Board. Gary Bledsoe's name will be submitted for re-election.

*August Johnson*

## NAACP Fights Predatory Lending

**"This discrimination was nationwide and cut across income levels."**



NAACP units across the country participated in a national 'Day of Action' against discriminatory mortgage lending today by demanding that several of the nation's top lenders – including Citi, HSBC, WaMu, GMAC and JP Morgan – make amends for discriminating against African American borrow-

ers and eliminate discriminatory policies and practices for good.

According to the NAACP and its lawsuit against 17 major lenders, African American borrowers were given loans with higher interest rates and other poor terms solely because of their race.

"Every one of us deserves equal access to the

'American dream' of homeownership," said NAACP Interim General Counsel Angela Ciccolo. "Making amends is just the beginning. We want to make sure African Americans are never victimized by the lending industry again. This discrimination was nationwide and cut across income-levels. People with six-figure incomes, significant down-payments and who had owned several homes."

# NAACP Pushes for SAPD Changes

During 2007 the San Antonio Police Department found itself having to explain an unusually high number of police-involved shootings. In her August 13, 2007 column in the San Antonio Express-News entitled "Lawlessness Hurts Everyone," Kathy Clay-Little argued for an investigation of SAPD's practices and policies. The challenge had indeed been made and was readily accepted by the local NAACP along with the ACLU, LULAC, and other like-minded organizations. As a result, the

San Antonio Coalition on Human and Civil Rights was formed. Early on, the NAACP served as the host for the coalition's meetings, providing a meeting site and lunch. The focus of this coalition of activists is on "use of force incidents," the handling of citizens' complaints, and the effects of the SAPD's collective bargaining agreement on the process. Having been duly authorized by the local body to partnership with other human rights organizations, the local branch can

take credit for its role in forcing police Chief McManus to ask the City Council to hire an outside firm to look into SAPD's policies and practices. In November 2007 the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) was hired by the City Council for that purpose. The NAACP has been well represented on the coalition by President Howard Anderson, William B. Johnson, Lloyd Miller, and Oliver Hill. Now that PERF has submitted its findings and recommendations,

perhaps the most difficult tasks lie ahead for the coalition of ensuring the implementation of PERF's recommendations.

*William B. Johnson*

**"We need to use all our resources, including the brain trust available here in San Antonio."**

## Membership

*Continued from page 2*

Sorority, Fraternity, Minister, Medical Doctor, School Principal represented; nor any other working professional in the city of San Antonio on our executive committee. If we are going to continue to be a viable civil rights organization **we need to use all our resources, including the**

**brain trust available** here in San Antonio. Not just the retirees who dedicate their time. Where is the Leadership?

So my challenge to all my brothers and sisters who think they have made it, who "have overcome" is for them to become involved in the NAACP and help move this organization and this city forward. Maybe your involvement can open up em-

ployment opportunities for our youth so they do not have to leave the city for higher paying jobs after college. Maybe your involvement can help us find out why so many of our young boys are in alternative schools. Maybe your involvement can get more of our youngsters pointed in the right direction academically. As a matter of fact with your involvement there is nothing that cannot be done.

*E. F. "Smiley" Williams*

## Digital TV Conversion

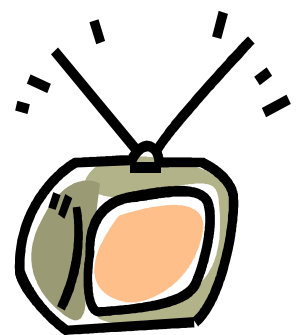
On February 17, 2009, all television broadcasts throughout the United States will be solely digital. This means that after that date, all people who still use the old "analog" system, or those who continue to receive their television signals through "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna, will need either televi-

sions already equipped with digital tuners or add a "digital-to-analog" converter device to their TV sets.

The NAACP is working with federal government agencies as well as several other non-profit groups to try to help educate and prepare our communities about this impending change, and that there are steps that can

be taken to reduce the cost to affected consumers. The federal government will issue coupons to reduce the cost of a converter box to consumers for up to two televisions per household by \$40 per coupon.

For more information about the conversion and the coupons, go to the U.S. Department of Commerce's website located at [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov) or call 1-888-DTV-2009.





## 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)

# Notice of Branch Election

Dear Member:

Please note the following General Membership meetings of the NAACP San Antonio Branch, for the purpose of election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee:

1. On September 11, 2008, at the Barbara Jordan Center located at 2803 E. Commerce Street, at 7:00 pm, there will be an election of the Nominating Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the meeting date may be elected to the Nominating Committee.

2. On October 9, 2008, at the Barbara Jordan Center located at 2803 E. Commerce Street, at 7:00 pm, there will be a

report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nominations by Petition, and election of the Election Supervisory Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of April 1st may be nominated for office or as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a nominating petition, or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the October meeting.

3. On November 13, 2008, the election of officers and at-large

members of the Executive Committee will take place at the Barbara Jordan Center located at 2803 E. Commerce Street, at 7:00 pm. Polls will be open from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. In order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required.

We look forward to your participating in these activities.

*Maria Stevenson Greene*  
Secretary