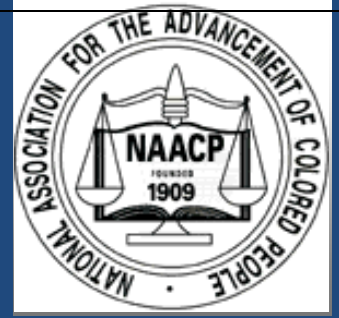


# DECEMBER 9, 2021



[On February 12, 1909 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded by a multiracial group of activists, who answered "The Call," in New York City, NY. They initially called themselves the National Negro Committee.

**FOUNDERS** Ida Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. DuBois, Henry Moscowitz, Mary White Ovington, Oswald Garrison Villiard, and William English Walling led the "Call" to renew the struggle for civil and political liberty.

**NAACP Vision Statement** The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

**NAACP Mission Statement** The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

**The Founding of the Dayton Unit NAACP** In 1914, from the 5th Annual Report of the NAACP: Prospective branches, most of the following are to be chartered in the near future: Albuquerque, NM Columbus, OH New Orleans, LA St. Joseph, MO Atlantic City, NJ Dayton, OH Peoria, IL Toledo, OH Baltimore, MD Des Moines, IA Springfield, IL Cincinnati, OH Jacksonville, IL Springfield, OH

The Dayton Chapter of the NAACP was established on February 9, 1915 at Zion Baptist Church. The Dayton Chapter NAACP was Officially Chartered by the NAACP Board of Directors on May 10, 1915. During that year, the chapter had 75 members. Its primary objective that year was to stop attempt at segregation in Dayton Public Schools. For the year the chapter raised \$96 to further its work.

The First Branch Officers are as follows: James C. Farrow, President; Moses H. Jones, Vice President; William O. Stokes, Secretary; Miss L.M. Troy, Treasurer; Rev. Robert T. James, Chaplain; The First Executive Committee Members are as follows: Charles Price; W. D. Chamberlain; Frederick Rike; Mrs. Charles S. Kumler; E. C. Harley; Rabbi David Lefkowitz; Rev. E. E. Thompson; Mrs. Julia Carnell; Dr. B. A. Rose

Kankakee County Branch NAACP Vision Statement vision is to fulfill the Dream of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by capitalizing on the 2nd "A" of the NAACP, which stands for ADVANCEMENT.

December 9, 2021

TO: Officers and Members of the  
Kankakee County Branch NAACP

FROM: Theodis Pace, President

RE: Annual Report, 2021 Kankakee County, Illinois Branch # 3035



As President of the Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP, it is my pleasure to give the Annual Report here at critical point in the history of our nation. A time when we as a society must choose between two paths' one leading to a renewed goal of togetherness as one united people working together for a better future for all of us; and another path that promotes division and a slide backwards, to a past that emphasizes and promotes intolerance. We are in solid financial shape, and we are full of energy!

However, there are several issues i.e., equality, diversity and inclusion, criminal justice reform, COVID-19, public education, wealth building, economic development, housing and health, that we must address to advance equality here in Kankakee County. It is my hope that this branch will continue to meet the daily challenges of the human and civil rights journey.

Please find attached the 2021 Annual Report.

This report celebrates our progress and highlights increase in membership, voter registration, vaccination clinics, media coverage, and the implementation of various programs and another year of the NAACP Education Scholarship Fund. We truly have served the Kankakee Community well through its continue growing pains on matters of race equality and justice. But this is a county that still needs the NAACP. While much has been accomplished, even more needs to be done.

It is really an honor and a privilege for me to serve as your president and I look forward to our continued progress together. As we move into another year. we will continue to diligently address and work toward the elimination of economic, educational, and social inequities that can rob our county of the ideal for equal opportunity to all its citizens. Remember, our mission is as relevant today as it was in 1909.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As I approach the end of another year as your President of the Kankakee County Branch NAACP, I am pleased to present the 2021 Annual Report. There is much for us to celebrate.



We completed another productive year. Our branch is inspired by our struggle to provide health care, education, affordable housing, access to equal employment opportunity, economic empowerment, criminal justice reform and civil engagement.

One of our major initiative accomplishments was the Kankakee County Community Crisis Response Team (KCCCRT) as its purchase to address incident of civil unrest and events affecting individuals, groups and communities in Kankakee County. The Crisis Response Team (CRT) is committed to reducing crime, strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the community, and building on improving of policing practices. The CRT's goal is to defuse the tensions with individuals and those communities involved in the crisis and publicized arrest, a shooting, a violent crime, a sudden death or suicide or a use of force situation that provokes tension within our community. Many times these goals can be accomplished by disputing specific accounts of the incident after conducting an investigation.

Our Pandemic Health Navigator Grant was an integral part of the branch response to COVID-19. This grant helps in preventing the transmission COVID-19 through education, and outreach to our vulnerable communities, coordinated resources for those infected or exposed. We promoted everyday preventive actions and provided information to break down myths and rumors and identify populations at risk.

Our charge remains constant, we are the county's only social justice organization and we intend to continue on that path until racial equality is won. I believe that when our people have social justice, they won't need social service.

The nation's future depends on the hard work and commitment of the nation's oldest civil rights organization. Our members continue to develop strategies, policies, which are the attainable goals of our branch.

Advocacy is prevalent in our daily mission and it's something we must improve on during the coming year. The need for a continued presence by the Kankakee County Branch NAACP as a civil rights advocate is ever evolving, but clearly evident. As we celebrate today's successes, we continue to prepare for the needs of tomorrow.

I can't emphasize how important it is to vote every single year, even in non-presidential elections as we gear up for the off year election. It is the elections that have the greatest impact on our day to day lives.

Last year's election proved what we already knew the power of the black vote makes all the difference. As we continue to advocate for better, safer and equitable communities, we have to do the work to ensure our elected offices are occupied by those who are committed to upholding those values.

We hope that you will understand that if we work together as one, we can help Kankakee County move down that path of hope, progress and away from the division and bitter criticism that so many seem to embrace.

The verdict in the Kyle Rittenhouse case is a travesty and fails to deliver justice on behalf of those who lost their lives as they peacefully assembled to protest against police brutality and violence. The outcome of this case sets a dangerous precedent. We have seen this same outcome time and time again, a justice system that present different outcomes based on the race of the accused.

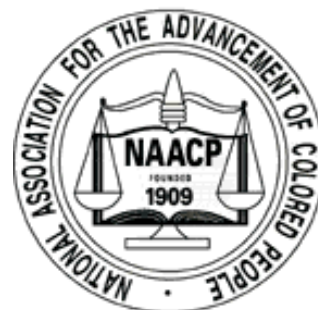
This annual report details our 2021 activities and outlines the branch's plan for the future.

In 2021, our members and other volunteers continue to be the front line, grass roots participants of the human and civil rights movement. For much of 2021 through November, our volunteers engaged in COVID-19 Outreach, Education, civic engagement, voter registration and GOTV.

I am proud of what we've accomplished, but we know there is much more to be done. Therefore, I invite you to join us as we continue our march for Freedom, Equality, and Justice.

Sincerely,

*Theodis Pace, President*  
Kankakee County Branch NAACP



# KANKAKEE COUNTY BRANCH NAACP

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Kankakee County, Illinois Branch  
 657 East Court Street, Suite 205  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1986  
 Kankakee, Illinois 60901-1986  
 Office (815) 932-0858  
 E-Mail: [naacp3035@aol.com](mailto:naacp3035@aol.com)  
 Web site: [www.Kankakeecountybranchnaacp.org](http://www.Kankakeecountybranchnaacp.org)

### POLICY:

Officers, Executive Committee, Chairs/Co-Chairs

President.....	Theodis Pace
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President.....	Stevie J. Hunter
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President.....	Jess C. Gathing
Secretary.....	Paulette Crank
Treasurer.....	Mary Lacy
Elected/Appointed Committee Members.....	14/1
Committee Chairs.....	(12 consisting of Ex. Committee)
Co-Chairs.....	3

### NUMBER OF MEETING HELD IN 2021

General Membership	12
Executive Committee	12
Special Meeting	2

### PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES

	Elected Delegates	Alternates
Quarterly .....	8 .....	0
IL. State .....	3.....	0
National .....	7 .....	0

## 1st Vice President's Report 2021

Some abbreviated NAACP highlights during the last year..

Needless to say, the Covid 19 epidemic had an adverse impact on the assembly of in person meetings in Kankakee County. However, the NAACP had ongoing projects and programming was planned and implemented via technology which enhanced the effectiveness of the projects. The use of Zoom made it possible for meetings and other venues to reach wider audiences and spectators. The NAACP consistently hosted political forums featuring candidates and incumbents for local offices throughout the county namely Kankakee, Bradley, Bourbonnais and Hopkins Park. Diverse panelists brought forth timely questions which generated lively discussions. Additionally the spectators submitted provocative and entertaining subject matters.



The NAACP membership, all volunteers, sponsored and assisted many venues where Covid 19 testing and vaccines related issues were initiated. Their actions were responsible for helping prevent mass exposures of severe Covid 19 related contamination. Members of the branch were heavily responsible for assisting in these heroic efforts along with local organization. NAACP members worked on grants and proposals which were successful in securing employment and services for the greater Kankakee area.

The local branch sponsored and co-sponsored local food drives, health fairs and Back to School events.

The involvement of our youth enhances and empowers them to understand the world they live in. Our efforts to assist young people have been quite beneficial in improving their citizenship and public duty. They have attracted several featured speakers at their events. One of their ongoing projects is to provide needed service to the Ronald McDonald House. Ongoing efforts to improve the relationship with the communities of color and law enforcement have been codified with the adoption of the 10 Shared Principles by various Kankakee County law enforcement agencies and the NAACP. Additionally, a civilian review board proposal was submitted to the past city administration and is being negotiated. Subpoena power is a sticky point. A major accomplishment has been the Kankakee County response team. This group is comprised of many diverse individuals from various sectors of the community who have been trained on law enforcement rules, regulations, strategies, legal and crime intervention matters. This team will be able to assess factors and respond to stakeholders, general public and media outlets on all aspects of a crisis incident.

The Legal Clinic has been a mainstay for decades. It is manned by full licensed attorneys.

The local branch continues to initiate investigations of discrimination and written determinations are rendered. In all instances meetings are held to determine appropriate outcomes.

Our Freedom Fund Banquet featured Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Ezike, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. She gave an inspiring and informative presentation that kept the audience captivated. Her speech was timely in the light of Covid 19 epidemic.

In conclusion, the aforementioned achievements are just a few of the events which the Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP. Our efforts have attempted to improve the overall social, economic and educational environment in our community.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stevie Hunter, 1st Vice President





## **COMMITTEES PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**

### **BUDGET/FINANCE**

Mary Lacy, Chairperson

The 2021 budget was formulated, presented and approved by the Executive Committee and membership, and used as an operating tool. This approach provides fiscal responsibility and keeps in balance the competing commitments of 13 operating committees of the branch.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Kankakee County Branch Executive Committee must re-evaluate its basic approach to furthering the economic advancement of black people in Kankakee County. By partnering with the Kankakee County Minister Alliance, we hope to address economic development in Kankakee because a new strategy is necessary. The committee must launch a fair share program to ensure the reinvestment of African American consumer dollars back into the community in the form of jobs and business opportunities. The principle objective of this approach is to promote the growth of entrepreneurship amongst African Americans, and to create employment opportunities with private sector companies.

The branch also plans to collaborate with Central Illinois Organizing Project (CIOP). Through a review of local bank disclosure data, the NAACP has discovered that many Kankakee county banks are failing to provide affordable housing loans to working class families. The NAACP will challenge banks to increase their lending to low and moderate income borrowers. These challenges will be made possible due to a law called the Community Reinvestment Act.

NAACP's challenges can be overcome with initial resistance but ultimately resulted in negotiations with each bank. It's our intent to have the three largest banks in Kankakee have individual reinvestment partnerships with the Kankakee County Branch NAACP. These written agreements will outline increased lending goals and targets, increasing affordable lending officers, charitable giving, neighborhood banking services and equalizing origination rates between African Americans and Whites.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

As 2021 draws to a close the Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP Education Committee has witnessed many small but significant victories to note. With a year marked by great transitions and extreme civil unrest, the education committee attempted and enjoyed some success in identifying areas of educational injustice while providing workable solutions to eradicating these same said atrocities.

Moreover, the majority of the attention and resource of the education committee was spent dealing with Kankakee School District 111, calculated attempts to terminate the first African American Superintendent, and a host of other high ranking African American employees. The great tension that was created by clearly defined lines of racial discord was highlighted with many citizens attending school board meetings and voicing their disgust and anger over what has been termed, in local media coverage, to be a witch hunt. Additionally, an impasse was reached and

the United States Department of Justice was called in to mediate between a community coalition headed by the Kankakee Branch of the NAACP and the Kankakee School District School Board and their attorney. After six weeks of impossible negotiations, the sessions turned into meetings where the school board would legislate to the community coalition how the session were going to go, and even at times being so arrogant as to take over chairing the meeting. Consequently, after the fourth meeting it was a consensus that we the community coalition would not return to the table for negotiations and not have our concerns heard and addressed.

What's more the committee dealt with a student in the Momence School District that was up for expulsion, and worked diligently to have a restorative justice agreement reached, however to our surprise and dismay after weeks of constant preliminary work, the district superintendent change the available options, and the student was expelled but offered an alternative education option. The parents immediately sought legal counsel and currently have a lawsuit pending.

Notwithstanding, the committee has developed an introductory data base with the hopes of recruiting African American teachers to work in the Kankakee County School Systems. It goes without saying that many more African American Teachers are needed to help reinforce positive role models and academic achievement in areas where schools districts have not met average yearly progress through traditional procedures.

In summation, the work of the Education Committee has been highlighted with this year's continued commitment to ensuring academic access thereby reinforcing traditional success. It goes without saying that many of our fights must now continue in the courtroom, a place where the NAACP has enjoyed great success.

Educationally yours,  
Arlene Mitchell-Pace  
Education Chair

### **HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

Health is considered a “positive concept “emphasizing social and personal resources as well as physical capacities. This concept leads to idea of health promotion as a process of enabling people to increase control over and improve their health.



During these times of the viral attacks, the Kankakee NAACP Health Committee urges you to practice safety. Although our community activities were limited due to CoVid -19, the NAACP Health Committee participated in the Relay for Life Cancer Walk, multiple vaccine clinics and the Pandemic Health Navigator Program.

We will continue to support our local agencies to better enhance the “Health and Lives” in our community.

Thank you Health Community for your continual commitment and support.

Submitted,  
Health Chair  
Mary Lacy

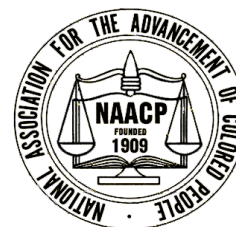
### **HOUSING COMMITTEE:**

The committees function is to provide oversight to protect tenants from eviction and fines; to restore utilities services; to refund rental deposits; to provide a visible deterrent to the growing arrogance of landlords more overt in their race discrimination; and review potential legislation considered that might prohibit retaliation on the basis of race in public accommodations (housing); for civil rights violations arising from complaints in public accommodations.

Additionally, the committee is in the process of addressing issues of banking institutions and their poor lending practices i.e., home improvement and equity loans to blacks and other minorities.

### **LABOR & INDUSTRY:**

During 2021, the Labor and Industry Committee continue to improve economic status of minority groups by addressing discriminatory employment practices in industry and government, unequal opportunities for training and promotion, unfair dismissals, encourage participation in the trade union movement and worked for improved opportunities in vocational and apprenticeship training. Also, we will continue to support job fairs to provide employment opportunities for the Kankakee Community.



Also, the committee was instrumental in informing members and the community of various employment opportunities within Kankakee County and has succeeded in finding employment.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Eloise Edwards, Chairperson

Membership Is Power!!! The Membership Committee of this branch continues to encourage joining through all branch ventures, Freedom Fund Dinner and many community events. The membership committee placed ads in community organization program booklets and attended local government and committees meeting to boost membership.

The committee's success continues to set the fiscal foundation for the executive committee, its ten (10) committees and to fund all programs and projects.

### **2021 Legal Redress/Criminal Justice Committee**

Submitted by: Chairperson Cathy Meltzer

The Legal Redress/Criminal Justice Committee of the Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP is made up of seven members of our unit in addition to a local attorney who volunteers his time. The committee meets the first Wednesday of

each month to review and discuss all complaints received and determine a resolution.

All complaints must be submitted in writing. Our complaint form has been made available and can be downloaded from our website. The process for filing a complaint is also available on our website.

The Kankakee County branch also offers a free Legal Clinic when needed. The legal clinic provides free, limited legal advice and referrals to area residents who might otherwise have no access to the legal system. The clinic is available to all residents. Individuals are seen on a first come, first served basis. We are pleased to have local attorneys volunteer their services.

### DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

The committee received and investigated seventeen (17) complaints alleging discrimination in various areas, such as employment, education and retail. In most cases, the complaints were resolved after contacting the complained of entity and inquiry by the Branch. No discrimination complaint warranted a litigation request to the national office. Most complaints were resolved with minimal investigation.

### LEGAL CLINIC

We were pleased to have local attorneys volunteer their services to assist individuals with complaints regarding, primarily, housing, education, employment, and expungement of criminal records.

## **NAACP Political Action Team Kankakee Branch Annual Report 2021**

Charlene Eads



This past year the NAACP Political Action Team of the Kankakee County Chapter participated in candidate's forums, community events/ voter registration drive, and score cards which included scoring the grades of local elected officials on how they vote regarding matters pertaining to the NAACP principles.

**Candidate Forums:** Candidates Forums were hosted by the Political Action Team of the NAACP for the following races: Kankakee Mayoral race, Kankakee Aldermanic race, Kankakee City Clerk, Kankakee School District 111 School Board race, Village of Bradley President/Mayoral race, Bourbonnais Elementary School Board race, Pembroke Township Supervisor race and Pembroke Trustee race.

The Candidates Forums were held on the following dates: March 16th, 2021 from 6pm-7:15pm: Village of Bradley President/Mayoral forum be held at Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School auditorium located at 700 W North St Bradley, IL 60915

March 17th, 2021 from 6pm-8pm: Bourbonnais Elementary School Board forum held at Liberty School located at 1690 Career Center Rd Bourbonnais, IL 60914

March 18th, 2021 from 5:30pm-8pm: Kankakee Mayoral and Kankakee Aldermanic forum held at Kankakee Public Library located at 201 E Merchant St Kankakee, IL 60901

March 23rd, 2021 from 5:30pm-8:15pm: Kankakee School District 111 School Board and Kankakee City Clerk forum held at Kankakee Public Library located at 201 E Merchant St Kankakee, IL 60901

March 25th, 2021: Pembroke candidate's forum for Township Supervisor and Township Trustee held in Pembroke Township.

**Community Events/Voter Registration Drive:** The PAC team also participated in community events such as Vaccine drives and Voter Registration drives at our local Farmer's Market on Schuyler Avenue and at Sun River Terrace for a Covid 19 Vaccine drive and voter registration drive. The PAC team also participated at Ms. Cherry Malone's Back to School Event at the Martin Luther King Park in Kankakee on September 18th 2021 and hosted a voter registration drive at that event.

**Score Cards:** The PAC team met on 9/8/21, 9/29/21, 10/6/21, and 10/20/21 to work on reviewing the meeting agendas for the County Board meetings, the Village of Bradley Board meeting and Bourbonnais Board Meetings, The City of Kankakee Meetings, and Pembroke Township agendas. During these meetings the PAC team agreed to score officials for the Village of Bradley on how they voted on a recreational Marijuana Dispensary being introduced to the Village. All Boarded members got a plus grade on their vote.

This upcoming year the PAC team of the Kankakee Branch plans on continuing with voter registration drives, participating in community events, hosting candidates forums for this upcoming elections and grading officials on their votes pertaining to the NAACP mission statements.

### **2021 NAACP YOUTH COUNCIL**

Carole Franke, Advisor

The Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP believes strongly that future leaders must be developed today, and such development must be ongoing in our effort to help our youth council succeed.

The Kankakee Branch NAACP Youth Council objectives are to inspire, motivate and create interest in civic activities; provide young people with an understanding of pertinent issues; develop organizational skills for implementation of community related activities; and encourage our youth to participate in these activities. Even with COVID-19, the NAACP Youth Council had another very productive and positive year in 2021. The Youth were very active in participating in local community events and raising youth interest in the NAACP.

#### **2021 NAACP Youth Council highlights include:**

- The youth continue to collect Aluminum Soda tabs for **Ronald McDonald House**. Thank you to the Adult Branch for your assistance.
- Youth collected plastic bottle caps to assist Kankakee School District 111 Green Team project.



- **Congratulations to the 2021 recipients** of the NAACP Kankakee County Branch Scholarship awards:  
Micah Thomas, President  
Jazmine Watson, 1st Vice-President  
Marlesia Walker, Secretary  
Victoria Jones, Assistant Secretary  
Jalen Maddox, Assistant Treasurer
- Vice- President Steven Hunter presented NAACP scholarship certifications on May 19, 2021 at Kankakee High School Awards Night to:  
Jalen Maddox - Governors State University  
Micah Thomas- Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia  
Marlesia Walker- Lenoir-Rhyne University, North Carolina  
Jazmine Watson: - Howard University, Washington, DC

Thank you to President Pace for presenting the \$500 NAACP scholarships on August 4 at Kankakee Public Library to our Five 2021 Graduate Youth Council members:

Micah Thomas, President - Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia  
Jazmine Watson, 1st Vice-President - Howard University, Washington, DC  
Marlesia Walker, Secretary – Lenoir-Rhyne University, North Carolina  
Victoria Jones, Assistant Secretary- Tennessee State University  
Jalen Maddox, Assistant Treasurer- Governors State University  
Not pictured Marlesia Walker

- The Youth Council participated in Open-Mindedness, End the Stigma, and Youth Mental Health and Wellness Fest on May 15, 2021 at the Farmer's Market.
- Youth Council members and Youth Advisor participated virtually in the NAACP National Convention
- Trent Wills, Past President, was congratulated on being selected as the President of his sophomore class at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff.
- Youth purchased pajamas for Fortitude Community Outreach Homeless program
- The youth are planning a Youth Summit in collaboration with the Kankakee County State's Attorney Advisory Council for spring 2022.

**A Bit of History** is part of the Agenda of every Youth Council meeting.

The Kankakee County Branch NAACP Youth Council meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Kankakee Public Library (or virtually per COVID-19 mitigation).

The Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. (or virtually per COVID-19 mitigation) at the Kankakee Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Carole Franke, Jan Gathing and Angela Jones, Youth Advisors*



**OTHER: Administrative Activities**

The branch continues to move forward technologically with our Facebook, Twitter, and our Website at [www.kankakeecountybranchnaacp.org](http://www.kankakeecountybranchnaacp.org).

The orientation and strategic planning meeting was a great beginning for the work that needed to be done for 2021. The Strategic Areas included Civil Rights, Membership Planning, Youth, Health, Education, and economic. Out of the all day retreat attendees decided that the Kankakee Community was ailing and needed the guidance of the NAACP in many areas which included predatory lending, housing, political leadership, innovative programming for computer technology, and education.

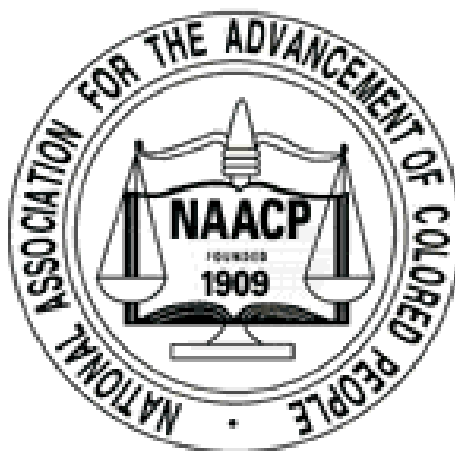
Monthly reports are submitted at each branch meeting, outlining the meetings and speaking engagements attended by the President. The branch operates an office which makes it possible for citizens needing our assistance to come and file complaints and receive pertinent information. It also has accommodated the Executive Committee, branch members and all active committees.

State, Regional and National Conferences: The branch consistently supports Illinois State Conference, Region III and the National Conventions with delegations.

**Training & Development:**

Various members of the leadership team of the Dayton Unit NAACP participated in the following training sessions:

1. NAACP Annual Meeting
2. NAACP National Board Meeting
3. Illinois Conference NAACP Quarterly Trainings
4. NAACP 112th Annual Convention
5. Illinois Conference NAACP 84th Annual State Convention
6. Kankakee County Branch NAACP Annual Meeting





## **FREEDOM FUND BANQUET 2021**

Paulette Crank, Chair

Once again, a successful and profitable Freedom Fund Banquet was held on October 30, 2021 at Quality Inn and Suites.

We had the honor to have as our guest speaker Dr. Ngozi Ezike, MD Director Illinois Department of Public Health. The first Black woman appointed to lead the 143-year old state agency. Dr. Ezike is a board-certified internist and pediatrician who previously worked for Cook County Health (CCH).

