

NAACP NEWS

Newsletter of Alexandria, VA Branch #7043

Fall 2011

MLK memorial dedication set for Oct. 16



The dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, which was postponed Aug. 28 because of Hurricane Irene, will be held Oct. 16, said Ed Jackson, Jr., the monument's executive architect.

The White House has confirmed that President Barack Obama will attend.

Jackson said the event will begin at 11 a.m. and further details of the schedule for dedicating the \$120 million memorial "will be forthcoming."

The King Memorial foundation has applied for a permit to accommodate 50,000 people on Oct. 16. The new permit is not yet approved.

The memorial, which opened to the public Aug. 22, is on parkland near the Tidal Basin, between the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. It is not far from the Washington Monument and the memorial to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The King memorial has been 26 years in the making. For the schedule of activities, go to www.dedicatethedream.org To find out the

participation of the NAACP, visit www.naacp.org

NAN & REV. AL SHARPTON TO LEAD A MARCH AND RALLY FOR JOBS, JUSTICE

Rev. Al Sharpton and National Action Network (NAN), along with partners in labor, education, civil rights, and clergy from across the country, will hold a rally and march for jobs and justice on Saturday, October 15, before the historic unveiling of the National King Memorial on the National Mall. A rally preceding the march will begin at 11 a.m. at Constitution Ave NW and 17th Street NW. The march will begin afterwards to the King Memorial site on Ohio Drive, SW and West Basin Drive, SW.

The event is being co-chaired by Lee A. Saunders, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO (AFSCME), Randi Weingarter, President of American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church & Chairman of the board for National Action Network, Mark Morial, President of the National Urban League, Richard Trumka, President of American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Dennis Van Roekel, President of National Education Association (NEA) Larry Cohen, President of Communications Workers of America (CWA), George Gresham, President of 1199 SEIU, and Wade Henderson, President & CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and

Human Rights (LCCHR). The event is being co-hosted by Tom Joyner of the Tom Joyner Morning Show.
www.nationalactionnetwork.net

VIRGINIA STATE CONVENTION

The 76th annual convention of the Virginia State Conference of the NAACP will be held on Oct 28-30 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel Richmond West located at 6624 W. Broad Street. The theme is "NAACP: Fired Up and Ready to Work!". Officers and at-large members will be elected on Oct 29. The Alexandria Branch is authorized six voting delegates.

The candidates are: President - LaSalle "L. J." McCoy, Jr. and Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Young; Vice President - Drusilla Bridgeforth, Kenneth Pinkard and Carmen Taylor; Secretary - Elizabeth Waddy; Treasurer - Rovenia Vaughan; Members at Large - Donald Gaines, Sylvia Wood and Carl Wright and Area Chairs: Area 1 - Lue Ward and Charles Gates; Area Four - Cheryl Riggins; Area Five: James Ghee; Area Six - Debra Brown; Area Seven - B. Lacy Marks and Area Nine - Mathew Herndon and Brenda Hale.

Hotel reservations: 1-800-272-6232. Rooms: 1-4 people at \$85 plus 13% tax. Reservation and first nights cost is due Sep 27. Valid credit card or cash is accepted. Conference advanced registration and five meals is \$225.00. On site-registration: Adult \$75; membership luncheon, Friday, 12 noon, \$40; community breakfast, Sat. 7:30 a.m., \$30; leadership luncheon, Sat. 12:30 p.m., \$40; freedom fund banquet, Sat. 8 p.m., \$65; and unity breakfast Sun. 7:30 a.m., \$30.

Workshops scheduled are membership, criminal justice, education, conflict resolution, health and EEOC. NAACP State Office at 1-800-426-2227.

NAACP URGES MINORITIES TO GET TO POLLS IN 2012

The NAACP plans a big push to increase minority turnout in the 2012 elections, hoping to gain political influence and turn back what the civil rights group says are efforts in various states to deny minorities the right to vote.

To do it, the group is going to reach out to black churches, fraternities and sororities as well as use sophisticated databases, social media and boost training of volunteers to include things like getting a contact for each voter they register.

Preserving voting rights is a key theme at the recent convention held in Los Angeles in July.

"We must fight against any attempt to segregate, isolate and steal the black vote," said the Rev. William Barber, president of the NAACP's North Carolina conference.

Barber noted that after a record 92 percent black turnout in the 2008 presidential election, in 2010 15 million blacks did not vote, including 3 million who were registered.

Panelists at a session on building black political power painted a grim picture of how low income minority voters are being disenfranchised by new laws in many states.

Such laws require a state-issued photo ID in order to vote, a current address on IDs, restrictions on restoring voter rights to ex-felons, limiting early and Sunday voting and voter registration by third-party groups like the NAACP and League of Women voters.

OTHER NAACP NEWS

The number of members, donors and a network of online partners who promote the NAACP have surged to 525,000 with the 18 to 25-year-old group the fastest growing segment as the organization has made a point to take up issues affecting younger people, such as college affordability.

The flood of new interest has pushed the organization into the black with a \$31 million budget that has been pumped up by donations from foundations and major donors - \$4 million in Jealous' first year - as well as a doubling in

the number of small donors to 20,000. By fall, it will have reopened all of the five shuttered regional offices...

President/CEO Benjamin Jealous was an honoree at the 8th Annual McDonald's 365 Black Awards event held July 7 at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA. www.365black.com

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGAL REDRESS: Chair, S. Howard Woodson, III, Esq.

Received a complaint from an Alexandria Public Schools Administrator who claimed she was the victim of an unfair termination and retaliation. In speaking with her it was determined that she did not raise a race discrimination claim. Also, that her claim of "retaliation" was not based upon any assertion of any protected right (race, age, sex, national origin, color, and religion). As such, her complaint was not one the NAACP could assist her in pursuing. However, since she also claimed that a very important program for minorities was slated to be eliminated (Adult and Community Education Program), she was referred to the Education Committee for assistance.

EDUCATION: Co-chair, Joyce Sanchez

At one of the committee meetings, special education was discussed. Policy was an issue in terms of diplomas students were given upon completing requirements for special education. The word "modified" was removed from the diplomas. Also questioned was the leadership in special education. Suspension were discussed because of the seriousness of the effect on minority students...

State and local officials are repeating calls for an overhaul of the No Child Left Behind act after Alexandria's public schools once again fell short of a passing grade.

Just one school, Charles Barrett Elementary, passed the increasingly tougher Adequate Yearly

Progress standards mandated by the federal government, according to results released by the state August 11. Alexandria City Public Schools failed as a district for the fifth consecutive year.

POLITICAL ACTION: Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49) will face Republican Tim McGhee in a battle for former state Sen. Patsy Ticer's District 30 seat in November. Ebbin, locked in a tight race with rivals Alexandria City Councilman Rob Krupicka and Arlington School Board member Libby Garvey, garnered 4,562 votes. Krupicka took in 4, 231 tallies or about 36 percent of the vote. Garvey lagged behind them, earning 2,976 votes overall. As expected, Krupicka will not seek reelection to city council when his term expires in 2012.

The race for Ticer's former Senate seat isn't the only election Alexandrian voters will weigh in on after the General Assembly recently redrew district lines. In state Senate District 39, which now includes six city precincts, Republican Miller Baker handily beat rival Scott Martin in the GOP primary, taking in 4,194 votes, 73.4 percent of ballots cast. Baker will face incumbent Sen. George Barker (D-39) in the November election.

MEMBERSHIP: Membership recruitment held at Alfred Street Baptist Church June 25, One Love Community Festival in Braddock Park on Aug 20, Russell Temple CME Church on Sep 17 and Woodlawn Methodist Church on Sep 18.

HEALTH: The branch sponsored a seniors healthy living program at Cora Kelly Recreation Center on Aug 20. Topics included health management, feeling better about life, improving and maintaining energy and strength, testimonials, and improving nutrition. Entertainment and food was provided...

Visit www.fairhealthconsumer.org for information of health insurance, coverage, education, health care network, and more.

ARMED SERVICES & VETERANS AFFAIRS: MOAA's (Military Officer Association of America) Career Fair at Washington Convention Center, Sep 27 for all

branches and ranks of the military and retirees and spouses. www.moaa.org/careerfair

CALENDAR

Oct 16th , Annual Life Membership and Awards Banquet, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, begins 6:15 p. m. Theme: “Affirming America’s Promise”. Speaker: Dr. Lonnie G. Bunch, Director of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture. Master of Ceremonies: News4 reporter John Schriffen. Music by jazz sax player Al Williams III who played with Stanley Clarke and Mongo Santamaria. Community service awards will be presented. Tickets are \$75.00 and table of 10 at \$700.00 can be purchased at <http://alexfreedomfund11.eventbrite.com>



Lonnie Bunch

Nov 8th, General Elections

Nov 11th, Annual Veterans Day Program at Black History Museum (co-sponsor), 11 a.m.

Dec 1st, Annual meeting of the branch