

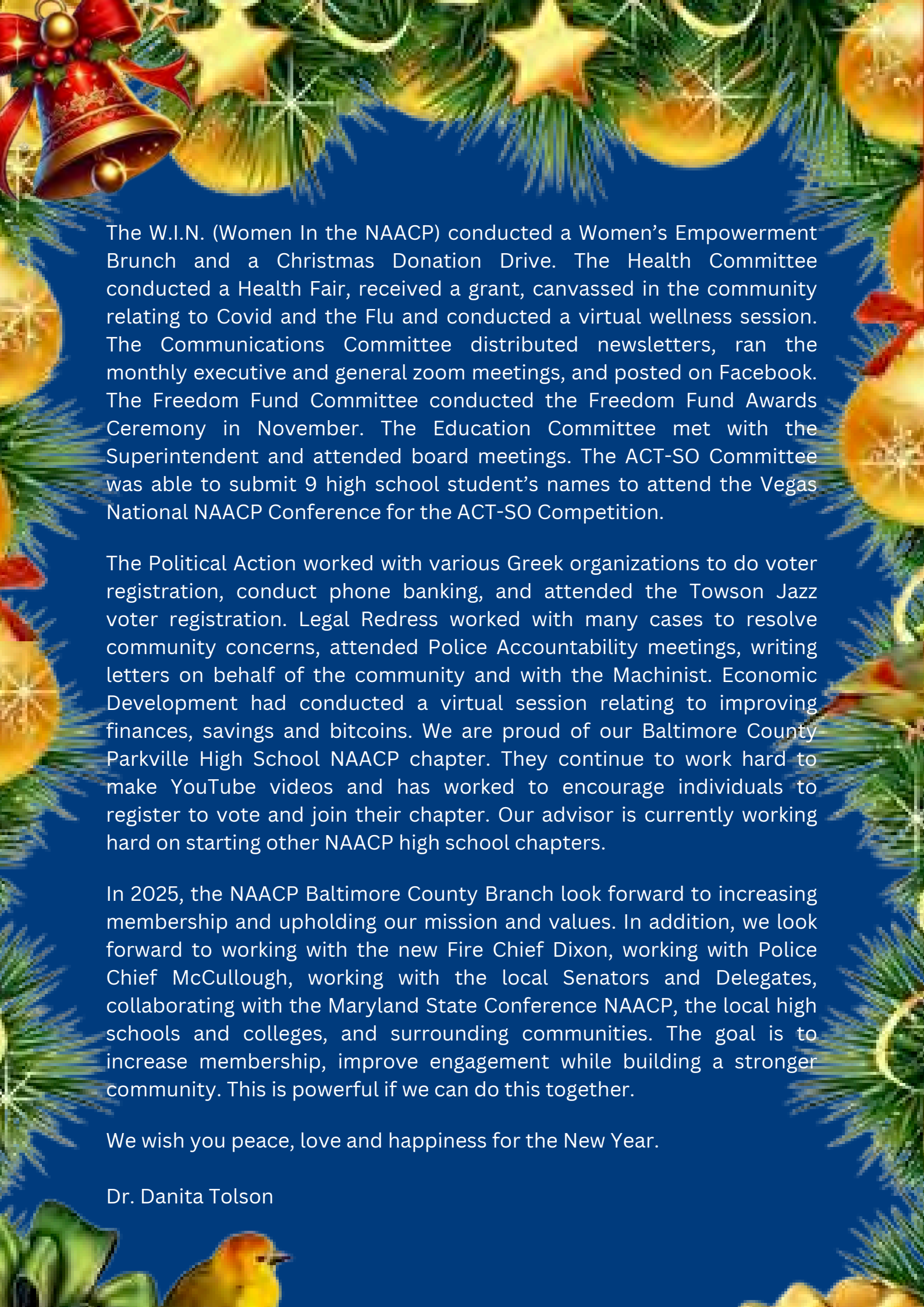
Greetings and Happy Holidays!



The Baltimore County NAACP Branch would like to wish you and your family happy holidays. Christmas is a time to spend with family and friends. It is a time to celebrate and remember great times; although everyone doesn't celebrate us, remember we should always extend a helpful hand to our enemies. Luke 6:35 KJV states love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Remember your reward will be great in return. Do something good for someone at Christmas.

In 2024, the Baltimore County NAACP listened to the community and worked very hard to move Baltimore forward. As the President, the Annual Gun Buy Back was conducted, attended the Police Accountability meetings, participated in the Police Equitable Policing meetings and attended the Fire Chief Dixon swearing-in ceremony.

As President, a testimony was provided on the Anti-Lynching Bill, spoke at the voter registration event at the Towson library Jazz event and spoke with the press relating to Vote 4More.



The W.I.N. (Women In the NAACP) conducted a Women's Empowerment Brunch and a Christmas Donation Drive. The Health Committee conducted a Health Fair, received a grant, canvassed in the community relating to Covid and the Flu and conducted a virtual wellness session. The Communications Committee distributed newsletters, ran the monthly executive and general zoom meetings, and posted on Facebook. The Freedom Fund Committee conducted the Freedom Fund Awards Ceremony in November. The Education Committee met with the Superintendent and attended board meetings. The ACT-SO Committee was able to submit 9 high school student's names to attend the Vegas National NAACP Conference for the ACT-SO Competition.

The Political Action worked with various Greek organizations to do voter registration, conduct phone banking, and attended the Towson Jazz voter registration. Legal Redress worked with many cases to resolve community concerns, attended Police Accountability meetings, writing letters on behalf of the community and with the Machinist. Economic Development had conducted a virtual session relating to improving finances, savings and bitcoins. We are proud of our Baltimore County Parkville High School NAACP chapter. They continue to work hard to make YouTube videos and has worked to encourage individuals to register to vote and join their chapter. Our advisor is currently working hard on starting other NAACP high school chapters.

In 2025, the NAACP Baltimore County Branch look forward to increasing membership and upholding our mission and values. In addition, we look forward to working with the new Fire Chief Dixon, working with Police Chief McCullough, working with the local Senators and Delegates, collaborating with the Maryland State Conference NAACP, the local high schools and colleges, and surrounding communities. The goal is to increase membership, improve engagement while building a stronger community. This is powerful if we can do this together.

We wish you peace, love and happiness for the New Year.

Dr. Danita Tolson



ACT-SO NATIONAL COMPETITION

The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) 47th Annual National Competition was held at the National Convention on July 11th-14th in Las Vegas, NV. Nine ACT-SO students that were winners at the Baltimore County level attended the competition. The students did an excellent job in their presentations and performances at the Convention.



Jada McAiley won gold in Painting



These young ladies were winners on the "Write your Future" essay. They won \$10,000 scholarships!.
Denim Fisher (Left), Jada McAiley (right), Ahrainna Guity (picture not available)



Couryn Branch won bronze for Playwright

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT



The Women in NAACP (WIN) conducted a Back to School Event on Saturday August 31, 2024 from 12:00pm-4:00pm at the Randallstown Community Center. They were able to giveaway 125 backpacks filled with school supplies for elementary, middle and high school students! We give a heartfelt thanks to Julie Hollins, Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., The Infiniti Legacy Group, and Sigma Gamma Rho, Inc. for their donations and participation in the event.

AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL



The NAACP Baltimore County Branch conducted voter registration and promoted branch programs at the Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival on Saturday September 21st. We wish to thank Stacey Shannon-Morrison, Neil Shovlin, Michael Latimore, Teneshia Richards-Brooks, President of the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc. and several of their members for assisting with staffing our table during the festival.

YOUTH IN ACTION TO ROCK THE VOTE!

The NAACP High School Chapter of Parkville High School worked with the Baltimore County Public Schools' (BCPS) student council to produce a video on voting. The video was presented in civic education classes to support student voter registration and encourage students to vote in the Presidential Elections. Ms. Nichelle Hicks, Chapter Advisor, and her high school chapter have been successful in promoting voter and civic engagement among high school students in Baltimore County Public Schools.

Additional promotional and voter registration activities involving high school student councils and community organizations occurred during National Voter Education Week (October 7-11). We want to thank the Parkville High School chapter for their incredible efforts in getting people registered so they could Rock the Vote!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We continue to implement voter registration initiatives within the community. Security Square Mall continues to be the site for voter registration and voter education activities. We participated in the spring at the mall prior to the Primary Election and also in the fall. On Tuesday, September 17th, National Voter Registration Day, the NAACP Baltimore County Branch and Black Women for Positive Change conducted voter registration at the mall. The Baltimore County Board of Elections recently stated that they will have voter registration training events conducted every year. Stay tuned to hear more information on these future events.



MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT



The NAACP Baltimore County Branch participated in a Community Event hosted by the Towson Public Library on Friday October 11th, from 5:30pm- - 7:30pm. The event entitled “A Musical Evening with Wordsmith: Make Your Vote Count” was held during National Voter Education week to advocate the importance of voter rights. Award Winning artist, Wordsmith told the story of the American dream through the music of hip-hop, jazz and urban music.

The program continued with speakers from organizations that support voter empowerment. Dr. Danita Tolson, President of the NAACP Baltimore County Branch and Mr. Cliff Collins, 2nd Vice President spoke about the importance of voting rights and civil engagement.

Other speakers included: Ms. Sonia Alcantara Antoine, CEO of Baltimore County Public Library; Ms. Ramona Johnson, President of Baltimore County League of Women Voters; Coach G. McCarter and Youth Steppers of Coach G’s Academy, Inc.; and Ruie LaVoie, Director of Baltimore County Board of Elections. The forum was unprecedented where the Baltimore County residents had the opportunity to register to vote, become informed on the voting landscape and engage with their local community leaders.

VOTER REGISTRATION



NAACP Baltimore County branch participated in the Community Fair at Chesapeake High School during the Fall. Cliff Collins, Chair of the Political Action Committee and Lindsay Dorsey-Walker, Chair of the Vote4MoreBaltimore partnered together to provide voter information and voter registration services.



Cliff Collins and Stacey Shannon- Morrison



We would like to thank SF&C Insurance Associates, Inc. for supporting us as a Bronze Sponsor at our Freedom Fund Awards Ceremony on November 2nd. SF&C Insurance Associates Inc offers a variety of insurance plans best suited for your company.

SF&C Insurance Associates, Inc. strives to provide quality insurance products to Labor Unions, and affinity groups in the public and private sectors. SF&C sees this as an invaluable service in these days of rising insurance costs and complex benefits options—to help you select the right combination of current, cost effective options to arrive at the perfect package for your needs.

Using the convenience of payroll deduction, credit card or an automatic withdrawal from a checking and/or savings account, premiums are collected for all types of Voluntary Benefits. These programs are the best way to provide individuals with the benefits they desire.

For more information on our services, contact us at 410-337-7577 or send an email to: custserv@sfandc.com.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES, HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR



The Health Committee hosted the Second Annual Community Resources, Health, and Wellness Fair on Saturday September 21, 2024 from 10am-2pm at Forest Park Senior Center. The Health Committee and the Women in NAACP (WIN) Committee provided sanitizer and Covid-19 test kits to its attendees.

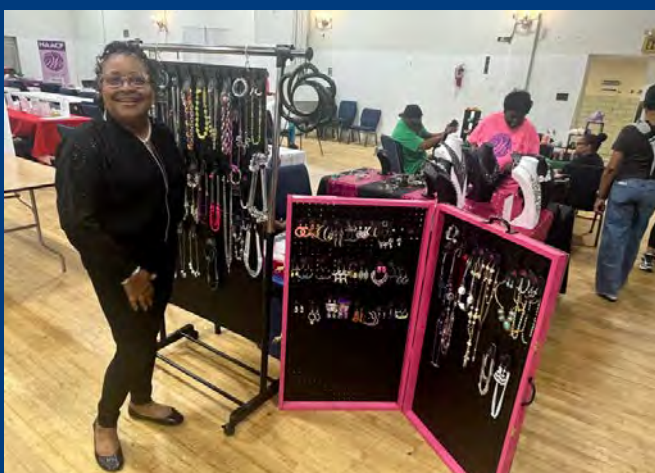




The Committee had vendors ranging in different Healthcare fields. One vendor conducted Narcan training at 11am and 1pm. The Baltimore City Health Department also arrived with a mobile bus to conduct routine testing, which came with a \$10 gift card for participation.



We would like to thank the Health and WIN Committees and all the vendors for their participation in the Fair.



SWEARING IN CEREMONY

The Baltimore County Fire Department swore in Joseph Dixon as their new Fire Chief on November 4th. Dixon has made history as the first African American to lead the Fire Department. He served for nearly 30 years with neighboring Howard County, MD, Department of Fire and Rescue Services. President, Danita Tolson, attended the Swearing-in Ceremony as well as members from the Maryland Congressional Delegation to show support of this momentous occasion.



FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

Community Leaders were celebrated for their notable service to the community at the Freedom Funds Awards Ceremony on Saturday November 2nd at the Sheraton Hotel in Towson. Dr. Tyrone Powers was the Keynote Speaker. The theme was “Unity, Strength and Power.” Alexis Hector, Gold Medal Winner in Music Vocal Contemporary of the Baltimore County ACT-SO competition sang the Black National Anthem and a special selection.



Baltimore County Fire Department and Awardee Assistant Fire Chief, Marcus Johnson (Front Left)



Dr. Tyrone Powers - Keynote Speaker



Councilman Julian Jones, Awardee Ms. Nichelle Hicks (Back Center), and the Parkville High School NAACP Chapter



Councilman Julian Jones and the WIN Committee (Leila Edwards, Dana Brown, Evelyn Johnson, Danielle Dyer and Ashley Mayo)

FREEDOM FUND BANQUET



Awardee Airuel Singetary



Dr. Danita Tolson, Awardee Col. Roland Butler, David Blenman



Clockwise from the center: Awardee for Lamar Jackson, Evelyn Johnson, Marcquetta Carey, Leila Edwards, Awardee Nykidra Robinson, Awardee for Shina Parker, Natasha Stewart



Alexis Hector, singer



Awardee Andrea Derrien (center) and guests

We would like to thank Mr. Raymond English, Freedom Fund Chair and the Freedom Fund Committee for their hard work and dedication in organizing our signature event.



HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



On Saturday December 21st, the WIN Committee brought tidings of joy to the Night of Peace Family Shelter that warmed the hearts of 11 homeless children. The WIN Committee conducted a holiday drive and raised \$500 that purchased toys and clothing items for the children. We give a special thanks to Ashley Mayo and Marcquetta Carey, chairs of the WIN Committee for their vision in having this Toy Drive. We also thank the WIN Committee and the Baltimore County branch for their efforts and donations in making this Toy Drive a success.

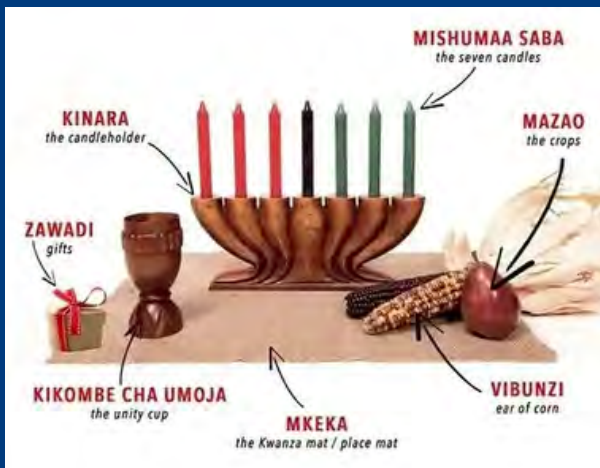


CELEBRATING KWANZAA



Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African American culture from December 26 to January 1. Both the name and the celebration were devised in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a professor of Africana studies at California State University in Long Beach and an important figure in Afrocentrism. Karenga borrowed the word kwanza, meaning “first,” from the Swahili phrase Matunda ya Kwanza. The concept of Kwanzaa draws on Southern African first-fruits celebrations.

The candles represent the seven principles of Kwanzaa with the seven candles in the African colors of red, green and black. Each day the family comes together to light one of the candles in the kinara, or candleholder, and to discuss the principle for the day.



There is also seven symbols of Kwanzaa: fruits, vegetables; straw mat; a candleholder; ears of corn; gifts; and a communal cup that signifies unity. Baltimore is hosting three Kwanzaa community events during that week. For more details about the events, go to: <https://baltimoretimesonline.com/living-well/2024/12/20/celebrate-kwanzaa-in-baltimore-2024/>.

Happy New Year

Congratulations to the new officers and board members that have been elected for 2025.

President - Dr. Danita Tolson

First Vice President - Roland Patterson, Jr.

Secretary - Natasha Stewart

Treasurer - David Blenman

Executive Members-at- Large

Marcquetta Carey

Sharnice Coleman

Clifford Collins

Danielle Dyer

Janell Edmonds

Marietta English

Raymond English

Evelyn Johnson

Ashley Mayo

Stacey- Shannon Morrison

Marsden Owens

Lillian Thomas

DYNAMIC OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for volunteers to work in any of our 10 committees, please visit our website to learn more about them at: <http://www.naacp-bcountymd.org/committees.html>.

Email us: naacpbaltimorecounty@hotmail.com

JOIN US

Our General Body meetings are every first Wednesday at 7:00pm. For the zoom link, refer to our monthly emails or go to the events page on our website below.

www.naacp-bcountymd.org

Join the NAACP on Social Media!

Like us on:



NAACP
Baltimore County



naacp_baltimore
_county



@NAACPBalt
County

File a Complaint

If you need to file a complaint. Please send an email to Roland Patterson,

Legal Redress Chair
naacp1vp@thepattersonsr.com

Picture Credits:

Voting Events: Cliff Collins

Back to School: Ashley Mayo

Freedom Fund: Danielle Dyer

Community Health Fair:

Leila Edwards

Swearing-In Ceremony:

Dr. Danita Tolson

Editor: Danielle Dyer