



**NAACP of San Diego**  
Equality is the Right of Every Citizen



## **President's Annual Report**

**André J. Branch, Ph.D.**  
**San Diego Branch NAACP**  
**January - December 2017**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” – **Matthew 7:7-8**

**With a great deal of appreciation, I have had the pleasure of serving as the president of the NAACP San Diego Branch for the past three years. Below is a summary of my activities for the San Diego Branch for the past year, but I want to take a moment to share here how I believe we were able to accomplish our work. The central message of the verses above, and the larger passage of scripture from which they come, is that God is delighted to meet our needs if we would only ask and believe. I believe this is truth. We have an active and energized ACT-SO team because we asked for help. We won a competitive grant from SDG&E for Youth STEM Learning because we asked for funds to assist our youth. We have more funds in our treasury than this NAACP Branch has ever had before because we asked corporate sponsors and individuals who believe in civil rights to support our work. Thank you for whatever role you played in the work of the San Diego Branch to eliminate racial prejudice and to advocate for the civil rights of all people. Please continue to lend us your time, talents, and treasure. In the coming year, invite your friends and family to help us as well.**

### **President's Activities** **January - December 2017**

#### **Jan.**

Attended the NAACP California/Hawaii President's Leadership - 6-8 January 2017

Met with Monica Bauer, Associate Regional Director/Coordinator of Latino Community Relations for the Anti-Defamation league to discuss collaborative efforts - 11 January 2017

Attended the Community Reception for Lemon Grove Mayor (and our member), Racquel Vasquez - 14 January 2017

Guest speaker for the St. Paul's United Methodist Church MLK Celebration - 15 January 2017

Participated in the MLK Parade - 15 January 2017

Attended the MLK Breakfast hosted by UAAMAC - 16 January 2017

Attended the All People's Breakfast sponsored by Alliance San Diego - 16 January 2017

Met with Mr. Mohebi, the Executive Director of CAIR (Council on American-Islamic Relations) to discuss collaboration with CAIR - 20 January 2017

Convened the Executive Committee Leadership Retreat - 21 January 2017

Spoke at an NAACP press conference to respond to the District Attorney's decision to exonerate the officer who shot and killed Mr. Alfred Olango, an innocent, unarmed, African American male who was experiencing mental distress - 26 January 2017

## **February**

Met with engineers from Northrup Grumman and Qualcomm and science professor at SDSU to discuss the feasibility of hosting an NAACP Summer STEM Camp in the - 13 February 2017

Installed Ms. Linda Cochran-Johnson as chair of the Community Coordination Committee

Presented a workshop/seminar at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral on Sunday 19 February 2017. The topic was, "Healing Colorblindness and Affirming Ethnic Identity Development."

Installed Ms. Linda Cochran-Johnson as chair of the Community Coordination Committee - 16 February 2017

Met with website designer to review the renovated website - 22 February 2017

## **March**

Attended the Mandatory Executive Committee Leadership Training - 11 March 2017

Hosted the NAACP SWAG (Students With Academic Goals) at San Diego State University - 15 March 2017

Installed Ms. Carol Spong as Housing Committee Chair

Installed Ms. Mia Ginae Watkins as Media Chair

### **April**

Met with representative from California Bank & Trust to discuss services and resources the bank could provide to our membership - 5 April 2017

Update - Treasurer Del Rio and I attempted to meet with the Labor Leadership for the custodians at Southwestern Community College. They cancelled minutes before the meeting was to begin. - 7 April 2017

Represented the San Diego Branch at the Resolutions Meeting in Irvine - 8 April 2017

Joined Membership Chair Bradshaw and Membership Committee Member Diane Langworthy at the Mesa College Advocacy Fair. Members Millard Branch and Armani Branch also attended. I provided the attendees with an historical overview and the present urgency for membership in the NAACP. - 12 April 2017

### **May**

Wrote and submitted a Forward Promise grant proposal for \$450,000.00 for Project S.W.A.G. to build capacity in teachers and administrators at Bell Middle School for nurturing Boys and Young Men of Color to heal, grow, and thrive. - 2 May

Facilitated Lobby Day Registrations - 5 - 12 May

Recruited students for the NAACP STEM Camp - 8-17 May

Received an award from the PTE-Hope, Inc. organization on the occasion of their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Multicultural Festival, on behalf of the NAACP San Diego Branch - 14 May

Presented the prize of two Zoo tickets and \$50.00 to Keara Price at the final meeting of S.W.A.G. (Students With Academic Goals) at Bell Middle School. Ms. Price's artwork was selected to be used for the 2017 Freedom Fund Dinner Souvenir Programme Book and promotional literature. - 17 May

Attended the Annual Legislative Day at the Capitol (Lobby Day) - 22 May

### **June**

President Branch was on business for San Diego State University for the month of June (He taught Introduction to Multicultural Education in Granada, Spain).

### **July**

Interviewed on KPBS Midday Edition (89.5) regarding the Hate Crimes Report released by the California Attorney General's Office - 5 July

Attended the National Convention of the NAACP – Baltimore, Maryland – 22-26 July 2017  
 Met with the Elections Supervisory Committee for the CA/HI State Conference Elections – 23 July 2017

### **August**

Appeared in United States District Court to testify in a case in which the District Attorney sought to use the NAACP – 7 August 2017.

Received an honor conferred in a “Salute To Men Leaders in the 79<sup>th</sup> Assembly District – 11 August 2017

Explained the “purpose” and prayed at the San Diego NAACP 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Prayer Vigil – 11 August 2017

Presented at the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, “Saving Our Children From Psychotropic Drugs” – 12 August 2017

Interviewed by KPBS regarding the removal of a city of San Diego plaque in Horton Plaza that commemorated the Jefferson Davis Highway, which was named for the Civil War-era leader of the Confederacy - 16 August 2017

Attended The Black Church & HIV: The Social Justice Imperative San Diego Faith Leader Town Hall – 17 August 2017

Installed Ms. Diane Langworthy as the Assistant Secretary – 17 August 2017

Greeted community members and assisted other NAACP members (Allie, Carol, Mr. Branch, Sr., and the Tiny President) with tabling at the 2017 Health Fair and Back-to-School Kickoff– 19 August 2017

Met with Southwestern Community College President and Board Chair to discuss collaborating with the NAACP to address some of the civil rights concerns at Southwestern Community College – 23 August 2017

### **September**

Appointed Mr. Steve Dorner to maintain regular Facebook posts – 13 September 2017

Wrote and submitted a competitive grant for Youth STEM Learning to SDG&E for \$5,000.00 – 16 September 2017 **(We got the grant!)**

Presented on the topic, “Healing Colorblindness; Affirming Ethnic Identity” at Mary Magdalene Apostle Catholic Community Church – 17 September 2017

Attended the San Diego County Democratic Committee Meeting – 19 Sept. 2017

Represented the Branch at the Community Conversation related to the selection of the new Police Chief for the City of San Diego. Members who also attended this event were Mr. Millard Branch, Ms. Armani Branch, Lt. Benjamin Kelso, and Ms. Diane Langworthy. - 23 September 2017

Installed Ms. Denise Tubbs as the Communications, Press, and Publicity Chair

Contacted 19 mayors, 13 politicians, 38 organizations (16 orgs. of various kinds, 9 unions, and 13 Democratic clubs), and 16 individuals with invitations to attend or otherwise support our Freedom Fund Dinner.

## **October**

Hosted along with the membership of the San Diego Branch the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner and Awards Dinner – 6 October 2017

Met with Ms. Vera Moore, Vice President of J. P. Morgan Chase for Non-profit Engagement, regarding financial support for the San Diego Branch NAACP – 16 October 2017

Represented the NAACP San Diego Branch at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual California/Hawaii State Convention – 26 – 29 October 2017

Participated in the National NAACP Stakeholders Meeting attended by NAACP President and CEO, Derrick Johnson and NAACP National Board Chair, Leon Russell (National Listening Tour Event) – 26 October 2017

Participated in the NAACP Leadership Roundtable for CA/HI leaders and attended by NAACP President and CEO, Derrick Johnson and NAACP National Board Chair, Leon Russell (National Listening Tour Event) – 26 October 2017

Attended the National Town Hall Meeting attended by NAACP President and CEO, Derrick Johnson and NAACP National Board Chair, Leon Russell (National Listening Tour Event) – 26 October 2017

Met with a Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) representative regarding funding for an NAACP San Diego Branch Health Conference – 27 October 2017

Met with the Vice President for Government and Community Relations of AT&T regarding financial support for programs of the NAACP San Diego Branch – 27 October 2017

Met with the San Diego Youth Council Advisor – 30 October

**November**

Attended the Black Minds Matter replay event hosted by the NAACP Education Committee and invited the audience to join the work of the NAACP – 4 November

Attended with nine other NAACP members the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) – 4 November

**December**

Consulted with President Bernard Simelton, president of the Alabama State Conference NAACP, regarding a strategy for getting all able-bodied Alabama voters to the polls – 6 December