

NAACP BALTIMORE COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Greetings,

We had an incredible quarter where we made impact in our community once again by hosting another Gun Buyback event in Baltimore County. We continue to be hard at work with continuous police engagements, voter registration, and being present and involved with our youth in the ACT-SO program and the NAACP Youth Chapter at Parkville High School



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We have also seen incredible changes through our justice system. On June 17th, Governor Wes Moore issued an executive order that pardoned 175,000 low-level marijuana convictions. The governor said that Black Marylanders were three times more likely than white residents to be held on cannabis-related charges. This pardon will help reduce barriers in education, housing and employment opportunities for those being pardoned.

The NAACP also led a call for a Presidential Pardon for the former Baltimore City State Attorney Marilyn Mosby. The petition was signed by 14 other social justice organizations. Although she was not granted a pardon, she received a reduced sentence where she was sentenced to 12 months of house arrest, 100 hours of community service and 3 years of supervised release.

As we continue in the fight, we encourage you to take a look at the NAACP resolutions that have been put forth among the branches to be reviewed and approved at our Annual NAACP Convention in July on the last page. This season exemplified a moment where we pushed the boundaries, challenged the status quo and took an actionable stance through grassroots events in our respective communities.

We encourage you to join us in this journey where you can see how we are changing the narrative through stewardship, moral principles and our acts of service in our communities.

WOMEN IN NAACP (WIN) BRUNCH

The Women In NAACP hosted a Women's Brunch on Saturday May 4th from 10am-1pm at the Palisades in Towson. The theme was "Sister's Stronger Together". The keynote speaker was Tammy Thipen, Director of the Youth Sports Program. The brunch discussion centered on three topics: Self Care: It's ok to not be ok, Relationship Building: Building a Network of friends and partnerships, pivoting relationships, and Affirmations. Ms. Thipen shared her life experiences and her journey to becoming an entrepreneur. She emphasized the importance of being resourceful and maintaining relationships.



Tammy Thipen and Jasmine Williford as the moderator



The ladies had a fantastic time at the brunch. Special thanks to Chef Pardie for catering the brunch and to Marva Williams for her Photobooth services.

COMMUNITY DAY

The NAACP Baltimore County Branch attended a Community Day event on May 11th at Deep Creek Middle School in Essex, MD. Our branch had a vendor table at the event to participate in voter registration activities.



Cliff Collins and Linda Dorsey-Walker from
Vote4More!4BaltimoreCounty



Cliff Collins and Stacey Shannon-Morrison

YOUTH SUMMIT

The NAACP Baltimore County Branch attended the Youth Summit hosted by the Baltimore County Police Department on Saturday, May 18th at the Sollers Point Multi-Purpose Center in Dundalk MD. The youth leaders of Parkville High School #7898-B chapter participated in the Summit and assisted us in voter registration activities. Dr. Crystal R. Francis, a native from Turner Station was the keynote speaker for this event.



Left to Right: Dianne Fore, Naomi Djikounou (2nd VP), Korei Bailey (President), Raquel Martinez (VP), Lola Olutoye (Treasurer), Raymond Jones, Jr. (Secretary)



Cliff Collins, Political Action Chair with the youth leaders

COMMUNITY DAY

The NAACP Baltimore County Branch partnered with the Divine Nine on a Community Day event that was held at Security Square Mall on Saturday, April 20th from 10:00am - 1:00pm. It was an opportunity for Baltimore residents to gather and learn about voting rights, meet their local candidates and connect with other community members. The NAACP Baltimore County Branch conducted voter registration activities and a membership drive at the event. It was a great collaboration where we had community outreach.

Linda Dorsey-Walker representing the Vote4More!4BaltimoreCounty Campaign, solicited signatures for a ballot referendum calling for increasing council districts in Baltimore County. There are potential plans to partner with the Divine Nine on future Community Outreach events during this election year.

We want to thank the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. for being the lead organizer of the Community Day. We would also like to acknowledge the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, the Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc. and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. for their participation.



HEALTH COMMITTEE EVENT

The Health Committee held a virtual session on May 29th called the “Strategies on Creating a Life of Balance”. The guest speaker was Candice Richardson, a licensed Clinical Psychologist and the owner of Color and Trauma Healing, a Restorative Yogi Somatic Service. The group discussed the importance of self-care, work-life balance, and overcoming burnout, with Candice sharing her personal experiences and insights as a licensed clinical professional counselor. The group explored the interconnection between self-worth, busyness, leadership roles, and the psychological and societal impacts of high achievement and responsibility. The conversation also touched on the intergenerational transmission of domestic and intimate partner violence. The group also addressed the need to challenge negative self-talk and establish boundaries.

ACT-SO COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

The ACT-SO competition was held on Saturday, April 27th at New Town High School in Owings Mills. Sixty-seven children applied but 17 did not show. We had a gold medal winner in drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, medicine and health, short story, playwriting, written poetry, dance and vocal music. We had students from Pikesville, Dundalk, Towson Milford Mill and Carver Center for Arts and Technology. This was the first time we had this many schools to participate and the winners came from different schools. We also had a student from Howard County and Harford County. Currently we have an ACT-SO Raffle that ends on June 28th. Tickets are \$5.00. Click the link to view the ACT-SO Raffle flyer: <https://bit.ly/ACT-SORaffle>. These are one of the fundraisers to support the winning students for their trip to the National ACT-SO competition that will occur at the NAACP National Convention in Las Vegas on July 13th-17th.

LEGAL REDRESS UPDATE

On June 18th, 2024, The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (CA4) published an opinion upholding a dismissal of a suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of MD, USDC, Md. USDC, Md. dismissed a suit by Erie Insurance of Pennsylvania (Erie). In that suit, Erie alleged that the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) violated the Constitution in finding that its practices were discriminatory against agents and customers. The agents first complained to this Branch. The Branch referred the agents to MIA. We first found discrimination. MIA will now hold a damages Hearing. That result may be appealed. Hopefully, Erie will just pay. The mission of The Legal Redress Committee (LRC) is to connect persons lost in the legal system with the proper resources for providing resolution. We are on the way to success on this case. Hats off to Rita Ross, Veronica Dunlap, Brittany Gordon, Rashawn Jacobs and Sierra McCoy. The LRC is available for the convenience of all at: NAACPRNP@outlook.com and at (443) 324-0600. Thank you for reading this story.

Roland N. Patterson, Jr.

ENVIROMENTAL ISSUES IN TURNER STATION

Mr. Roland Patterson, chair of the Legal Redress Committee submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 22nd concerning environmental issues that Turner Station residents are experiencing. There was a complaint of inadequate testing of the soil and water for contaminants at Turner Station. Turner Station has been harmed by toxic air emissions, spillage and runoff of waste from Bethlehem Steel, a steel-making and ship-building plant. The Sparrow's Point Plant was first opened by Bethlehem Steel in 1916. It closed in 2012.

The residents are concerned that decades of toxins runoff from Bethlehem Steel have affected Bear Creek in Turner Station. An excerpt from Inside Climate news states that "Industrial wastewater discharges contaminated a 61-acre parcel of the creek with hazardous materials including heavy metals, oil and grease, cancer-causing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) associated with lung diseases, asthma and cardiovascular illnesses" [1]. Mr. Patterson presented the case to the EPA and requested an inquiry into the matter. The Legal Redress Committee is in discussion with the complainants about the order of the investigation.

EPA has added the Bear Creek site to its Superfund National Priorities list. Baltimore Sun reported that "EPA officials want to spend about \$45 million to clean up a section of Baltimore County's Bear Creek that was contaminated by Bethlehem Steel" [2]. Mr. Patterson will continue the investigation on the Turner Station Case and stay abreast on updates on EPA's proposed clean-up plan for Bear Creek.



1) <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/13022024/proposed-cleanup-of-baltimore-county-superfund-site-stirs-questions-in-disinvested-community/>

2) <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2024/02/07/epa-bear-creek-superfund-bethlehem-steel-turner-station/>

GUN BUYBACK EVENT

On June 1st, we held the Second Annual Gun Buyback event at Security Square Mall from 10am-2pm. This was a joint collaboration with the Baltimore County Police Department, NAACP Baltimore County, and the Baltimore County government. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense organization and the Omega Psi Fraternity Inc. also participated in the Gun Buy Back Event.

President Danita Tolson stated, “The Baltimore County NAACP Branch #7010 is dedicated to joining forces with the community to remove firearms and related firearm supplies. Last year, we removed over 300 guns and over 600 gun related supplies from the community. We had dedicated individuals who waited in line to turn in guns and gun supplies last year who did not want a monetary return but were dedicated to the cause. Since our Baltimore County Gun Buyback in 2023, other counties and areas inquired on the success. We want to work with other community partners who share the Baltimore County NAACP Branch vision to save lives and reduce firearms on the streets.



GUN BUYBACK EVENT



The Gun Buyback event was an ultimate success. We collected a substantial amount of guns and gun supplies at the event. We ran out of gift cards by 11am. All firearms were recorded as anonymous. The collection of firearms was facilitated and managed by Baltimore County Police Department. Recovered firearms were collected by the police department, transported offsite, analyzed, and ultimately destroyed if found not to be connected to criminal activity. We would like to thank all the partnering organizations that have participated in this effort to help make our Baltimore County communities safer.



BRAZILIAN DELEGATION

The NAACP Baltimore County Branch was invited to speak to a Brazilian Delegation that was hosted by the State Department and the World Trade Institute on Thursday, June 6th at the World Trade Center in Baltimore. The NAACP was identified by the U.S. Embassy staff as one of the leaders in furthering human rights in their communities. The roundtable discussion theme was “Human and Civil Rights for Marginalized Communities”.

The delegation raised awareness on civil rights issues affecting their country. They discussed the challenges faced by Brazilians of African descent. They mentioned issues of discrimination within the particular group. Social, economic, and gender inequality were among the challenges faced by the Brazilian people. For instance, women candidates running for political office face challenges in receiving adequate support among the male peers in the community.

Participants in the roundtable discussion discussed strategies on how to improve the circumstances of the Brazilian people. The delegation requested information on how to get funding for minority-based organizations. Another topic was how to galvanize interest on socially conscious issues. Dr. Tolson emphasized the importance of utilizing social media as a main communication channel to connect to the masses. Dr. Tolson provided a high level overview on our endeavors in healthcare, voter registration, police engagement, and community safety through our Gun Buyback event.

Maryland State Conference President, Kobi Little, spoke about the NAACP’s history. The NAACP is grateful for having the opportunity to participate in this international engagement with the Brazilian delegation and provide insight on how to handle civil rights issues that are affecting the people in that country.

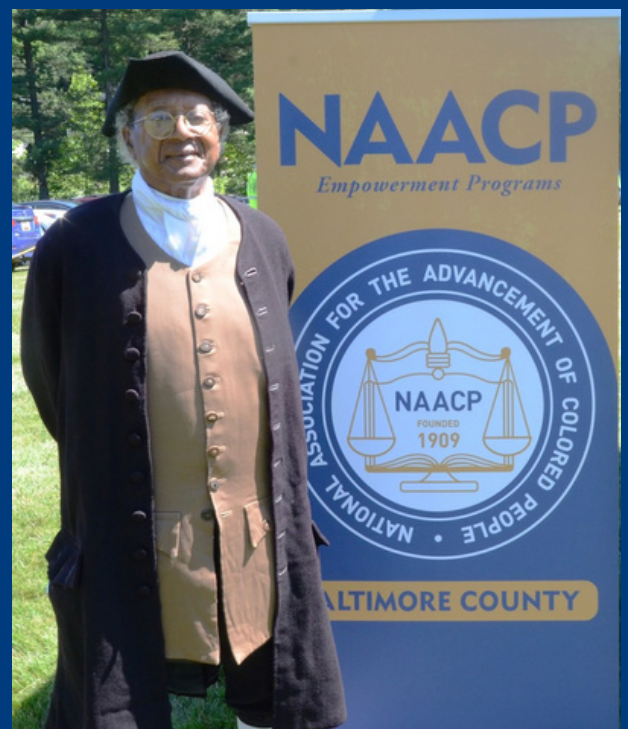
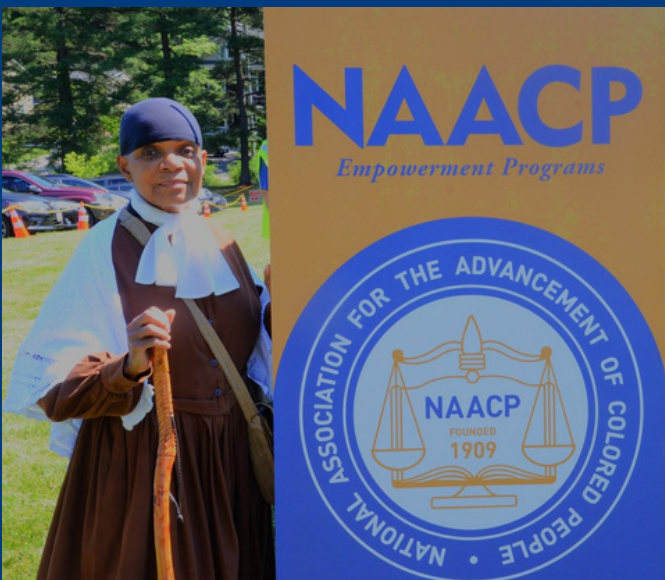


The Brazilian Government Delegation, US. State Department, Dr. Danita Tolson (center left) and Rev. Kobi Little, Maryland State Conference President (center right)

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION



The NAACP Baltimore County Branch participated in the Juneteenth Celebration hosted by the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park & Museum on Saturday June 15th. We conducted voter registration activities. The celebration included stage performances and individuals dressed like Benjamin Banneker and Harriet Tubman. The museum grounds are also Benjamin Banneker's farmstead. The staff did a wonderful job in organizing this program that exhibited the spirit of our black history and our victory.





Thank you Ms. Pamela Brooks for being a sponsor and a supporter of the NAACP Baltimore County Branch. Ms. Brooks is the founder of the Women’s Imaging in the Neighborhood (WIIN) Breast Care Foundation, Inc.

The mission of the WIIN Breast Care Foundation, Inc. is to provide access to optimal, comprehensive breast care services and educational enrichment to increase awareness about breast cancer and breast health. Visit her website at: <https://www.wiinbreastcarefoundation.org/>



COMMUNITY EVENTS

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

cordially invites you to a

Partnership Fair

Building partnerships to provide positive experiences
and support for students



Dr. Myriam Rogers, Superintendent



July 17, 2024 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

New Town High School

4931 New Town Boulevard, Owings Mills MD 21117



[Click Here to Register](#)

BCPS values partnerships with organizations and businesses that invest time and talent in school success. These partnerships augment staff capacity, enable innovative learning opportunities, and connect students to authentic learning and development through mentoring, volunteering, student work experiences, service learning, and scholarships.





Thank you to Ms. Sharonda Moses, SkillUp Health Training for your sponsorship and for providing free blood pressure checks at our Community Health and Resources Fair.

SkillUp Health Training provides certification in multiple disciplines in healthcare such as medication technician, CPR, Phlebotomy, etc. For more information about her services, please contact her via email at: skilluphealthtraining@gmail.com



Save the Date

We invite you to our annual

*Freedom Fund
Awards Banquet*

November 2, 2024

1:00pm - 5:00pm

SHERATON HOTEL TOWSON

903 Dulaney Valley Rd,
Towson, MD 21204





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Visit us at: <https://ibdrippinmobileivhydration.now.site/home>



Thank you to to Ms. Rhonda Brown, Nurse Practitioner on Call LLC for your sponsorship and support of the NAACP Baltimore County Branch. Here is some information about her business.

Nurse Practitioner on Call LLC is available:

- If you need a Nurse Practitioner to assist virtually/telemedicine or in person for exams for psychiatric needs for adults or adolescents. We also assist with substance use needs with a MAT program available.
- If you need a Therapist to service adults and adolescents with psychiatric needs.

Visit her website at <https://www.nponcallmd.com>



NAACP RESOLUTIONS

To: All NAACP Units, National Board Members, NAACP Foundation Trustees and National Staff

From: Leon Russell, Chair, Resolutions Committee

Date: June 1, 2024

Re: 2024 Resolutions

Attached hereto are resolutions which were considered by the Resolutions Committee on May 8 – 10, 2024, pursuant to Article IX, Section 9.b(1) of the Constitution of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Delegates to the 115th Annual NAACP Convention will act upon these resolutions beginning July 16, 2024 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Upon ratification by the National Board of Directors, at its October 2024 meeting, the Convention's action will become the official policy of the Association.

Thank you,

LR

*Please click on the [2024 Resolutions](#) link to review the resolutions, which are categorized by the subject/committee that was put forth by different branches across the nation.

Lyrics of the Heartside

She told the story, and the whole world wept
at wrongs and cruelties it had not known
But for this fearless woman's voice alone.

She spoke to consciences that long had
slept: Her message, Freedom's clear reveille,
swept from heedless hovel to complacent
throne. Command and prophecy were in the
tone and from its sheath the sword of justice
leapt. Around two peoples swelled a fiery
wave, But both came forth transfigured from
the flame. Blest be the hand that dared be
strong to save, And blest be she who in our
weakness came—Prophet and priestess! At
one stroke she gave a race to freedom and
herself to fame.

Poem by: Paul Laurence Dunbar

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 to our events page and register.

www.naacp-bcountymd.org

Join the NAACP on Social Media!

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County

File a Complaint

If you need to file a
complaint. Please send an
email to Roland Patterson,
Legal Redress Chair
naacprnp@outlook.com

Article Credits:

Environmental Issue in Turner
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Danielle Dyer

Brazilian Delegation: Dr. Tolson
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and Cliff Collins

Editor: Danielle Dyer