



Goose Creek SC NAACP Branch #56A3 April 2008 Newsletter

One Voice, One Vote is a report prepared for the **Southeast Regional Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)**. Released at the 56th Southeast Region Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute held March 6 - 9 in Jackson, Mississippi



One Voice, One Vote.

ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE



A Report prepared for the NAACP Southeast Region (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee)

For its 56th Annual Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute Jackson, MS March 2008

A Resource for the Southeast Region of the NAACP to Advocate for Policy Reforms and Positions to Improve African American Communities in the American South

(See Report on Pages 6-8)

April 4th, 2008 marks the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929-1968

On April 03, 1968, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his final address, entitled "I've Been to the Mountaintop," at

Bishop Charles J. Mason Temple in Memphis, TN.

On April 4, 1968 Dr. King was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Riots broke out in more than 100 cities across the country and the National Guard was brought out to quell rebellion. Presi-

dent Lyndon Johnson declared April 6, 1968 a national day of mourning for Dr. King and orders all flags on government buildings to fly at half-mast.



Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was assassinated

The aftershock of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. plunged the Lorraine Motel, a minority-owned business in the south-end of downtown Memphis, into a long and steep decline. By 1982, the Lorraine Motel was a foreclosed property.

With support from the City of Memphis, Shelby County, and the State of Tennessee, nearly \$ 9 million dollars was raised to create and construct a civil rights center within the Lorraine Motel designed to help visitors better understand the history and lessons of the American Civil Rights Movement.

The Lorraine Civil Rights Foundation held an official groundbreaking in 1987 and on September 28, 1991, the **National Civil Rights Museum** opened its doors to visitors.

If you haven't visited this museum you should and hopefully you will take some young people with you. □

You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea.

Medgar Evers



Andrea Glover
Branch President

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KEEP THE IDEA OF FREEDOM ALIVE
JOIN NAACP



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Executive Committee Members

Eddie Anderson John Matthews
 Herbert Bodison Christine Moore
 Rosalind Cato Robert Newton
 Veronica Dukes Roscoe Singletary
 Jenae Haynes Rev. Mae Taylor
 David Johnson Eyamba Williams
 Nancy Martin

GOOSE CREEK NAACP ANNUAL REAL MEN COOK

Mark Your Calendar and join us for our 3rd annual Real Men Cook!



DOOR PRIZES

ENTERTAINMENT

VOTER REGISTRATION

**3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday
 May 24, 2008**

**ACT-SO
 CONTESTANTS
 PERFORMING**

at

Goose Creek High School Cafeteria

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children

To register as a cook or for tickets contact Real Men Cook Committee: Thomas Lanier (Chairman) at 345-8561, Roscoe Singletary at 797-6903, Herbert Bodison at 324-2894, John Matthews at 442-1319, or Paul Staggers at 224-4962

BRANCH MEETINGS

Goose Creek NAACP meets the first Monday of the month

at

**Abraham Masonic Building
 206 Liberty Hall Rd
 Goose Creek, SC.**

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Executive Meeting

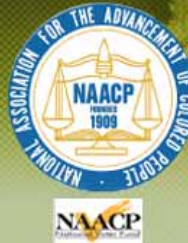
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting

Monday April 7, 2008

Monday May 5, 2008

Monday June , 2008

Please attend and bring a friend

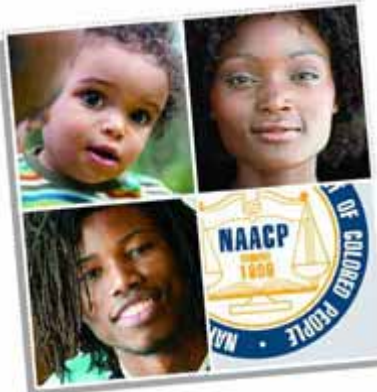


THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THIS MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IS YOU!

Register to Vote

1-866-MY-VOTE-1 (1-866-698-6831)

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR NAACP MEMBERSHIP!



Join today and become one of the thousands of NAACP Freedom Fighters in South Carolina! The work of the Association - equality and justice for all - depends on the support and participation of caring and progressive individuals like you. A stronger NAACP with a larger, more active membership is the best hope for protecting our freedom and advancing our rights. **Contact:**

**Eddie Anderson
 Membership Chairman
 843-553-9648**

The NAACP is Still Relevant and Needed!



Madie Robinson

**NAACP Southeast Region (Region V)
56th Annual Civil Rights
Advocacy Training Institute (CRATI)
Jackson, MS March 6-9, 2008**



Derrick Johnson

Comments and photos from NAACP National Board Members

I thought the Regional was well attended and the workshops, forums and overall interaction among the delegates and attendees helped to set the tone for the work of the Association. It highlighted the need for units to register, educate and get people to vote at all levels.

***Madie Robinson,
Member, NAACP National Board of Directors
President, Florence SC NAACP Branch***

A report prepared for the NAACP Southeast Region (Region V) for its 56th Annual *Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute (CRATI)* titled: ***“One Voice, One Vote: Advocating for Change”***. Contains a series of policy papers addressing the areas of; Health Disparities, Education, Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice, and Predatory Lending as they impact the region. Hundreds of delegates from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee met during the conference to discuss the findings and recommendation from the report and to prepare for the 2008 federal elections. Part of the report can be read on pages 6-8 of this newsletter and the full report is available online at:

Report: <http://www.naacpms.org/files/AdvocatingforChangeReport2008.pdf>

Appendix: <http://www.naacpms.org/files/AppendicesforAdvocatingforChange2008.pdf>

***Derrick Johnson
Member, NAACP National Board of Directors
President, Mississippi State Conference NAACP***

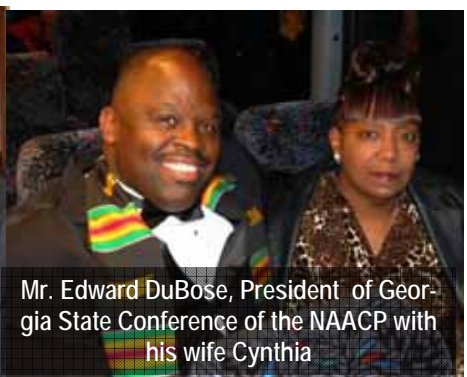
(Photos from convention shared by Madie Robinson (more convention photos on page 6))



National Board Members: Carolyn O. Coleman from NC and Madie Robinson from SC



National Board Member Katherine England from MS with Hilary Shelton



Mr. Edward DuBose, President of Georgia State Conference of the NAACP with his wife Cynthia



U.S. Congressman Bennie Thompson speaking at the Candidates Forum



National Board Member and Mississippi State Conference President, Derrick Johnson speaking to convention



Looking for the NAACP's next leader



Alvin Brown



Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III



Benjamin Jealous

The new chief must be savvy, dedicated and able to rebuild the organization after cuts.



George E. Curry

A special search committee for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People has narrowed the list of finalists to lead the organization to a foundation president in San Francisco, a former official in the Clinton White House, and the pastor of a Dallas mega-church.

According to search committee sources, the finalists for NAACP president and CEO are: Benjamin Todd Jealous, 35, president of the Rosenberg Foundation; the Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III, 47, senior pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church in Dallas; and Alvin Brown, 37, a former White House official now working on Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Because search committee members were sworn to secrecy, none would speak for attribution. The NAACP board is scheduled to fill the position, which has been vacant for a year, at its next meeting, in May. Of the three finalists, Benjamin Jealous is said to be the favorite of board chairman Julian Bond. There is some confusion over whether the full board will get an opportunity to

vote on all three candidates, or whether a single name will be advanced by a search committee made up of board members and prominent community leaders. At the board meeting in New York two weeks ago, Bond announced that the name of only one candidate will be presented to the board for consideration, according to board sources.

The proposal to present the name of only the top candidate rather than all three finalists to the 64-member board has created deep division within the organization, with some members threatening to vote against the candidate if only one name is presented.

Although the NAACP has had only 16 chief executives in 99 years, it has had three - Benjamin Chavis, Kweisi Mfume and Bruce S. Gordon - in the last 15 years. Gordon abruptly resigned last March after only 19 months on the job. He had complained about what he said was board interference in the daily operations, an allegation Bond denied.

One of those hoping to replace Gordon is Jealous. In the interest of disclosure, I worked with Jealous for about a year when I served as editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association

(NNPA), in Washington.

Though Jealous is smart, very organized, and on the right side of most social-justice issues, I never pictured him as head of a major civil rights organization - and still don't. Jealous is uninspiring, an unimpressive orator, and he would easily be overshadowed by other figures already on the civil rights stage.

If his employment record is any indication, he wouldn't stay in the position longer than three years. Jealous served as executive director of the NNPA for three years, followed by three years as the Washington-based director of Amnesty International's Domestic Human Rights Program, and has now been president of the Rosenberg Foundation for three years.

If the NAACP is looking for a president CEO familiar with the inner workings of the federal government and has extensive business ties, it would be difficult to find a more experienced person than Alvin Brown. After serving as a member of President-elect Bill Clinton's transition team, he worked as executive director of the Community Empowerment Board, operating out of the office of Vice President Al Gore, and as a White House senior adviser for urban policy.

Brown also served on the staff of HUD Secretary Andrew Cuomo as director of the Office of Special Actions; senior adviser to the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown; and deputy administrator for rural business under Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. Brown is a former board chairman of the National Black MBA Association, a position that placed him in close contact with several hundred Fortune 500 CEOs.

If the NAACP is interested in turning to a high-energy, intelligent, spellbinding orator in the mold of Benjamin L. Hooks, one of the association's most popular leaders, Rev. Haynes easily fits the bill. Friendship-West Baptist Church has grown from 500 members when he took over in 1983 to more than 8,000 worshippers.

See Next NAACP Leader on page 11



Moments from March 3, 2008 Branch Meeting

- Mr. Eddie Anderson was at his first meeting since having surgery and everyone was happy to see him.
- Nancy James was appointed chairperson of the health committee to replace Rosalind Cato whose schedule prevents her from attending the meetings.
- REAL MEN COOK - President Glover announced plans for the 2008 Goose Creek Real Men Cook event in May. Some men have already signed up to cook but we are hoping to have 30 to 40 cooks. All members are expected to sell tickets for the event and sign up a cook. More information will be forthcoming. President Glover named Herbert Bodison, James Dukes, Thomas Lanier, John Matthews, Benjamin Sass, Roscoe Singletary, and Clarence Turner to the The Real Men Cook Committee. All members of the Real Men Cook Committee will also be cooks for the event. Other cooks already signed up are: Peter Ascue, Frank Jenkins (Gullah Cuisine), Paul Staggers III, Charles Lee, Ken Basley, James Vernon, Leroy Wright, Bright, Reginald Graham, Leroy Rivers, Robert Sass, Earl Fleming, David Cakely, David Stevens Jr., John Scott
- Voter Registration Drive - Pastor Edwin Wright also known as "The Chef" from Radio Station Heaven 1390 AM and Mr. Newton spoke about the Voter Registration and membership drive planned for Saturday March 29 at Inner City Ministries. Please contact Mr. Newton at 270-3435 to sign up to

help with this Membership Drive.

- 2008 Freedom Fund Banquet - Marlene Lemon was appointed chairperson for this years Freedom Fund Banquet Committee and Judy Miller was appointed Chairperson of the Souvenir Book for the Banquet.
- Michelle Cox, Chairperson of the Berkeley County Democrats was a guest speaker and provided a wealth of information about Democrats in Berkeley County and gave information about opportunities to become a delegate.
- NAACP LEGACY CALENDAR - There are still a few of NAACP 99th Anniversary Legacy Calendars available for \$8.50. Contact Mr. Matthews at 442-1319 if you want one of the calendars. These calendars are special and contain a wealth of information about the NAACP. They make excellent gifts.
- ACT-SO - Allen and Sandra Barnhardt appointed Co-Chairmen of ACT-SO

President Glover reminded us the NAACP is a volunteer organization so we shouldn't wait to be

asked to help instead we should volunteer and help where we are needed. □

**Next Meeting is 7 p.m.
April 7th
Harvey Becker
Goose Creek Police Chief
will be guest speaker at
April meeting**



Nancy James, Chairperson Health Committee



Executive Committee member Ranes Harrell (L) and President Andrea Glover (R) Robert Newton



Treasurer Deneen Moore(R) talking with Asst't Treasurer Roscoe Singletary (L) and 2nd VP Thomas Lanier(Center)



Welcome Back Mr. Anderson!
Eddie Anderson with his Georgetown home girls Jean Brown and Christine Moore

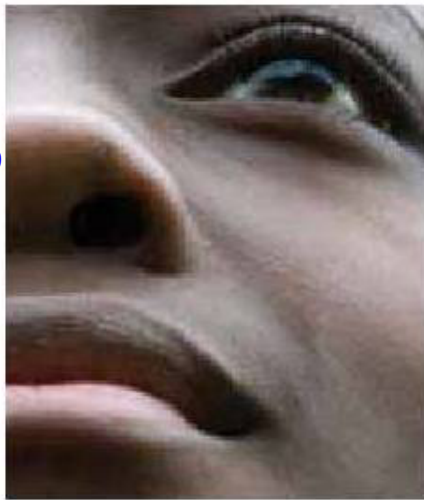


Veronica Dukes
Michelle Cox



56th SE Region V CRATI

(Advocating for Change Continued from Page 1)
Presented at 56th NAACP SE Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute (CRATI) March 6-9 in Jackson, MS



Photos from 56th Southeast Region Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute March 6-9, 2008



Region V State presidents on podium with Hilary O. Shelton from NAACP Washington Bureau Office



Gloria Sweet Love
Member, NAACP National Board of Directors
President, Florence SC NAACP Branch

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the centennial for National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in 2009, the Southeast Region of the NAACP, known as Region V, comprised of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; continues to play a vital role in advocating for fair treatment of all citizens. The strength of the Association lies with its many volunteers actively engaged in a network of units throughout the country who join as one voice in the fight for justice and equality.

During this 56th Annual Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute, delegates from across the region will convene and discuss important policy issues in preparation for the 2008 Federal Elections. This year's conference has enlisted experts to research and analyze the state of our region in the areas of Education, Economic Empowerment, Health, Criminal Justice, and Juvenile Justice as we plan to tackle these issues in our local communities. The goal of this report is to equip and invigorate delegates towards organizing communities for impact on policy at the federal level.

Region V, the largest region within the Association, was a pivotal battleground during the Civil Rights movement. Today, we are in a stronger position than ever before to assess the needs of the region and to make informed recommendations towards real and sustained change. Contained in this report you will find a series of policy papers that together give voice to the needs of the southeast region and perhaps the country. The issues within cut across the experiences of

individuals in the region, but particularly impact those in our community who have been historically marginalized and under-resourced. It is with the needs of this membership base in mind, that the NAACP moves forward a public policy research and advocacy agenda that pursues democracy and equality for all.

This report incorporates recommendations and priorities identified by the NAACP through a consultative process with research and advocacy partners committed to social justice. The NAACP Southeast Region involved the input of a diverse set of scholars, advocates, community leaders and other invested individuals, who together assessed strategic opportunities and challenges in the identified areas.

We wrote this publication to spur action and investment in the region – with an eye towards specific federal recommendations -- in the areas of health disparities, education, criminal justice, juvenile justice, and predatory lending.

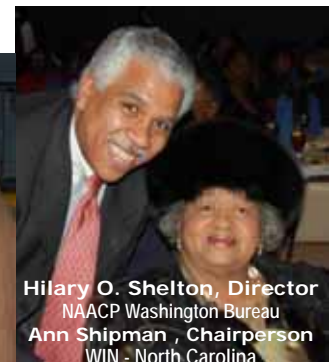
This document will amplify the following points:

- *Health Disparities*
- *Education*
- *Criminal Justice*
- *Juvenile Justice*
- *Predatory Lending*

Continued on next page



Cathy Barnes (L) and Amina Turner with NC State Conference President Rev Dr. William Barber



Hilary O. Shelton, Director
NAACP Washington Bureau
Ann Shipman, Chairperson
WIN - North Carolina



Health Disparities

Poor outcomes in education and economics are closely tied to poor outcomes in health. Like the disparities in education, disparities in health persist from the beginning of life onward. This report finds that racial disparities and access to healthcare persists, where minorities are less likely to be insured and more likely to receive substandard care than non-minorities even when access-related factors, such as patients' insurance status and income, are controlled. Particular areas of rising concern are 1) HIV/AIDS: half of the estimated 1.3 million Americans living with HIV are Black, 2) Obesity: according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 77 percent of Black women and 62 percent of Black men are overweight - which helps explain why we lead in many statistics for obesity-related conditions, like diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, 3) Mental Health: minorities are less likely to receive needed mental health services, often receive a poorer quality of mental health care treatment, and are underrepresented in mental health research, 4) respiratory Diseases: African Americans have similar rates of cigarette smoking as Whites (22% vs. 24% respectively) and lower overall exposure to tobacco smoke, but are more likely to develop and die from lung cancer. Black men are at least 50 percent more likely to develop lung cancer and 36 percent more likely to die from the disease than White men.

Education

In 2004, Black students were roughly 16% of the public school population, with only 53% of all Black students graduating from high school with a regular diploma, compared to 76% for whites. Nearly 50% of Black students in America attend what are known as "dropout factories." On average, African American 12th grade students read at approximately the same level as white 8th graders. Studies have shown that high school dropouts earn less money and experience a poorer quality of life than their graduating peers. They are also more likely to become embroiled in the criminal justice system, have children while they are very young, and elatedly, have less access to high quality healthcare. Un-

derstanding the connection between graduation rates as a measure of school performance, the NAACP finds that current state-reported data is not reliable and cannot be compared across states and districts. Better data systems and measures must be put into place, as well as new aggressive measures for increasing graduation rates that will serve to raise expectations for students and schools and hold schools more easily accountable.

Criminal Justice

It is undisputed that African Americans are disproportionately affected by the criminal justice system, and many studies have found that African Americans are unjustly and unfairly penalized within this system. This paper will analyze the criminal justice system in three ways: how people enter the system, what happens while they are inside of the system and what happens when they leave. We will argue that certain policies and practices at the federal, state and local level maintain a system which prioritizes profits over the rights and human dignity of individuals who come into the system. These policies, including 'War on Drugs' initiatives, play on community fears by promising to address public safety issues, but often fail to make much of a difference. In this analysis, we will make specific policy recommendations to reduce incarceration rates, end racial profiling practices, eliminate sentencing disparities and support full enfranchisement of persons with felony convictions.

In addition to the mechanics of the system itself, an additional area of concern is prosecutorial conduct. It is widely believed that many prosecutors have used the powers of their office to advance political careers, prosecuting individuals for the purpose of seeming to be tough on crime, rather than on seeking to pursue truth and justice. These prosecutors face no retroactive action in these instances. Recent research shows that many who are serving time for crimes they didn't commit have actually been caught up in the Bermuda triangle of re-election politics, administrative error and systemic barriers to due process which together, have colluded to keep those

least resourced and represented, behind bars. The NAACP seeks legislation similar to current anti-lynching laws that would require federal authorities to investigate and pursue charges against those who rashly and illegally abuse the powers of their office for political purposes, and who knowingly cut short the full course of due process that every American should have access to.

Juvenile Justice

Despite a growing body of evidence indicating that youth are adversely affected by incarceration in any type of secure facility, the United States continues to place youth in detention, secure confinement, jails, and prisons. The issues at stake in this report include the South's over-reliance on incarceration and the adverse affects of incarceration on children, families and communities; the disproportionate minority contact (the affect on the African-American community); increasing "adulthood"--charging children as adults and the science that argues against this practice; school related referrals to the juvenile justice system and the ways schools can stem the tide of youth in the juvenile justice. The overarching goal of future policies regarding youth should be to focus on effective prevention and intervention programs to reduce the number of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. By engaging youth in productive activities such as education, employment and evidence-based practices, states can reduce the number of youth that are sent to correctional facilities, while promoting public safety. To achieve this goal, the NAACP calls on policymakers to implement policies that shift the responsibility of rehabilitation and enforcing accountability away from the juvenile justice and correctional systems and toward evidence-based, community-sponsored alternatives.

Continued on next page



Predatory Lending

It is now estimated that 2.2 million sub-prime home loans (defined as 3 percentage points higher than the prevailing rate for long-term Treasury bonds) have already failed or will end in foreclosure – the highest foreclosure rate since the Depression – with a total equity loss of \$164 billion. Moreover, neighboring homes to foreclosed properties will see a decline in value of \$200 billion. A US Conference of Mayors Report estimates that the foreclosure crisis will reduce home values by an additional \$519 billion in 2008, bringing the total forecast of lost equity for the nation's homeowners to \$1.2 trillion. Eventually this will lead to a decrease in tax revenue for the state and a loss of funding for projects like public transportation and libraries. A decrease in public funding will lead to further decline in property values and continue a dangerous trend.

It is now widely documented that nearly seventy percent of all sub-prime loans were made to African-Americans borrowers (and 20 percent to Latinos). About half of these sub-prime borrowers were eligible for prime loans but were steered toward sub-prime rates instead. For many of the victims, the defaults come on the heels of medical emergencies, deaths or job loss. The NAACP believes that the lack of enforcement of civil rights laws and of fair lending laws, has created this environment. Even Martin Gruenberg, vice chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), said at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's Wall Street Economic Summit in January, "Only one-sixth of this differential (of who received sub-prime rates) could be accounted for by the ability of the borrower." Known as 'affordability products,' sub-prime mortgages generated big commissions up front and were designed to require refinancing later on – which included yet another round of luscious fees for lenders.

Civil Rights leaders have called on Mayors, State Attorney Generals, and the US Attorney General to sue lenders for predatory practices and to recover lost revenues stemming from a real estate market undermined by sub-prime mortgages designed to fail. Baltimore is suing, Cleveland and Illinois – led by Illinois Attorney General Madigan – are all pursuing these kinds of lawsuits. The NAACP points to the need for federal intervention on the level of restructuring in the Great Depression with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation; and in the 1990's with the Reconstruction Trust Corporation rescuing failing savings and loans. And even as both journalists and economists have been slow to admit that lack of civil rights enforcement plays a major role in the current financial collapse, the NAACP believes the sub-prime mortgage crisis in particular, needs to be seen as part of the continuing struggle for racial equality.

In closing, failing to address the problems presented by this report will affect millions of people and several generations -- but directing attention and resources to these issues can be a powerful means to achieve equity, improved public health and social justice.

We only need look to the historical record to understand the context of where communities of color find themselves today – and yet, we also look to the future -- even to the 2008 Federal election cycle to raise our voices to policy makers for justice and change.

The chorus of voices the NAACP marshals is constituency based, with grassroots leaders across the region, working together to weave the fabric of a sustainable quality of life in our communities. We are seeking real remedies that can improve the quality of life for all, and particularly for African American communities in the South.

We hope that this report will serve not only as a compass of partnership for those leading change in the region, but also as a

springboard for further debate about the impacts and opportunities of some of the most pressing issues of our time.

On behalf of the leadership of the Southeast Region, thank you for your attention to this important report. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this report or the ideas contained in it.

Peace and Power,

Derrick Johnson, State President
Mississippi State Conference NAACP



To View the full "Advocating for Change" report go to:
<http://www.naacps.org/files/AdvocatingforChangeReport2008.pdf>



GOOSE CREEK NAACP HEALTH COMMITTEE - NANCY JAMES, Chairperson

Minorities are less likely to be insured and more likely to receive substandard care than non-minorities even when access-related factors, such as patients' insurance status and income, are controlled. The NAACP Health Committee goal is to develop health education initiatives; expand community outreach; and sponsor collaborative programs with other health organizations.

Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

April is National Minority Health Month

April is being observed as National Minority Health Month across the nation and in South Carolina by proclamation from Governor Mark Sanford.

This year National Minority Health Month focuses on preventive services for minority populations, and is providing you resources about diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and immunizations for ethnic and racial minorities.

Did you know that according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Minority Health ...

- Although African American children aged 19 to 35 months had comparable rates of immunization for hepatitis, influenza, MMR, and polio, they were slightly less likely to be fully immunized, when compared to non-Hispanic white children 2005.
- African American adults were 30% more likely than their white adult counterparts to have a stroke.
- In recent years, Mexican American adults were 2 times more likely than non-Hispanic white adults to have been diagnosed with diabetes by a physician.
- In 2003, American Indian/Alaska Native adults were 2.3 times as likely as white adults to be diagnosed with diabetes.

Being healthy isn't just important for you. It's also important for your family and friends. So be powerful in managing your health! Go for a checkup once a year. Know what you should share with your doctor. Write down questions to ask before the visit. The power of your health is in your hands.

When you see your doctor, prepare yourself with information to share.

- Know your own medical history.
- Find out the medical history of your family.
- Bring a list of medicines that you are taking.
- Tell your doctor about any allergies you have.
- Tell your doctor about your lifestyle. Do you drink or smoke? Do you experience stress? Do you work in an area with pollution or hazardous materials?

Be completely honest with your doctor. He or she can be a powerful partner for better health. Help your doctor help you. Offer your full medical history.□

April is Alcoholism Awareness Month

Alcoholism is a treatable brain disorder in which people lose their ability to control their use of alcohol. There have been significant advancements in alcohol treatment in recent years. Researchers have identified biology, genetics, mental health, social environment and childhood trauma as some of the factors that predispose a person to develop an addiction to alcohol. Brain imaging studies identify both subtle and rapid signal changes in the brain may bring about cravings to drink.

Drinking alcohol is associated with many pleasurable day to day activities, but it can become a problem. Some of the signs of "hazardous drinking" are:

- Drinking alcohol despite significant others expressing concern or embarrassment because of your drinking
- Drinking when your doctor recommends that you abstain from alcohol
- Drinking alcohol and taking medication that you are warned not to mix with alcohol
- Avoiding taking medication because of being warned not to mix alcohol and medication.
- Having blackouts when drinking alcohol
- Drinking which interferes with you carrying out your responsibilities such as childcare, housework or employment responsibilities
- Legal, financial or marital problems related to drinking alcohol.

While some people can stop drinking on their own, others need help to manage the physical process of withdrawal.

If you think you have an addiction to alcohol, talk to your doctor about whether you need to withdraw from alcohol under medical supervision. Sources for help are:

- Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). Alcoholics Anonymous organizes meetings all over the world to help those who have a desire to stop drinking. The groups are made up of people who have had alcohol use problems, and you may remain anonymous.
- Family medicine physicians, psychologists, or other health professionals.
- Inpatient or outpatient treatment centers or hospitals.
- Local or national alcohol treatment hotlines (check your local white and yellow pages).

You can contact these organizations and health professionals by phone or by accessing their Web sites online.□



Justice Department Settles Voting Rights Case with Georgetown County, South Carolina, Board of Education

March 17, 2008 -- The Georgetown County Board of Education has agreed to create voting districts to settle a Voting Rights Act lawsuit.

The Justice Department sued the board last week because it elects all its members at large and there have been no black members on the board through the past three election cycles.

The lawsuit, filed March 14, 2008, in the U.S. District Court in Charleston, alleges that the at-large method of electing school board members violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965 because it diluted the voting strength of black voters in Georgetown County. While black citizens comprise approximately 38 percent of the population of Georgetown County, the current school board is all white and no black candidates have won a school board election during the last three election cycles.

The consent decree, which requires court approval, will create seven single-member districts and two at-large seats on the nine-member school board. In three of the single-member districts (Districts 3, 4, and 7), black citizens will constitute a majority of the age-eligible population. The district lines under the consent decree will mirror district lines for the Georgetown County Council.

The lawsuit is the result of an investigation conducted by the Civil Rights Division regarding the County's electoral practices and history. The Justice Department's analysis of County elections found that black voters in Georgetown County are politically cohesive and geographically compact and that white voters, who form a majority of the County's elector-

ate, usually vote as a bloc to defeat the black voters' candidates of choice. This bloc voting, coupled with the use of the at-large election system, has resulted in a dilution of the voting strength of the black voters in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

Morris Johnson, president of the Georgetown County NAACP, said having an all white member school board is not fair to the minority students and parents in the county.

Johnson said someone needs to be there to represent African Americans in Georgetown County. "It's a sad day that they [The Justice Department] have to force this board to do the right thing," he said. "There are no black members on the school board. It is apparent that the black community has not been able to elect a candidate of their choice for many years."

The consent decree, which requires court approval, will create seven single-member districts and two at-large seats on the nine-member school board. In three of the single-member districts (Districts 3, 4, and 7), black citizens will constitute a majority of the age-eligible population. The district lines under the consent decree will mirror district lines for the Georgetown County Council.

All the seats in the newly drawn districts will be up for election this November. □

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's Statement on Race



Condoleezza Rice

March 27, 2008 - Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said yesterday that the United States still has trouble dealing with race because of a national "birth defect" that denied black Americans the opportunities given to whites at the country's very founding.

"Black Americans were a founding population," she said. "Africans and Europeans came here and founded this country together — Europeans by choice and Africans in chains. That's not a very pretty reality of our founding."

As a result, Miss Rice told editors and reporters at The Washington Times, "descendants of slaves did not get much of a head start, and I think you continue to see some of the effects of that."

"That particular birth defect makes it hard for us to confront it, hard for us to talk about it, and hard for us to realize that it has continuing relevance for who we are today," she said.

Race has become an issue in this year's presidential campaign, which prompted a much-discussed speech last week by Sen. Barack Obama, one of the two remaining contenders for the Democratic nomination.

Miss Rice declined to comment on the campaign, saying only that it was "important" that Mr. Obama "gave it for a whole host of reasons."

But she spoke forcefully on the subject, citing personal and family experience to illustrate "a paradox and contradiction in this country," which "we still haven't resolved."

On the one hand, she said, race in the U.S. "continues to have effects" on public discussions and "the deepest thoughts that people hold." On the other, "enormous progress" has been made, which allowed her to become the nation's chief diplomat.

"America doesn't have an easy time dealing with race," Miss Rice said, adding that members of her family have "endured terrible humiliations."

"What I would like understood as a black American is that black Americans loved and had faith in this country even when this country didn't love and have faith in them — and that's our legacy," she said.

Miss Rice also said that what "attracted" her to candidate George W. Bush during the 2000 presidential campaign was not foreign policy, but his "no child left behind" initiative, which she said gave equal opportunities to black and white students.

The proposal, much criticized by Mr. Obama and his Democratic rival Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, has been successful, Miss Rice said. □





NAACP's Next Leader from Page 4

At a conference in Dallas two years ago, he said: "A mega church should not just be known for the traffic jam it creates on Sunday, but for doing something more in the community."

Haynes is highly visible in the Dallas community. He was among a group of ministers that traveled to New Orleans to offer assistance shortly after Hurricane Katrina. And he cochaired a campaign to pass a \$1.3 billion city bond.

The next leader of the NAACP will face a major rebuilding job. Last summer, the Baltimore-based civil rights group cut 40 percent of its national staff and closed its seven regional offices to cover three years of deficits.

Established largely in response to race-based lynching in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the NAACP is now challenging more subtle discrimination and racial disparities. How well it does will be determined, in part, by its next president. □

Special thanks to George Curry for this story. Article was originally posted in

**The Philadelphia Inquirer
March 6, 2008**

George E. Curry, a former Washington correspondent and New York bureau chief for the Chicago Tribune, was editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine. He is also a NAACP Life member. You can E-mail him at:

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Florida NAACP Branch uses Church Freedom Bell in their Membership Drive



The Columbia County Branch of the NAACP uses an annual Church Freedom Bell membership contest in their annual membership drives.

Glynnell Presley, Columbia County NAACP branch secretary, said the contest has been the major reason the local chapter has been cited by the state, regional and national NAACP offices for its membership drives. The contests were initiated in 1996.

"We usually shoot for about 500 members, and most times we are just under that 500-membership category," Presley said. "For the past six or seven years, we've been cited by the state and national branches for our membership. Percentage-wise we're at the top of the branches in the state of Florida for collecting memberships."

As part of the Freedom Bell Membership Drive, the church that collects the most adult memberships before April 8 will get the opportunity to display the Freedom Bell throughout 2008.

The bell will be engraved with the name of the church, the year and the pastor's name. The bell will be presented to the church winner at the annual NAACP Freedom Fund Luncheon which takes place in late April.

Mr. John Mayo is president of the Columbia County Branch. □

The Justice Department has begun a civil rights investigation of the South Carolina Highway Patrol.

Federal authorities are investigating alleged misconduct and civil rights violations by the Highway Patrol shown in videos in which state troopers used racial slurs, threatened to kill a suspect and — most recently — struck suspects fleeing on foot with their patrol cars.

The Legislative Black Caucus supports the federal investigation into "inappropriate and unacceptable" behavior by troopers, said chairman Rep. Leon Howard, D-Richland.

"I'm sure there are (troopers) shaking in their boots," he said.

On March 31st the South Carolina Highway Patrol released three new tapes.

The first one shows a trooper kicking a suspect during a traffic stop.

The second involves a stop where the suspect accuses a trooper of hitting him in the face with a shotgun.

The third shows a trooper pulling someone from a car and the trooper hitting the person with his hand.

These tapes come on the heels of others that have surfaced recently.

In an April 2007 video, Lance Cpl. Alexander Richardson hops curbs and zips around apartment buildings in his patrol car, pursuing a man fleeing on foot through a Plowden Road apartment complex. At one point, Richardson hits the man with his bumper. Though he claimed to have accidentally hit the man, internal documents show Richardson made no attempt to brake. Unharmed, the man continues to run.

Seconds later, the chase led

Richardson just feet from an occupied playground. A man and small child can be seen quickly getting out of the way of the cruiser, surprise registering on the man's face.

The fleeing suspect eventually gave up and was arrested. Police securing the burgundy Chevrolet Caprice the man had been driving discovered two children ages 5 and 6 inside.

Another tape shows a trooper hitting a suspect on a road, knocking him into some grass. Other tapes show a trooper using a racial slur at a stop in Greenwood County, and a trooper handcuffing a woman to his patrol car in Clarendon County.

The publicizing of the first two videos resulted in Public Safety Director James K. Schweitzer and Highway Patrol Commander Col. Russell Roark submitting their resignations Feb. 29, after Gov. Sanford said the 12-hour suspensions the troopers received as punishment were too lenient.

The Criminal Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Attorney for South Carolina and the FBI are investigating the allegations.

State NAACP president Lonnie Randolph said an investigation was overdue.

"It's amazing how arrogant these individuals act ... how out of control they act with camcorders watching their every move," Randolph said. □

THE NAACP IS TODAY
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3

Upcoming Events

April 7, 2008- Goose Creek NAACP Branch Mtg.
April 26, 2008 - SC ACT-SO in Columbia
May 24 2008 - Real Men Cook
June 14, 2008 - Ridgeville Branch NAACP 17TH
Freedom Fund Banquet
July 12-17, 2008 - 99th NAACP Convention
Cincinnati, OH
July 30 - August 3, 2008 - ACT-SO 30th
Anniversary Competition - Orlando, FL

Getting the Word out about Voter Registration



Rev. Edwin Wright
a/k/a
"The Chef"

YOUR VOTE * YOUR VOICE

Mr. Robert Newton Political Action Committee Chairman spoke on air with radio personality The Chef on Radio Station Heaven 1390 AM March 13 to promote the March 29th Voter Registration and Membership Drive..



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO
VOTE?

President Glover during Voter Registration and Membership Drive Saturday March 29, 2008 at Inner City Ministries in North Charleston.



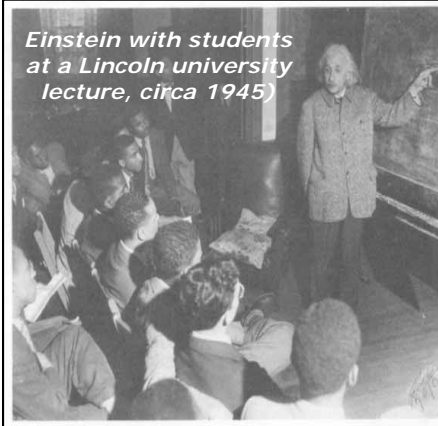
Albert Einstein Civil Rights Activist (1879-1955)

Little-known aspect of physicist's life

Civil Rights Activist Albert Einstein, the German born eminent physicist could not help but wonder how the universe worked. Among his achievements were the *Theory of relativity* (1905), Nobel Prize for Physics (1921).

Einstein was in the United States when the Nazis came to power in 1933, and, fearful that a return to Germany would place him in mortal danger, he decided to stay, accepting a position at the recently founded Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J. He became an American citizen in 1940.

What is not widely know about Einsein is his civil rights activities, possibly motivated by empathy gained from his Jewish heritage. In 1951, when the 83-year-old W.E.B. Du Bois, a founder of the NAACP, was indicted by the federal government for failing to register as a "foreign agent" after circulating the pro-Soviet Stockholm Peace Petition. Einstein offered to appear as a character witness for Du Bois, which convinced the judge to drop the case. He was also a regular anti-racism lecturer and visitor to historically Black Lincoln University where a young Julian Bond's father, Horace Mann Bond, was the college president. At Lincoln, Einstein gave a speech in which he called racism "a disease of white people," and added, "I do not intend



to be quiet about it." He also received an honorary degree and gave a lecture on relativity to Lincoln students.

The reason Einstein's visit to Lincoln is not better known is that it was virtually ignored by the mainstream press, which regularly covered Einstein's speeches and activities. (Only the black press gave extensive coverage to the event.) Nor is there mention of the Lincoln visit in any of the major Einstein biographies or archives.



Einstein and Paul Robeson at Princeton in 1947

During his time at Princeton University he developed a friendship with Princeton, New Jersey native Paul Robeson. Einstein met Paul Robeson when the famous singer and actor came to perform at Princeton's McCarter Theatre in 1935. The two found they had much in common. Both were concerned about the rise of fascism, and both gave their support to efforts to defend the democratically elected government of Spain against the fascist forces of Francisco Franco. Einstein and Robeson also worked together on the American Crusade to End Lynching, in response to an upsurge in racial murders as black soldiers returned home in the aftermath of World War II.

The 20-year friendship between Einstein and Robeson is another story that has not been told but that omission may soon be rectified. A movie is in the works about the relationship, with Danny Glover slated to play Robeson and Ben Kingsley as Einstein.

When you really think about tit he Theory of Simple Relativity applies to the civil rights movement. A mass of unarmed people accelerated to a goal (freedom and equality) generated enough momentum and energy to achieve it in spite of being outnumbered and gunned.□