

# San Antonio Branch NAACP News

Volume 1 Number 1

First Quarter 2011

## The First Quarter

Greetings and welcome to the San Antonio Branch NAACP Newsletter for the first quarter of 2011. This newsletter will highlight some of the activities the Branch has undertaken since the beginning of the year. The newly elected officers and At-Large Elected members of the Executive Committee are looking forward to meeting the challenges that await this volunteer force of members committed to make a change in the community.

In the first Executive meeting session, the President appointed several elected members to chair committees and reappointed others to committees they held previously. The elected Officers and members of the Executive Committee are as follows:

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

### Chairs of Standing Committees

ACT-SO	Claudette Lewis *
Armed Services and Veterans, Affairs	David Sherman ()
Community Coordination	Hazel Rockeymoore ()
Criminal Justice	Donald Hunt +
Economic Development	William Burman *
Education	Mildred Lamkin *
Freedom Fund	Wanda Sykes ()
Health	Deloris Mosley*
Labor and Industry	Jerrilene Keys+
Legal Redress	Malvyn Berry*
Membership	Howard Shelf ()
Political Action	William Johnson ()
Religious Affairs	Napoleon Williams ()
Youth Advisor	Regina Horne-Espree*
Women In NAACP (WIN)	Deloris Mosley +

\*Reappointed () Appointed +Newly Appointed

Included on the Executive Committee are Dorothy Collins who serves as Parliamentarian, Taj Matthews, Lloyd Miller, Gertie Williams, Ethel Minor – President Emerita and Morgan Taplin, Youth Council President.

## Jubilee Celebration

St. Paul United Methodist Church opened its doors to the San Antonio Branch NAACP to hold its Annual Jubilee Celebration Service held January 9, 2011. The Rev. Dr. Marcus L. Freeman officiated and the Rev. Dr. W. Raymond Bryant, pastor of Bethel AME Church delivered the message.

The Jubilee Celebration was a time to reflect on where we have been and how far we have come. The theme "If It Had Not Been for the Lord on My Side" set the tone for the Worship Service. Invited to take part in the service and join in the procession were County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, City Council Woman Ivy Taylor, both of whom gave greetings, Judges of the Bexar County, City and Municipal Courts along with ministers of the Cloth, many adorned in robes.

The Bethel AME Church choir, under the direction of Mrs. Mamie Nell Watson, provided the music. Also participating on the program were Youth Council members who read the Emancipation Proclamation and recited the NAACP Freedom Song "Go Tell It" by Earlene Bollin with music by Gloster B. Current. This song represents the need to keep fighting for rights until rights are won. Mr. Thomas C. Rockeymoore, Former president of the Branch, installed the elected officers and Executive Committee members. The evening ended with a reception held in the Carruthers Annex.

## Texas State Conference NAACP

The Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches held its first Executive Committee meeting of the New Year February 21, 2011 in Austin, Texas. Attendees were from Burlleson, Greenville, Longview, Lufkin, Mainland, Orange, San Antonio, Huntsville, Bryan-College Station, Garland, San Angelo, Temple, Montgomery/Conroe, Killeen and Houston.

The eight-hour meeting covered a wide variety of topics, the two most discussed items being that of  
(see Texas on page 2)

## ***From the President's Pen***

This is my first opportunity to formally thank you for your support and confidence in electing me to this position for a second time. The challenge before this organization is great, seeing the climate that has transpired in the past few years. Our goal is to focus on equal opportunities in employment, a quality education for all children, equal treatment under the law for all citizens, increased membership, voter education and registration, and development of a working relationship with the business community. Presently, our focus is on the following:

- Unemployment
- Diversity in the workplace
- Law Enforcement misconduct
- Increased membership and participation
- Voter registration for all citizens, including ex-felons

To help in the employment of ex-felons, we are asking business leaders to assist in the National initiative to “ban the box” on the employment application that asks the question “Have you ever been incarcerated?”

These tasks are challenging and cannot be resolved by a few, but by the efforts of the masses to be successful. We are looking for volunteers who believe in these initiatives and are willing to give of their time and talent to help solve some of these problems.

To keep you up-to-date on our activities, we are attempting to have the Newsletter formatted and mailed quarterly. Our goal is to have this information reach you before the middle of the month of each quarterly cycle. We will also be providing information for your review on our web site [www.naacp-sanantonio.org](http://www.naacp-sanantonio.org) or you may request the newsletter by email. Please call (210) 224-7636 to provide the office with your email address.

Again, thanks for your confidence and join us by becoming an active volunteer, either on a committee that will enable the Branch to move forward for the betterment of the citizens in our San Antonio community or assist with office duties. Both are needed.

*Oliver*

## **Texas (continued from page 1)**

Redistricting and the effort to curtail Predatory Lenders from locating in neighborhoods where the people are most vulnerable. The Predatory Lenders are charging upwards of \$500.00 in interest. The State and National NAACP offices are working for the adoption of legislation to reduce the high interest rates to no more than 36%.

The State Conference of Branches has been meeting with the State Board of Education African American members to strategize their complaints and concerns. These include the Board's attempt to change the Social Studies curriculum, to attempt to revamp the Gifted and Talented program that could negatively target minority students and to eliminate the program of eligibility of the top 10% of any graduating high school class member to attend a State sponsored school.

The Criminal Justice Committee reported that prison-based gerrymandering is a political maneuver that should be eliminated. By allowing prisoners to be counted in cities where jails and prisons are located during the decennial census, increases the population count of the district and therefore inflates the political strength of that jurisdiction which can dilute the voting strengths of minorities living in the area.

## **Economic Development/Health Committees Partner with Davis-Scott YMCA**

The Economic Development and Health Committees chaired by Mr. William Burman and Mrs. Deloris Mosley, respectively, have entered into a partnership with the Davis-Scott YMCA in securing a “Walking Trail” (track) that will benefit residents in the area in maintaining good health by walking and exercising. Other parties involved in this initiative are the City of San Antonio's Health and Parks and Recreation Departments along with the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Efforts are being made to ensure adequate funding is provided for the trail and for other amenities that would complement the area. A projected completion date has not been given but the committees will continue to meet to ensure the project remains on the city's agenda.

## Increased Membership

The Membership and Life Membership Chair, Mr. Howard Shelf is proving that membership in the NAACP is necessary for survival. The committee, under his leadership has registered more than seventy-five memberships since the beginning of the year.

So that their annual goal might be attained, Mr. Shelf is hosting a Membership Drive during the month of May and is asking each of his 13 members on the committee to register a minimum of 10 new members.

## Region VI Training Conference

Seven members of the Branch attended the Region VI training held in Houston, Texas from March 31 – April 2, 2011. The delegates included the President, Mr. Horace Brown, Jr., Mrs. Ann Johnson Brown, Mrs. Deloris Mosley, Mrs. Johnnie Thompson, Mrs. Mildred Lamkin and Mrs. Minnie Hill.

A Town Hall meeting was held to discuss Police misconduct as the result of the beating a Houston man received while trying to surrender to Police. The beating, which made national news, caused alarm throughout the State of Texas and these United States. President/CEO of the NAACP, Mr. Benjamin Jealous and other distinguished guests participated in a panel discussion that spoke on this issue. A major concern is that many Police Officers may be out of control and that a few bad officers spoil the exemplary work of the good officers.

Workshops were held on several issues including Health, Criminal Justice, Predatory Lending, Branch Administration, Education and Redistricting.

## *In Memoriam*

**George J. Winn, III**

**Earley B. Teal**

**Carra W. Linthicum**

## May 2011 General Meeting Speaker

Dr. Michael Soto  
Assistant Professor at  
Trinity University

Discussion on Texas State Board of Education

May 12, 2011  
7:00 p.m.

Barbara Jordan Community Center  
2803 E. Commerce Street

## Fire Fighter Program

The Labor and Industry Committee, under the leadership of Ms. Jerrilene Keys has made great progress in structuring a program to recruit African American men and women between the ages of 19-34 who are seeking a career with the San Antonio Fire Department.

The City of San Antonio is in need of more African Americans in the Fire Department to meet its Diversity goals. Because of a recent study on diversity, the city must ensure more qualified African American applicants are available on the hiring register.

The Committee conducts bi-weekly training sessions at the Molley Pruitt Library with a class of ten students. Mock test examinations are given to the students that include spelling, reading comprehension, mathematical equations and fire fighting techniques. Members of the Black Fire Fighters' Union are serving as instructors, counselors and advisors.

Because of time constraints in preparation for the Fire Fighters' exam, the class is closed to new applicants. Applications may be accepted for a new class when the pertinent information is provided by the San Antonio Fire Department. For additional information on the Fire Fighter program, please call the NAACP office at (210) 224-7636.

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## Volunteers Needed

A special thanks to our office volunteers, Mmes Mildred Lamkin, Wanda Sykes, Gertie Williams, Nettie Hinton and Messrs Tommy Amerson, August Johnson, Elmer Williams, William Johnson and Rev. Malvyn Berry, who answer the telephones and perform other administrative duties on their scheduled days of operation. Their hours begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, except Holidays. There are vacancies yet to fill on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Are you willing to serve?

## Community Coordination Committee

Have you ever been a victim of...  
Discrimination  
Police Brutality  
Unfair Job Treatment or Termination  
Unequal Educational Opportunity  
The Legal "Justice" System?  
If so,  
Join the Fight for Freedom Today!

This is message on the outer cover of a brochure developed by the Community Coordination Committee that is being given to individuals, churches and other organizations, as a reminder that the NAACP is still relevant in the Twenty-first Century.

The Chair, Mrs. Hazel Rockey Moore, and her committee mailed 159 letters to African American Churches in San Antonio and made follow-up telephone calls to complete their task of notifications. Several churches responded and the committee members made the appropriate contacts with the pastors and officials of the church. The goal of this committee is to keep the community informed of the issues that affect people of color and the less fortunate. This committee has been working in conjunction with the Membership and Religious Affairs Committees.

## Legal Redress Committee

The Legal Redress Committee, the Investigative and Complaint Processing Unit of the Branch, continues to provide service to all persons seeking relief for alleged offences committed against them. Rev. Malvyn Berry and Mr. Elmer "Smiley" Williams provide these services even outside the office hours of the Volunteer Staff. The

committee members make monthly visits to the Bexar County jail to interview inmates who write the NAACP for assistance.

## Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs

The Armed Forces and Veterans' Affairs Committee under the leadership of Mr. David Sherman has brought the committee to a new level. He has provided appropriate information on the Branch's web page that provides Veterans with information and leads that allows them to navigate to areas in which they are most concerned. He and his committee have also visited several of the Veterans' outlet facilities and have had one-on-one conversations to provide additional assistance. Go to the Branch's web site for additional information on the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

## Coming in October

### San Antonio Branch NAACP

### Freedom Fund Dinner

October 28, 2011

7:00 p.m.

### La Villita Assembly Building

### Speaker

### Dr. John Arradondo

Executive Committee of NAACP Board of Directors  
Diamond Life Member