



**Washington, DC NAACP Branch
General Body Meeting
Thursday, May 8, 2008
Israel Baptist Church
1251 Saratoga Avenue, NE
7:00pm**

MINUTES

- I. The Washington, DC NAACP Branch General Body Meeting was called to order at 7:14pm, by Lorraine Miller, President.
- II. Rev. James Coleman, Chaplain gave the opening prayer.
- III. Lorraine Miller welcomed branch members and guests. The NAACP centennial year will be 2009, celebrating 100 years since the NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909. The NAACP DC Branch is planning a series of three events for the centennial, including a symposium, dinner, and a youth activity. Lorraine Miller plans to meet with the Director of the Motion Picture Association regarding planning a film festival. She met with the Dean of Howard University Law School regarding planning a symposium. She also recommended the branch lead a historic preservation initiative of the home of Carter G. Woodson as one of our centennial activities. She wants the branch to create a Blue Ribbon Commission to research the closing of DCPS and the renovation of closing schools. Lorraine Miller announced on behalf of the NAACP National Board of Directors, the three President/CEO candidates are Benjamin Jealous, Fred Haynes, III, and Alvin Brown. The final announcement will be made at the May National Board of Directors meeting. The DC Branch submitted two resolutions to the National Office by May 1, 2008 to be considered by the Resolution Committee, including a resolution on veteran issues and DC Voting Rights.
- IV. The minutes from the April 10, 2008 General Body Meeting were read silently and approved with corrections by the general body.
- V. Ruby Lewis announced the Grand Master's testimonial. The branch agreed to purchase a table for the Grand Master's testimonial and branch members will reimburse the branch for ticket by May 30, 2008.
- VI. The NAACP 99th Annual Convention will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio July 12-17, 2008. We elected ten delegates to attend the national convention.
- VII. We discussed the article in the Washington Post "Critics of Old Guard Take Black Activism Online," which criticized the NAACP for its aging leadership without bringing in fresh blood and youthful leadership capable of moving the organization forward.

VIII. E. Ned Sloan introduced Keith Battle and Anthony Perry to explain the noose hanging at the National Stadium. A noose was found on the construction grounds of the Nationals new stadium and led to the firing and on-job friction amongst the employees that reported it. Michelle and William Jawando agreed to draft a letter on behalf of the DC Branch to EEOC, FBI, and DOJ Civil Rights Division requesting a robust investigation of the situation and report to the DC Branch.

IX. Committee Reports:

DC Youth Council

- The branch approved to pay registration for the Executive Committee Members and \$1,000 stipend to assist with the DC Youth Councils expenses in attending the national convention in Cincinnati, OH. Denise Keels, DCYC Advisor thanked the DC Branch for its financial support of the DC Youth Council.

Young Adults Committee

- Akosua Tyus announced the Young Adults Committee is continue to increase the visibility of the NAACP DC Branch amongst young adults within the DC community, encourage membership dues payment, and motivate young adult members to be active within the DC Branch. Other YAC goals include activating and recruiting an International Affairs Committee Chair, recruiting a (WIN) Women In NAACP Committee Chair, and recruiting a WebMaster. Thursday Network has invited us to participate in Sports Jam on Saturday, May 31, 2008. This event will be a physical and mental competition for young professionals to raise funds for Thursday Networks scholarship and tutorial programs. Previous YAC events include on Thursday, November 29, 2007, we collaborated with Thursday Network, NCNW, and the NAACP DCAC units to co-host a State of Emergency Forum on the unjust treatment of African-American youth within our juvenile justice system. We co-hosted the Advance Film Screening of "The Great Debaters" with Thursday Network on Monday, December 17, 2007. We are now co-hosting First Fridays at Felix with several other young professional organizations. Our first event co-hosting First Fridays was held on Friday, December 7, 2007. We have continued to co-host First Fridays at Felix in January, February, March, and April. Recently appointed Public Relations Chairperson, Cassidy Johnson, has resigned from her position due to accepting a new job in Atlanta, GA. The 2008 NAACP Leadership 500 Summit will be held May 22-25, 2008 in Scottsdale, AZ. Akosua Tyus and Rebecca Thompson will represent the DC Branch at the summit.

Health Committee

- Shavon Arline will schedule a conference call to begin planning the "Heart & Head" HIV and AIDS Awareness event for the DC Branch centennial series.

Economic Empowerment

- Rebecca Thompson announced the Economic Empowerment committee had a successful year coordinating investment planning and tax preparation financial education workshops for young adult committee meetings and co-hosting a Tax Preparation Workshop on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 with the Washington, DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

ACT-SO

- Ruby Lewis, ACT-SO Chair explained ACT-SO is a yearlong enrichment program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. The program relies on the dedication and commitment of community and business leaders who volunteer as mentors and coaches to promote academic and artistic excellence. Through this collaborative effort, participating students develop the confidence and skills needed to excel in school and in life. ACT-SO currently includes 26 categories of competition in the sciences, humanities, business, and performing and visual arts. She announced the local ACT-SO Competition was held Saturday, April 19, 2008. The finalist will attend the national competition, which will be held at Disney World in Orlando, FL to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of ACT-SO.

Membership Services

- Elnora Fitzgerald, Membership Services Chair announced 10 regular adult memberships and 2 life memberships were processed in April 2008. April memberships totaled \$625.00. \$249.00 was retained by the DC Branch and \$376.00 was remitted to the national office.

X. Announcements:

- Shiloah Baptist Church is hosting one day financial seminar “Moneywise in the Community with Kevin Boston” on Saturday, May 31, 2008.
- The Metropolitan Baptist Church will host a voter education forum “What is at Stake in ‘08” on Saturday, May 17, 2008.

XI. The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

ATTENDEES:

Akosua Tyus
Rebecca Thomspson
William Jawando
Michele Jawando
E. Ned Sloan
Keith Battle
Anthony Perry
Lorraine Miller
Ernestine Brown
Ruby Lewis
Theresa Johnson
Elnora Fitzgerald
Paula Mack
Kwamme Anderson
Hazel Kennedy
Ardell Woodland
Angela Wood - EXCUSED

16 Total 3 Visitors
