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For membership information, call 253-272-0357

e-mail: help@tacoma-naacp.org

Tacoma Branch NAACP Newsletter

"From the Branch to the Roots"

September 3, 2004

Meeting Dates for 2004

*Notice of September,
October Meetings and
November Election, &
December Installation*

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

September

13 – Executive Committee

27 – General Membership

*The Election of the
Nominating Committee*

*All members whose
memberships are current as
of 30 days prior to the
meeting may be elected to the
Nominating Committee.*

October

25 – General Membership

*Report of the Nominating
Committee, Nominations by
Petition, and Election of the
Election Supervisory
Committee*

*All members whose
memberships are current as
of 180 days prior to the
meeting may be nominated
for office or the Executive
Committee. In order to sign a
nominating petition or be
elected to the Election
Supervisory Committee, a
member must be current as of
30 days prior to the October
meeting.*

November

8 – Executive Committee

22 – General Membership

*The Election of Officers and
Executive Committee for
2005 -- 2006. Polls open*

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Voting rights: Will we still have them in 2007?

Below you will find an excerpt from a speech that Camille Cosby, wife of Bill, gave at a recent function. It addresses information about the Voting Rights Act. One of the Tacoma Branch Executive Committee members submitted it for this newsletter.

"We are quickly approaching the 21st Century and we were wondering, and when I say 'we', I mean others of us out there who wonder if everyone else out there knows what the significance of the year 2007 is to Black America?"

Did you know that our right to VOTE will expire in the year 2007? Seriously! The Voters Rights Act signed in 1965 by Lyndon B. Johnson was just an ACT. It was not made a law.

In 1982, Ronald Reagan amended the Voters Rights Act for another 25 years. Which means that in the year 2007 we could lose the Right to vote!

Does anyone realize that African Americans are the only group of people who require PERMISSION under the United States Constitution to vote! In the year 2007, Congress will once again convene to decide whether or not Blacks should retain the rights to vote (crazy but true). In order for this to be passed, 38 states will have to approve an extension. This is ludicrous! Not only should the extension be approved, but also the ACT must be made a law. Our right to vote should no longer be up for discussion, review and/o evaluation.

We must contact our Congresspersons, Senators, Alderpersons, etc., to put a stop to this! As bona fide Citizens of the United States, we cannot "drop the ball" on this one! We have come too far to let government make us take such a huge step backward. So please, let us push forward to continue to build the momentum towards gaining equality.

Please pass this on to others, as we are sure that many more individuals are not aware of this. I urge all of you that are able, to contact those in government that have your vote and make them aware of our combined concern for this issue.

One voice! One Vote! You cannot complain, if you do not participate....."

Branch leadership change

At the August General Membership Meeting, the membership accepted the resignation of 3rd Vice President, Dr. Shirl E. Gilbert. Gilbert recently accepted a position with Edison Schools and will be headquartered in South Carolina.

This newsletter is published by the Tacoma Branch NAACP twice a year for its members. To continue receiving the newsletter, membership dues and mailing information must be current. To check the status of either, please contact the office by telephone at 253-272-0357 or at help@tacoma-naacp.org.

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December

13 – Holiday Social

(7:00 p.m.)

Colored Women's Club

2316 South Yakima Ave.

*Installation of Officers and
Executive Committee.*



**Mark your calendars to
attend these important
meetings!**

At the same meeting, the membership voted to appoint Barbara Lane to fill the unexpired term of that vacated position. She is an employee of the Boeing Company and has been an active member of our Branch since May of 2003. Ms. Lane recently took on the responsibility of managing the Tacoma Web site.

Keep in touch via the internet

Tacoma Branch Web Site: www.tacoma-naacp.org.

Tacoma Branch e-mail address: help@tacoma-naacp.org

Youth Council News

The Youth Council held several fundraisers during 2003 and 2004 to earn money to the 2004 National NAACP Convention. They financed the trip for three of their Following is a report from their President about the experience.



*send delegates to
members.*

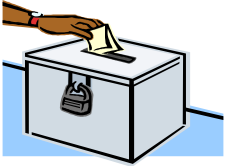
This year I had the privilege of attending the 95th Annual National NAACP Convention. My experience is one that I will never forget. On the first day of the convention we got the chance to meet and talk to Omarosa, one of the stars from reality TV show "The Apprentice." Our excitement did not end there as our days were filled with information on how to be the best possible youth council. Our NAACP National President, Kweisi Mfume and Regional representatives motivated us to be leaders and to make a difference in our communities. During the convention, there were many exciting people who came to speak to the youth including Erica Dunlap, Miss America; Democratic Party US Presidential nominee John Kerry; Chairman of the NAACP Board, Julian Bond; and Rev. Jesse Jackson.

I also had the opportunity to meet many young people who are striving for the same goal that I am: learning more about registering people to vote and how significant this is in the coming election. I learned that one reason it is important for blacks to vote is because we need to have a voice in politics and if we don't fight for it, no one else will. I also learned that it is important for us to get people, both young and old, to become members of the NAACP.

Teens from all across the country coming together, getting along, learning and having fun at the same time were highlights of this convention. I met many young people that I intend to keep in contact with and with whom I will probably become life-long friends. I am extremely glad that I had the opportunity to be a part of this event.

Submitted by Youth Council President, Amanda Isaacs

The NAACP position on the election



The NAACP encourages all of its members and other citizens to exercise the right to vote. When asked by members which candidates the Tacoma NAACP endorses, the official response is, "The NAACP is non-partisan, and, therefore, does not endorse candidates! The non-partisan policy of the National organization prohibits us from doing so."

This year is an important election year. America will re-elect a sitting President or elect a new one, a race that drew more interest as each party held its convention. News stories about the Washington state gubernatorial race have recently been in the press, and the NAACP's name has been prominent in some of those stories. At the state level, a party unwittingly endorsed a candidate to run for state auditor who many Tacoma residents have seen regularly disrupting proceedings at city and county council meetings. Locally, we saw newspaper spreads that rated judges poorly that have been members, supporters and friends of the NAACP. Our new primary election process, requiring voters to select a party and then to vote only within their party on partisan races, has angered some voters and confused many others. Several key races for Tacoma-Pierce County will be decided in that primary.

Our membership might wish for some direction from the NAACP on how they should vote, on which candidates will be the best choices. National policy prohibits our providing that assistance. The Tacoma Ministerial Alliance and Tacoma-Pierce County Black Collective will produce advisory ballots that will be posted on the Black Collective Web site (www.blackcollective.org) and distributed through local churches. Other organizations will develop advisory ballots as well.

The best advice that we can give our members is to pay close attention to the messages of the candidates, find out what you can about them, read how they represent themselves in the voting guides, and seek out advisory direction from organizations you think have your interests at heart. Then vote for those candidates that you believe will serve you well.

Most importantly, don't let the negatives and oddities this election year discourage you from exercising your right to vote. The NAACP fought hard to assure all citizens have that right. It is one of the most precious tenets of our democracy. The NAACP position is that you should exercise your right by voting.

Submitted by Branch President, Gail Alexis Ray

Important election dates:

Primary, September 14

General, November 2