



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

*Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's County NAACP Presidents,*

*Michael Kent, Janice Wilson and Janice T. Walthour*

Hate will not win!

There has been a rise in hate crimes all over America and here in the Tri-County region there is a recent rise in efforts to recruit our neighbors to join the KKK. Notices have been placed in driveways and on doorsteps across the State of Maryland and in Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties. There is no secret about what the KKK's message is and we, as Civil Rights leaders, reject the notion of White Supremacy and hate for our fellow men and women. The KKK seeks to intimidate those in our community who work hard to bring the community together and we embrace diversity in all dimensions. The mission of the KKK is clear -- divide and conquer.

As one of the fastest growing regions in the state we are hopeful that people are moving here because they see the Southern Maryland region as a great place to live, work and play for all who choose to live here. Our vision is that all in our communities vehemently reject hate and racism in all forms as we do.

Here in the Tri-County area we are not going to accept the KKK and its recruiting efforts. We call on our county commissioners, school board, law enforcement agencies, religious leaders, civic organizations, business leaders and the community at-large to join us in condemning this racist behavior and ensuring that systemic changes are made to dismantle racism in our region. And that Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties are known as communities where schools, neighborhoods, places of worship, and places of work and recreation embrace diversity and the inclusion in our communities of all races, ethnicities, gender, religion, sexual orientation and identity, national origin, age, military or veteran status, disability or any other legally protected status; and all without discrimination based on socioeconomic status.

If you see someone distributing this type of "hate" literature and can document it, please do so and call your local Law Enforcement agency as soon as possible. We hope you will join us in our work to uphold civil rights through ensuring social justice for all and to promote equity, peace and neighborly love in our communities. We will not let hate win!