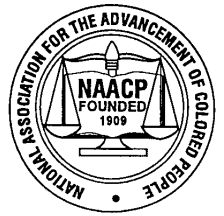


VANCOUVER BRANCH NAACP # 1139
POST OFFICE BOX 1903, VANCOUVER, WA 98668-1903
360 256-6232
VOLUME 6; ISSUE 3; JUNE 2006
www.naacpvanc.org



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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Thanks to all of you for helping to make our Annual Banquet a **big success**. We sold out, grossing over \$12,000 because of your continued belief in the vision and direction of this Branch.

This was our fourth Annual Banquet and the first time that we have had a keynote delivered by a National Office official. Chief Operating Officer Dr. John Jackson served us well with his talk. He told us that we have what we need to address the issues of racial inequities in education and criminal justice.

The speaker was absolutely right. We had City Government, Politicians, Clergy, Educators, Business, Law Enforcement and Activist, we were all there. We have what we need. We just need to combine our efforts in addressing issues which are vital to our community.

Let me once again compliment our **Diversity Leadership Award** recipient, Bernie Foster of the Skanner News Group. We also awarded our first **Val Joshua Lifetime Achievement Award** to Ms Wilma Mae Johnigan a charter member of the Branch. We also conveyed over 20 Academic Achievement awards to graduating seniors

from Evergreen and Vancouver School District.

Finally let me remind you that not everyone participated. Some segments of Clark County governance were visibly absent.

I am also aware that our invitation to Clark County Republicans went unanswered. However, the issues of an inequitable education and criminal justice system transcend political parties. There is truly room at this table for everyone. When we fail to overcome the disparities in education and criminal justice we all pay.

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SCHOOL'S OUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FIRSTENBURG COMMUNITY CENTER**

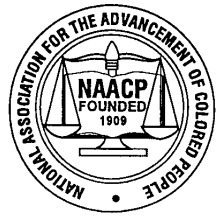
700 NE 136th Ave
Saturday June 24, 2006
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
\$5.00 Donation

Theme: UNDERSTANDING YOUR CREDIT. Caroll Collier has developed this session which deals solely with improving your Credit I.Q.

It is true that African Americans spend huge sums of money. However, because of our lack of knowledge about credit we often do not maximize our buying power.

Speakers are Leev Aamot, Concord Mortgage, Robert Bristol, Bank of America, and Ulf Spears from the Home Ownership Center. Leev will speak at 9:00 and will focus on Credit Scores:

1. What behaviors increase scores?



2. What behaviors decrease scores
3. What has no effect on scores?
4. What is critical and what is not?

At 10:00 we have asked Mr. Bristol and Mr. Spears to serve on a credit panel.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BECC

BLACK ENTREPRENEURS OF CLARK CO

June 22, 2006 5:30 – 7:30

YWCA Clark County

3609 Main Street

Representatives from Clark County's Human Resources Department will discuss the County's proposed 2006-08 Equal Employment Opportunity Plan. The Plan outlines methods and a commitment to help ensure full and equal participation in the County's workforce. Minorities and particularly African American continue to be under-represented in the workforce.

This is your opportunity to get an overview of the Plan and prepare for participation in a County Forum scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Clark County Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin St. Sixth floor Hearing Room. RSVP Shareefah Abdullah, J.D., 360.604.8583, or email her at: shareefa@hotovations.com.

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.

That was my message in our last newsletter. Since that time national President Bruce Gordon has made membership every Branches priority. During the month of June, President

Gordon has urged each Branch to shoot for the stars buying boosting their membership to 1,000 members. Actually, President presents an interesting strategy that I think we should employ.

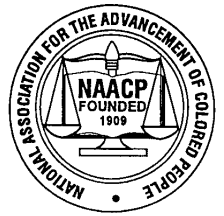
If each of our paid members would sign 10 new members the Vancouver Branch NAACP would exceed the 1,000 member goal.

A Vote of Confidence



Monday, May 22, 2006 was one of my proudest moments as the President of this Branch. Over twenty members of the Branch

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and our youth showed up at Clark College Trustee Board meeting to show a **Vote of Confidence** for Dr. R. Wayne Branch Clark College President.

As I told the group we were not at all informed about the issues between the Faculty and Dr. Branch. What we knew about and wanted to address was Dr. Branch's tremendous efforts to open the doors of the College to the Community. What we knew about was the addition of three well qualified African American men and women to

Directorial positions at Clark. We knew about Dr. Branch's partnership opportunities with the Vancouver Branch which allowed our Rites of Passage Summer Academy to take place on the Clark College Campus. Clark College has also hosted our NAACP Annual Banquet for the past two years.



What we also knew was that employment and partnership opportunities were non-existent at Clark for this Branch. Your participation in this event was your chance to let your voice be heard. Our presence, regardless, of the outcome was loud and clear.

AFRICAN AMERICAN YOUTH RITES OF PASSAGE PROGRAM

We are now accepting applications for the 2006 Rites of Passage (ROP). This is the third year of the program and we will once again be hosted by Clark College and the final week of the program will be held at WSU Vancouver.

The ROP is an intense four-week program designed to address the academic, cultural, career, and social needs of middle and high school students in Clark County. This academy is crafted in a cultural framework for the purpose of connecting African American and Multi-racial students of African descent with the history, traditions, literature and folklore of African people in western civilization.

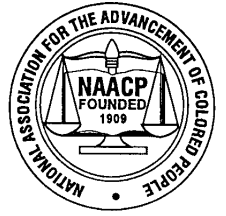
To apply go to our website and www.naacpvanc.org and click on youth programs, or contact Charles Simmons at 360-696-1949, or Reverend Marva J. Edwards at 360-750-1224.

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT

Please help me welcome Cliff Lignons, our new Director of Corporate Development. Cliff has been busy working with Brenda Simmons Director of Youth to prepare a Business Plan for our Youth Employment program.

Also joining Cliff and Brenda is Angela Watkins who will replace Mable Hicks as the Youth Co-Chair.

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VANCOUVER, WA

**WELCOME OUR NEW FINANCIAL
PARTNER: THE BANK OF CLARK
COUNTY**

We are in the process of moving our financial assets from the Bank of America to the Bank of Clark County. I believe in reciprocity. We have been doing business with the Bank of America for over 20 years and they have never spent one red cent with the Branch.

This year Bank of Clark County served as a \$1,000 Corporate Sponsor for our Annual Banquet. We will do business with those who do business with us.

WELCOME STATE FARM INSURANCE

State Farm Insurance Company also joined us this year as a Corporate Sponsor of our annual banquet. Thanks to the work of Frederick Davis, Human Resources Agency Recruiter. Frederick made an effort to out reach to our Branch and it has born fruit. We look forward to a long a fruitful relationship with State Farm.