

# San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter



Volume 4 Number 1

March 2014



## From the President's Pen

It has been quite some time since the last newsletter and although it has been my desire to share information before now, be assured that much is being accomplished by the volunteers of this organization.

Our committees continue to function and we encourage more members to become actively involved to help make a difference in the lives of many citizens who are unable to speak or act for themselves. Your support to this Branch can also be accomplished by renewing your membership or increasing your membership to the next level. Please go to our web page for an application to complete this action.

A list of all committees and names of their chairpersons has been included for your perusal to help you decide the committee that best fits your expertise. Your participation will be gladly appreciated.

The Branch has received several telephone calls on the disparate treatment of children of color in the educational system and has been engaged with a few districts to ensure equal and fair treatment is afforded to all children. To give a better insight on the problems children of color are experiencing throughout the nation, information from the Department of Education Office of Civil Rights is included in this newsletter highlighting the disparities in the treatment of children of color.

As always, thanks for your unwavering support to this organization

*Oliver*

## Like Us

The Chair of the Communications, Publicity and Press Committee continues to update our Facebook and Web page with information and pictorials of events where the Branch members are taking active parts. We ask that each member, occasionally go to our Facebook at [sanaacp.org](http://sanaacp.org) and

"Like Us" or go to our Web site at [www.sanantonionaacp.org](http://www.sanantonionaacp.org) to catch up on the latest events. Provide us with feedback.

## The Best in Texas

During the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Texas State Conference of NAACP Units, the San Antonio Youth Council, under the leadership of its outstanding Youth President, Ms. Taylor Dismuke, was awarded the Outstanding Youth Council in the State of Texas. This prestigious award is indicative of the training and commitment given them by their Advisor, Mrs. Regina Horne-Espree. The awards for San Antonio did not end there because the selection of the Outstanding Youth Council Advisor in the state of Texas was awarded to Mrs. Regina Horne-Espree. With these recognitions, we are extremely proud of their accomplishments and can earnestly believe our future is in the hands of capable young adults who will continue to carry the banner for freedom, equality and justice. Congratulations to the Best in Texas.

## Join a Committee

ACT-SO	Mrs. Regina Horne-Espree
Armed Services and Veterans Affairs	Mr. David Sherman
Communications, Publicity and Press	Ms. Sakita K. Martin
Community Coordination	Mrs. Minnie M. Hill
Criminal Justice	Rev. Malvyn Berry
Economic Development	Mr. William Burman
Education	Mrs. Ann Johnson Brown
Freedom Fund	Mrs. Mentoria Sherfield
Health	Vacant
Housing	Vacant
Labor and Industry	Mr. Elwood K. Mitchell
Legal Redress	Rev. Malvyn Berry
Membership	Mrs. Dorothy Collins
Political Action	Mr. J. Maurice Gibbs
Religious Affairs	Rev. Dr. J. B. Cunningham
Women in NAACP (WIN)	Vacant
Young Adults	Vacant
Youth Works	Vacant

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## JUBILEE DAY CELEBRATION

The Annual Jubilee Celebration was held January 12, 2014 at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, where the Rev. Kevin Fausz is pastor. More than one hundred guests participated in the event, including the Joseph T. Maxey Masonic Lodge members, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and members of the Judiciary. The guest church and speaker for the celebration were Bethel United Methodist Church and the Rev. Robert Glenn, who delivered a soul stirring message. The Youth Council recited the Emancipation Proclamation and the UTSA College Chapter gave an outstanding presentation of the lyrics to the NAACP Jubilee Song "Go Tell It." The program was under the direction of the Religious Affairs and Community Coordination Committees. The next celebration will be held January 13, 2015 at Macedonia Baptist Church, 943 SW 40<sup>th</sup> Street, San Antonio, Texas 78237. **SAVE THE DATE.**

## Freedom Fund Dinner a Huge Success

The scene was the Sky Room at the University of the Incarnate Word where the ambiance of the skyline of San Antonio adds to the atmosphere, and the speaker, Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd, delivered a very powerful message that inspired the audience by several standing ovations. It was a night to behold. Each attendee left the auditorium filled with a sense of urgency to enter into the fight for freedom, justice and equality.

During the event, three members of the Branch were honored for their service to the community. Mrs. Bobbie J. Turner was honored for her Civil and Community Services, Mr. Mario M. Salas for his Community Activism and duties as a City Councilman and The Esperanza Peace and Justice for their cultural awareness in the city.

Membership plaques were awarded to the following organization and persons: Diamond Life to the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Gold Life to Mrs. Ann Johnson

Brown and Mr. Horace Brown, Jr.; Golden Heritage Life to Mrs. Minnie Mabry Hill; Silver Life to Ms. Rosaland G. Anderson, Dr. Harold B. Crawford, Dr. J. Brendonly Cunningham, Mr. Lewis Marshall, Mr. Randall Palmer, III, Ms. Hilda Shivers Penn, Councilwoman Iva R. Taylor and Judge Eugenia Wright. Life Membership Plaques were awarded to Mrs. Hazel Hayes and Mrs. Gloria Chandler.

The Dinner and Awards Celebration is under the auspices of the Freedom Fund Committee. The Freedom Fund Dinner program was chaired by Dr. Gregory Hudspeth and Dr. Elizabeth Hudspeth, both of whom, along with the Committee Chair, worked untiringly to ensure the program met the expectations of the 700 guests in attendance. The Branch is indebted to them for their dedication, perseverance and support.

## Ground Breaking Ceremony

The new "Walking Trail" initiated by the Economic Development and Health Committees had its Ground-Breaking ceremony on November 14, 2013 at the Davis-Scott YMCA. The chilly day did not chill the enthusiasm and excitement about bringing this initiative to reality as the first shovels of soil were turned by participants in hard-hats led by District 2 Councilwoman Ivy Taylor.

The project began almost two years ago, having gone through several meetings with the city for adoption of the plans and then for proper and adequate funding. The estimated time frame for completion is June/July 2014.

The Branch is extremely grateful for our committee chairs and their members who continued to oversee the project from its inception until this time. This issue was brought to the attention of the committees by the Branch Secretary, Mrs. Maria Stevenson Greene.

**"Save the Planet - Let's go Green"**

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## Civil Rights Data Collection Data Snapshot: School Discipline

The CRDA reveals that students of certain racial or ethnic groups and students with disabilities are disciplined at far higher rates than their peers, beginning in preschool. The CRDC data also show that an increasing number of students are losing important instructional time due to exclusionary discipline.

**Suspension of preschool children, by race/ethnicity and gender:** Black children represent 18% of preschool enrollment, but 48% of preschool children receiving more than one out-of-school suspension; in comparison, white students represent 43% of preschool enrollment but 26% of preschool children receiving more than one out of school suspension.

**Disproportionately high suspension/expulsion rates for students of color:** Black students are suspended and expelled at a rate three times greater than white students. On average, 5% of white students are suspended, compared to 16% of black students.

**Disproportionate suspension of girls of color:** While boys receive more than two out of three suspensions, black girls are suspended at higher rates (12%) than girls of any other race or ethnicity and most boys.

**Suspension of Students with disabilities and English learners:** Students with disabilities are more than twice as likely to receive an out-of-school suspension (13%) than students without disabilities (6%). In contrast, English learners do not receive out-of-school suspensions at disproportionately high rates (7% suspension rate, compared to 10% of student enrollment).

**Suspension rates, by race, sex, and disability status combined:** With the exception of Latino and Asian-American students, more than one out of four boys of color with disabilities (served by IDEA) – and nearly one in five girls of color with disabilities – receives an out-of-school suspension.

**Arrests and referrals to law enforcement, by race and disability status:** While black students represent 16% of student enrollment, they represent 27% of students referred to law enforcement and 31% of students

subjected to school-related arrest. In comparison, white students represent 51% of enrollment, 41% of students referred to law enforcement, and 39% arrested. Students with disabilities (served by IDEA) represent a quarter of students arrested and referred to law enforcement, even though they are only 12% of the overall student population.

**Restrain and seclusion, by disability status and race:** Students with disabilities (served by IDEA) represent 12% of the student population, but 58% of those placed in seclusion or involuntary confinement, and 75% of those physically restrained at school to immobilize them or reduce their ability to move freely. Black students represent 19% of students with disabilities served by IDEA but 36% of these students who are restrained at school through the use of a mechanical device or equipment designed to restrict their freedom of movement.

*The information above was extracted from the US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Issue Brief dated March 2014.*

## Education Committee

The Education Committee has adopted several initiatives to assist school children to succeed in the classroom. To ensure students are receiving the proper tools for class, the committee has supplied food packs to designated schools and school supplies, including back packs to needy students. They are encouraging all members of the San Antonio Branch to assist in these endeavors. Any member desiring to participate may call the Branch at (210) 224-7636. The committee believes a continuous drive to eliminate hunger and the providing of adequate school supplies will help students to reach their full potential in the class room. Remember - **A mind is a terrible thing to waste.**

### IN MEMORIAM

Sandra G. Sapenter – August 5, 2013  
Anne W. Coleman – August 23, 2013  
William “Bill” Sinkin – February 3, 2014

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## Highlighting the NAACP at Work

In an effort to better communicate with the community, the Religious Affairs and Community Coordination Committees are asking the churches in the city to allow members of the NAACP to speak to the congregations to highlight the many projects being undertaken by the NAACP. Additionally, quarterly brunches are being held in the city and will be extended to each quadrant to ensure the widest distribution of knowledge of the works of the Local Branch. We look forward to sharing the information to you at a setting of your choosing. Please contact the Branch office at 210-224-7636 for a suitable day and time.

## Doing Business with VIA

The Branch has entered into a partnership with VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority to attract more African American businesses (Contractors, Professionals, Goods and Services) in contract awards. To date, this partnership has garnered three workshops on "How to do Business with VIA" that gave tutorials to increase the potential for securing a contract with VIA. The Economic Development Committee oversees this initiative.

## Candidates' Forum

The Political Action Committee and the League of Women's Voters sponsored a Candidates' Forum on February 21, 2014 for candidates vying for Bexar County Commissioner Precinct 4 position. Candidates participating in the forum were Sheila McNeil, Debora Guerrero, Alan Baxter, Reinette Alecozay and Tommy Calvert, Jr. More than 100 attendees heard the candidates give their vision for the county and on other issues during the 2 ½ hour session.

### **-Don't forget to Vote-**

Early Voting May 19 – May 23 2014  
Run-Off Election May 27, 2014

## *Save the Date*

<>

**San Antonio Branch NAACP**

### *Freedom Fund Dinner*

Friday, October 24, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

University of the Incarnate Word  
Rosenberg Sky Room  
847 East Hildebrand  
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Single Tickets - \$75.00      Table of 10 - \$750.00

Speaker  
The Honorable State Representative  
***Sylvester Turner***  
District 139, Houston, Texas

Tickets may be purchased at the NAACP office  
2803 E. Commerce Street, Ste 7  
(210) 224-7636  
May 2, 2014 thru October 17, 2014

Monday - Wednesday - Friday  
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

For special consideration for tickets or purchasing times,  
please call: Mrs. Mildred Lamkin – (210) 224-5398  
Mrs. Johnnie Thompson – (210) 648-3739 or (210) 508-4483

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## Branch Responds to KABB-TV

In response to a letter from the Branch to KABB-TV dated January 16, 2014, meetings were held January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> with members of the Sinclair Broadcast Group regarding the egregious remark made by Meteorologist Mike Hernandez on-air, referring to the MLK March as Martin Luther Coon Day. Several members of the Executive Committee met on February 19, 2014 with the General Manager of Sinclair and staff, to discuss disciplinary action taken against Mr. Hernandez as well as other issues of concern. Company policy would not allow the divulgence of the action taken against Mr. Hernandez; however, we were assured that our concerns during the original meetings led to changes in the original date of his visible return to on-air broadcasting.

Sinclair Broadcast Group is comprised of three San Antonio stations--WOAI-TV4, KABB-TV29 and KMYS-TV35. Although an apology had been made to the community for the incident, the NAACP was concerned that a culture could be developing in the broadcast community of the station(s) that would require immediate addressing of issues to prevent these occurrences

Members of the NAACP were briefed on the sensitivity training the company requires of all employees annually and that appropriate measures are taken immediately when acts of hostility, harassments or other infractions occur in the workplace.

The NAACP encouraged the Sinclair Group to have a more visible presence in the African American community, to provide job announcements in all categories and to enlist African American students in Intern positions for increased opportunities of employment.

### - Latest News -

In keeping with the suggestions by the Branch, the company has hired an African American Reporter. Also, an Intern will begin duties with the company during the summer months of 2014.

## Meetings with County and UHS

The Economic Development Committee and representatives from Bexar County and the University Hospital System have been meeting to establish a medical facility for the East side of San Antonio. With the coming of Promise Neighborhood and Choice Neighborhood Federal Grants, the reality of a hospital for this quadrant of the city looks promising. The NAACP will continue to be involved in these proceedings.

## Criminal Justice Initiative

The Criminal Justice Committee has partnered with the Re-Entry Council of the Bexar County Commissioners Court to assist ex-felons in becoming active members in the community and help reduce the recidivism rate. The focus of this council is to assist candidates to obtain employment. One initiative that is on-going is "ban-the-box," which will remove the notation "Have you ever been incarcerated?" from the application process.

## General Meeting

Second Thursday of each Month  
7:00 p.m.

Barbara Jordan Community Center  
2803 E. Commerce Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78203  
(210) 224-7636

Web Site: [www.sanantoniobranchnaacp.org](http://www.sanantoniobranchnaacp.org)  
Facebook: [sanaacp.org](https://www.facebook.com/sanaacp.org)