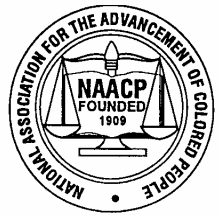


VANCOUVER BRANCH NAACP # 1139
POST OFFICE BOX 1903, VANCOUVER, WA 98668-1903
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VOLUME 4; ISSUE 2; MARCH 2004
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EDITOR: Joyce Swarn; REVIEW BOARD: Bertha Baugh, Chad Clark, Valarie Williams, and Joyce Batten

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



It is in the bag!!! Our Black History Month Banquet was a very successful event. The planning committee did a wonderful job and the event was well attended. Thanks, to all of you who took time out of your busy schedules and came out to spend the evening with us.

Our Web Master, Otha Terry, has put a page of pictures from this event up on our website. I encourage you to visit for highlights.

Once again, Ron Sims, King County Executive, and Democratic Candidate for Governor of the State of Washington, participated and informed our visitors. In Bremerton last week, I presented Ron with a \$200 honorarium which he promptly endorsed and returned to us for our scholarship funds. I have instructed our Treasurer to contribute \$100 each

to the Perry Johnigan and Constance Baker Motely Scholarship funds.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, March 19 2004
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Community AME Zion Church,
3605 E 13th Street.

Agenda:

- 1). Review BHM Banquet,
- 2). Announcements
- 3). Set 2004 proposed budget,

"NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A BLACK WOMAN"

MARCH 19, 2004 6:30PM

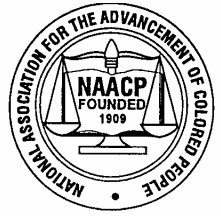
Oregon Convention Center

- . For tickets (\$40.00), to this most memorable event, tables and sponsorship call today

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Special Bonus: Keynote speaker, Patricia Russell-McCloud will be present on March 19 at 6:30PM in the lobby of Oregon Convention Center to personally autograph her new CD "Never Give Up".



**COMMUNITY AME ZION CHURCH
'BROTHER'S IN CHRIST'
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Dr. Theopolis Williams will speak about prostate cancer in Black Men. Come out, share lunch with the brothers and learn how to protect your health.

Saturday, March 19 2004,
12:00 noon
Community AME Zion Church,
3605 E 13th Street.

**Earl Ford,
APPOINTED TO COMMISSION
ON AFRICAN AMERICAN
AFFAIRS**

Earl W. Ford, President of the Vancouver Branch NAACP, has been named as Southwest Washington 's first member to the Washington State Commission on African American Affairs. Ford received notification of his appointment from Governor Gary Locke's Office on March 5.

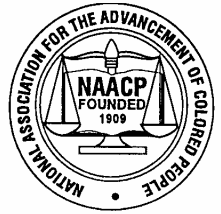
"On Thursday I received written notification and welcome from

Executive Director, Regina J. Jones," Ford Said. "I am excited about the opportunity to serve Vancouver and Clark County in this capacity. I hope to be of service to African Americans throughout Southwest Washington."

In 1989 an Executive Order to establish the Commission on African American Affairs was issued. In 1992 State Statute formally established the Commission, to provide a focal point in state government for the interests of African-American citizens.

The commission is administered by an Executive Director, who is appointed by the Governor. The Commission consists of nine members, including the Chair. All are appointed by the Governor.

Sidney Clark, President, USDA Coalition of Minority Employees along with several other NAACP members and I, began to lobby for the commission, about five years ago, to become actively involved in issues in Southwest Washington," Ford said. "I consider this appointment to be the culmination of our efforts". "Now all we have to do is roll up our sleeves and work



PENS AND T-SHIRTS ARE IN

1). **The New Gold Plated lapel pens** are available for purchase. The pens are \$5.00 each, and can be purchased from any board member, or directly by calling the hotline or mailing your check or money order to the Branch PO Box. We are encouraging every member to purchase at least two.

2). A **Branch T-Shirt** has also been designed and accepted by the board. Shirts are available and will be on sale for \$15.00 beginning at our next general membership meeting.

AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH RITES OF PASSAGE PROGRAM

We are committed to holding our first "Rites of Passage" program this summer, and we are going to have to fund this effort. We have not been able to secure the proper documents that will allow the school districts to participate in funding this year.

However, this program is too important to our children and we will

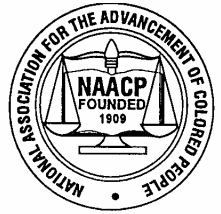
not wait. Perhaps the school districts can assist us with future funding of this vital effort. But, the lack of school district funding will not prevent us from moving forward.

Daryl Hodges and Cleo Smith are leading the effort to develop the program in conjunction with Evergreen School District, Vancouver School District, City of Vancouver, Washington State University, Vancouver, and Clark College.

Greg Evans, Lane Community College, Eugene, and our 2003 Black History Month Banquet keynote speaker, is serving as our technical consultant.

The primary purpose of the program is to provide a tool that will assist African American youth in improving their academic achievements. Our expectation is to include parents in the development and implementation of this program, for the summer of 2004. The program will target middle and high school students. Contact Daryl and Cleo for more information.

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