

San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter



Volume 4 Number 2

April - July 2014



From the President's Pen

As the year is fast approaching to its end, I would like to thank all of you for your support to this organization. Whether you "like" us on Face Book, support the initiatives we have undertaken, attended our Freedom Fund Dinner or read the updates on our webpage, we are truly grateful.

This newsletter will only highlight a few activities for this period. It contains information regarding the election of new officers and Executive Committee members to be held in November. The Branch Secretary's letter will give you the details required to participate in the election.

This is the final printed newsletter you will receive by mail. **We are going "green."** All issues after this mailing will appear on our web page at www.sanantonionaacp.org. Printed copies may be requested by mailing your name and current address to NAACP Newsletter Request, P. O. Box 200225, San Antonio, Texas 78220-0225

On behalf of the officers and Executive Committee members, your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Oliver

Result of Meeting with SAPD

Members of the Branch continue to meet quarterly with the San Antonio Police Department, which includes the Police Chief and his senior staff. Our last meeting outlined areas of concern that required a response from the department. A suggestion that the Police Department allow members of the NAACP to accompany complainants to the Internal Affairs office was agreed upon by Chief McManus. This necessary change will alleviate a sense of intimidation by the presence of law enforcement officials who are taking the complaint.

Are You Ready for the 2014 Elections?

The following information was extracted from an article by the Texas League of Women Voters

The State (of Texas) had previously estimated that a substantial number of registered Texas voters—between 600,000 and 800,000—lack an approved form of photo ID. The data provided to the United States Department of Justice as of September 2011 and January 2012 show that minority communities could be disparately impacted. In addition, a federal court found that "a substantial subgroup of Texas voters, many of whom are African American or Hispanic, lack photo ID" and that the "burdens associated with obtaining ID" will weigh most heavily upon the State's racial minorities.¹ Young people ages 18 to 24 and the elderly are also believed to be among those who are more likely than the general population to not have an approved form of photo ID.

The November 2014 election is the first major election under the Texas photo ID requirement. To be accepted, the ID must be current or expired no more than 60 days, and be one of the following:

- Texas driver's license, personal ID card, concealed carry license, or election identification certificate, or
- United States passport, military ID, citizenship or naturalization certificate

Photo IDs that cannot be accepted at the polls include out-of-state driver's licenses, employer IDs, and school IDs.

An exact match between the name on the photo ID and the list of registered voters is not required to be accepted to vote a regular ballot. If names don't match, additional information will be considered in accepting the voter. Voters without acceptable ID will be able to vote a provisional ballot and provide ID within 6 days of the election.

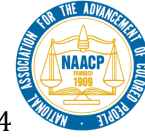
**Don't Forget - Freedom Fund Dinner
Oct 24, 2014, 7:00 pm – UIW Skyroom**

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Health Facility for East San Antonio

At Last! Thanks to the persistent, behind the scenes work of the Economic Development Committee, the University Health System, in partnership with the San Antonio Housing Authority, a modern day health facility will be built on the Eastside of San Antonio.

Four million dollars is being invested for facility and site, which is a two-acre tract of land along the I35 North access road near Walters Street and the Sutton Oaks Apartments. The opening date is scheduled for 2016 and is expected to spike much needed economic development in this sector of the city that has been neglected for more than 20 years.

The newspaper coverage of the announcement depicted the presence and elation of several members of the Branch to see this idea come to fruition.

End the School to Prison Pipeline

The cold hard facts are difficult to fathom but the prison industrial complex has grown tremendously over the mass incarcerations of African Americans and other minorities under the guise of "hard on crime" and "hard on drugs." While these slogans have been detrimental to the community, four and five year olds are now being targeted from Pre-K through fourth grades. As indicated in our last newsletter, suspension of preschool Black children represents 18% of school enrollment but 48% of out-of-school suspensions.

The Education Committee is engaged in several initiatives to help alleviate this problem by responding to the call for more attendance at School Board meetings, more involvement with teachers and Administrators, and more engaging of parents in all aspects of the education curriculum.

Because San Antonio has more than fifteen (15) school districts, help is needed to have NAACP representation at each of these ISD meetings. Join now and help end the School to Prison pipeline.

Partnership with CPS Energy

In ensuring African American Business Enterprises (AABE's) receive consideration for job contracts, the CPS Energy has partnered with the local branch to assist small businesses in obtaining contracts with CPS Energy.

After a meeting with the President/CEO Mr. Doyle Beneby and members of his senior staff, CPS Energy sponsored a workshop "How to do Business with CPS Energy" that allowed businesses in attendance to hear a presentation on contract awards.

NAACP Job Bank

The Branch office receives job announcements for employment opportunities in the San Antonio area and parts of southwest Texas. There have been several visitors to the office to use this service but not to the degree to make an impact on decreased unemployment. We encourage all persons who are seeking employment or contemplating changing career fields to review these openings between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, except Holidays.

Criminal Justice/Legal Redress

The Branch receives more than 25 telephone calls, walk-ins or appointments from members of the community each week seeking assistance from an array of circumstances. Additionally, we receive mail from inmates from the County Jail who ask for assistance in contacting their court appointed attorneys for adequate representation.

As a result of the efforts of the volunteers assigned to resolve these issues, court appointed attorneys have been encouraged to engage more frequently with the inmates and has resulted in several releases.

Many other complaints have been satisfactorily resolved including many involving unsatisfactory working environments.