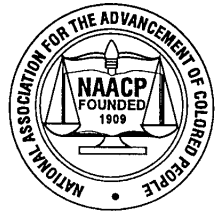


VANCOUVER BRANCH NAACP # 1139
POST OFFICE BOX 1903, VANCOUVER, WA 98668-1903
360 256-6232
VOLUME 2; ISSUE 2; 05//2002



EDITOR: Earl W Ford; REVIEW BOARD: Bertha Baugh, Chad Clark, Valarie Williams, and Joyce Batten

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN: “It’s all about our children.” As my daughter prepares to graduate from college that phrase resonates with me more now, than ever before. What we are doing here at NAACP, working hard to keep doors open, and create opportunity, is truly more about our children than it is about us.

Just as the work of those who went before was for us, the work that we do now is for the next generation. In this issue we will share much with you about the fruit of our labors. I will begin with Denison University news release on my daughter Yaida Oni Ford, Vancouver Branch Youth member.



**2002 President's Medalist
Yaida Oni Ford '02
B.A., Political Science and Spanish
Vancouver, Washington.**

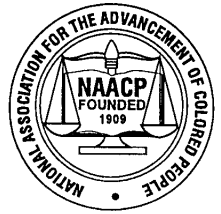
Yaida Oni Ford, daughter of Linda Ford and Earl Ford of Vancouver, Washington was

among six graduating Denison University seniors who were honored by President Dale T. Knobel as one of this year's "President's Medalists" during the University's annual Academic Awards Convocation on April 19. Ford, who has a double major in political science and Spanish, was inducted into **Sigma Delta Pi (the national Spanish honorary), Pi Sigma Alpha (the national political science honorary), Omicron Delta Kappa (the international leadership honorary) and Phi Society (an honorary recognizing excellence in the first year).**

A consistent dean's list student and member of the Honors Program, she was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. She held a Florida Fisher scholarship and was named a fellow in the political science department. Ford also was given a Young Scholar award to pursue research with a faculty member during the summer. Her honors project title was "Beyond the Battlefield: Dred Scott's Fight for Freedom."

Ford served as president of the Denison Lecture Series, a student-run group that brings speakers to campus, and also served as chief minister of the Black Student Union on campus. She was a member of the Campus Affairs Council and served as a student representative on the selection committee for the dean of first-year students. She also was a member of the June Orientation staff, a senior interviewer in the admissions office and frequently participated in the Students of Color orientation programs. Ford was a participant and choreographer for the Black History Month Dance Celebration and organized the BSU-United Negro College Fund Walkathon in Columbus.

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Ford is a graduate of Evergreen High School.

Youth Works Department: On April 21, Chad Clark, Youth Works Dept. Co-Chair, and Genevieve Fisher, youth member, participated in the Northwest Poetry Coalition's "Voices from Our Global Village" program. The event, covered by CVTV, was an afternoon of poetry, music, and art that celebrated the richness of all people and their origins. Clark and Fisher represented the Vancouver Branch well as they read poems by Langston Hughes and Maya Angelou, respectively.

Safeway, Inc Places Three NAACP Youth: The Youth Employment Program has also made advances toward our goal of placing NAACP youth in summer jobs. Karen Seivert, Hiring Coordinator for **Safeway, Inc.**, has hired three of our youth members.

We are also in the process of placing more of the youth with various entities within the City of Vancouver, including the Police Dept. and Water Resources Dept. If your youth is interested in the NAACP Youth Employment program, have them contact Chad Clark, 891-5216, or Brenda Simmons, 694-1454.

In other news, this summer, the Youth Works Dept will embark on a quest to develop a history of the Vancouver Branch to be presented in a public program. Information such as pictures and old documents pertaining to the Branch's beginnings will be collected for use in the project. This project will be conducted by the youth and their research will include interviews with elder branch members as well as others who recall the early days of the Vancouver Branch. Chad Clark has submitted a grant application to the City of Vancouver's Cultural Grant Program for project funding.

Minority Contracting Fair a Success: Our first minority contracting fair was a tremendous success. Our turnout was low primarily because we were competing with the NAACP State Conference, held on the same day at a separate location; our original location was changed three weeks prior to the conference. In the spirit of that old adage "the show must go on", our membership stepped up and did a great job of finding an alternate location.

The Water Resource Education Center and their staff were tremendous in their support of the Contracting Fair and NAACP Banquet that followed. They provided their facility at no cost and co-sponsored the Contracting Fair.

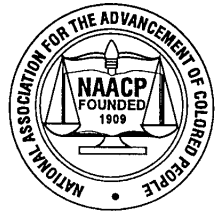
Participating minority vendor **L. Benjamin King, Excel Resource Development Group** writes "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, Sid and the participating agencies for helping make the March 23 Minority Contractors and Vendors Outreach Exhibit a Success."

"In spite of the weather, the exhibit was wonderful and beneficial. All agency's representatives and minority business contractors/vendors interacted with purpose, pleasantly, and with great sincerity. My firm and I benefited both professionally and personally from this first annual event" Mr. King said

Curt Warner Chevrolet and the **USDA Forest Service African American Strategy Team** served as our Corporate Sponsors for this event. The Strategy Team has already expressed interest in participating again next year.

The Labor and Industry Chair, Sid Clark and President Ford are working on Thank you

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letters and evaluation form for participants. We are looking for ideas and suggestions that will help make our 2003 Contracting Fair bigger and better.

If you plan to take part in the 2003 Contracting Fair please contact Labor and Industry Chair, Sid Clark at the P.O. Box shown above.

State Conference: Congratulations and appreciations are in order for the State Conference Planning Committee (**Sid Clark, Reverend Marva J. Edwards, Brenda Simmons, Joyce Swarn, Joseph Harrison, and President Ford**) for your hard work on the conference. You pulled this conference together in just three weeks. We must also thank Roy Jay and Joann Bowman who stayed with us and helped with the conference even after giving up their role as Officers in the Portland Branch.

Conference sessions were chaired by Val Joshua, Diana Garrett, Joann Bowman, Chad Clark, and Brenda Simmons. Thanks are also in order for **Angela Guess-Westbrooks** for her Herculean efforts organizing conference space and meals at **Washington State University**.

The conference and banquet were all outstanding. We had 75 registered conference attendees and about 100 people attending the banquet. The conference receipts total around \$4300. The event was under revenue projections, but all bills were paid and we had a small net profit that went to the state conference.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:
SATURDAY, MAY 25, 2002, 10:00 AM
COMMUNITY AME ZION CHURCH,
COMMUNITY ROOM, 3605 E 13TH ST**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Garage Sale: Mark your calendars Friday and Saturday May 31 – June 1, NAACP yard sale day. Clean out your garages and closet for spring and donate garage sale items to the branch. Pat Arnold (696-2259) or President Earl Ford (885-0644) can be contacted for your donations. They will pick up items. The garage sale will be held at President Ford's house and will be followed by a back yard Bar B Que for NAACP members who donate items, or time to help coordinate the garage sale.

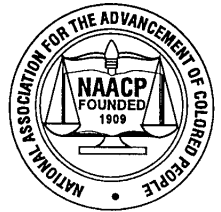
Jim Moeller Campaign Kickoff: Thursday May 16, 7:00 pm, Sunshine Bakery downtown Vancouver. President Earl Ford will serve as a host at Councilman Moeller's campaign kickoff.

June Pancake Breakfast: The Vancouver Branch Summer Pancake Breakfast will be held June 22, 2001, 8:30 – 12:00 at Clark PUD building (corner of Mill Plain and Fort Vancouver Way). We will again recognize NAACP Youth Scholars with cumulative grade point average of 3.0.

Seafarers 33rd Annual Festival: July 28, Esther Short Park. The Branch is looking for volunteers to run a soul food BBQ booth for this event. We can grill chicken, ribs and hot links on site and sell BBQ sandwiches and desserts (peach cobbler, sweet potato pie, cake, etc).

If you are interested in helping with this event, contact President Ford, or Pat Arnold, Special Projects Coordinator.

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