

EDITOR: Joyce Swarn; REVIEW BOARD: Bertha Baugh, Chad Clark, Valarie Williams, and Joyce Batten

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



VOTE.... It's that time again, and once again we must get out to the polls and participate in the political process. The Mayoral seat is contested this year, and there are several contested seats for vacancies on our City Council.

As a non-profit civil rights organization, the Branch, does not endorse political candidates. However, we speak loudly and clearly on those issues that affect communities of color, women, and the economically disadvantaged.

Chief in my book, among the many issues, is **increased economic opportunities for people of color**. Secondly, I believe that we have to be concerned about the **educational systems failure to deliver quality education to children of color**.

Just look at the economic boom that is going on in our community. Parks, roads, hotels, convention centers and much more, are being built here, in our community and with our tax dollars. Yet, people of color are glaringly absent on these jobs. **We are not benefiting economically from our tax dollars**.

Let's change this. I believe we can start, by going to the polls on November 4. But that's only the beginning, we have got to become involved in the political process.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Saturday, November 15, 2003, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Community AME Zion Church, 3605 E 13th Street.

WHAT'S NEW

1). **Branch Lapel Pens** are ready. The new gold plated lapel pens are available for purchase. The pens are \$5.00 each, and we are encouraging every member to purchase at least two pens.

The pens can be purchased from any board member, or directly by calling the hotline or by mailing your check or money order to the Branch office.

2). A **Branch T-Shirt** has also been designed and accepted by the board. We are expecting to have T-Shirts available by December 1, 2003, just in time for your Christmas shopping.

3) **Assistant Membership Chair**, Shera Green has agreed to take on the task of helping our Membership Chair Mrs. Laura Smith, during her recovery from a recent illness. Ms. Laura's recovery is going well

and we expect her back soon. Welcome Mrs. Green and thank you for your help.

4) **Westfield Mall Works Wonders** we are selling tickets to this event at \$5 each. Sponsored by Westfield Mall, Sunday, November 16, 2003 from 6 pm to 9 pm, the evening will feature pre holiday shopping, refreshments, entertainment, and surprises. All proceeds will go to benefit the Branch. Children under 12 are free.

5). **Casaundra Robinson** has agreed to take the lead in our **2004 Voter Registration and Mobilization** drive. We plan to work to mobilize voters for the upcoming 2004 elections.

FEBRUARY 2004

BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION AND BANQUET

Last year our theme: *TAKING A STAND FOR OUR YOUTH* was a tremendous success. This next year, our Saturday Banquet will take place February 21, 2004.

We are looking to make this our Signature Fund Raising event. Since this is our first fund raising activity of the New Year, we feature, a keynote speaker, for which we are seeking recommendations.

Last years event which was cosponsored by the City of Vancouver, Water Resources Education Center and Clark County featured, Key Note speaker, Greg Evans, of Lane Community College (LCC), Office of Student Life and Leadership Development, who spoke eloquently about the program he developed and leads, a "Rights of Passage" for youth of color. It was both immobilizing and thought provoking.

The event celebrated the achievements of NAACP Youth employers who participated in the NAACP Youth Employment Program, and the Clark County African American Academic Achievement Program as well, and we recognized and presented awards to the outstanding City, Police Department and Safeway Stores employees who supervised our students.

We are looking for volunteers to participate this year, on the committee, to recommend and locate catering, entertainment, trophies, trophy recipients, and to participate in the keynote speaker search.

For more information on how you can help please contact President Earl Ford at earlwford@aol.com or call our hot line at 360 256-6232

**Kaiser Permanente
Health Care Career Day
November 18, 2004
10 am until 3 pm**

You will not want to pass up this career day event. We have joined with our partner Kaiser Permanente in sponsoring this event for those seeking employment in the health care field. We have a very limited number (15) of slots available for our branch. Therefore, we take application and resumes for those wishing to attend this event on a first come first serve basis.

Kaiser Human Resource staff will be on hand to critique resumes, conduct mock interviews, talk about healthcare and provide other hands on activities. Contact Earl Ford or Brenda Simmons to Signup and fill out applications. Brenda can be reached at 360-694-1454 and Earl at 360 89-5105.

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