



NAACP Creek Connection Newsletter January 2019

James Retires After 20 Years As NAACP Executive Director

By Barney Blakeney
Freelance Writer for Charleston Chronicle
January 17, 2019



After more than 20 years as executive director of the S.C. NAACP Conference of Branches, Dwight James December 22 announced he will retire in March. His last day on the job was set to be January 10. A Charleston native, James has spent more than four decades in service to the organization holding various positions including president of the Charleston Branch NAACP.

In a December 22 letter James said, “After more than twenty years of service in this capacity, I believe I have given as much as I can to benefit the South Carolina NAACP in this role. Upon much consideration, I have decided to resign from the position of executive director of the South Carolina state conference and enter retirement ... I believe that to everything there is a season, and I am now embracing this new reality for the state conference. I only hope the state conference will continue to build upon the achievements we’ve made over the years to serve those who rely greatly upon our voice and a potent advocacy,” he said.

Conference President Brenda Murphy said James leaves at a time when a lot is going on – the conference January 21 will conduct the 19th annual King Day at the Dome rally. James’ departure after 20 years of service unquestionably means he will be missed, Murphy said, but she feels the conference is in position to move forward. That means empowering local branches to do the work necessary through training, guidance and the provision of resources, she said. Moving forward also means recruiting more volunteers and attracting many who left the organization over the years, Murphy said.

She said the executive committee will meet to come up with a job description for the new executive director. She expects it will take several months to fill the position. James has committed to working with a transition team.

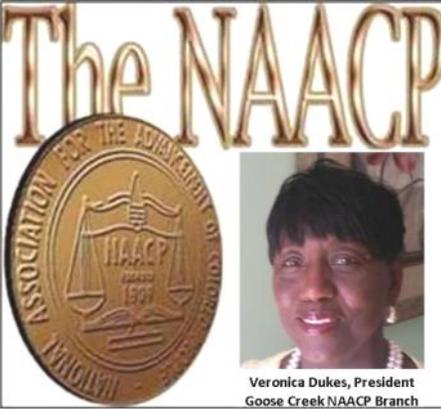
“My official retirement date will be March 8, 2019. However, my last day reporting to the State Conference Office will be January, 10, 2019, with the balance of time depleting the majority of my accumulated annual leave. It has been an honor to be associated with many dedicated and committed civil rights workers who provided the legs that enabled the State Conference and the NAACP as a whole to aggressively pursue civil rights over the years. I plan to remain an involved member with the local NAACP and to lend support particularly to our youth units where my journey began with the Association many years ago,” he said■

Special thanks to Barney Blakeney and the Charleston Chronicle for sharing this article.

Inside This Issue

- James Retires.....1
- 2019 Black History Proclamation.....2
- King Day at the Dome.....2
- NAACP Community Town Hall.....3
- Education Committee Goals for 2019..5
- Message from National President.....7
- ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY Project.....9





Veronica Dukes, President
Goose Creek NAACP Branch



Goose Creek NAACP Upcoming Monthly Branch Meetings

7 - 8 PM Monday February 25, 2019
at

Berkeley Electric Cooperative Building
2 Springhall Drive, Goose Creek, SC 29445

For more information and to confirm meeting call 843-425-9098

Goose Creek Branch NAACP
PO Box 1356
Goose Creek, SC 29445-1356
Telephone: 843-425-9098

Officers

PresidentVeronica Dukes
1st VPBrenda Bines
2nd VP.....Arnold Michel
3rd VP.....Charles Schuster
Secretary.....Lavone Holbert
Treasurer.....Shirley Blue

Executive Committee Members

Herbert Bodison Rev. Henry Orr
James Dukes Billy Parker
Kenneth Harris Cynthia Peterbark
Sharina Haynes Wesley Peterbark
Thomas Lanier Christine Walker
Shirley Martin



Please Attend City of Goose Creek City Council Meeting 7p.m.Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

Our request for the City of Goose Creek to proclaim February Black History Month in The City of Goose Creek will be presented in front of City Council at the February 12, 2019 City Council meeting. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. located at City Hall. We're asking as many people who can to attend this meeting and encourage others to attend.■

King Day at the Dome 2019



U.S. Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), left, Brenda Murphy, center, president of the NAACP South Carolina State Conference, and Sen. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), right, march down Main St. to the Statehouse in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 21, 2019 in Columbia, South Carolina.

The theme of the event was "Education First: Illuminating the Path to Change."

King Day at The Dome Continues on page 4



COMMUNITY TOWNHALL JANUARY 24, 2018

Pushback Against Trump's Racist Attacks: A Black Community Call To Action

The administration's disdain for Black and Brown people is unmistakable. Some of our representatives espouse terrifying ideas about immigrants and immigration. They disparage foreign nations and dismantle immigrant communities. On January 24, 2018, Black leaders from the nation's premier civil and immigrant rights organizations came together in a tele townhall to discuss immigration issues in 2018. More than 1,000 individuals called in to join the conversation and learn how they could help advance this critical racial justice issue.

Here's what some of the nation's leading Black advocates had to say about immigrant justice:

Derrick Johnson, NAACP President and CEO: "Racism should not be tolerated. This country should not discriminate against a person based on whether they are a citizen or a noncitizen. This is an administration that will continue to spew racial hatred. And our response must be just as clear: number one: whenever possible, file lawsuits to challenge what's taking place; two: be in the street whenever necessary; and, most important, understand that elections have consequences. During these midterm elections, as upset as we are last week and as we are today, we must keep the energy come November for the midterm elections. Our votes matter. [...] We must be owners of government, not victims of government. We must stand up and be heard."

Judith Browne Dianis, Executive Director, Advancement Project: "We are on this call because we as a Black community need to understand that immigration is a racial justice issue. [...] This President is seeking to expel people of color from this country. When he talked about 'sh*thole countries,' he also talked about wanting more people from Norway. So, don't get it twisted: we need to make sure that this is an issue that we need to throw down on. This isn't an issue about 'immigrants.' It's a Black issue."

Bambadjan Bamba, Actor, Black Panther: "This past week just reminds us how challenging it is to be undocumented in America. The politicians are using us as Voodoo dolls, and they just keep poking us left and right, breaking our hearts. We have to just stand back up and continue fighting."

Jonathan Jayes-Green, UndocuBlack: "In this immigration debate it's so easy to talk about the benefits of immigrants from a commodification lens, to talk about our economic worth and how much money in taxes we pay, but for us it's really important that we center the humanity and the beauty of our people."

Rashad Robinson, Executive Director, Color of Change: "This is a critical time in our movement, not just to raise visibility, not just to change the narrative, but to build power. [...] Black communities will stand shoulder to shoulder with the immigrant community because, not only is this a question of solidarity, this is a question of the fact that we are one in the same."

The NAACP has been active in the courts, fighting to defend the rights of immigrants of color. Here are two of our most pertinent lawsuits:

- [New LawsUIT Filed Against U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Response to Removal of Temporary Protective Status for Haitian Immigrants](#)
- [NAACP Files Lawsuit in Defense of DACA-Eligible People of Color](#)



2019 King Day at The Dome continued from page 1

King Day at the Dome starts with a prayer service at Zion Baptist Church on Washington Street in downtown Columbia at 8:30 a.m.

At the prayer service, Rev. Shawn Johnson of New Providence Missionary Baptist Church said, "We have a shutdown that's been caused by nothing but racial policies"

Rev. Patsy Craig Malanuk, of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral told the crowd at Zion, "Daily our spirits are assaulted by words of hatred. ... Division openly promoted in the name of political gain. Grant us grace... Until there is no more us versus them."

The prayer service was followed by a march at 9:30 a.m. to the State House where a rally began at 10:15 a.m. Among the speakers were U.S. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Also in attendance were U.S. Rep Representative Jim Clyburn of Columbia, the senior member of South Carolina's congressional delegation and the new House majority whip, S.C. Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, the new president of the The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL), Rev. Nelson Rivers, III, Vice-President, Religious Affair and External Relations, National Action Network (NAN) and retired COO of the NAACP.

Senator Sanders talked about being in Washington to hear King's "I Have a Dream" speech. "Let us never forget the title of that march as 'For Jobs and Freedom,'" with an emphasis on "jobs." He says those are still demands we have to meet today.

Sanders calls for a raise in the minimum wage and an end to racial disparities in wages, housing, and education.

"Instead of building a wall with Mexico, let's build the housing our people need."

Senator Cory Booker encouraged the crowd to commit themselves to living out King's legacy.

"The challenge today is not what they do or they say, it's what we do and we say," he said. "This is the moment we re-commit ourselves to be the agents of change."

He says we "cannot be defined by hatred of some-

one who votes differently from us."

Booker said many of those who came out on Monday were there because they are dissatisfied.

"We are dissatisfied that we live in a country with a better chance of getting justice if you're rich and guilty than poor and innocent.

"We are dissatisfied that our country can find all the money it needs for tax breaks and military expeditions, but can't pay a school teacher a living wage."

Booker says we have to turn dissatisfaction into action.

S.C. Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter told the rally, "When you are thinking about who you want to be president, think about where they stand on the issues... This is not a popularity contest."

On President Trump's proposed deal to reopen the government, Cobb-Hunter warns Democrats, "Don't fall for the okey-doke." She told S.C. voters to tell their senators to "do your job" and get the government reopened.

U.S. Representative Jim Clyburn, the senior member of South Carolina's congressional delegation and the new House majority whip, focused on what he called the "injustice" that South Carolina underfunds K-12 education, won't pay teachers fairly and won't expand Medicaid."

Clyburn said U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) chose "a pretty good symbol" in announcing her presidential bid on Martin Luther King Day but, "everybody will wait and see exactly how the substance will square with that symbolism."

Reverend Nelson Rivers, III who in addition to being a VP with NAN, is the pastor of Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston. He focused on the Confederate flag, The original reason for the King Day at the Dome rally before it came down from the State House dome in 2000 and was removed from the grounds completely in 2015.

"That racist red rag has come down. It is not there," Rivers said. "They said it would never come down. But if you've been black as long as I have, that word

2019 King Day at The Dome continued on page 7



Education Committee

Sharina Haynes Chairperson



Each branch is asked to be a part of the national campaign for educational excellence by choosing to work on at least one of our four suggested strategies and targeting their efforts to reform turnaround schools.
1-Teaching: Growing our own great teachers now in underserved communities. 2- Resources: Advocacy at every level for targeting funds to neediest kids. 3- Discipline: Working to eliminate zero tolerance and keep kids in school. 4- College & Career Readiness: Blazing a path to success after graduation for all students.

2019 Education Committee Goals and Strategy

We think the activities below will hit on each of the suggested strategies. At minimum three of them. We believe in order for us to get more youth involved in the branch, we would need to create a "field trip" of some sort. I can work with the committee to come up with some ideas. The October event would be a good run at it. Also mentoring would be a great service to provide. Ken Battle mentioned we can create a branch under the Mentor Exchange Club of Charleston. That way we would not have to recreate documentation and they will provide us with necessary trainings and background checks to work with children.

- February** – Black History Program Essay
- March** – NAACP Education Town Hall
- April** – Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- May** – Scholarship Luncheon
- August** – Back to School Kick-off

- September** – PSAT/ACT Test Prep
- October** – SC State Youth Day
- November** – Real Men Cook Off
- December** – Adopt-A-Classroom

PACE SCHOLARSHIP ACADEMY PRESENTS:
WINTER SCHOLARSHIP BOOTCAMP
 (HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY)
WHEN: FEBRUARY 23RD
WHERE: College of Charleston North Campus
 3800 Paramount Drive
 Charleston, SC 29405
TIME: 9AM-1PM
COST: \$20.00

PREPARE PROGRESS PACE

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You must register on www.eventbrite.com SPACE IS LIMITED!

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2019-2020 Education Committee Members

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Veronica Dukes | Claire Norwood |
| Jenae Haynes | Christina Walker |
| Sharina Haynes | Brenda Bines Watson |
| Shirley Martin | Van Williams |
| Bonnie May | |

PACE WINTER SCHOLARSHIP BOOTCAMP

The presenter has assisted thousands of students in securing scholarships to colleges and universities in multiple states, including her daughter who received 63 scholarships for her college education! Students will create their Success Resumes, perfect their scholarship interview skills, learn the difference between the multiple levels of scholarships and learn how to strategically search for the scholarships that are the best fit for their profile. This is a 4-hour, interactive workshop for students only.

*Students must bring a laptop if they have one. Materials will be given for those who do not have a laptop. If you have any questions, please contact the organizer at pacescholarshipacademy@gmail.com. Space is limited. Those who secure a paid seat on Eventbrite will be guaranteed a seat. If you plan to pay at the door, please send an email. ■



New Year Message from NAACP National President and CEO Derrick Johnson

January 7, 2019

Friend—

At the beginning of every new year, many of us make resolutions in hopes of improving ourselves.

Some people aim to work out more and change to healthier diets, while others strive to take on new adventures and travel more.

And then there are those who aspire to change lives and do more to make a difference in their local communities and across our country.

For those of you who've resolved to make your neighborhoods and America better, I can't think of a better way for you to achieve your goal than by becoming a member of the NAACP today.

As a member of the nation's foremost civil rights organization, you'll be taking your support for us one step further and standing on the right side of history, joining with others who have answered the call to defend civil rights.

From fighting to reform our criminal justice system to strengthening political power in communities of color to making sure that every person who works earns a livable wage, NAACP members are on the frontlines of making our union more just and more equal.

So, if moving your community and our country toward a brighter future is on your list of resolutions for 2019, joining the NAACP right now is an excellent way to stick to at least one of your resolutions this year.

With you as our newest member, we'll be able to do even more this year to continue transforming America into the country it should be—a country that values the concerns, aspirations, and contributions of all of its people.

Sincerely,

Derrick Johnson
President and CEO
NAACP

P.S. If you're already a member of the NAACP, please know your dedication to fighting for civil rights is much appreciated—we can't do this work without you.

2019 King Day at The Dome continued from page 4

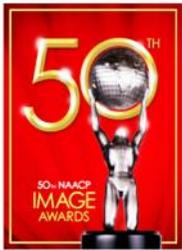
'never' is nothing but a word to me."

Rivers also took aim at Trump, saying that in 2020, "We're going to shut down the orange menace."

S.C. NAACP president Brenda Murphy opened with a jibe at President Donald Trump. "We relaxed a little bit too much and felt safe for the last eight years until 45 (Trump)" was elected.

Murphy went on to call for a fix SC's public education system, including the school-to-prison pipeline. "We must give education a higher priority here in our state for our children in South Carolina," she said. "They are at risk. If they are at risk, we are at risk." ■

50th NAACP Image Awards to Air Live On TV One March 30, 2019 from The Dolby Theatre In Hollywood



LOS ANGELES, CA (January 3, 2019) – The **50th NAACP Image Awards** will air LIVE on TV One, a division of Urban One, Inc., on March 30, 2019. For the first time ever, the telecast will take place from the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, California. The announcement was made today by NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman Leon W. Russell, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Urban One, Inc. & Chairman/CEO, TV One Alfred Liggins and TV One General Manager Michelle Rice.

The NAACP Image Awards celebrates the accomplishment of people of color in the fields of television, music, literature, and film and also honors individuals or groups who promote social justice through creative endeavors. The upcoming telecast, the 50th Anniversary of the NAACP Image Awards, will also spotlight the significant contributions of the NAACP and the impact the organization has had on our community and country.

In addition to the live telecast, TV One will also air special programming honoring this year's nominees and spotlighting significant moments. The network will provide promotional support for both programs on TV One, Radio One and Reach Media, Interactive One, and via a multi-platform marketing campaign.

"The 50th Anniversary of the Image Awards represents a major milestone in bringing visibility to the outstanding achievements of African Americans in entertainment, literature, and arts, as well as the NAACP's ongoing advocacy for equality of opportunity in our society without regard for race," said the NAACP's Derrick Johnson. "We are sincerely grateful for our continued partnership with TV One and look forward to working with them on the 50th-anniversary show, added Johnson.

"We are honored to continue our partnership with the NAACP to remain the television home for the Image Awards," said Liggins of TV One. "The NAACP 50th Anniversary Image Awards is an important milestone for the African American community and we couldn't be more thrilled to offer this special programming once again to our viewers. As we prepare to celebrate the network's 15th anniversary next year, we look forward to this very special night."

"African Americans have had a tremendous impact on society and culture, a fact that we're excited to celebrate with the telecast of the 50th NAACP Image Awards on TV One," said Michelle Rice, General Manager. "As we honor this year's biggest achievements and the incredible 50 year legacy of the NAACP Image Awards, we're proud to continue the network's mission to represent the richness of the Black experience."

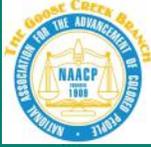
For all information and latest news, please visit the official NAACP Image Awards website at www.naacpimageawards.net.

Nominations for the "50th NAACP Image Awards" will be announced February. □



GOOSE CREEK NAACP ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Branch Contact Person is Mr. Schuster
843-509-6027

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Next Litter Pickup is Scheduled for March 9, 2019
Please Join Us.

Call Mr. Schuster at 843-509-6027 to sign up



SATURDAY, January 12, 2019

Billy Parker, Cleveland Myers, James Dukes, and Charles Schuster