

San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter



Volume 2 Number 1



February 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings.

We have a new look – we have a new outline – we have a new writer. Rev. Dr. Brendonly Cunningham has consented to be our writer and gather-of-information for our Newsletter and I am ecstatic. Rev. Cunningham is also a weekly volunteer doing administrative duties in the office. She was also our Interim Chair for the Jubilee Day celebration. What a wonderful addition to our office operation.

Our new format includes excerpts from Committee Reports and Annual Meeting Reports. Although all reports could not be included in this edition of the newsletter, the remaining officer and committee reports will be highlighted in the next printing.

As we continue to work diligently in the work of the NAACP for another year, I am grateful for all of you who continue to give of your time and talents to keep this organization moving forward.

Thanks for your dedication and continued support; I remain your servant,

Oliver

SAN ANTONIO BRANCH OF THE NAACP BEGAN 2012 CELEBRATING JUBILEE DAY

January 8, 2012, Second Baptist Church at 4:00 P.M.

The theme of the celebration was: “No Turning Back! No Turning Back! No Turning Back! The Rev. Dr. Marcus A. L. Freeman, III, Pastor of St. Paul United Methodist Church brought the message and did an outstanding job in honoring that theme. The Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, Pastor of Second Baptist served as worship leader and Second Baptist, the host church provided a delicious meal for all. The attendance was very good and the dynamic presenters were a credit to the event that called our attention of the journey of African Americans from the slavery of their ancestors to the President of the United States today. It has been and continues to be an amazing journey, no turning back. The Jubilee Day Celebration for 2013 is January 13, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. Please mark your calendars NOW!

Excerpts from the Texas Conference. NAACP Unit's Quarterly Meeting was held January 28, 2012 at Prairie View, Texas.

President Gary Bledsoe presided. The invocation was given by Rev. Lilly of the Houston Unit. The president noted there would be items in his report that would require the actions of the body to be addressed under new business. The motion was properly carried.

Items for the Body's action:

The State NAACP should intervene in the lawsuit of Texas on redistricting...

Intervene in the lawsuit proposed by Dallas on Payday Lending opposing the city...

The securing of a grant that will guide children through the educational system...

Intervene in the lawsuit filed by the Sons of the Confederacy on the flag on Texas License plates.

The body approved these actions.

The state ACT-SO chair presented the 2012 schedule of local competitions around the state. San Antonio is scheduled for the 3rd or 4th week in March. National Competition is from July 5- 8, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency in Houston.

HATS OFF! LET'S CELEBRATE!

The San Antonio Branch of the NAACP received the prestigious award of the Dr. R. A. Callies, Sr. Courage Award, sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission of San Antonio, Texas. This was awarded during the MLK, JR. 2012 Celebrations.

“Courage is that quality of mind and spirit which allows one to face challenges, make difficult moral decisions and move forward with perseverance despite obstacles and/or danger. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. epitomized the quality of courage and Rev. Dr. R. A. Callies, Sr. resolutely followed Dr. King's example. The San Antonio Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People exemplifies the quality and courage and that is the reason for the nomination and recipient of this award. **Congratulations!**

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TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VOLUNTEER FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, SAN ANTONIO BRANCH.

Ordinary people performing extra ordinarily outstanding. 2011 Committee Reports

Excerpts from the Report of the Freedom Fund Dinner Committee, for 2011, Chaired by Mentoria Lewis Sherfield, December 8, 2011.

The committee consisted of people with various skills in unique areas, making availability of everything needed accessible. The chair did not hesitate to ask for assistance; with this awesome team and chosen leadership "it is a good feeling to say we reached the venue's capacity and had to decline the request for two additional tables," noted the Chairperson. On November 8, 2011 refreshments with desert and certificates of appreciation were presented to diligent committee members.

Excerpts from the report of the Parliamentarian, Dorothy Lee Collins, December 8, 2011.

The Chair reports, "It has been an interesting, challenging, educational and rewarding year serving on the Executive Committee as Parliamentarian." As Parliamentarian, Ms. Collins advised the presiding officer, officers and committee on matters of parliamentary procedures when appropriate. Copies of the Unit's Bylaws were distributed to members and the remaining copies were left in the President's office for accessibility.

Numerous meetings have been attended and activities embraced, several are listed below:

- . Corporate worship, installation of officers at St. Paul United Methodist Church
- . Attended 95% of the meetings (Executive and General Membership)
- . Solicited memberships
- . Represented the Education Committee at the first meeting that IDRA held concerning the inequities of school finances and the losses of funds the Districts incurred this fiscal school year.

- . Attended the Accreditation process of the San Antonio Police Department
- . Attended the voter's registration meeting, appointed as a Volunteer Deputy Registrar; later registered or informed potential voters about the importance of registering to vote. I joined Jureta Marshall at Chosen Generation Church
- . Served as delegate to the 102nd Annual Convention in Los Angeles, California
- . Even though selected to serve as Membership Chairperson for 2012, she is requesting that the committee be allowed to update the Bylaws.

Excerpts from the San Antonio Branch NAACP Assistant Treasurer's 2011 Year End Report, August S. Johnson, Assistant Treasurer

Mr. Johnson attended the Jubilee service for the installation of elected officers and 10 monthly Executive Committee and Branch meetings. He assisted the Treasurer in the preparation of the 2011 annual financial report for submission to the National Office.

The Assistant Treasurer worked with first Vice President Brown to up-date the computer software for managing the financial accounts for the Branch, as well as assisting the Treasurer in the preparation of monthly reports. He completed mandatory training required by the National Board of directors for Elected Branch Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons.

Mr. Johnson attended the Political Action Committee's Forum for Mayoral candidates and candidates for District Council 2, of San Antonio; he also attended the WIN's Mother's Day Program held at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

The Assistant Treasurer worked on the Freedom Fund Dinner Committee in planning the dinner and an Arts program in conjunction with St. Phillips College. He acted as the Branch's Coordinator with the Catholic Charities Retired Seniors volunteer program, which provides benefits for branch volunteers age 55 and above.

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Excerpts from the 2011 Annual Report of the Economic Development Committee, William Barman, Chair.

The chair reports that City Council District Two represents a substantial portion of the city's older inner-city eastside area, an area that has not fared well, historically, in the resource allocation process of our city. In response to this, the Economic Development Committee's mission statement, demographic, household income and other census data, the NAACP Economic Development Committee has chosen to educate and become visible, active and engaged in this area.

The Committee's primary purpose is to improve the quality of life in the community by empowering, advocating, and agitating for economic development improvements and possibilities in this inner-city area of San Antonio. The following will provide highlights of the Committee's achievement over the last twelve months:

Monitored the Mayor's Eastside Economic Re-investment Summit

This is a long-range and on-going process created and sponsored by the Mayor and District Two Councilwoman, Ivy Taylor to address economic development issues on the city's eastside. Goals and objectives have been identified by the community through the process, and a report by the City is issued annually measuring the progress that has been made.

Partnered with the Davis-Scott Branch Family YMCA in a community effort to upgrade and improve amenities at Pittman Sullivan Park

Pittman-Sullivan Park came into the City's park system in the early 1930s, and as such, it is one of the oldest parks in the city.

Through a number of meetings the group embraced a project of a "Walking Trail." The Walking Trail would be heavily landscaped with appropriate lighting, resting areas and benches, together with water fountains. Both NAACP Committee Chairs were successful in advocating that the project be included in the San Antonio 2012-2017 City-wide Parks Bond Program.

The Chair of the Economic Development Committee was appointed by District Two City Councilwoman, Ivy Taylor, to the City-wide 2012-2017 Parks Bond Committee to assist in shepherding, in addition to other District park projects.

Organized and coordinated Metropolitan Planning Organization's Walkable Communities Workshop with Neighborhood groups in Partnership with Davis-Scott Branch Family YMCA

On Saturday, October 1, 2011, the NAACP Economic Development and Health Committees in conjunction with the Davis-Scott Branch Family YMCA and the San Antonio-Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization sponsored a "walkable communities" workshop at the Davis-Scott Branch YMCA gymnasium.

Neighborhood groups from across the District were invited to attend and participate in the exercises. Associations in attendance included Dignowitty Hills, Denver Heights, Jefferson and the recently established Alamodome Historic Gardens Neighborhood Improvement Association.

Membership on City of San Antonio 2012-2017 City-Wide Parks Bond Committee

The Committee Chair (Economic Development) was one of three members appointed to represent City Council District Two and serve on the proposed \$596 million, 2012-2017 City-wide Bond Park Committee.

Excerpts from San Antonio NAACP Youth Council, Regina Horne-Espree, Youth Advisor

The San Antonio NAACP Youth Council began the year with the Martin Luther King, Jr. March, January 2011. The Youth Council President gave greetings to the assembly. The Youth had a membership drive and gave out information on HIV Aids. The youth participated in the National Directive of Young, Black and Secure, raising awareness of Social Security in the African American Community.

The annual Youth Image Awards Luncheon was held at the Main Street Restaurant on April 2, 2011. Twenty youth received Image Awards. The event included crowning Mr. and Miss NAACP and awarding the Ethel Minor Civil Rights Scholarship. ACT-SO participants provided entertainment for the evening; awards were presented to the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medalists.

The Youth Council went to Los Angeles to participate in the National Convention in July. In October the youth participated in the State Convention where Tevin Ellis was elected as our new Texas State Vice President.

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Excerpts from the 2011 NAACP ACT-SO Annual Report, Regina Horne-Espree, Chair, Claudette Cochrane Lewis, Co-Chair

The NAACP ACT-SO competition was held March 12-13, 2011. The areas were: Performing Arts, Humanities, Visual Arts, Business and Science. There were 13 gold medalists, 5 silver, 5 bronze and 6 participation. Nine students advanced to the National. The local competition will be held March 2012, the national competition will be held in Houston, July 5, 2012.

Students participating were: Derion Young, Darian Thomas, Kevin Davison, Ethan Jackson, Kyara Hampton, Amber Hill, Christina House, Yamell Valencia, Myles Wortham, Yosef Anzarizdeh, Jacoby McPherson, Joi Stevens, Emanuel Vargas, Kerri Thomas, Devin Woodard, Chance Eckert, Jamir Thompson, and Shari Robert.

Branch Secretary Maria Stevenson Greene, submitted a Unit Quarterly Report for the 4th Quarter of 2011.

The report included excerpts from the following committees: ACT-SO, Armed Forces/Veterans' Affairs, Criminal Justice, Community Coordination, Economic Empowerment, Education, Health and Women in the NAACP (WIN), Membership, Labor and Industry, Legal Redress, Political Action, Young Adult, Youth Work and Coalition or other CBO partnerships

The Labor and Industry Committee of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP, Chaired by Jerri Keyes reports:

In 2011 the Labor and Industry Committee was very busy. There was a great concern with the City's Fire Department's lack of hiring African Americans as fire fighters. Presently the city has 60 African American fire fighters, approximately 4%, the number should be 130. The low number is due to an influx of approximately 50 or more tenured fire fighters retiring over the last three years.

This committee developed and implemented a fire fighters test; training for classes began Saturday, March 26 and ended Saturday, October 1, 2011. Classes were held twice each month. There were twenty participants, two females. They all boasted of feeling more confident in taking and passing the test for fire fighters. A majority of the students who took the test scored in the high 80 percentile, with the two females scoring even higher. The two females scored in the top 300 applicants and have been contacted by the city

personnel for their next step to start and complete the process of becoming fire fighters.

Committee Chairman David Sherman, for Armed Forces and Veterans, San Antonio Branch of the NAACP, Annual 2011 report noted:

Activity included assisting Veterans with medical claims, clinic referrals, VA benefits and resources. The Chair attended Veteran Informational workshops and visited Veteran Affairs Organizations.

The Legal Redress Committee, Advisor, E. F. (Smiley) Williams, Rev. M. A. Rashad Berry, Complaints Manager,

A detailed, 2011 report was submitted on December 8, 2011 that showed the amount of activity rendered each month. The report revealed a total of 233 clients served during 2011.

The Annual Criminal Justice Report was submitted by the Chair, Donald Ray Hunt.

The report reflected meetings attended by the chairperson and areas of activities to include ministry to jail house inmates for fairness and justice, nationwide conference calls; and a series of trainings completed. The chair will continue as initiatives from headquarters on criminal justice emerge.

Looking at the calendar for 2012

A reflection of the January 2012 minutes shows the committees implementing and continuing work already begun in 2011. This promises to be another exciting and eventful year for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, San Antonio Branch with Mr. Oliver Hill providing the leadership.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Willie H. Scruggs

Save the Date

October 26, 2012

Freedom Fund Dinner