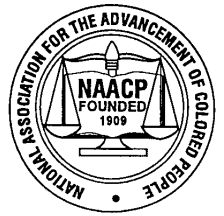


**VANCOUVER BRANCH NAACP # 1139**  
**POST OFFICE BOX 1903, VANCOUVER, WA 98668-1903**  
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**VOLUME 6; ISSUE 1; JANUARY 2006**  
**www.naacpvanc.org**



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

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**



Happy New Year, I am tired, and I know many of you are as well. We have had one very busy year at the Vancouver Branch NAACP, and 2006 is shaping up to be even more busy than 2005. Branch members are just as excited as I.

Before we rush to the future we have to say good bye to two fallen warriors this week. Ms. Clara Cain, a Life Member of the Vancouver Branch, died on December 15, 2005. This was her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Her memorial was held Thursday January 5 at First Presbyterian Church.

Sister Jennie Kemp, Branch member who served on the Education Committee, died December 30, 2006. Her home-going celebration was held Friday, January 6 at First United Methodist.

I feel truly blessed to have known both of these women. They were women of great courage and substance. They will both be sorely missed.

**MEMBERSHIP THE NAACP LIFE BLOOD**

We have an urgent need, and must focus on membership, if we are to remain vital. The life blood of any Branch is its membership. In 2006, building a vibrant membership is our number one priority.

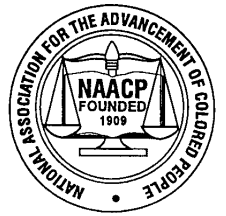
I began this newsletter by saying I was tired. I am, and so are many of our members who are on the frontlines battling for the civil rights of racial minorities. We need your help. Your time and your money are needed if we are to carry on our vital programs such as this newsletter, our NAACP Website, Youth Employment and Rites of Passage Programs.

Again Membership must be the number one priority this year. I am particularly interested in building our membership within the 20 and 30 something crowd. But we need all of you to rekindle your interest in the work of the NAACP.

Look around the community in the coming months and join for the first time, or renew your membership. Joining is easy! Just go to the website and click on membership, or call the hot line and leave us your name and address.

**WE NEED YOU!!**

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**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
COMMUNITY AME ZION CHURCH  
Saturday January 21, 2006  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon  
3605 E 13<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Local artist Belva J. Griffin, will be our guest speaker this month. Ms Griffin will introduce her book Pass It On to our membership. Ms. Griffin's book is sort of an autobiographical recording of not only her life but of her entire family, as they journeyed from Oklahoma.

It's like three books in one, family history, poetry, and also her story. The book includes many of her poems and is a very enjoyable read. Come out and hear this gifted artist share with us from her book Pass It On. We will also have a book signing opportunity, after the meeting.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH RITES  
OF PASSAGE PROGRAM**

In 2005 we completed our second Rites of Passage summer academy for African American Youth. Once again 15 African American students were treated to a four week summer academy.



The four week class included a week of African American History beginning with Blacks in the Bible taught by Rev Marva J Edwards, and History of Blacks in Southwest Washington taught by local historian Pat Jollata.

The second week featured African American Literature and the third week featured Social Responsibility and included visits with medical professionals and a visit to the Clark County Jail led by Asst. County Sheriff Jackie Battise.

The final week of the program featured Environmental and Social Justice Programs. Our host again this year was Clark College with assistance from Washington State University.

**COMMISSION ON AFRICAN  
AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE DAY,  
JANUARY 20, 2006  
OLYMPIA, WA**

**Legislative Hearings**

**House** – Economic Development and Juvenile Justice Committees meet

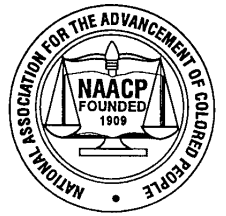
**Senate** –Early Learning, K-12, and Higher Education committees meet

**Issue Workshops:** WASL, Health Care Criminal Justice Disparities, Economic Development, & Criminal Justice

- **Youth Entertainment, State Reception Room, followed by a building tour**
- **Youth Workshop, Leg BLDG RM 112**
- **Elected Officials Forum, Capitol Rotunda**
  
- **Gov. Gregoire 2006 Priorities, Capitol Rotunda**

The Vancouver School District has agreed to have students participate in this program as an

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exercise in governance. We are taking our Rites of Passage Graduates from the Evergreen School District. Youth works leaders are working with students to develop issue statements around the use of the "N" word in school and present them to our local legislators.

**EDITORS NOTE:** Officer Mealing and his attorney asked the NAACP to consider not participating in any Ridgefield activity as they believed that their negotiations were at a critical stage. However, our board decided that the Hate Mail issue is larger than Officer Mealing and that we should offer assistance to our Ridgefield members.

Mayor Gladys Doriot,

On behalf of the Vancouver Branch NAACP let me begin by saying that we have watched and followed the efforts underway in Ridgefield to deal with the situation surrounding the dismissal of Officer Mealing, and the subsequent distribution of hate literature in your community. I want to hasten to add that we are so very proud of the positive actions that you and members of your city council have taken thus far.

Your actions at a very difficult time, sends a powerful message about the City of Ridgefield. It says that the City of Ridgefield will not be a breeding ground for the purveyors of hate, racism, or discrimination. It says that the City of Ridgefield will stand firmly behind the principles of justice, fairness and merit. And finally, and perhaps most important, it says that the City of Ridgefield will take swift actions against those who seek to violate the rights of its employees and its citizens. We at

the Vancouver Branch have heard your message loud and clear.

We are therefore saying so far, so good. We encourage you to stand by the faith of your convictions and carry this case to its just conclusions. Many of our Ridgefield members and friends have asked that we come to the City and join them in a prayer vigil for racial unity and harmony, and perhaps a teach-in on the principles of fairness and equality.

We are considering such a visit during the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr., or Black History Month observances. However, if we are to come, we want to make sure that you are aware that we are only interested in taking a stand for fairness and tolerance.

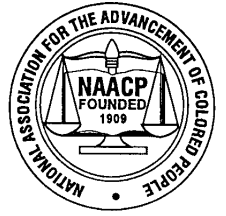
**BLACK HISTORY MONTH BANQUET  
MOVED TO MAY**

We have moved the date for our Banquet fund raiser to May to accommodate the National Office efforts to send us a speaker. We are attempting to secure Dr. John Jackson as our Keynote speaker.

**WINTERFEST SLEDING TRIP  
OLD MAN PASS SNO-PARK  
SKAMANIA COUNTY, WA  
FEBRUARY 18, 2006  
9:00 AM – 5:00 Pm**

The Branch will provide a snow play day for youth age 6 – 17. We will depart from the Gifford Pinchot Forest Headquarters office at 10600 NE 51<sup>st</sup> Circle. We have limited space available and each student attending must have a signed permission slip. Please contact Brenda Simmons, 360-694-1454; Earl W. Ford, 360 891-5105, or Johnie Tucker at 360-696-8558.

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