



*Election
for
Membership
on National
Board of
Directors*

Rev. Wendell Anthony



Carolyn Coleman



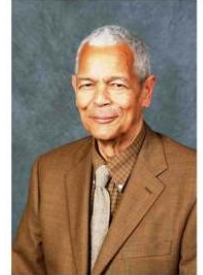
Katherine Eglad



General Holiefield



Julian Bond



William Lucy



James Gallman



Annie B. Martin



Benard Simelton



Howard Jefferson



The monthly membership meeting of the **Goose Creek Branch NAACP** will happen on December 7th at 7pm at Abraham Masonic Building. The election for membership on the National Board of Directors will happen at this meeting. The Branch's selection shall be determined by a majority vote of those members in good standing present and voting.

There are annual elections of members to the Board of Directors. The election process begins at the Annual Convention where an At-Large Member to the Board of Directors is elected and where the Regional Members of the Annual Elections Supervisory Committee are elected by their Regions. A Youth/College Member is appointed by the Chair of the National Youth Work Committee upon election as Chair. The process ends on the third Saturday in February (February 20, 2010) when the Committee reports the results of the Board elections to the Association's membership in attendance at the Annual Corporate Meeting. The Board certifies the election results at the Board of Directors meeting following the Annual Corporate Meeting. Each branch, in good standing, at its Annual

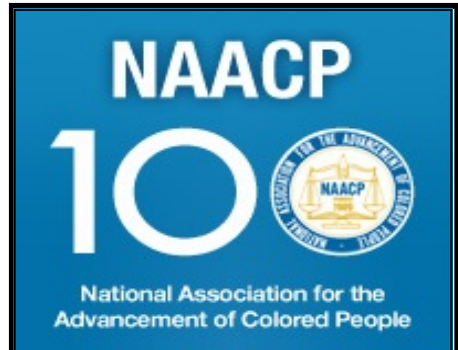
Meeting in December shall by vote of the members in good standing present make its choice of one (1) Regional and seven (7) at-large candidates of the Board of Directors.

Pursuant to Article VI of the constitution each branch, in good standing, at its Annual Meeting in December shall by vote of the members in good standing present make its choice of one (1) Regional and seven (7) at-large candidates of the Board of Directors.

The choices for branches, youth and at-large candidates are marked on the official NAACP ballots, prepared by the annual Elections Supervisory Committee. The branches' ballot for Regional and at-large National Board nominees must be signed by both the President and Secretary of the Unit. The youth/college ballot for Regional youth/college candidates and at-large candidates must be signed by the President and Secretary of the youth council or college chapter.

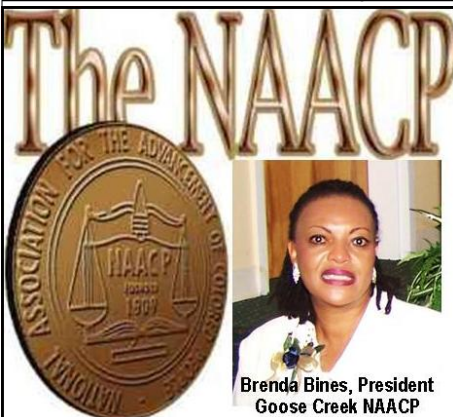
We can vote for no more than seven (7) of the nine (9) candidates listed below:

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Brenda Bines, President
Goose Creek NAACP

BRANCH MEETINGS

Goose Creek NAACP meets the first Monday
of the month at Abraham Masonic Building
206 Liberty Hall Rd; Goose Creek, SC.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday Dec 7, 2009 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday Jan 4, 2010

Goose Creek Branch NAACP
PO Box 1356
Goose Creek, SC 29445-1356
Telephone: 843-870-4225
Fax: 843-628-4950
www.naacpgoosecreek.org
Email: info@naacpgoosecreek.org

Officers

PresidentBrenda Bines
1st VPDavid Cakley
2nd VP.....Orville Hayes
Secretary.....Aja Adams
Treasurer.....Tamekia Morant

Executive Committee Members

The Rev. Ted Adams	Ranese Harrell
Jackie Adams	David Johnson
Eddie Anderson	Betty Jones
Barbara Blackwell	Thomas Lanier
Herbert Bodison	Marlene Lemon
Lori Brooks	John Matthews
LaMaurice Burgin	Robert Newton
Veronica Dukes	Paul W. Staggers, Jr.
Andrea Glover	Clarence Turner
Beverly Hargrow	Eyamba Williams

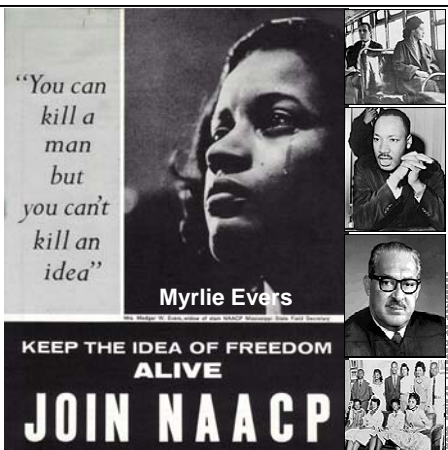


Tentative Activity Schedule

January 18, 2010 Schedule of Activity

6:00 a.m. (Sharp)	Vehicles Depart Abraham Masonic Building 206 Liberty Hall Rd, Goose Creek
8:30 a.m.	Unload at Zion Baptist Church
9:30 a.m.	Lineup for march to Capitol
10:00 a.m.	March to Capitol for Rally
10:30 a.m.	Rally and speeches at steps of Capitol
2:00 p.m.	Depart Columbia for home
4:00 p.m.	Arrive back at Abraham Masonic Building

Contact King Day at the Dome Coordinator David Cakley at 821-7722 or Orville Hays at 797-2894 You may also contact these individuals to sign up for transportation or if you have any questions.





Message from Branch President Bines



First, let me say how appreciative and thankful I am of the confidence that you, the members of the Goose Creek NAACP Branch, have placed in me by electing me president for two years. This first year has been a challenge made easier by the support and dedication of the members and officers who always step up to lend a hand when and where needed. I would also like to extend my hearty thanks to the community for allowing the Goose Creek NAACP Branch to be a voice and service to all citizens.

*This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). We celebrate one century of great civic, legislative, judicial and academic achievements among all races throughout the United States with the theme, **NAACP 100 Years: Bold Dreams—Big Victories***

Over the years we have eliminated Jim Crow, we won one of its greatest legal victories in Brown vs. the Board of Education, in 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus and her act sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in 1965 the Voting Rights Act was passed amidst threats of violence and in 2009 we celebrated the Inauguration of the 44th President of the United States of America, Barack Hussein Obama. Within the last century, we won important victories, but there remains much to be done and we must be up to the challenge.

I am proud that our branch is active with the ACT-SO and Back to School/Stay in School NAACP youth programs. These programs for elementary and high school students concentrate on preparing, inspiring and instructing youths to not just graduate from high school, but to excel in life. We must continue and increase our efforts in these areas.

Policies in housing, employment, and education continue to disenfranchise the impoverished. Racism and discrimination have not been eradicated but positive social changes are inevitable because community outreach programs educate people regarding their civil and voting rights. As a result, people of color are being judged by their character and are being disseminated throughout mainstream America.

We elected our first African American President Barack Obama and many of us African Americans and Caucasian friends could not believe this had happened in their life time. Americans bypassed the color issue. He became president, in part, because of the NAACP's triumphs and failures, thousands of black and white civil rights activists who challenged the courts, boycotted, marched, and gave their lives for freedom in hopes that the United States would provide equality and justice for all.

We need accountability from elected officials, educators and our churches, and most notably from ourselves.

There are certainly many issues that call for attention in the Lowcountry, our Executive Committee and members continue to plan and work bringing their specific expertise and commitment to the branch, and for this I am grateful. It is my hope that many more will join us in some big or small way this year. And remember, not only for Christmas but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor, lonely, and sad, the more of your hearts possessing returns to you.

I sincerely wish you and yours Happy Holidays and a safe and joyous New Year.

**Brenda Bines, President
Goose Creek Branch NAACP**



'No More Excuses' in the Age of Obama

By Khalil Gibran Muhammad



Khalil Gibran Muhammad

Everywhere I turn these days I keep seeing or hearing the words, "No More Excuses." From black self-help book titles to black pundits on CNN, these three words have become the mantra of post-racialism in the Age of President Obama.

Whether intended or not, the mantra fuels the belief that because of individual black achievements, we have finally reached the promised land of a color-blind, equal-opportunity America. But this is not the first time we've been to the mountain top. Roughly a century ago, many Americans, from white social workers to black motivational speakers, declared that racism was no longer a determining factor in whether individual black people succeeded or failed.

As John Daniels observed then: "[I]n most American communities...the fact that" African Americans are "steadily becoming better able to pay for privileges are [their] best guarantee of possessing these privileges. Restaurants and theaters, for instance, find that a [black man's] money goes as far as a white man's profits. A cab driver deems it wiser to pick up a fare from an" African American "than to let his vehicle stand idle. Stores of all kinds, even the most select, see no good reason for declining to sell" to black people. "Banks draw no color line in accepting deposits." And black folk can live anywhere they choose.

In 1914, Daniels was not delusional. As a white social worker from the great liberal state of Massachusetts, and as the foremost expert on the history of Black Boston's antislavery movement, he knew exactly what he was saying. Any remaining disparities between the quality of white and black people's lives had nothing to do with racism. Fifty years before President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Daniels declared: The problem is "not race feeling. It is not color-feeling. It is inferiority-feeling." White people "feel and act toward" black people "accordingly."

Yet that same year, fifty-one African Americans

were lynched, a number that grew year by year reaching seventy-six in 1919. By then racial violence had grown to epic proportions, claiming hundreds of black lives as nearly two dozen race riots erupted from Washington, D.C. to Chicago. There is a powerful cautionary tale in remembering the words of John Daniels and so many others uttered during the first post-Civil Rights era. Many Americans believed then that the heavy-lifting of building racial democracy had been completed. What better proof, they claimed, than the election of more than a dozen African Americans to the United States Congress. From the 1870s through the turn of the twentieth-century, 14 black men served in the U.S. House of Representatives, and two black men served in the U.S. Senate. Undeniably, these were historic times, watershed events, and moments for great optimism.

But when Reconstruction ended in 1877, the nation's political winds changed directions, loosening black people's foothold on the mountain top. White Democrats took back the South with violence and subterfuge. By 1880 there were no more black Senators, by 1896 segregation was legalized through *Plessy v. Ferguson* and, by 1901 there were no black Congressmen. The grand experiment in racial democracy had come to a precipitous end. It would take much of the rest of the twentieth-century to return race-relations to the political status quo of the late 19th century. Indeed it took 125 years, with the 2004 election of Senator Barack Obama, to surpass the number of black Senators who had served briefly in the 1870s.

Every generation of Americans since Reconstruction and Daniels's day have wanted to believe in the country's greatness and goodness and its fairness, its willingness to become a "more perfect union."

But the myth of American Exceptionalism, of a divine mission to always triumph over evil, has been arguably as much a factor in persistent racism and racial inequality as residential segregation, bank redlining, discrimination in public education and, yes, even among taxi cab drivers. American Exceptionalism has left us continuously wanting, dec-

ade after decade to believe that we've moved past racism. John Daniels, a good guy in his day, was wrong about 1914, and about the future of race relations.

Indeed, Obama's election has provoked new assertions that the nation can only move forward, can only progress: that there are "no more excuses" for failure.

As motivating as the mantra may be for some, it masks the very real challenges many African Americans face today in the midst of The SLM Great Recession and The Era of Mass Incarceration. Those who chant it risk perpetuating a troubling legacy that we ignore at our own peril.

As the old adage goes what goes up must come down. If you don't believe me, ask Alan Greenspan.■

Khalil Gibran Muhammad is an assistant professor of American History at Indiana University, and an adjunct assistant professor in African American and African Diaspora Studies, as well as American Studies. Following the completion of his Ph.D. from Rutgers University in the fall of 2003, he spent two years as an Mellon Fellow of Race, Crime, and Justice at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City. He is the author of *The Condemnation of Blackness: Race, Crime, and the Making of Modern Urban America*. He is a great-grandson of Elijah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam.

Editors note: Article was originally posted 11/23/09 on www.thedefenderonline.com

"We hold these truths to be self-evident . . ."

For more than 60 years, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) has fought to make these hallowed words of the Constitution a reality and to help America reach its highest potential. WWW.THEDEFENDERONLINE.COM continues LDF's long and proud tradition to DEFEND, EDUCATE and EMPOWER all Americans.



Closing the Gap in Health Care



News Flash: Keep Getting Your Mammograms

By now you must be thoroughly confused about the new recommendations regarding when to get a mammogram. In case you have not heard, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommended that women in their 40s should not get routine mammograms for early detection of breast cancer. Instead, the federal advisory board recommended that women wait until age 50 to begin getting mammograms. The American Cancer Society, the American College of Radiology, and the U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary disagreed with this recommendation.

I, too, disagree with this because it appears to be totally insensitive to the needs of women from underrepresented groups. The research has shown for years that women from minority groups are more likely to die from breast cancer due to late detection. This is also the case for uninsured and uninformed women.

Keep getting your annual mammogram. Good communication with your physician is paramount and I am encouraging you to continue to get an annual mammogram. I am Dr. Thaddeus John Bell, closing the gap in health care for African American and the under-served.

Bell Update Volume 4 Copyright November 2009

Access our Health-E-Newsletter Archive at
www.closingthegapinhealthcare.org
Become A Friend to Dr. Bell on Facebook

To Find Out More Health Info and General Information about Closing the Gap in Health Care, Inc. Email us at:
info@closingthegapinhealthcare.com



December 1st is World AIDS Day and December is AIDS Awareness Month

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome), caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), attacks the immune system, and is spread by sexual contact with infected persons, needle sharing, or through transfusions with infected blood. Infected women can transmit the virus to their newborns before, during, or after birth.

"Free or low-cost rapid tests for HIV will be offered in many of DHEC's county public health departments and community-based agencies to mark World AIDS Day," said Dr. Wayne Duffus, acting division director and medical director of DHEC's STD/HIV Division. "Many community-

based groups will offer events and candlelight vigils to raise awareness of HIV issues and remember those who have died from AIDS."

United States' World AIDS Day theme for 2009 is "Working Together" stresses the importance of joining together to support the individuals, families and communities affected by this disease.

In South Carolina, 14,000 people are known to be living with HIV/AIDS, and DHEC estimates that one new HIV infection occurs in the state every nine hours. According to Dr. Wayne Duffus, acting division director and medical director of DHEC's STD/HIV Division, "Every county in the state has residents living with HIV, but many South Carolinians remain unaware of their HIV status because they have not received an HIV test."

Most people in the early stages of HIV infection have no symptoms. Early diagnosis can link people to services that will help them stay healthy longer, benefit most from treatment, reduce costly hospital visits and help prevent transmission to others.



TEST 1 MILLION... is a signature project of the Black AIDS Institute, in partnership with the **NAACP** and other leading Black organizations and other partners. It is supported by the Black AIDS Media Partnership under the Greater Than AIDS campaign. <http://www.greaterthan.org/>

Join the movement to help end AIDS. Be 1 of the million-plus Black Americans who will get tested before the next National HIV Testing Day - June 27th, 2010.

For more information about World AIDS Day events, including local HIV testing sites, call DHEC's S.C. AIDS/STD Hotline at 1-800-322-AIDS or visit scdhec.gov/stdhiv.



Eliminating Health Disparities: An NAACP Strategic Priority

Elimination of disparities in accessibility to quality health care services by African-Americans and other minority groups is central to the work of the Goose Creek Branch. The Health Committee of the Goose Creek Branch:

- Advocates for universal health insurance and access to appropriate health care for all;
- Campaigns for equal access to health education, care and treatment;
- Sponsors events, such as health forums, HIV/AIDS Testing, and events that highlight issues of importance to people of color;
- Promotes equal representation of African-Americans and other minorities within the health professions;
- Advances increased research funding on African-American health issues; and supports health initiatives of the national NAACP.



Board Election From Page 1

The Rev. Wendell Anthony (I) is a native of St. Louis, Missouri . He was educated in the Detroit Public School system. He graduated from Wayne State University with a B.A. in Political Science, and Marygrove College with an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry. **Reverend Anthony is currently serving his 8th term as President of the Detroit Branch NAACP**, the largest branch in the country.

The Honorable Julian Bond (I) - He has been chairman of the NAACP since 1998. In 2009 he received the **Spingarn Medal** which is awarded annually by the NAACP for outstanding achievement by an African American. He was a founder, in 1960 while a student at Morehouse College of the Atlanta student sit-in and anti-segregation organization and of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Carolyn Coleman - Is a native of Savannah, Georgia, where she graduated from Savannah State College. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in history and a minor in economics and sociology. She has done further study at Memphis Theological Seminary and holds the Masters of Science degree in adult education from North Carolina A & T State University. She is active in the NAACP, serving as the Assistant Secretary to the NAACP National Board of Directors and the Vice President of the North Carolina State NAACP, as well as activities with the local Greensboro Branch of the NAACP. She is involved in numerous civic and volunteer organizations including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and is a communicant of the New Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro.

Kathrine T. "Kathy" Eglend faced segregation with defiance at a young age in her birthplace in the Deep South of Mississippi. Her NAACP involvement began at an early age with her active role in the Hattiesburg (Forrest County) Youth NAACP. Kathy was elected to the NAACP Special Contribution Fund (SCF) in 1988. After the untimely 1997 death of Dr. Aaron Henry, the Mississippi State Conference voted unanimously to support her bid to fill his vacant at-large seat. She was nominated by the National Nominating Committee in 1997 and elected to National Board in 1998.

General Holiefield - Was elected a vice president of the UAW on June 14, 2006. A UAW member for 33 years, Holiefield served as executive administrative assistant to UAW President Ron Gettelfinger from June 2004 until his election as vice president. He is the first African-American to serve in the union's top staff position.

Howard Jefferson is President Emeritus of the Houston (TX) NAACP Branch. He is a civil rights activist and former Houston Independent School District administrator.

William Lucy is the International Secretary Treasurer of the 1.4 million member American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO. He also serves on the boards of directors for the International Rescue Committee, Americans for Democratic Action and the Center for Policy Alternatives.

Dr. Annie B. Martin is a tireless and consummate leader in the ranks of labor and civil rights, is currently a member of the NAACP National Board of Directors and the unprecedented 12-term President of the New York Branch NAACP - the first branch established and chartered by the national organization and currently the largest branch in the eastern region with over 6,000 members.

A native of Eastover, South Carolina, Dr. Martin's long and illustrious career in civil rights, labor and community affairs has won her over 200 awards, including the honorary Doctor of Humane Letter from Claflin College in Orangeburg, S.C., and one of the first persons to receive the coveted national Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Benard Simelton, Sr.-President of the NAACP Alabama State Conference. Bernard was born in Tiplersville, MS. He served in the United States Air Force for 23 years and retired in 2001. Bernard is very active in the community. Benard is a member of Indian Creek PB Church where he serves as a Deacon and is active with the Brotherhood. He is a life member of the NAACP and was elected as President of the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP in Oct 2009. Prior to his being elected to serve as President, he served as 1st Vice President and 3rd Vice President of the Alabama State Conference of the NAACP. He has served for over 6 years as President of the Limestone County Branch of the NAACP.

Region V Candidate:

James Gallman, Sr. (I), of Aiken, SC, was elected from Region V. The retired assistant superintendent for administration in the Aiken County Public School system is immediate past president of the South Carolina State Conference of NAACP. He has served as director of the Aiken/Barnwell Regional Head Start Program and is a member of the Aiken Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. The Claflin College and University of Tennessee graduate is a past Aiken County Basketball Coach of the Year. He is an NAACP Golden Heritage Life Member and has received the organization's Kelly M. Alexander Sr. Leadership Award and the Benjamin L. Hooks "Keeper of the Flame" Award. **Note:** The Region V Candidate, Mr. Gallman of SC is unopposed and will have a unanimous ballot cast in his behalf by the Secretary of the Annual Elections Supervisory Committee.

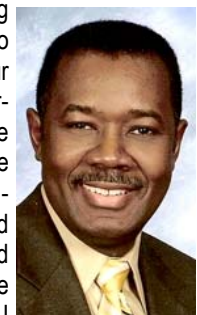
"As you can see these are all good candidates and deserve consideration for election to the National Board of Directors. However, I encourage you to give special consideration to Carolyn Coleman, Kathy Eglend, and Benard Simelot the candidates from our region (Region V). Mr. Simelot is from Alabama and Alabama currently doesn't have a representative on the National Board."



*Brenda Bines, President
Goose Creek NAACP Branch*

**Message from Candidate
Benard Simelot**

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to write an article for your newsletter. I look forward to serving on the Board of Directors of the oldest civil rights organization in the nation and with your support and the support of others, we can make that happen. I served in the Air Force for over 23 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in



See Board Election on Page 7



Board Election From Page 6

2000. I am a Deacon in my church and have served as a trustee also. I have been a Branch President, and recently elected as the Alabama State Conference President.

I don't have any personal agenda for seeking this position, and therefore I am willing to represent the will of the people. I will work to ensure a more equitable split of the membership dues. Most of the work is done at the branch level but most of the membership dues goes to the National office. Also we need to improve the timeliness of the responses we receive from the National office. I know the National office is flooded with calls, but they have a responsibility, an obligation, a duty to return our phone calls and emails in a timely manner. As a board member I will ask the tough questions about our finances and other issues to ensure we don't find ourselves in the financial situation we were in a couple of years ago. I will also share information with NAACP members and make myself available to answer questions as well as take your concerns and issues to the National Board of Directors. Lastly, I firmly believe that each State Conference or State Area Conference should have representation on the Board of Directors and will work hard to ensure that this becomes a part of our policy and procedures. My door will remain open and my phone available to hear your concerns. Thank you for your time and may God Bless you, America and the NAACP.

Thanks,

Benard Simelton
NAACP Alabama State Conference
P.O. Box 866
Athens, AL 35612
256-426-6406

Take Down The Flag Blog

by Michael Rodgers, PhD

<http://takedowntheflag.wordpress.com/>

Message to the Editor NAACP Creek Connection

November 22, 2009



1) Rep. Grady A. Brown told me that he is putting together a bill that will take down the Confederate flag. I've talked to him a few times, and I suggest that you talk to him too. He's talking about protecting monuments also, which I always thought was a canard. Anyway, you can perhaps help him make his bill better. And he may decide not to introduce his bill this session or ever, though he seems to me to be planning on pre-filing it before the next deadline.

2) As part of Mullins McLeod's jobs plan, he calls for sending "a clear signal to the world that South Carolina is ready to compete in the 21st Century economy by finally ending the Confederate Flag debate." I think his argument is excellent, and the only quibble I have is that there's no need to put the current flag in a museum. South Carolina already put 3 Confederate flags in a museum with the "compromise," and the current flag is made of nylon -- let Sen. McConnell keep it, is what I say.

Send a Clear Signal That South Carolina is Open For Business. Too often, when South Carolina finds itself in the national or international spotlight, it's for negative reasons. To ensure our long-term success in the 21st Century economy, Mullins McLeod will send a clear signal that South Carolina is ready to move past old divisions by removing the Confederate Flag from the Capitol Grounds and placing it in a museum.

"The Confederate Flag debate continues to hold our state back. We are not going to compete in a 21st Century economy by prolonging 19th Century arguments. It is time for us to send a clear and unambiguous signal to the rest of the country, and the entire world, that South Carolina is better than what people see on the news, and that we are ready to make progress. By agreeing to move past this old argument once and for all, we will be telling the world that South Carolina is ready to lead again," McLeod said.

3) You can hear Mullins McLeod on Frank Knapp's show. Link to this Indigojournal.com write-up: <http://www.indigojournal.com/diary/1486/mullins-mcleod-on-frank-knapps-show>

On the show, Mullins says, "In addition, how can we be intellectually honest with ourselves and say we're going to market this state as a progressive state ready to embrace everything the 21st Century has to offer with the flag sitting there?" I personally jumped for joy hearing that!

Michael Rodgers is a member of the Goose Creek NAACP Branch

Comment from Branch President Brenda Bines...



Thank you Michael for your very informative comments and your frequent contributions to our newsletter. I applaud your work to **TAKE THE FLAG DOWN** and encourage you to continue your efforts. I count it a joy and privilege to be the president of the NAACP branch you chose to join. I don't need to tell you; but I say to all the other members, friends, and supporters of this branch, Mullins McLeod's stance on removing the flag passes the baton to us to ask all the Gubernatorial candidates where they stand on this key NAACP initiative. Keep up the good work!

Brenda Bines, President
Goose Creek NAACP Branch



NAACP Supports the Community at Google Cypress Gardens Event

Google and Cypress Gardens teamed up Nov. 14 for family fun – and raised \$3,000 in the process. The money will be used to protect and maintain Cypress Gardens' nature preserve.

Google and Cypress Gardens co-hosted the event with all proceeds benefiting the Supporters for Historical Cypress Gardens.

Members of Goose Creek NAACP Branch joined several hundred people who turned out for the November 14th event, which featured games, music, food and fun.

The event highlighted an important partnership that Google has formed with Berkeley County.

"Google is a great partner for Berkeley County," county supervisor Dan Davis said. "They are very involved not only in the community – they try to be good participants in charities and charity work."

Davis thanked Google "for deciding to come to Berkeley County ... and for all of your efforts." He praised Google for the weekend event, and described the crucial role Cypress Gardens has had for many years.

"Cypress Gardens is an important part of Berkeley County's landscape, its culture and the history of our community," Davis said. "In this weakened economy, non-profit organizations, like the Supporters of Historical Cypress Gardens, are working harder now to make sure that future generations can enjoy what we have today.

"Google's commitment to Cypress Gardens and to our community came at a good time." Google and Cypress Gardens co-hosted the event with all proceeds benefiting the Supporters for Historical Cypress Gardens.

Goose Creek NAACP President Brenda Bines was on hand and said, "Google had a very promising start-up with its First Family Day held at Cypress Gardens. It turned out to be a day to connect with local families, community leaders, representatives from Google, and friends for fun, food and charity."

"It is my hope that Google and the NAACP can form a partnership to improve technology literacy and innovation within our community", said Bines. She plans to follow up with Eric Wages, Google's operations manager in Berkeley County.

Branch Communications Chairman John Mat-

thews and President Bines spoke with Dwight Williams, Director of Cypress Gardens. President Bines indicated members of the Goose Creek NAACP Branch agreed to volunteer their assistance to the Supporters of Historical Cypress Gardens for future events and activities.

President Bines said, "helping Cypress Gardens is not a Civil Rights matter but a case of being part of the community and helping where we can. No doubt in the future there will be opportunities for us to reach out to the community to right a civil wrong. However, if our community only sees or hear us when something is wrong we haven't been good neighbors."

Ken Harris said, "I went to the Cypress Gardens Visitor Center Store, toured the Aquarium that houses reptiles and fish and walked a good portion of the Nature Trail enjoying the sights as the local music group played some upbeat sounds. Even though I was only there for almost 90 minutes, I really liked what I saw at Cypress Gardens and Lord Willing, another visit is forthcoming."

About Cypress Gardens

Visitors from all over the country come to experience this unique and exciting attraction, which has been featured in numerous national magazines and has offered the setting for some of the most memorable scenes in motion pictures such as The Notebook, The Patriot and Cold Mountain. Nestled within a genuine black water cypress swamp, Cypress Gardens offers a variety of adventures for adults and children of all ages, including

thrilling swamp boat rides, 4.5 miles of scenic nature trails and an amazing Butterfly House.

ENTRANCE TO CYPRESS GARDENS IS FREE THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH FOR BERKELEY COUNTY RESIDENTS. Call (843) 553-0515 for more information





The NAACP 880 Campaign for Real Health Care Reform Now

Health Care Facts

Health Care Statistics

- 40 million people report that they do not have a usual source of healthcare while 25 to 35 million people tune in to watch American Idol.
- More than 45.6 million people are uninsured while only 14.5 million people buy insurance through the individual market outside of an employer health plan.

Chronic and Preventable Conditions

- Chronic disease makes up 85% of healthcare expenditures in the United States – most of which are preventable.
 - Estimated that by 2025 nearly half of the population will suffer from at least one chronic disease if no reform is made
- 60% of early deaths are a result of behavioral influences such as obesity, lack of exercise, smoking, and living conditions.
 - Early death and poor health can be reduced with a healthcare system focused on prevention and increased access to care.
- Recent studies found that the United States ranked last among 19 other industrialized countries on preventable deaths.
 - While the other countries significantly improved between the 1997-98 and 2002-03 study periods, the U.S. improved only marginally on the measure.
 - 18,000 people die from complications as a result of being uninsured each year while 5,657 people died from workplace injuries in 2007.

Current Expense of Health Care

- Over the past ten years, spending on health care premiums has increased faster than the average cost of a home. Spending on health insurance premiums increased 119% while the average cost of a home increased 67%. During the same period, wages increased only 34% and inflation increased by 29%.

Continued on Page 11



BROTHERS UNITED FOR CHANGE 2009 RETREAT
A Weekend of Empowerment for Boys and Men

1 FOR 1 AT 1 RALLY

100 MEN GATHERING & PRAYING FOR 1 HOUR AT 1:00 P.M.

Saturday December 12, 2009

Location:
Unity Park (Downtown Moncks Corner, SC)
212 E. Main Street @ White Street

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Mr. Booker Manigault, President
Moncks Corner Branch NAACP
(843) 899-2110
booker@homesc.com

Mr. John Matthews
Goose Creek Branch NAACP
(843) 442-1319
goosecreeknaacp@gmail.com



Co-Sponsored By:
Moncks Corner and Goose Creek
Branches of the NAACP



BROTHERS UNITED FOR CHANGE 2009 RETREAT



Health Care Facts Continued from Page 9

- 72 Million people reported problems paying medical bills – 3.6 million more than the 68.4 million people that live in New England, Texas, Florida and Ohio combined.
- 25 million Americans spend 10% or more of their annual income on out-of-pocket costs compared to 11.4 million who tuned in to watch the season premier of "Lost." Health reform is needed to protect families from bankruptcy and debt as a result of healthcare costs.

Other Rationales for Health Care

- People who do not speak English at home are three times more likely to be uninsured. Over 35% of all Blacks and Hispanics who do not speak English in the home do not have health insurance.
- The average primary care doctor spends four hours per week on administrative tasks – roughly the same amount of time it would take to watch two feature length films. Health reform will cut down on administrative costs by investing in Health IT and electronic medical records
- Women are 11% more likely than men to have medical debt or cost-related access problems.

Economic Benefits to Health Care Reform

- Insuring Americans currently without insurance would save between \$75B and \$125B per year or ¼ percent of GDP.

Without Health Care Reform....

- One of every THREE dollars spent will go to health care
- By 2019 families will pay 68% more for health insurance and out-of-pocket expenses and 65.7 million people will be uninsured, more than the population of Texas and California, the country's two most populous states (roughly 61.2 million)

The 880 WAR ROOM

The Civil Rights Health Care War Room is an unprecedented coordinated effort by the NAACP, National Urban League, and the 51 civil rights, civic, professional, trade, & labor organizations that make up the Black Leadership Forum to ensure that the health care debate in Congress results in meaningful reform, including a strong public option.

Low income families and people of color have the most at stake in this national debate, which is why our organizations are joining forces in the days leading up to a vote. United, we can create strong, meaningful reform for all American families.

**Call your Senator DeMint and Senator Graham and
tell them to support a strong public option:
1-866-783-2462**



Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3

NAACP CREEK CONNECTION

Upcoming Events

- Dec 5 Moncks Corner NAACP Centennial Celebration
- Dec 7 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- Dec 12 Brothers United For Change *1 for 1 at 1 Rally* on Saturday, December 12th at Victory Park in Moncks Corner
- Dec 25 CHRISTMAS**
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 18 King Day at the Dome Ben Jealous NAACP President/CEO Speaker
- Feb 1-28 February is Black History Month**
- Feb 4 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- Mar 1 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- TBA Real Men Cook
- Apr 5 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**



Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Charleston Area Branch of ASALH

Cordially invites you to a viewing of

The CNN special,

Black Men in the Age of Obama

A community dialogue will follow.

Topics will include the current status of Black males nationally and in South Carolina as well as action steps to prevent the further disintegration of the Black male.

Barack Obama's presidency has ignited suppressed conversations that need to happen in our country and in Charleston.

"...Fifty percent of our African-American youngsters are not graduating from high school. And of that 50 percent, a higher percentage of boys are not graduating than girls."

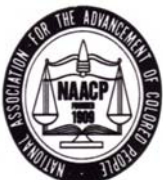
"This is a moral disaster for the African-American community. This is not why Rosa Parks rode in the back of the bus or why Martin Luther King Jr. and all of his colleagues marched. We didn't do it so that these kids could fail because they don't have adults in their life, teaching them how to succeed."

"The only thing that counts is performance. You can't perform if you don't get your education. You can't perform if you don't speak the English language well. You can't perform if you're not respectful. You can't perform and you won't get the opportunity to perform if you walk around with your pants dragging around your ankles and you're not behaving in a proper manner." ---Ret. Gen. Colin Powell

FIVE REASONS TO JOIN THE NAACP

1. The fight for freedom is not free! Your membership will help fund initiatives and programs to support our mission of racial equality and equal justice
2. A membership in the NAACP is your opportunity to give back to the organization that has done more to change this country for the betterment of people of color, women, and the disenfranchised than any other in the nation's history
3. Your membership in the NAACP makes you a part of a force of 300,000 people who stand for the freedoms guaranteed in our nation's constitution
4. Your membership in the NAACP makes a direct and positive impact in your community when you join your local Unit
5. Your membership in the NAACP will give you access to our upcoming benefits program that provides discounts on products and services across the country

**THE NAACP
IS TODAY**



Impact the issues affecting your community by joining the NAACP today!

Call 830-9779 or download application online from:
www.naacpgoosecreek.org

**Please let your voice be heard
Wednesday, December 9, 2009
Charleston County Public Library
68 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC
5:30 – 8:00 P.M.**