

NAACP

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Martin Luther King jr.

Proposition A, “Right to Work” Soundly defeated

Proposition A was beaten two to one at the polls this August. Despite corporate and majority support in Jefferson City, the people of Missouri said “no!” The NAACP would like to thank everyone who helped defeat this bad legislation.

NAACP candidate surveys went out to all candidates for office in November and the complete results can be found on the Springfield NAACP website. Claire McCaskill, Jamie Schoolcraft, Cindy Slimp, Charlie Norr, Crystal Quade and Sara Lampe agreed with all NAACP positions. Bob Dixon agreed with half of our positions. Billy Long, Roy Blunt nor Sonja Murray Anderson have replied to our survey yet. October 10, 2018 is the last day to register, contact us if you need help with registration or change of address (417)873-6386.

Meet Dr. Kofi Asare-Bawuah

Dr. Asare-Bawuah is a pediatric hospitalist at Cox South Hospital and has been with Cox since 2011. He came to Springfield after finishing his residency through a Michigan State program in Flint Michigan. Dr. Asare-Bawuah was born and raised in Kumasi Ghana. His mom and dad were both educators, his dad a high school principal and his mother an



elementary principal. He has three sisters; one is a nurse in the U.K., another is a PhD nurse educator, the last is a financial planner in Canada. He gets back to Ghana every other year to see family. Dr. Asare-Bawuah has two children, a 10 year old son and a seven year old daughter.

Following medical school in Ghana, Dr. Asare-Bawuah worked to become the chief resident in his residency program. He is board certified in pediatrics and is developing a pediatric hospitalist certification exam that should be ready next year.

Have you experienced racism and how is it different here than in Ghana? Yes, in Ghana, “racism” tends to be tribal (classism is also prevalent), here it is usually related to skin color. When dealing with racism it is useful to have a thick thick skin and do the right

CDC States that the rate of Sexually Transmitted Diseases at an All Time High

Rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have increased for the third year in a row according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The latest statistics are for 2016.

- Chlamydia cases were up 4.7%
- Gonorrhea cases were up 18.5%
- Primary and secondary syphilis were up 17.6%

People most affected were young people ages 15-24. The new cases of syphilis were mostly with gay or bisexual men.

Missouri ranked 18th in new cases of Chlamydia, 8th in new cases of Gonorrhea and 21st in new cases of primary and secondary Syphilis.

The complete report and additional resources can be accessed at www.cdc.gov

Free testing and treatment for STD concerns can be accessed at the Greene County Health Department (417)864-1658 or the AIDS project of the Ozarks

(417)881-1900

thing. What is important is how you define yourself (not allowing others to do so), build good character and deal with it (racism) when you encounter it. Racism is not an excuse for failing to do what you want to do. *Has racism affected your children?* To some degree, but my wife and I try to shield them from it as best we can (my wife is also a doctor at Cox). My son follows the NFL closely and knows about the kneeling.

What goals do you have for the next 5 years? Ten years? For the next five years I would like to establish a foundation for pediatrics in Kumasi. Locally I would like to work on gun control issues, obesity, and deal with food deserts (making sure all people have access to healthy food choices). I would like to educate those people who have risk factors for diabetes and get better control of their diets. For Cox, I would like to help them improve diversity in terms of race, religion, disability and sexual orientation. In ten years I would like to continue to practice pediatrics, be in administration and be actively involved in the Ghanaian foundation. *What advice do you have for young people?* Have a goal and accept no excuse for not achieving it. Control what you can control. Find mentors to help you along the way. Treat everyone you come across with respect, kindness and love, that is the best way to alleviate racism and hate.

“The power of the vote is the ONLY place where the power of the poor man is equal to that of the rich man.” Denise Lieberman Esq.