

San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter



Volume 3 Number 2

July 2013



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings:

This newsletter will cover a four-month period rather than the standard quarterly report due to incidents that occurred that gives the reason for a delayed printing. This newsletter will share the "Talking Points the NAACP presented to the members of the organization while attending the National Convention in Orlando, Florida, approximately 30 miles from the infamous city of Sanford, Florida, where jurors found George Zimmerman "Not Guilty" in the slaying of teenager Trayvon Martin.

As we prayed together to understand the reason for this decision by the citizens of Sanford, our President and CEO, Benjamin Jealous asked of each of us to remain calm at the request of Trayvon's parents. He and Chairwoman Roslyn Brock continued to inspire and encourage the members to return to their home base and work even harder to help in repealing "Stand Your Ground Laws".

The volunteers of the organization (committee chairpersons and office workers) are performing assignments at an extraordinary pace to keep the organization moving forward. With the amount of telephone calls received during office hours and with the number of meetings that have been called on behalf of community members in the resolution of justified complaints, these members have gone well above and beyond expectations and give new meaning to the word volunteerism.

However, it takes more than the few office volunteers and Committee Chairpersons to ensure we are meeting our commitment to serve the community-at-large as we fight for equality and justice for all. In that respect, we solicit your support as a volunteer to work on projects that will make the San Antonio Branch a more viable Civil Rights Organization.

Thanks for your continued support to the organization.

Oliver

Texas NAACP and LULAC Statement on Supreme Court's Decision in Shelby County

The following is the Press Release submitted to the local newspaper shortly after the Supreme Court's ruling on the Voting Rights Act.

Austin, TX .Today the 5-4 decision of the United States Supreme Court invalidating Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act serves to turn back the hands of time. Luis Vera, National General Counsel of LULAC said "that by an overwhelming majority vote in both Houses of Congress, the current Voting Rights Act was passed and Congress made a determination that it applied to certain and specific jurisdictions. The Congress received hundreds of hours of testimony and thousands of pages of documents that supported the applicability of the law to specific areas of our country where racial and ethnic minorities were still in need of protection. A majority of 5 persons has decided to exercise a veto of the law signed by President George W. Bush. It is absolutely unbelievable that the Supreme Court would take this action." State NAACP President and National Board Member Gary Bledsoe said that "this decision is being celebrated by Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, Lester Maddox and white Supremacist groups throughout the country because this decision now places the political welfare of racial and ethnic minorities in the hands of those who seek to oppress them." Vera further said that "in saying that we can now go to Congress for a remedy is simply fool's gold, because the Congress has continued to show hostility to the rights of racial and ethnic minorities." Bledsoe said further, that "the requirement that one engage in litigation under Section 2 to stop efforts to suppress minority votes is similarly meaningless because everyone knows that the costs of such action and the volume of misconduct by officials is such that it would be impossible to effectively regulate misconduct by the use of Section 2. Today's opinion is activist jurisprudence on a par with Bush v. Gore and Citizen's United in terms of the clear damage and harm it will cause to our democracy. Vera said that "today's opinion amounts to a veto of a law passed overwhelmingly by Congress, authority not granted to the Supreme Court under the Constitution."

**General Meeting of the San Antonio Branch
NAACP**

**2nd Thursday of each Month, 7:00 pm
Barbara Jordan Community Center
2803 E. Commerce Street**

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Mother of the Year

Mrs. Maria Stevenson Greene, a Diamond Life Member of the NAACP and San Antonio Branch Secretary was honored by the Women in NAACP (WIN) at the Annual Mother's Day Breakfast on May 11, 2013, at the Robert Brown Jr., Community Center at West End Baptist Church. Mrs. Deloris Mosley, WIN Chair, coordinated the event.

To help celebrate this occasion, Mrs. Mona Greene McCoy and children Myles and Madison, Mrs. Greene's daughter and grandchildren arrived in San Antonio from Albany, Georgia to be with mother and grandmother on this memorable occasion. Also in attendance to help in the celebration was Mrs. Greene's brother, Mr. Ernest Stevenson Qadim'Asil from Austin, Texas.

Members of the Branch also gave positive accolades on behalf of Mrs. Greene for her many deeds in the organization.

The hall was beautifully decorated and the catered breakfast cemented a successful event. Pictures of the breakfast may be seen on our web page at www.sanantonionaacp.org.

Bexar County and NAACP Working Together

The Commissioners Court and the Economic Development Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. William Burman have been conducting meetings to discuss issues of importance to both entities. Discussions have been addressed to increase more acceptable bids for contracts by African American businesses in Contracting, Architecture and Engineering, Goods and Services and other businesses. Because of the dismal rating of African American Business Enterprise (AABE) that has been identified in their Disparity Study, the Commissioners Court has implemented some of the recommendations from the Study and are working to implement the remainder. The NAACP is helping to identify African American Contractors and businesses that want to do business with the County.

Other business being conducted with the Bexar County Commissioners Court is the Re-Entry initiative to help reduce the recidivism rate. The Branch will co-chair a sub-committee on the Re-Entry Council to help ex-offenders in seeking

employment, regaining voter registration, obtaining affordable housing and other means for full citizenship.

A third initiative is working with the University Health System for an Ambulatory Hospital on the East Side of San Antonio. It has been discussed that this community is lacking a facility that would enable its members ideal medical care.

And finally, the Branch is asking the County to review its application process for our "Ban-the-Box" initiative. This goal is to remove any inference of having been incarcerated from applications in order for ex-felons to believe there is an opportunity for employment in fields where they qualify.

Education

The Education Committee, chaired by Mrs. Ann Johnson Brown has formed a partnership with the Eastside Promise Neighborhood group to provide services to students at Booker T. Washington Elementary School. The committee has engaged in offering reading buddies during the summer months to enhance students in reading and comprehension.

This committee has assisted students in need at Holmes High School with food donations. It was brought to the attention of the organization that many students do not perform well in school, not because of their inability to learn, but because of the unstableness of receiving a nutritious meal. The committee is grateful to the many members and friends who willingly contributed to this cause.

Community Coordination Committee

In conjunction with the Black Alamo Chamber of Commerce, the Community Coordination Committee, chaired by Mrs. Minnie Mabry Hill, was a partner in the mixer introducing African American Executives in San Antonio. This was an opportunity for Branch members to network with the many Executives for their support to this organization. It was a pleasant introduction of the many high ranking African Americans in City government who were introduced by City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

LET'S GO "GREEN"

Read your newsletter on line at
www.sanantonionaacp.org

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Membership

Membership being the life blood of the organization, Mrs. Collins, as committee chair, contributes to the longevity of the organization by her due diligence to the position. Her commitment is reflected below:

<u>Adult Reg</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Silver Subscribing</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Gold Subscribing</u>
42	1	22	2	6

Mrs. Collins encourages each member to “step up” to the next level of membership, thus accounting for the impressive numbers of above. *Thanks for a job well done.*

Save the Date

Please join us for the 64th Annual Freedom Fund
Dinner

Friday, October 25, 2013

7:00 pm

Speaker

Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd

22nd National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Professor at John Hopkins University

New Venue

McCombs Center Rosenberg Sky Room

University of the Incarnate Word

847 E. Hildebrand

San Antonio, TX 78212

Entry from US Hwy 281

Facebook and Web Page

Please visit our web page at www.sanantonionaacp.org for San Antonio Branch activity update and “Like” us on Facebook at www.sanaacp.org. Ms. Sakita Martin, Communications, Press and Publicity Chair, does an outstanding job in keeping the pages current with up-to-date information and photo-ops of recent organizational events.

Political Action Committee

Due to the recent events involving the “gutting of the Voting Rights Act and its aftermath, the Political Action Committee is encouraging all members to become more involved in Voter Registration and Voter Education. With the recent verdict in Sanford Florida, it is incumbent on each of us to become active participants in the election process in local communities as well as State and nationally to ensure fairness and equity is realized by all Americans. To this end, members of the Executive Committee have become Deputy Registrars to reach out to eligible persons who did not vote in the last election or elections prior to 2012.

The Chair, Mr. J. Maurice Gibbs, worked tirelessly during the District 2 Council race that resulted in a packed room at the Barbara Jordan Community Center where all four candidates were present to seek the position of District 2 City Council person. He is working to ensure the community will be well informed of the platform of candidates seeking office in all upcoming elections.

Criminal Justice and Legal Redress

The committee headed by Rev. Malvyn Rashad Berry has made significant gains in fighting for the rights of those who do not have a voice to speak for themselves. These two committees work closely together for the common cause. Because of their efforts, we have seen a reduction in the number of complaints from those incarcerated at the County Jail. An open door policy had been established with the previous Sheriff and the current officer, Sheriff Susan Pamlelieu continues with this policy. The group, however, continues to receive numerous complaints of discrimination, school misapplication of conduct by students of color, Police misconduct and other forms of complaints. To date, more than 100 complaints have been reviewed, many with favorable results.

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September 7, 2013

12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The San Antonio NAACP Youth Council is sponsoring an awareness forum entitled

“Walking While Black”

This is an event you will not want to miss.

Carver Library . 3350 E. Commerce

NAACP Talking Points on Trayvon Martin Case

- We are outraged and heartbroken over the verdict in this case.
- We stand with Trayvon’s family as they continue to grieve, and we are called to act.
- We call immediately for a Department of Justice investigation into the civil rights violations against Trayvon Martin.
- We will continue to fight for the removal of Stand Your Ground laws in every state.
- We will continue to fight to outlaw racial profiling, whether it comes at the hands of law enforcement professionals or armed citizens.
- This case has re-energized the movement to end racial profiling in the United States.
- In just hours after the verdict, more than 130,000 people have signed the petition asking for DOJ civil rights charges against Zimmerman.

Case Background

- On the evening of February 26th, Trayvon Martin—an unarmed 17 year old African American student—was confronted, shot, and killed near his Sanford, FL, home by a neighborhood watch caption. Zimmerman was not originally charged with a crime, because police claimed they could not prove he did not act in self-defense.

- Sanford PD’s officers have suffered a series of public missteps in recent years.
 - ◆ In 2006, two private security guards—son of a Sanford police officer, and a volunteer for the department—killed a Black teen, Travares McGill, with a gunshot to his back. Even though they admitted to never identifying them-selves, the guards were released without charges.
 - ◆ In 2010, Justin Collison, the son of a Sanford PD lieutenant, sucker-punched a homeless Black man outside a bar, but officers on the scene released Collison without charges. After video evidence surfaced, the police chief was forced to retire.

NAACP POSITION

- This has always been about the rule of law. The NAACP’s overriding concern in this case has been securing the arrest of George Zimmerman and a thorough investigation and trial.
- Trayvon was the victim of two practices that disproportionately affect Black men and boys. First, he was profiled as suspicious and singled out by Zimmerman as a potential threat. Second, the circumstances of his untimely death were neglected by the police after he was killed.
- A trial and conviction were not always assured. George Zimmerman was only arrested and charged because of public support for Trayvon Martin and his grieving family.

(Note) A petition was garnered by the NAACP to be sent to the Department of Justice to investigate the violation of Trayvon Martin’s civil rights. More than one million citizens of all backgrounds participated in this initiative.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Browning Samples- June 10, 2013
Mrs. Ruby L. McCullough – June 24, 2013
Mrs. Vera Faye White – July 2, 2013