

# San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter



Volume 3 Number 1

March 2013



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings: You may have missed our newsletter over the past several months, but we have been thinking of you, the membership, and the information we wanted to share regarding the accomplishments and initiatives the Branch has undertaken. It seems our involvement with issues that affect our community has increased twofold and we need more volunteers to support administrative duties of answering the telephone and providing information to visitors to the office.

This issue of the newsletter will highlight our activities since the last printing including the officers and Executive Committee members who were elected to serve you during their 2013-2014 timeframe.

In the last newsletter, it was emphasized, "*the Branch is going "green."* The NAACP supports the environmental issues of the day and we are recycling. While it is not our intent to discontinue printing the newsletter, it will be a huge savings in paper and time consumption if you will agree to visit our website or Facebook page to review it. Indicate your preference of reading the newsletter; express your comments and suggestions to improve it, or other issues and concerns you may have by email to [sanaacp@satx.rr.com](mailto:sanaacp@satx.rr.com) , or by mail to: PO Box 200225, San Antonio, Texas 78220-0225. **PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU.**

Thank you for your continued support as a member of the oldest civil rights organization in the world.

Sincerely

*Oliver*

## SAVE THE DATE

### Freedom Fund Dinner

Friday, October 25, 2013

7:00 p.m.

University of the Incarnate Word

~ Sky Room ~

## San Antonio Branch NAACP GOTV Campaign

Prior to the General Election of 2012, the San Antonio Branch completed months of exhaustive work registering and empowering local citizens to vote. Before the election in November, NAACP volunteers were able to register over 500 new voters. To register new voters the volunteers visited local churches and universities as well as holding a "Voter Registration and Education Campaign" in MLK Park.

In addition to voter registration, the volunteers for the GOTV Campaign placed flyers on automobiles that provided examples explaining the importance of voter participation in particularly close elections.

On Election Day, the volunteers rented a van to ensure that lack of transport did not prevent potential voters from going to the polls. Meanwhile there were volunteers in the office answering phones to help voters find their local precincts.

## NAACP Tolerance Resolution Rejected

The Legal Redress Committee undertook a complaint on the Marion ISD when a noose and racial epithets were made towards African American students. These incidents were reported to the local police, which indicated their investigation was still open. The Branch went further to contact the local FBI to investigate.

The Branch contacted the Department of Justice Community Relations Services to conduct sensitivity training but attempting to acquire the full participation of the School Board was unsuccessful. After the series of racially charged incidents became known, the DOJ proposed a Resolution to the School Board, however, the School Board elected to table the matter until a later date.

The Marion ISD Board of Trustees decided not to sign the tolerance resolution put forth by the DOJ, which would have been a joint endorsement by the San Antonio NAACP and the School district. The district Trustees argued that they already have policies in place to work towards tolerance. Some trustees felt by signing the resolution it would appear as if they were admitting to failing to have these policies in place in the first place. The district also argued that signing this resolution with the NAACP would mean that new groups would come forward and demand the district sign their resolutions as well.

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## December Reports

### Armed Forces/Veterans Affairs

The committee conducted a visit to the Audie Murphy VA Hospital in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Unit. While there the committee discussed the Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program and the Substance Treatment Employment Program. The committee also shared information with local veterans regarding job fairs, workshops, and website resources.

### Health Committee

The committee has agreed on a series of new goals to accomplish in 2013. For one, the committee hopes to increase numbers on the Health Committee to five regular and active members. In addition, the committee plans on continuing the ongoing partnership with the Martinez Street Women Center with a focus on offering free Mammograms and Diabetes screenings to black women. Third, the committee is planning on increasing their advocacy for quality care and management for individuals with HIV/AIDS. A fourth goal is to continue working on the Pittman-Sullivan Walking Trails Project. Lastly, the Health Committee plans on creating a walking program with accountability partners to help reduced levels of obesity.

### Education Committee Information Report

National NAACP President Benjamin Jealous has announced that the NAACP will be lobbying state and local government for extended school hours and years in school, improved teacher training, improved preschool education and better targeting of spending to the neediest students.

In San Antonio, the first two locations for Pre-K 4 SA centers were approved. One will be located on Medical Drive in the former Southwest Airlines call center building. The other will be at 2619 SE Military Drive. In addition, the city council nominated members for the Pre-K 4 SA Board of Directors.

From December 3-5, the African American Males in College Achievement & Success Symposium was held in Austin. The symposium focused on the issues too many African American males face in the process of entering and graduating higher education. A variety of ideas were put forth to combat the problem. Keynote speaker Dr. Fred Bonner argued that success is determined by student relationship with faculty,

peer relationships, family influence and support, self-perception, institutional environment, and factors influencing college selection.

### President's Activity Report

President Oliver W. Hill attended the December Police Advisory Board meeting. The focus of the meeting was a study regarding high-chase pursuits. The Police Department is currently working to change the mindset of officers so that there is a better understanding about when it is proper not to pursue an individual.

President Hill also sent a letter to County Judge Nelson Wolff to establish a meeting to discuss ongoing racial disparities in awarding of city contracts. Hill also met with members of the City of San Antonio's Capital Improvement Management System and members of the Economic Development Committee to discuss these disparity issues.

### December 6, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting Notes

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Barbara Jordan Center. The evening opened with an invocation from Rev. Malvyn Berry.

President Hill presented his President's Activity Report. The committee accepted President Hill's appointment of Dr. Brandonly Cunningham to be Interim Chair of the Religious Affairs Committee.

After discussion of the ongoing disparity issues in contract awarding by the city it was decided that Patrice Grant would be invited to make a presentation about the East Side Promise Neighborhood Grant at the January general meeting.

During the discussion of Committee Reports, it was decided Dr. Gregory Hudspeth and Dr. Dollie Elizabeth Hudspeth would be made co-chairs for the 2013 Freedom Fund Dinner. In addition Dorothy Collins notified the committee that new membership from the month of November included 4 adult memberships, 7 Silver Life subscriptions, 2 Gold Life subscription memberships. For December, the new membership was two adult memberships.

General Membership Meetings  
7:00 p.m. - Second Thursday of each Month  
Barbara Jordan Community Center  
2803 E. Commerce Street

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## **December 13, 2012 General Membership Meeting Notes**

The general membership meeting was held at the Barbara Jordan Community Center on December 13. David Sherman delivered the opening prayer.

Correspondence announcements included an invitation from the NAACP national office for the San Antonio chapter to share in revenue from tickets sold to the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Image Awards on February 1, 2013. It was also announced that President Oliver Hill would be the speaker at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Legacy Ball at the Randolph Air Force Base African American Heritage Committee on February 15, 2013. Furthermore, it was announced that a thank you letter had been received from Debbie Sittre, Assistant CIMS Director for the City for the branch's cooperation in relocating our meeting on short notice.

In new business, the motion carried to support Ernest Johnson as at-large candidate for Region VI. A motion in support of the slate presented for the National Board of Directors was also passed.

Announcements made included that Patrice Hargrove would be speaking at the January general meeting regarding the East Side Promise Neighborhood Initiative. Mr. Rockeymoore provided a verbal affirmation of President Hill and his civil rights work.

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## **Establishment of UTSA Chapter**

The San Antonio Branch is happy to announce its efforts to establish the UTSA College Chapter in San Antonio finally came into fruition on October 1, 2012, when the official letter came from the National Headquarters in Baltimore, making UTSA a bonafide member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. There are more than 40 members in the Chapter. The current president, Kaneshia Davis, is a remarkable young woman who is keeping this group grounded in the ideals of the organization and its struggles for equal rights and protection for all Americans.

Kaneshia D. Davis, President  
Tanita Wiley, Vice President  
Brittany Perkins, Secretary  
Malcolm Ramey, Treasurer  
Jana Schwartz, Faculty Advisor

## **Election of Officers**

The San Antonio Branch NAACP held its election of officers and Executive Committee members on November 8, 2012. The following members were elected:

President	Oliver Hill
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Horace Brown, Jr.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Malvyn Berry
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President	Kathleen Carter-Stiggers
Secretary	Maria Stevenson Greene
Treasurer	August S. Johnson

Members elected to the Executive Committee were:

Ann Johnson Brown  
William Burman  
Dorothy Collins  
Minnie M. Hill  
William B. Johnson, Sr.  
Claudette Lewis  
Deloris Mosley  
Lloyd Miller  
Mentoria Sherfield  
David Sherman  
Johnnie M. Thompson

These officers and members will serve the organization until December 31, 2014.

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## **Appointments**

As the Branch began its new year, the President made several appointments that would ensure continued functionalities of the branch. These appointments are:

ACT-SO – Regina Horne-Espree  
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs – David Sherman  
Communications, Press and Publicity – Sakita Martin  
Community Coordination – Minnie Hill  
Criminal Justice – Malvyn Berry  
Economic Development – William Burman  
Education Committee – Ann Johnson Brown  
Freedom Fund – Mentoria Sherfield  
Health – Deloris Mosley  
Labor and Industry – Elwood Mitchell  
Legal Redress – Malvyn Berry  
Membership/Life Membership – Dorothy Collins  
Political Action – J. Maurice Gibbs  
Religious Affairs – J. Brendonly Cunningham  
WIN – Deloris Mosley

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## Jubilee Celebration

On the second Sunday of each year, the Branch celebrates the accomplishments of the Branch, of African Americans, and the ending of slavery in 1865. This year, the celebration service was held January 13, 2013 at Bethel United Methodist Church, 227 S. Acme where the Rev. Glenn serves as pastor. Rev. Glenn also served as Worship Leader for the program. Our theme for this year was "God Continues to Specialize in Things Thought to be Impossible".

Customarily, the host pastor from the previous year serves as the speaker for the occasion and this year, the Rev. Dr. Robert L. Jemerson, pastor of Second Baptist Church brought an outstanding message of hope and inspiration to all.

More than 100 persons were in attendance including the Honorable Mary Dennis, Mayor of Live Oak who introduced the incoming officers and Executive Committee members, County Commissioner Paul Elizondo in whose district the celebration was held, and several Judges from the various judicial benches around the city.

## Disparity in Contract Awards Challenged

In the summer of 2012, members of the Economic Development Committee met with City Manager Sheryl Sculley and her staff, and Councilwoman Ivy Taylor of District 2, to start a dialogue to improve the awarding of contracts to African American businesses in San Antonio. The Disparity Study on the city's books has been dismal for African Americans with an almost zero quantifiable percentage of participation.

After much discussion, the city manager directed her staff to continue to work with the Economic Development Committee to improve these conditions. This resulted in a 5-year plan that will ensure African Americans are at the table to be able to secure contracts with the city, but will also allow the African American Contractors and other businesses to navigate their needs for success. Below is the chronology of the Five-Year Plan passage by the Mayor and City Council on Thursday, January 17, 2013:

- September 2012 – Letter from the Branch President to City Manager Sculley for a meeting to discuss the Disparities in Contract Awards.

- October 2012 – Members learn that City Council will meet and act on consideration of distributing 2012 Bond Issue projects to Contractors and Professionals. African Americans were excluded.
- Architect Porter Dillard, Community Organizer T. C. Calvert and Economic Development Chair William Burman addressed the Council and raised concerns regarding the exclusion of African Americans. Mayor Castro instructs City Staff to have the outlines of an Action Plan for addressing the problem back to the Council within thirty days.
- A series of meetings were held with City Staff, African American Contractors and Professional Services and members of the Economic Development Committee to draft a Five-Year Diversity Action Plan.
- The Mayor and City Council adopted the Plan unanimously on Thursday, January 17, 2013.

## Four Recognized for Contributions

Four members of the Branch received the Trailblazers Award during the State Conference of NAACP Units Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas, October 5-12, 2012.

Mr. William Burman and Mrs. Deloris Mosley, who played integral parts for a "Walking Trail" at Pittman Sullivan Park, received their awards because of their efforts. Mr. Burman's perseverance for funding of the Trail netted more than \$600,000 from the city for its completion.

Rev. Malvyn Berry and Mr. Elmer "Smiley" Williams were recognized for their work with the Legal Redress Committee. During the year, they processed more than 200 complaints, including complaints coming from inmates at the County Jail. They established a friendly working relationship with the Sheriff's Department that has facilitated ongoing visits.

## *IN MEMORIAM*

*Mrs. Helen G. Jacobson – 8 Oct 12*

*Dr. Earl McKinley Lewis – 13 Oct 12*

*Mr. Frank Wing – 30 Oct 12*