

# Kankakee County Branch NAACP

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**JOIN US FOR A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

at Pioneer Park  
693 N Hobbie Ave, Kankakee, IL 60901  
Saturday June 18th at  
For A Health Seminar and  
Food and PPE Giveaway

First 50 People will receive \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Food voucher  
To Shop At Meijers In Bradley

In Partnership with  
and

BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE NEGRO

**NAACP Kankakee County**  
in Partnerships with KCCSI

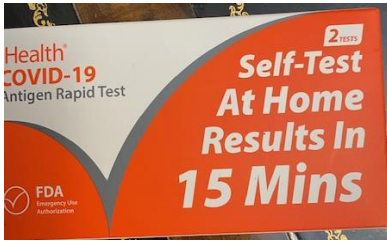
Invite You to  
**HEALTH SEMINAR AND  
FOOD GIVEAWAY**

'THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU EAT,  
RETHINK YOUR DRINK

June 25, 2022  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

AT KCCSI  
637 E. COURT STREET

THE FIRST 50 PEOPLE WILL  
RECEIVE A \$ \_\_\_\_\_ FOOD VOUCHER  
TO SHOP AT MEIJER IN BRADLEY



**Adoption of Ten Shared Principles**  
Commissioner Donna Miller

March 23, 2022

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2022, the NAACP Illinois State Conference and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police agreed to Ten Shared Principles designed to build trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the two member organizations viewed the mutual affirmation to work together and stand together as one collaboration and as the best way to improve the lives of our citizens and to restore trust with mutual trust, wherever, whenever, and however we can; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois law enforcement agencies, businesses, and organizations have been adopting the Ten Shared Principles;

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kankakee County Commission/Donna Miller also adopts these Ten Shared Principles because she believes in building positive police collaboration and also works tirelessly for the safety and well-being of the communities in her district.

**These are the Ten Shared Principles:**

1. We value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value.
2. All persons should be treated with dignity and respect. This is a universal foundational value.
3. We strive for transparency toward any person that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, nationality, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
4. We make the use of force a last resort in the report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The first pillar is to build and rebuild trust through increased clarity, transparency, accountability and honest recognition of past and present mistakes.
5. We embrace the four pillars of procedural justice, which are fairness, voice (i.e., an opportunity for citizens and police to be heard), respect, and transparency.
6. We outline the value inherent in community policing, which involves community partnerships involving law enforcement, engagement of local citizens with consistent review of interaction specific to neighborhood of focus, and problem-solving and collaboration. Use one-sided, top-down, and command-and-control approaches are discouraged.
7. We believe that developing strong ongoing relationships between law enforcement and communities of color as the underlying goal and work must be the focus in developing and maintaining trust.
8. We believe that law enforcement and community leaders have a mutual responsibility to encourage all citizens to give a better understanding and knowledge of the use of force from their interactions with law enforcement officers.
9. We support integrity in police departments and in the law enforcement profession. Law enforcement and communities have a mutual responsibility and should work together to create a community that is diverse, diverse prior to deployment.
10. The Illinois State Conference and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police have agreed to create a joint task force to develop a model for law enforcement to follow in order to build trust. We believe using a task force to follow a model for building trust is the best way to build trust. We believe using a task force to follow a model for building trust is the best way to build trust.

Donna Miller, President  
Kankakee County Commission

Donna Miller, County Board  
Commissioner, 1st District

Michael R. Davis III, President  
Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police



Why **JOIN** the NAACP?



The NAACP has been leading the fight for freedom for more than 100 years. The Association ensures the political, educational, social, and economic equality of people of color by holding the government and corporate America accountable. Your membership is invaluable to the continued existence of NAACP advocacy initiatives, outreach programs and litigation efforts.

### Who can **BE A MEMBER** of the NAACP?

Anyone who supports the mission of the NAACP, irrespective of race, religion, political affiliation, or ideology, can become a member of the Association. Members can affiliate with the local youth, college, or adult Unit in their area.

### How do I **GET INVOLVED**?

Headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, the NAACP has seven regional offices and approximately 2,200 Units across the country, including Branch 3035 right here in Kankakee County. Each Unit consists of volunteers who advance the Association's civil rights agenda through several programs and initiatives. Join the fight for freedom today! Although we've made great progress toward equality since the founding of our organization, we must still struggle on to achieve a truly just society that is free of racial discrimination. When you become a member of the NAACP, you'll be part of the leading civil rights organization in our nation and our community.

[Click here to download the official membership application form](#), and return it to our office at 657 E. Court Street, Suite 205. Or you can simply drop by the office and we'll help sign you up.

If you would prefer to join online, you can do that on the [NAACP National Website](#).

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, 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.

December 15, 2022

TO: Officers and Members of the  
Kankakee County Branch NAACP

FROM: Theodis Pace, President

RE: Annual Report, 2022 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 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. The report outlines the organization's achievements in the areas of voting and representation, community health and education, criminal justice, economic equality, and legal advocacy.

Please find attached the 2022 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

President's Annual Report Theodis Pace, Kankakee County Branch NAACP January - December 2022 "The people had a mind to work." – Nehemiah 4:6

For the past year, I have had the privilege of serving as President of the Kankakee County Branch NAACP. Although this is the President's Annual Report, I want to take this opportunity to highlight some of the achievements of the Kankakee County Branch as a whole. The scripture verse above declares, "the people had a mind to work." I believe the only reason we have been able to accomplish great things and surprise our detractors is because dedicated individuals devoted their time, their talent, and their treasure (money) to the work of the NAACP. In the past year, our membership has grown more than thirty percent; and we have continued to investigate the many complaints of discrimination that have come to our Branch. Our State Conference embarked upon a voter registration campaign with the theme, #BlackVotesCount, and we joined this effort to register voters in churches, schools, parking lots, movie theatres, and any other place we could find unregistered voters. We prevailed in having School Districts use restorative practices and school-based conflict instead of having them tried in the criminal justice system. As a result of our intervention and strategic partnering with other community and civil rights organizations, one student was able to complete his high school education in the last academic year, and another student is on track to complete his high school education this academic year.

As president, we took the unprecedented step of hosting meetings for the mayors and chief law enforcement officers in our jurisdiction. Our objective was to continue to build relationships with these officials so that we might have a positive basis for working through crisis events when they arise in our communities. We were pleased by the response of these officials who were eager to accept our invitation. Our Kankakee County Branch NAACP Annual Gala was the most successful of the past eleven years. In addition to surpassing our attendance goal, the sponsorships we secured will allow us to provide additional programs for our constituent communities. We accomplished this because the people had a mind to work. We have made these financial gains because the people had a mind to work.

We realized these accomplishments in the areas of Free legal Clinic, Economic Development, Education, Legal Redress, Criminal Justice, Climate and Environmental Justice, Housing, voter registration, increased memberships, Freedom Fund Dinner attendance fund raising, advocating for the civil rights of complainants, and increasing the funds with which we have to work because you, the people of the Kankakee County Branch NAACP, had a mind to work. Thank you for whatever role you played in the work of the Kankakee County Branch to eliminate racial prejudice and to advocate for the civil rights of all people.



An organization founded 113 years ago by black and white citizens, both sharing a mutual concern for how America ultimately would embrace the social concept of race. The NAACP organized and mobilized new civic leaders in neighborhoods across the country. We registered voters who stayed home in 2020. We got voters to the polls in numbers many thought not possible, showing the extraordinary power of the Black voter i.e., phone banking, robocalls, etc . Our branch Empowerment Programs members and volunteers know none of this would have been possible without supporters like you your generosity fueled every part of our efforts. We have endured hours-long lines at polling places, braved voter suppression, voter intimidation, overcame all the unscrupulous and contemptible tactics designed to silence us, and with each click of the voting machine or mark of the pen, we proclaimed one united message: We will be heard. This branch will continue its mission to dismantle racial hierarchal thinking and forges Kankakee County communities toward a realization that colored people come in all colors.

We're proud of what we've accomplished with the Ten Shared Principles, and the Kankakee County Community Crisis Response Team efforts this year. Through continued help from our members, supporters, and the re-enlistment of many allies to our cause who have perhaps fallen asleep and being willing only to speak truth while claiming no easy victories, the Kankakee NAACP looks forward to pressing onward and upward in 2023.

Yours,

Theodis Pace, President  
Kankakee County Branch NAACP



## KANKAKEE COUNTY BRANCH NAACP

### 2022 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
Asst. Secretary.....	Cathy Meltzer
Treasurer.....	Mary Lacy
Elected/Appointed Committee Members.....	13
Committee Chairs.....	(12 consisting of Ex. Committee)
Co-Chairs.....	1

**NUMBER OF MEETING HELD IN 2022**

General Membership	12
Executive Committee	12
Special Meeting	2

**PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES**

	Elected Delegates
Quarterly. ....	3
IL. State .....	3
National .....	2



## 1st Vice President's Report 2022

As the year of 2022 rounds to a close my duties as 1st Vice President consisted of many meetings, panels, speeches, and presentations. It has been a year filled with great pride in the opportunity to represent the community, and yet some frustration in knowing that on some occasions our organization was out maneuvered. With the support of the executive committee, I was able to represent the Kankakee Branch of the NAACP at this year's State Conference. I presented on the importance of service learning in the traditional academic environment.

Furthermore, this year has afforded me the opportunity to work with many elected officials, local boards, and community leaders. By developing working relationships with these same said individuals, it has further placed the organization at the forefront of new development and community concerns. What's more it now serves as a great example of our work at the NAACP that we are invited to private meetings and local negotiations where all citizens can benefit by our presence.

Apart from the tradition duties, it has been a great delight to be invited to speak at many local and state events representing the NAACP and our storied history. I often have found that our message resonates beyond the words of my speeches and continues to echo on the moral fabricate that binds this great nation, and our very needy community. In speaking about the NAACP before and after Black History Month serves as a reminder that the work is necessary and each opportunity of speaking becomes an informal recruiting mechanism.

Additionally, with the future task of developing a community strategic plan I am further encouraged and reminded of the many nameless and faceless civil rights activist that have worked tirelessly without recognition, and it is for them and many others that our work must intensify and increase. With so many monumental achievements, we must not rest on victory, but rest only to worker harder, stronger, and longer to ensure that social, economic, political, and cultural justice is the normal occurrence and not the standard of achievement.

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege to serve all citizens and I indeed look forward to working harder next year. It is with a renewed sense of duty and commitment that I continue fighting for justice until the days of equality become an afterthought and not the burdens of the day.

Stevie Hunter



### **ACT-SO: Looking Forward to 2023**

The Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a major youth initiative of the NAACP, which culminates at the National Convention. The mission of ACT-SO is to prepare, recognize and reward African American youth who exemplify scholastic and artistic excellence.

Participants compete in different categories, including architecture, physics, music composition, dance and entrepreneurship. The year long program culminates at the national competition where winners earn as much as \$2,500, computers, college scholarship, internships and a chance to be named a presidential scholar. It's our hope to have students in the Kankakee community participate in ACT-SO.

### **BUDGET/FINANCE:** Mary Lacy, Chairperson

The 2022 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's here 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 principal objective of this approach is to promote the growth of entrepreneurship amongst African Americans, and to create employment opportunities with private sector companies.

The Economic Development Committee implements local efforts and supports national programs that preserve and expand economic empowerment among minorities. The members promote business and home ownership, employment, and job creation. 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**

The Education Committee works to eliminate segregation and other discriminatory practices in public education. Members focus on educational conditions affecting minorities including dropout rates, school funding, attendance, parental involvement, standardized testing, and teacher certification. What's more the committee dealt with a student in 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

**Meeting Date & Time:** 1st Thursday 6:00pm

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

The Environmental and Climate Justice Committee raises awareness of environmental issues, climate change and energy reform policies, and the linkages between environmental quality and social justice. The members are active in the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER), a collaborative made up of nonprofit organizations who have committed to working together to advance an 8-point plan.

**Chair:** Jacqueline Smith

**Meeting Date & Time:** Meeting times vary according to the Environmental Climate activity schedule.



## FREEDOM FUND GALA 2022 Paulette Crank, Chair



Once again, a successful and profitable Freedom Fund Banquet was held on October 22, 2022. The event was held at Quality Inn and Suites and the theme was “Protecting Our Democracy”. An outstanding job was done by Judge Marlowe Jones who served as the Master of Ceremony.

Our guest speaker Dr. Karen Freeman Wilson

President and CEO of the Chicago Urban League. Her message on the importance of freedom, equality and democracy was very inspiring and a reminder that the threat to democracy is alive and that we need to hit reset and keep on fighting.

Five members received their Silver Life plaque, Tyler Tall and Mark Jones receiver Community Service awards and Carole Franke and Steve Bertrand received the President’s Award.

Thank you to member Tina Powell for again bringing us the entertainment of the 360 Photobooth, thank you to the Chapman Quartet for providing the music for the evening, both of our photographers Lionel Thomas and Mrs. Verrett and Anthony for his professionalism with all his audio-visual expertise. It was truly an amazing evening.

### **FREEDOM FUND COMMITTEE**

The Freedom Fund Committee (FFC) is the fundraising arm for the NAACP Kankakee Branch. The Annual Freedom Fund Advocacy and Awards Dinner (FFAAD) is the primary fundraiser for the branch. The FFAAD is traditionally held on the 4th Saturday of October. Proceeds from the event support the branch operations and advocacy programming for the branch. The FFC also assists the unit with securing funds for special advocacy projects and the capital improvement fund for the branch headquarters.

**Chair:** Paulette Crank

**Meeting Date & Time:** Varies according to Freedom Fund activity schedule.

### **COMMUNITY COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

The Committee on Community Coordination enlists the support of other community organizations on issues affecting the interests of minority groups and the NAACP Houston Branch to increase membership and volunteer recruitment, build coalitions around common goals, and increase Freedom Fund sponsorship of and attendance.



## **HEALTH COMMITTEE:**

Mary Lacy, Chair  
Annual Health Report

The WHO (The World Organization) define health as a “state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Health is the first liberties and wealth. The preservation of health is a duty. It is also essential for living.

Wellness is a choice to assume responsibility for the quality of life. It begins with a conscious decision to shape a healthy lifestyle. Wellness is a mindset, a predisposition to adopt a series of key principles in varied life areas that lead to high levels of well-being and life satisfaction.

Wellness is not one thing: it’s all things connected. Also involves the spiritual, the body, the mind, and the concept dimensions.

The Kankakee N.A.A.C.P. Health Committee will continue to meet the physical, mental, and social well-being if all people. We are the voice for advocating Health and Wellness.



In 2022 we participated in following events:

- \*Community Health Care Worker, \*Multiple Vaccine Clinics
- \* Relay for Life (June 11) \*Hippocrates Health Fair (July)
- \* NAACP Annual Health Fair (September 24) Consisting of Kidney and Diabetic Screening, provided by The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, Sponsored by Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of Illinois.
- \* Turkey give-away (November 22)

The Health Committee is concerned with access to health care, health education, treatment and research, and sponsors health fairs and workshops highlighting important health issues for minorities.

**Meeting Date & Time:** Varies according to Health activity schedule.

## **HOUSING COMMITTEE:**

The committee’s 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 based on 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. The Housing Committee studies housing conditions and new financing methods to promote home ownership. The members oppose all restrictive practices whether public or private and refer complaints of housing discrimination.



## **KANKAKEE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESPONSE TEAM KCCCRT**

### **ABOUT US**

To respond to incidents of civil unrest and to events affecting individuals, groups, and communities in Kankakee County.

1. The Crisis Response Team is committed to:
  - a. Reducing crime
  - b. Strengthening relationship between law enforcement and the community
  - c. Building on improving policing practices

**OUR MISSION** – We work to understand the reality of an event and diffuse post incident tension through diversity and transparency with effective communication and community awareness.

**GOALS** - defuse tensions in community during time of crisis. Listen and promote understanding. Foster resolution-based responses to community crisis. Implement solutions.

### **Our Journey**

1. 5 Law Enforcement trainings for the Response Team members and community.
2. 31 Active Crisis Response Team Members.
3. One incident of deployment of team members following a triple murder.
4. On-going trainings of the Response Team members for mental health, diversity & inclusion, viewing live body cam video from other law enforcement incidents.
5. Community Outreach and recruitment activities continuing.



## LABOR & INDUSTRY

During 2022, 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 host our annual job fair 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.

The Labor & Industry Committee works to eliminate discriminatory employment practices in industry and government, wage differentials based on race, unequal opportunities for training and promotion, discriminatory practices in labor unions, and unfair dismissals.

Legal Redress/Criminal Justice Committee

Annual Report 2022

Submitted by: Chairperson Cathy Meltzer

The Legal Redress/Criminal Justice Committee of the Kankakee County Branch of the NAACP is made up of five 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 only seven (7) complaints alleging discrimination in various areas, such as employment, education, and housing. 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.



The Legal Redress Committee on Legal Redress investigates all cases reported to the NAACP Kankakee Branch, supervise all litigation in which the Branch is involved, and keeps the National NAACP and Branch informed on the progress of every case.

The Committee on Criminal Justice raises awareness about the inequities in the criminal and juvenile justice systems as well as some of the public misconceptions about the impact of recent “get tough” criminal policies on crime rate trends. Member work to increase minority participation in the Grand Jury system.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Mrs. Eloise Edwards, Chairperson

Membership Is Power!!! The Membership Committee of this branch continues to encourage joining through all branch ventures: Freedom Fund Gala and many community events. The membership committee placed membership ads in community base organizations 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 for the past calendar year.

The Membership & Life Membership Committee works to increase membership by organizing campaigns, soliciting new members and renewals, and encouraging life memberships.

**POLITICAL ACTION:** Charlene Eads

The committee was active on three levels: local, State, and National.

Members of the committee attended public hearing at the local level on legislation and organized meetings between board of education and other local government officials.

Our man in Washington, Hillary Shelton, releases NAACP “Action Alert” regularly regarding pertinent issues on a nationally level. The political action committee ensures that information gets to the membership.

The Political Action Committee continues to host candidate’s forums, for local elections and we are very proud of our voter registration and GOTV efforts.

The Political Action Committee focuses on voter registration and election turnout as well as legislation designed to improve the educational, political, and economic status of minority groups.

Members monitor proposed legislation and seeks the repeal of racially discriminatory laws. The Committee is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates for public office.



## 2022 Annual Report: Kankakee County Branch NAACP YOUTH COUNCIL



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.

### **2022 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.
- **Congratulations to the 2022 recipients** of the NAACP Kankakee County Branch Scholarship awards:
  1. Sydney Ramsey, Vice-President - Tennessee State University
  2. Jalen Townsend, Treasurer- Tennessee State University
- Youth Council members served as ushers at the Annual Freedom Fund Banquet on October 22, 2022.
- Youth Council Advisor Carole
- 
- Franke is retiring as Advisor at the end of 2022 (serving for over 25 years) and was recognized with the President's Award at the Annual Freedom Fund Banquet. Angela Jones is now the lead Youth Council Advisor.
- 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 2023.



The Youth Works Committee collaborates with the national NAACP to recognize exemplary youth in 9th-12th grade, develop programs and activities consistent with the Association's policies and mission for youth groups

The Young Adult Committee works with the Membership Committee to solicit memberships of individuals 21-40 years of age and maintain a mentorship program that is a support bridge from youth and college to NAACP Houston Branch participation. Also provide networking and social opportunities for young adults.

**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).

## NAACP Advocacy Priorities 21st Century Game



### **GAME CHANGER #1: HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES**

The Kankakee County NAACP is committed to improving the health and well-being of African American families and people of color. It is also committed to eliminating the racial and ethnic disparities in our health system that plague people of color. In addition, the NAACP is engaged in the workforce development movement to increase the number of minorities represented in the medical and public health profession.

The NAACP focuses not only on disease prevention but on the social and environmental factors that affect health and wellness. African Americans still have the highest incidence, prevalence, and mortality rates from chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity. Issues like HIV and infant mortality have continued to overwhelm the Black community. Systematic imbalances in the health care delivery system disproportionately affect African Americans and Latinos more than their White counterparts.

### **GAME CHANGER #2: ECONOMIC STABILITY**

The Kankakee County NAACP recognizes the importance of the economy and economic issues in advancing an equal opportunity society and aims to address the challenging economic realities facing the Kankakee community (e.g., disproportionate high employment, poverty, and foreclosures). The Kankakee County NAACP works to enhance the capacity of African Americans and other underserved groups through financial economic education, promoting diversity and inclusion in business hiring, career advancement and procurement, monitoring financial banking practices and promoting community economic development. Every person should have equal opportunity to achieve economic success, sustainability, and financial security.

### **GAME CHANGER #3: PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

The Kankakee County NAACP will fight to end disproportionate incarceration, racially motivated policing strategies, and racially biased, discriminatory, and mandatory minimum sentence.

The Kankakee County NAACP will collaborate with Public Safety agencies, associations, and organizations to help increase minority numbers in hiring, retention, and leadership positions within Public Safety agencies.

The Kankakee County NAACP will also partner with and seek involvement (e.g., volunteer recruitment, disaster response and preparedness) with entities such as the American Red Cross and others.

### **GAME CHANGER #4: PRESERVING CLIMATE CONTROL**

Global climate change has a disproportionate impact on communities of color in the United States and the world. The Kankakee County NAACP's Climate Justice Initiative was created to educate and mobilize the community to address the impact of climate change on our community as well as opportunities for leadership in a new green economy.

The NAACP will advance an advocacy agenda that promotes policies on issues such as clean energy, transportation, equality, food justice, equity in urban/rural development, economic empowerment/green economy, education justice, disaster planning and housing justice.

### **GAME CHANGER #5: VOTING RIGHTS AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATION**

The Kankakee County NAACP's will work to assure that all citizens have a free, open, equal, and protected access to the vote and fair representation at all levels of the political process. By protecting democracy, enhancing equity, and increasing democratic participation and civic engagements, minority Americans will be proportionately elected to political office. The Kankakee County NAACP conducts voter registration mobilization to increase the responsiveness of African Americans to be fully engaged in the democratic process.





### **GAME CHANGER #6: PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

The Kankakee County NAACP believes that future leaders must be developed today, and such development is on-going in the Youth & College Division. The Kankakee County NAACP continues to coordinate mentoring programs to serve as a support bridge from Youth and College to Branch participation and to provide networking and social opportunities for young adults. Like generations before them, young people continue to be a driving force for change in our country.

### **GAME CHANGER #7: PROMOTING EQUALITY IN EDUCATION**

The Kankakee County NAACP's Education Program strives to ensure that all students have access to a free, high quality, equitably funded, public pre-k and k-12 education followed by diverse opportunities for accessible, affordable vocational or university education.

## **Communications, Press & Publicity**

### Twitter MONTH IMPRESSIONS

January 2021	1,200
February 2021	700
March 2021	1,000
April 2021	1,300
May 2021	1,100
June 2021	850
July 2021	700
August 2021	1,000
September 2021	778
October 2021	1,500
November 2021	400
December 2021	820

TOTAL: 11,348

### **Facebook**

2,870 Liked our page, 1,054 people Follow our page, 92 Posts 3,800 Reach 832 Likes/Reactions 173 Comments  
1,772 Link Clicks 162 Post Shares Page Reach 6,456 Visits 1,932 New Page Likes 12,625  
(Tina Davis-Powell, Communications, Press and Publicity Committee Chair)

The Communications Press & Publicity Committee works to eliminate employment segregation and discrimination in the media industry. The members monitor local and national media including advertising and promote the NAACP Kankakee Branch to gain favorable publicity in local newspapers, television, and other media.



**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 were a great beginning for the work that needed to be done for 2022. 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 Kankakee County NAACP participated in the following training sessions:

1. Illinois Conference NAACP Quarterly Meetings
2. NAACP Annual Convention
3. Illinois Conference NAACP Annual State Convention
4. Kankakee County Branch NAACP Annual Meeting

2022 FREEDOM FUND GALA

