



S A L T L A K E B R A N C H NAACP NEWSLETTER

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The NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. From the ballot box to the classroom, the thousands of dedicated workers, organizers, leaders and members who make up the NAACP continue to fight for social justice for all Americans. The NAACP has been leading the effort for social justice for 105 years. Anyone who supports the mission of the NAACP irrespective of race, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation and ideology, can become a member of the Association.

Mission:

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 race-based discrimination.

Branch Monthly Meetings

NAACP Salt Lake Branch Monthly General Membership meetings are held the first Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Utah State Bar Law and Justice Center, 645 South 200 East (Rosa Parks Blvd.), Salt Lake City, Utah. The Executive Committee meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at the Utah State Bar Law and Justice Center at 6:00 P.M.

Please note the following General Membership meetings of the NAACP Salt Lake Branch

September, October meetings and November Election

Dear NAACP Salt Lake Branch Member:

Please note the following General Membership meetings of the NAACP Salt Lake Branch, for the purpose of election of officers and at-large members of the executive committee.

1. On September 16, 2014 at the Law and Justice Center, 645 South 200 East, 6:00 p.m., there will be an election of the Nominating Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the meeting date may be elected to the Nominating Committee.

2. On October 21, 2014, at the Law and Justice Center, 645 South 200 East, 6:00 p.m., there will be a report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nominations by Petition, and election of the Election Supervisory Committee. All members whose memberships are current as of April 1st may be nominated for office or as an At-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a nominating petition, or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the October meeting.

3. On November 18, 2014, the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee will take place at the Law and Justice Center, 645 South 200 East, 6:00 p.m. Polls will open from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. In order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required.

Notice from Branch Secretary.

New NAACP President and CEO

Cornell William Brooks, 53 years old was introduced to the 105th NAACP Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada as the eighteenth President of the NAACP. He has vigorously taken the helms of this organization. Brooks is the former senior counsel with the Federal Communications Commission and a

former trial attorney with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. At Yale Law School, he was senior editor of the Yale Law Journal. He has a master's degree in divinity from Boston University. Attorney Brooks is a long-term lawyer, a human rights activist and a fourth-generation ordained minister.

NAACP Annual Convention

The 105th Annual NAACP National Convention was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 19-23, 2014 at the Mandalay Bay. The Las Vegas Branch was the host Branch and the Tri-State Conference of Idaho, Nevada and Utah was the State Conference host. Delegates attended from across the country.

Awards were presented during the convention. The Salt Lake Branch received a Thalheimer Award for outstanding civil rights work in the community. The Thalheimer Award is the NAACP's top award given to branches and units for outstanding achievements. The honors have been given annually since 1944 from a grant from Dr. Ross Thalheimer, a John Hopkins University instructor in philosophy and a University of Washington instructor in philosophy and Sociology. He was also President of the Thalheimer Foundation, Inc.

Legal Awards

The NAACP has a number of annual awards to honor attorneys and units for outstanding civil rights legal achievements. During the Clarence M. Mitchell Memorial Luncheon, Kim M. Keenan, NAACP General Counsel and Marshall Taylor, Esq., Deputy General Counsel presented the Juanita Jackson Mitchell award.

Clarence Mitchell was a civil rights activist and was the chief lobbyist for the NAACP for nearly 30 years. He served as a regional director for the organization and campaigned on Capitol Hill to secure the passage of a comprehensive series of a parade of civil rights laws: the 1957 Civil Rights Act, the 1960 Civil Rights Act, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

The wife of Clarence Mitchell, Mrs. Juanita Jackson Mitchell, the first African American woman admitted to the Maryland bar, was a teacher and civil rights activist who served the NAACP as president of the Baltimore City Branch, where she chaired the legal redress committee and founded the NAACP's Youth Program. She fought discrimination in the courts and in the community. She served as counsel in suits to eliminate segregation in municipal recreation facilities, restaurants and public schools in Baltimore City and throughout Maryland. She championed Baltimore school desegregation, making Maryland the first southern state to integrate its school system after the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown versus Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*.

Juanita Jackson Mitchell Award for Legal Activism:

Each year, the NAACP National Legal Department awards the Juanita Jackson Mitchell Legal Activism Award to an NAACP Unit for exemplary legal redress committee activities. This award was presented to Jeanetta Williams, President of the Salt Lake Branch and NAACP Tri-State Conference.

This prestigious award was presented for the following reasons: President Williams has been on the forefront with Marriage Equality in the Tri-State Conference. She talked to the NAACP General Counsel's office explaining the desire of the NAACP to sign onto the Amicus Brief supporting Marriage Equality. Approval was

granted by the NAACP General Counsel, Kim Keenan and Interim President & CEO, Lorraine Miller for the NAACP Salt Lake Branch to sign on the Amicus Brief to support Marriage Equality in Utah. The NAACP joined a large number of groups filing with the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. The Brief was in support of LGBT couples challenge to the state of Utah's ban on same-sex marriage. The Brief asked the appeals court to uphold Judge Robert Shelby's ruling striking down Amendment 3 that defined marriage between a man and a woman. As the State Conference President, she also worked on non-discrimination ordinances in Idaho that would protect all local citizens from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Upon receiving a telephone call from the parents of a 17 year old African American High School student (Jesse Horowitz) that their son was killed, the NAACP Salt Lake Branch began its investigation. President, Jeanetta Williams called upon the U.S. Attorney's office to fully investigate the incident to determine if race was a factor. The teen had gone to an Elementary School to watch a fistfight between a friend and another boy who were competing for the affections of a girl, investigators said. A group of teenagers and young men gathered as spectators, but as the crowd became volatile, one man began insulting and challenging Horowitz, who ultimately was stabbed several times in the chest. Horowitz was Black; the rest of the group was mostly, if not entirely, White. Follow-up on the sentencing process is ongoing.

In another case, the NAACP Tri-State Conference President Jeanetta Williams maintaining the mission of the NAACP to abolish the death penalty, made national news when she wrote letters and called the Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon asking him to commute the death sentence of known racist slayer Joseph Paul Franklin asking for life in prison.

In her letter she told the Governor that the money to pay for the execution would be better spent on crime victims and other social needs and services.

Another case involved a Hate Crime. A 70-year-old White man is facing criminal charges for hate crimes in state and federal court for allegedly writing threatening letters to neighbors in a housing complex after an African-American male (14 years old) moved in with his sister and her husband, who are White. Because of the work of Jeanetta Williams making direct contact with the US Attorneys Office, this man was charged in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City with a misdemeanor violation of the Fair Housing Act. This man also faces a state misdemeanor charge of harassment in state court in Washington County. The investigating officer said video from a surveillance camera allowed the couple to identify the man, who lived in the same complex. He was charged with a state crime. Williams brought the case to the attention of federal authorities after receiving a complaint from the couple. After an investigation by the FBI and the local police, the federal charges also were filed.

This man was arrested on a federal warrant when he failed to arrive at the Salt Lake City federal courthouse where his case was being heard for an initial appearance.

The Tri-State Conference has worked against Pay Day Lenders and the Salt Lake Branch worked to stop the DNA testing Bill because they saw this bill as a way to target and discriminate against minorities, particularly, African Americans and Hispanics disproportionately. The NAACP General Counsel's office approved this action.

The State Conference worked to bring awareness to the North Davis Preparatory Academy Charter School about black/face or the portrayal of

having students in a play with Black Face. As a result, numerous discussions were held with the Principal and the State Office of Education with President, Jeanetta Williams. At the urging of President Williams, the school agreed that they would participate in a full day training by trained experts.

These are only a portion of the civil rights cases brought about by the NAACP Salt Lake Branch and in some cases the NAACP Tri-State Conference.

Foot Soldier in the Sands Award

At the convention during the Lawyers Reception, Kim M. Keenan, NAACP General Counsel presented the Foot Soldier in the Sands Awards to April Hollingsworth and Dina Neal. April Hollingsworth, Legal Redress Chair for the NAACP Salt Lake Branch and NAACP Tri-State Conference along with Dina Neal, Las Vegas Assemblywoman and member of the Las Vegas Branch received this year's Foot Soldier in the Sands Awards. The NAACP Legal Department honors attorneys who have gone above and beyond the call of duty on behalf of the Association and its civil rights agenda. This award is given to attorneys for their generous contribution of legal expertise to the NAACP on a pro bono basis. The honorees are nominated by NAACP Units or State Conference.

April Hollingsworth has volunteered as the Legal Redress Chair for the NAACP Salt Lake Branch since 2006 giving numerous hours of Pro-Bono service. In that role, she has assisted in evaluating and responding to complaints submitted to the branch and state conference, and helping to resolve claims of civil rights violations. She is also a regular volunteer at Salt Lake City's weekly Street Law Clinic, which oversees and guides law students helping to resolve all types of legal problems for low income people in the community.

Ms. Hollingsworth's day job is as a plaintiff's-side employment lawyer,

dealing with all types of discrimination in the workplace, including discrimination based on race, sex, religion, disability, and retaliation. She started her career in employment law with a small firm, and formed her own firm, Hollingsworth Law Office, in 2008. Ms. Hollingsworth has obtained jury verdicts against large Utah employers in cases of discrimination, most recently against a large employer in Utah who the jury found to have retaliated against a Hispanic employee by firing him after he complained of race discrimination because he was passed over several times for a promotion in favor of less qualified White candidates.

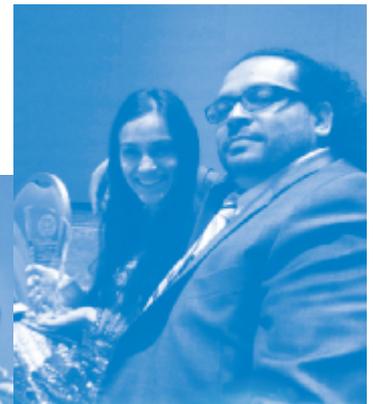
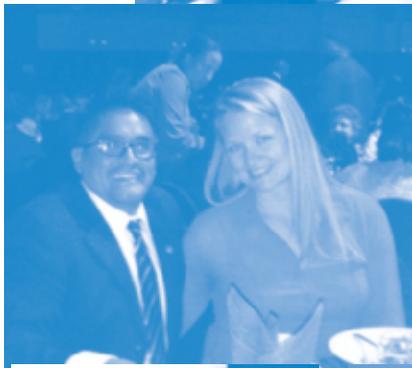
Dina Neal is the first African American Woman elected to the State Assembly in Nevada. She taught Business law for 8 years. She has volunteered since 2006 with the NAACP Las Vegas Branch. In 2010 she worked with the Branch on Project Save, wrote a grant and ran a school Proficiency Program. For 3 years, she has volunteered with the Community Program, Economic Gardening which is a business program that teaches emerging businesses how to use data to grow their business. In addition, she has been involved with Youth Safety workshops where she teaches children about their Civil Rights and how to interact with law enforcement. It is a collaborative effort between, Lawyers, Black Police and the Community. Dina Chairs the Legislative Southern Nevada Enterprise Board, leading the effort to update an economic development plan for West and North Las Vegas for approval by the Federal Economic Development Administration. In addition, she is leading the effort to reduce expulsion of minority students within Clark County school district in Nevada. Dina has worked continuously with the Las Vegas Branch and passed several pieces of legislation that challenged the economic disparity in the State of Nevada.

NAACP Tri-State Conference Convention

The Annual NAACP Tri-State Conference of Idaho, Nevada and Utah Convention will convene at the Marriott Layton Courtyard, 1803 Woodland Park Dr., September 19-21, 2014. The first session on Friday, September 19, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. will be a Town Hall Meeting with local Police Chiefs and the County Sheriff. This session will be open to the community and there is no charge to attend. Discussions will be on accountability and transparency within police agencies, police wearing body cameras, use of tasers and use of force by law enforcement agencies and a wide range of other topics. There will be a cost associated with the following events. The Reception will begin Friday, September 19, at 6:00 p.m. followed with a meeting. Saturday, September 20, activities will begin at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast, followed by civil rights workshops, lunch at noon, workshops until 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. The convention will end Sunday with breakfast at 8:00 a.m. followed with a business meeting.

Life Membership and Freedom Fund Banquet

The NAACP Salt Lake Branch cordially invites you to attend and support the 95th Annual Life Membership and Freedom Fund Banquet, Friday, October 24, 2014 at the Little America Hotel, 500 South Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah. The evening will begin with a Reception at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. in the ballroom. The cost is \$100.00 for non-members (includes a one-year membership) and \$70.00 for NAACP members. Tables available and seats ten. Additional information on Branch website: www.naacp-saltlakebranch.org.



Convention 2014



Membership Campaign

The NAACP is a membership organization. If your membership has expired or will expire soon, we encourage you to renew by contacting the NAACP Salt Lake Branch at (801) 250-5088 or renew online at www.naacp-saltlakebranch.org. If you would like to become a Life Member of the NAACP, there are options of payment installments or pay the full amount. Additional information is also on the website or call (801) 250-5088. If you prefer to mail a check locally, make it payable to the NAACP Salt Lake Branch and mail to P.O. Box 25414, Salt Lake City, UT 84125-0414.

Voter Registration and Election Information ID Requirements

To vote in the 2014 general election, you will be required to show either one form of valid photo identification (ID), such as a Utah driver's license, a state or government-issued ID card, Utah concealed carry permit, or tribal ID, or you can show two forms of ID that include your name and current address, such as a current bill, paycheck, bank statement, social security card, birth certificate, military ID, or student ID from a Utah school or university. Go to vote.utah.gov for a complete list of acceptable IDs.

Registration Deadline

To vote in the upcoming election, make sure your mail-in registration is postmarked by Saturday, October 4, 2014 (at least 30 days prior to Election Day), or you are registered in person by Monday, October 20, 2014 (15 days prior to Election Day).

Requirements

To register to vote in Utah, you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Utah
- At least 18 years old

Felony Convictions

Individuals incarcerated are not eligible to vote. If you have been convicted of a felony, you may register to vote after terms of incarceration are complete.

Voting rights are automatically restored upon release from prison or jail, and people on parole or probation **can vote**. Ex-offenders should re-register to vote. Registration can be done in person with the last 4 digits of their social security number, by mail or hand delivery to:

County Clerk, Election Division
2001 South State, S1100
P. O. Box 144575
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575

Visit vote.utah.gov, call (385) 468-8683 or go online at: www.clerk.slco.org for details on how to register.

Early Voting Dates

Early voting dates for the general election are Tuesday, October 21 – Friday, October 31, 2014.

Locations

Visit vote.utah.gov, call (385) 468-8683 or contact your local elections office for early voting times and locations.

Absentee Ballots

All registered voters in Utah may request and mail in an absentee ballot without an excuse. Absentee Ballots:

- Must be requested by Tuesday, October 7, 2014 (requested 28 days before Election Day).
- Must be turned in by Thursday, October 30, 2014 (the Thursday before Election Day).

Visit vote.utah.gov or call (385) 468-8683 for more information on absentee voting.

Register to Vote Online

You need to have a current Utah Driver's License or ID card in order to register using the online system.

You may use the voter registration website to:

- Register to vote in Utah
- Change your name or address on your voter registration record
- Affiliate with a party or change your party affiliation

Your Online Voter Registration must be submitted 7 days prior to the upcoming election to be eligible to vote in that election; however, you will not be eligible for Early Voting unless you register 30 days or more prior to that election.

If you want to register online to vote, your address must match the address on file with the Driver License Division (DLD). If your address with the DLD is not current, you may update that online at their website <https://secure.utah.gov/dlr/index.html>.

This must be done before submitting your online voter registration. After updating your address please allow 24 hours before returning to register to vote online.

If your address is not current with DLD you may still use the online voter registration system, but you will be required to print the form, sign it and mail it in.

Homeless Individuals Right to Register and Vote

An individual do not need a home to register and vote. However, one must identify a place of residence. That can be a street corner, a park, a shelter, or any other place where you usually stay. You must identify a mailing address. That address can be that of a local advocacy organization, shelter, outreach center or any location that is willing to accept mail for that individual. For additional information or questions, call (385) 468-8683 or go online at: www.clerk.slco.org

Justice for Michael Brown

Cornell William Brooks, NAACP President and CEO, NAACP staff, national civil and human rights organizations and leaders representing millions across this country committed to the protection of the rights of African Americans and all Americans came together as a unified group to urgently impress upon elected officials, law enforcement, the legal profession, businesses and all those in this nation interested in social justice, that collectively, we must not allow the killing of Michael Brown and other unarmed individuals across this nation to be in vain. They came together in Ferguson, Missouri after the police shooting and killing of an unarmed African American teenager.

The NAACP will continue working in Ferguson to bring justice to this case.

**Life Membership
and Freedom Fund Banquet**

The NAACP Salt Lake Branch cordially invites you to attend and support the 95th Annual Life Membership and Freedom Fund Banquet, Friday, October 24, 2014 at the Little America Hotel, 500 South Main St., Salt Lake City, Utah. The keynote speaker will be Kirk Jowers, Director, Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah, Director, Federal Relations, Chief Advisor, Office of Global Engagement.

The evening will begin with a Reception at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. in the ballroom. The cost is \$100.00 for non-members (includes a one-year membership) and \$70.00 for NAACP members. Tables available and seats ten. Additional information on Branch website: www.naacp-saltlakebranch.org.



*Kirk Jowers
Director,
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