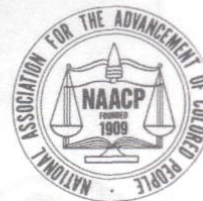


St. Mary's County NAACP

Branch # 7025



POST OFFICE BOX 189
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www.stmarysnaacp.org

September 2008

BRANCH ELECTIONS NOTICE

Dear Branch Member:

Please note the following General Membership meetings of the NAACP St. Mary's County Branch for the purpose of elections of officers (President, Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer) and at-large Members of the Executive Committee.

1. On September 24, 2008 there will be an election of the Nominating Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the meeting date may be elected to the Nominating Committee.
2. On October 29, 2008 there will be a report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nominations By Petition and election of the Election Supervisory Committee. All Members whose membership is current as of April 1st may be nominated for office or as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a nominating petition or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the October meeting.
3. On November 19, 2008 the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will take place. Polls will be open from 7:15 PM until 7:45 PM. In order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required.

We look forward to your participation in these activities.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE 7:00 PM AT THE SMECO BUILDING, 23365 HOLLYWOOD ROAD, LEONARDTOWN, MARYLAND

_____(Secretary)

Rose Frederick

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Nominating Petition

Nominating petitions can be obtained by calling the office (301) 863-3011 and requesting one or it can be downloaded from our website at www.stmarysnaacp.org.

Formed in 1909, by a multiracial group of progressive thinkers, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is a non-profit organization established with the objective of ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority groups. The NAACP has as its mission the goal of eliminating race prejudice and removing all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes.

As the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, the NAACP has worked successfully with allies of all races who believe in and stand for the principles on which the organization was founded. Throughout its history, some of America's greatest minds have worked to effect change.

ANNUAL BANQUET

Our Annual Banquet will be held October 4, 2008 at Chancellors Run Recreation Center in Great Mills. Doors open at 5:30 PM; Appetizers 5:30 – 6:30 PM; Buffet dinner at 6:30 PM followed by entertainment and at 8:00 PM our keynote Speaker US District Court Judge.	Alexander Williams <u>Ticket cost is \$40.00 and should be purchased in advance to ensure a seat.</u> For tickets, please call Mr. Alonzo Gaskin (301) 872-4626, Ms. Elsie Lawrence (301) 994-2656, Ms. Laurice White (301) 863-5449 or call the office (301) 863-3011 and leave a message.
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NAACP AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

On February 27, 2008, President Bowman and Sheriff Cameron signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which is essentially a promise to both groups to work toward making the County a better place to live. A key component of the MOU is the agreement for direct communications between the Sheriff and the NAACP leadership concerning issues raised by the public regarding

law enforcement services in the County. By open accurate communications, the flow of information would serve to limit rumors and false information. The signing was attended by more than 50 people. To view the complete document visit our website at www.stmarysnaacp.org.

Membership is the Key to a Successful Branch

THANK YOU MEMBERS

A warm welcome to all our new members and a warm thank you to our renewing members. Membership is a vital aspect of any organization and with us it is no different. Unlike some other organizations, we do not have paid staff at the local level.

OUR Branch relies on those members who volunteer their time so we can accomplish our mission.

Don't ASK why the NAACP is not doing something? Get involved and SAY this is what we are doing! Membership is power and power is what gets things done.

BECOME INVOLVED

Our effectiveness as a Branch is determined by how effective our members are involved. Our active Standing Committees are: Education, Freedom Fund, Political Action, Press & Publicity and Legal Redress.

If you are interested in working on a committee, please come to our monthly membership meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the SMECO Building in Leonardtown or call (301) 863-3011 and leave a message. For a listing of all the Standing Committees visit our website at www.stmarysnaacp.org.

EDUCATION NEWS

Our goal, "to protect the rights of all children in St. Mary's County to an equal educational opportunity by holding St. Mary's County Public School System accountable for minority student achievement" is being accomplished, in part, by having regularly scheduled meetings with the Superintendent throughout the year.

The focus of those meetings was to put in place specific strategies and activities for attracting, recruiting, employing, supporting and retaining minority employees and encouraging them to seek opportunities for advancement and promotion.

- Successfully lobbied for the hiring of a recruiter to focus on minority teacher recruitment.
- Hosted a "Meet and Greet" of all minority educators in the system.
- Conducted a Forum on the "Education of African American Males" during the Branch's first Community Awareness Day.
- Advocated for the use of the SPIRIT program in Great Mills High School. SPIRIT is a Department of Justice program designed to assist school administrators in gaining insight into student perceptions of racial problems.
- Met with pastors from some African American churches to plan a meeting with school counselors to discuss graduation requirements and timeliness in applying for scholarships.
- Supported the efforts of the School System in applying for a mentoring grant.

<u>DID YOU KNOW THAT</u> 30 years ago the citizens of St. Mary's County made history when they elected Joe Lee Somerville as the first African American to the office of Sheriff in the state of Maryland?

THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND SYMPOSIUM ON RACE, JUSTICE AND CITIZENSHIP

The Southern Maryland Chain Chapter of Links, Inc., The Tri-County NAACP Branches, along with along with a number of other community organizations sponsored a weekend dialogue on the "State of the Black Community" in Southern Maryland on April 4-5, 2008. Dr. Janice Walthour, Education Committee Chair, participated as a panelist on education. She presented information that included the NAACP Report Card for St. Mary's County 2007 State Test Scores and other demographics of the County. The weekend also included a workshop on "Demystifying the SAT Journey" and a "Youth Empowerment" conference.

Legal Redress (Complaints)

If you feel that your civil rights have been violated because of your race, gender, national origin, age, or color and the issue cannot be resolved, than a complaint should be filed. Document what happened, when it happened, where it happened and who was present when it happened.

If the complaint is employment related, please ensure all in-house policies and procedures are complied within a **timely manner**. If against a law enforcement officer, both the sheriff's office and the state police barrack have forms you can fill out. **YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FILL OUT THE FORMS THERE.**

We do not provide any legal advice nor do we provide lawyers. We will assist you in resolving your complaint. Please be aware that all civil rights complaints are time sensitive and MUST be filed as soon as possible after the incident. A complaint form can be obtained by calling our office at (301) 863-3011 or it can be downloaded from our website www.stmarysnaacp.org.

POLITICAL ACTION

Voter registration is an ongoing process and we request each of you to encourage those family members, friends and co-workers who are not registered to please do so. It is important that their voices be heard at the ballot box. Registration deadline for the November 4, 2008 General Election is 9:00 PM October 14, 2008. Voter Registration forms can be obtained by (1) calling (301) 475-7844, ext. 1610 and requesting one, (2) visit the Board of Elections office 41650 Tudor Hall, Leonardtown, MD between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, (3) at any county library, MVA office or post office, (4) visit the county website www.co.saint-marys.md.us and click on the Board of Elections link to download the form. If you would like to be kept informed via e-mail what political issues the NAACP participates in, call the office at (301) 863-3011 and leave your name, telephone number and e-mail address for the Political Action Committee Chairperson.

DID YOU KNOW that in 2009 the NAACP will mark 100 years of continuous advocacy for equality and justice for all, especially people of color.

Plans are in the works for a centennial celebration by the Tri-County NAACP Branches.

Stay tuned for more information!

Branch Candidates

Candidates for Branch elections can submit a statement and photograph for publication on the Branch's website. This is not required, but is offered to those who wish to serve as a Branch Officer or At-Large Executive Committee Member.

Only bona-fide, petitioning candidates and Nominating Committee candidates will be offered this service. Submissions will be accepted between October 1, 2008 and November 10, 2008. Digital images should be hi-resolution jpeg format. Include your phone number with your submission. Send your digital materials by email to our webmaster, Bob Lewis, at taylew@erols.com. Every effort will be made to publish your materials within 72 hours of receipt. For more information or to learn how to submit your materials by US Postal Service, Call Mr. Lewis at (301) 862-3517.

2007 Maryland State Conference Convention: Working For Equality

President Bowman was selected to serve on the Committee on Credentials during the Conference's biennial elections. That Committee ensures that all delegates have proper credentials and be the arbitrator of all disputes during the elections.

Dr. Janice Walthour, Education Committee Chair, was the keynote speaker at the opening day luncheon. Her speech entitled NAACP: Power Beyond Measure stressed the importance of strong roots and responsible leadership.

The questions of "how is the current NAACP methodology shaped by the previous culture? What assumptions does our present model make about the people for whom we are advocating? AND Are our assumptions valid? The speech was very well received.

National Office Change Of Leadership

Benjamin T. Jealous was presented as National President & CEO at the National Convention in July 2008. He is the 17th person to lead the oldest and largest civil rights organization in its 99-year history.

Prior to being named NAACP President & CEO, Mr. Jealous was Director of US Human Rights Program at Amnesty International.