



**Freedom isn't free. Join the Tacoma NAACP**  
For membership information, call 253-272-0357  
e-mail: [help@tacoma-naacp.org](mailto:help@tacoma-naacp.org)

**Tacoma Branch NAACP Newsletter**  
*Branch to the Roots" April 30, 2004*

*"From the*

### Meeting Dates for 2004

Unless otherwise noted, all start at  
6:30 p.m. at Allen AME Church

#### May

10 -- Executive Committee  
24 -- General Membership

#### June

28 -- General Membership

#### July

12 -- Executive Committee  
26 -- General Membership

#### August

23 -- General Membership

#### September

13 -- Executive Committee  
27 -- General Membership \*

#### October

25 -- General Membership \*

#### November

8 -- Executive Committee  
22 -- General Membership \*

#### December

13 -- Holiday Social (7:00 p.m.)  
Colored Women's Club

\* Significant election dates

### Local Churches Holding Membership Drives

The following churches have committed to conduct NAACP membership drives this year. The goal is to sign up 200 new members by the end of the summer.

- Allen AME
- Alzheimer Memorial COGIC
- Bethlehem Baptist
- Church of the Living God
- Eastside Baptist
- Mt. Calvary Baptist
- Shiloh Baptist
- St. John Baptist
- St. Paul Baptist
- True Harvest Baptist

### Ninth Annual Awards Banquet Set for May 22

The Tacoma Branch will host its ninth Annual Awards banquet on Saturday, May 22, 2004, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Landmark Convention Center, 47 St. Helen's Avenue in Tacoma. The theme of this year's banquet is "Say it Loud, Educate My Child!" King County Executive Ron Sims will deliver the keynote address. Executive Sims is a life long NAACP member. He is also a 2004 Washington State gubernatorial candidate who lists education as one of his platform issues.

Scholarship awards will be presented to two graduating high school students that have excelled academically. Additional awards and certificates will be presented to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions in promoting civil rights and NAACP objectives in our community.

Reservations for tables of eight (\$400) may be made by contacting Gail Alexis Ray at the NAACP office (253-272-0357) or at our Web address shown below. Individual tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased by contacting the office and leaving a voice mail message. A banquet committee member will contact you to arrange for ticket delivery.

Education is a timely topic. May 17, 2004 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision that led to the integration of public schools. The NAACP played a significant role in formulating and presenting that case before the court. Judging from recent events in our communities, the NAACP is still needed to assure that our children have equal access to quality education in our public schools.

### Change in Leadership of the Tacoma Branch

In November 2003, Carl Brown announced his resignation from the presidency of the Tacoma Branch, citing health reasons. In accordance with NAACP policies, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Gail Alexis Ray moved into the presidency effective January 1, 2004. Ms. Ray has been active in the Branch since 1978, serving as Secretary, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and, then, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for several terms. She retired from US WEST in 1997 and now works at Group Health Cooperative as a Governance Consultant. Her term as president expires December 31, 2004.

Other leadership changes are Oscar Morris moving to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (Legal Redress), Tony Isaacs to 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Youth Work, Education, & Political Action) and the appointment of Dr. Shirl E. Gilbert II to fill the vacant 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Strategic Plan Implementation and Public Relations) position.

### 2004 is an Election Year for the Branch

The Branch is beginning to plan for the November 2004 election. Members interested in serving in elected positions should contact the office by telephone at 253-272-0357, or via our e-mail address, [help@tacoma-naacp.org](mailto:help@tacoma-naacp.org).

### Keep in touch via the internet

Tacoma Branch Web Site: [www.tacoma-naacp.org](http://www.tacoma-naacp.org)  
Tacoma Branch e-mail address: [help@tacoma-naacp.org](mailto:help@tacoma-naacp.org)



## Alaska/Oregon/Washington (AK/OR/WA) Spring State Conference

The Bremerton Branch served as hosts for the AK/OR/WA Spring State Conference in March. The theme of the conference was "Having Our Say." Several members of the Tacoma Branch attended the conference and received leadership training, and attended workshops on education, entrepreneurship, community policing, CPR and home ownership. Keynote speaker for the Saturday luncheon was King County Executive Ron Sims. Keynote speaker for the dinner on Saturday was Seattle Judge Monica Benton.

### 2004-2005 State Conference Officers Installed in Tacoma

Officers and committee members for the AK/OR/WA NAACP State Conference were installed in grand style at ceremonies held April 4 at Shiloh Baptist Church in Tacoma. Rev. Gregory Christopher, pastor and member of the Tacoma Branch Executive Committee expressed excitement about being the host church for the ceremony.

Officers installed were: Oscar Eason Jr., (Tacoma) President; Larry Ford (Vancouver), Vice President; Al Bradley, (Yakima) Treasurer; and Joyce Clark (Seattle), Secretary. Chairs of various standing committees were also sworn in.

The Tacoma Branch was the host Branch for the event with 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Dr. Shirl E. Gilbert II serving as master of ceremonies. Among the Tacoma dignitaries participating in the program were NAACP life members Harold G. Moss, Chair of the Pierce County Council, who administered the oath of office; and Tacoma City Manager James L. Walton who brought greetings from the city. Many others from the Tacoma Branch and Shiloh Baptist Church participated to make the event special.

### NAACP Rules Regarding Direct Action

Members often inquire about why local branches do not immediately demonstrate, picket or take other immediate action when some situation in the community seems to call for that type of response. Direct action is one of three methods used to attain the NAACP's objectives. It is defined as agitation, demonstrations, marches, picketing, boycotts economic sanctions and other appropriate action. National policy provides the approval procedure that must be adhered to prior to branches engaging in any of those activities.

The Direct Action Approval Procedure requires branches to seek prior, timely authorization in writing from the National NAACP President/CEO and the General Counsel through the Regional Director. After submitting the request to engage in a direct action activity, the branch then must allow those officials reasonable opportunity to evaluate the proposed direct action, and respond to the branch's request in writing. The result could be an approval or disapproval.

The other two methods used to obtain NAACP objectives are legislation and litigation.

### Youth Council News *Submitted by Youth Council President, Amanda Isaacs*

The Tacoma NAACP Youth Council has been hard at work during the year, and we are proud to say that we have reached all of our goals thus far. Made up of twelve hard-working members, our Council has held several events to raise funds to send several of our members to the national NAACP convention this summer. The Youth Council sponsored chicken dinner and bake sales, car washes, and recently held a three-on-three basketball tournament. All were successful and helped us to raise about a third of our goal of three thousand dollars.

Our officers are: President, Amanda Isaacs, Vice President, Susan Isaacs, Treasurer, Danai Johnson, and Secretary, Alex Montgomery. Adult Chapter 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Tony Isaacs and Executive Committee member Ellen Smith serve as our advisors. We have had a great year, and look forward to growing and learning as we get more youth in our community involved in the work of the NAACP. For more information about the Youth Council, please contact the Tacoma NAACP office.

### Branch Involved in "Public Forum on Education" at Evergreen State College

The Tacoma Branch NAACP joined with other member organizations of the Tacoma/Pierce County Black Collective to sponsor a "Public Forum on Education" in February. Held at Evergreen's Tacoma campus, the forum grew out of community concerns about reports of poor performance of African American students in the six school districts in Pierce County. Tacoma Branch Executive Committee member Tom Hilyard serves as Chair of the Black Collective's Education Committee, and led the team planning and organizing the forum. Branch 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Dr. Shirl E. Gilbert II, delivered the keynote address and served on the planning committee.

More than 200 participants, including students in K-12 grades, educators, clergy, and members of civic, fraternal and community organizations participated in break out groups that responded to the four questions which will form the nucleus of the strategies to address the problem.