

San Antonio Branch NAACP News



Volume 1 Number 2



Second Quarter 2011

Textbook Standards Still at Odds

The Texas State Board of Education's approval of the Social Studies and History curriculum in May 2010 played a significant part in the Education Committee's request in asking Dr. Michael Soto to be the guest speaker at the May 2011 general meeting. Dr. Soto is Assistant Professor of English at Trinity University and a member of the SBOE.

Dr. Soto represents District 3 on the Board of Education of which one of its principle duties is to set the curriculum standards for Texas Public Schools. The Social Studies curriculum adopted last year has been highly criticized by the NAACP including the National office and LULAC, citing the new standards negatively affect all students and does great harm to minority students.

Because Texas is one of the largest textbook purchasers in the nation, it is feared that publishers may tailor their materials to the standards adopted by Texas. The new textbooks could affect a much larger audience - the entire nation. The standards approved by the SBOE would rewrite history, as we know it today. The contributions made by African American and other minorities in this country would be irrelevant to true history.

There is a glimmer of hope to revisit the decision in January 2012 when two new members of the SBOE will take office. The San Antonio Branch NAACP, meanwhile, will be working with Dr. Soto in formulating a Proclamation/Resolution to be sent to any National Publisher who considers accepting the re-write of History as depicted in the standards by the SBOE.

ACT-SO Competition

Thanks to Mrs. Claudette Lewis, the ACT-SO Competition has been completed and seven winners will be headed for the National Competition in Los Angeles, California. We congratulate all the winners and thank each participant for being a part of this event.

The winners who will be competing at the National level are Kevin Davison – Musical Instrumental Contemporary, Christina House - Oratory, Ethan Jackson – Drawing, Emanuel Vargas – Painting, Kerri Thomas – Photography, Devin Woodard – Film Making, and Jacqueline

Jamir Thompson in two Science Categories – Biology/Microbiology and Chemistry/Biochemistry. These local gold winners will be chaperoned by Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Lourdes Vargas. The competitions will begin July 20, 2011 and conclude with the Awards Ceremony for the 2011 National winners on July 25, 2011.

WIN Selects Mother of the Year

The Branch's Women in NAACP (WIN) nominated and selected Mrs. Mildred Lamkin as "Mother of the Year." The Annual Breakfast is to honor women in the local branch who, through the years, worked untiringly to help the Branch meet its goals. The Breakfast is held the Saturday before Mother's Day. The event was held in St. Paul's United Methodist Church Gymnasium, where many friends and family members gave warm accolades to the award recipient.

Mrs. Deloris Mosley, chair of the WIN Committee could not be present because of an emergency, but recruited her husband, Mr. Randall Mosley, to carry the mantle in her stead. The members of the branch are very grateful to her and husband for a job well done.

The program concluded with Mrs. Lamkin giving a warm and affectionate "thank you" to all in attendance.

Action Alerts

The Washington Bureau of the National NAACP forwards Action Alerts to Branches and Units on issues that the NAACP believes impacts all Americans, and particularly African Americans and other minorities. The Alerts are presented in a format with a summary of the issue, talking points, and usually a sample letter.

The objective is to encourage all members to be a part of the political process by contacting their elected officials on issues of concern. All interested members should contact the office by email (sanaacp@satx.rr.com) and include in the subject line "Action Alert" for your name and email address to be included in our e-mail-outs.

The fax, telephone number and address of the federal Legislators in the Bexar County area are shown on page three.

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From the President's Pen

This column gives me a great opportunity to express my gratitude and thanks to all the workers in the San Antonio Branch NAACP for their tireless efforts to meet the mission and objectives of the Branch.

In our last newsletter, the working committees were highlighted to show the first wave of accomplishments. This column will speak of one area of particular interest.

During Black History Month, the **Community Coordination Committee** mailed 159 letters to the religious community inviting collaboration with the San Antonio Branch NAACP. Although several churches responded, the less than 1% response was quite disappointing. The hope was and continues to be to recapture the spirit and willingness in working together to meet the challenges that were prevalent during the early civil rights movement – segregated schools, discrimination, unemployment or underemployment, unfair treatment in the workplace, police misconduct, etc. The membership and lifeblood of the NAACP came from local churches. The same attitude may still be alive today but to a smaller degree. It seems that as opportunities of inclusion rose in the corporate business world, the interest and membership in the NAACP declined proportionately.

The San Antonio Branch needs that spirit and willingness once again. Civil rights issues today are the same as yesterday and are sometimes disguised in legal and political decisions that are made in settings where minorities are usually not included. Many of these decisions are intended to dismantle much of the progress that has been made to date. Apathetic attitudes in the Black community put us in a reactionary mode and relatively helpless to undo decisions that put us at a disadvantage both economically and socially.

Jesus was truly a civil rights activist and “the church” is where the Branch hopes to find willing disciples to advocate for the disenfranchised and speak for those who have no voice. To date, approximately 13 churches are represented in the work of the San Antonio Branch.

I look forward to seeing more volunteers to help in the cause for justice and equality.

Oliver

Redistricting

The League of Women Voters sponsored a Panel Discussion on Redistricting in April 2011 in which the Political Action Chairman, Mr. William B. Johnson, Sr. served as a panelist. Mr. Johnson, along with a representative from LULAC gave much needed information regarding the process of Redistricting.

The Redistricting Plan was approved during 82nd Legislative Session but is under review in Federal Court after a suit had been filed by LULAC and the NAACP. The hearing will be held September 6, 2011 in San Antonio. This will be an opportunity for all concerned citizens to attend this hearing and rally for total justice in the Redistricting of the Congressional Districts.

The current plan, if accepted by a Federal Judge, will add yet another District in Bexar County. Although the State welcomes the four new Districts, the lines, as drawn, will dilute the African American vote in San Antonio. The new District (35) will cover downtown San Antonio but will have little effect on the areas where African Americans predominately reside.

**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

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

Honorees

Mr. William “Bill” Sinkin – Civil Rights Activist
Mr. Eugene Coleman - Journalism
Ms. Cathy Clay-Little - Journalism
Mr. Cary Clack - Journalism
Mr. Jesse Henry - Journalism
St. Philips College - “Excellence in Education” Award

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Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Mrs. Anita Graboski, a member of the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty was the guest speaker for the April 2011 General Meeting. The TCADP is seeking partners in pursuing the State of Texas in the abolishment of the death penalty because of flaws in the judicial system.

As of April 1, 2011, Texas leads the nation with a total of 315 individuals on death row. This includes 10 women. Texas also leads the nation in the number individuals executed since 1977 with a total of 466. Has an innocent person ever been executed in Texas? That question cannot be factually answered but many experts believe, after post execution investigations, perhaps.

The NAACP National Convention

During the May meeting, the assembly voted to send eight (8) members and two alternates to represent the Branch at the National Convention to be held in Los Angeles, California from July 23 through July 28, 2011. The following persons were elected as delegates: Oliver W. Hill, Mr. Horace Brown, Jr., Mrs. Dorothy Collins, Mrs. Johnnie Merry Thompson, Mrs. Mildred Lamkin, Mrs. Ann Johnson Brown, Mrs. Regina Horne-Espree and Mrs. Claudette Lewis. The alternates are Mrs. Minnie M. Hill and Mrs. Gloria Chandler.

The itinerary for the convention promises a pack-filled program during the entire six day event. Each delegate has been given specific assignments in order to ensure optimum coverage. Highlights of reports will be read at the August meeting and members will have the opportunity to read the full reports that will be on file in the Administrative Office.

In Memoriam

Mr. Robert Washington, Jr.

Mrs. Allie B. Floyd

Contacting your Congressional Legislators

The following information is provided if you have a need to contact a Congressional Legislator. Please use the format below to address mail to a Senator or Congressman:

The Honorable (Full Name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable (Full Name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson
Telephone: 202-224-5922
Fax: 202-224-0776
Email: Hutchinson.senate.gov

Senator John Cornyn
Telephone: 202-224-2934
Fax: 202-228-2856
Email: cornyn.senate.gov

20th Representative Charlie Gonzales
Telephone: 202-225-3236
Fax: 202-225-1915
Email: www.gonzales.house.gov

21st Representative Lamar Smith
Telephone: 202-225-4236
Fax: 202-225-8628
Email: Lamarsmith.house.gov

23rd Representative Francisco "Quico" Canseco
Telephone: 202-225-4511
Fax: 202-225-2237
Email: canseco.house.gov

28th Representative Henry Cuellar
Telephone: 202-225-1640
Fax: 202-225-1641
Email: cuellar.house.gov

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2011
Barbara Jordan Community Center
2803 E. Commerce Street
7:00 p.m.
Guest Speaker
Ms. Jennifer Moriarty
Wells Fargo Bank

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The following chart shows the projects that have been approved by the Executive Committee since January 2011. The Chairpersons are seeking volunteers to continue with ongoing projects and to commence with those that are pending. Additional help and support from the community will be beneficial for expansion and completion of all projects.

SAN ANTONIO BRANCH NAACP COMMITTEE PROJECTS 2 0 1 1

COMMITTEE	Chair	PROJECT	START
Community Coordination	Hazel Rockeymoore	Church Contacts	February 2011
		NAACP Day in Churches	Pending
Education	Mildred Lamkin	Tutoring/Mentoring	January 2011
Freedom Fund	Mentoria Sherfield	Banquet Fund Raiser	February 2011
		Other Fund Raisers	Pending
Membership	Howard Shelf, I	Memberships Membership Drive	February 2011 June 1, 2011
Labor and Industry	Jerreline Keys	Fire Fighter Training	March 2011
		Job Bank Process	Pending
		Diversity Awareness	Pending
		Website Linkage Job Applications	Pending
Legal Redress	Malvyn Berry	Complaint Processing	January 2011
		Jail Visitations	January 2011
		EEOC Intervention	Pending
Economic Development	William Burman	Walking Trail YMCA	January 2011
		Benign Neglect East Side	Pending
Health	Deloris Mosley	Blood Pressure Testing	January 2011
		Walking Trail YMCA	January 2011
		Nutritional Workshop	April 2011
		Women's Medical Assistance	April
Political Action	William Johnson	Redistricting	April 2011
		Voter Registration	Pending
		Registering Ex-Offenders	Pending
Women in NAACP (WIN)	Deloris Mosley	Mother of the Year	April 2011
Criminal Justice	Donald R. Hunt	Ban the Box Initiative	Pending
		Visit with SAPD	Pending
Armed Services & Veterans Affairs	David Sherman	Website Linkage Assistance	March 2011