



NEWSLETTER

of the New Jersey State Conference

Vol. I, February 15, 2014

"Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination."

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Greetings NAACPers,

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you all for placing your trust in me, as well as the elected State Officers of the NAACP New Jersey State Conference. It is my pleasure to serve and to do so in a way that will exemplify professionalism and the type of values that we hold in common. One of our goals moving forward is to improve communication. It not only fosters awareness but it improves efficiency and ensures that our overall mission will be accomplished. In that spirit, our plan is to circulate a Newsletter that will keep you informed of issues that concern us the most. I urge all unit Presidents, Area Coordinators, and committee chairs to share this information, use it as a resource tool and make certain that your committee chairs are guided by the information contained in it.

In the interest of capacity building throughout the State and the nation, the NJSC Newsletter is created to educate, support and empower all of our units so that collectively, we represent one voice. We encourage you to assist the effort by keeping us informed of your unit activities and initiatives. By highlighting your successes, they become a potential guide or template for the success of other units. With that in mind, please email us no later than the first day of each month to make sure that your unit is represented in the next Newsletter. Together we can build a great NJ NAACP State Conference that we should be proud of!!

Richard T. Smith, President
NAACP New Jersey State Conference

The NAACP New Jersey State Conference, The Latino Action Network, and The Fair Sharing Housing Center expressed major objection and dissatisfaction with data

released pursuant to an inquiry made under the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA"). The request demanded disclosure of information pertaining to funding for victims of Hurricane Sandy. Based on the data and firsthand accounts from displaced renters, homeowners, and community groups, the report revealed that applications for relief by African-Americans were rejected at two and a half times the rate of white applicants. Appalled by this finding, President Richard Smith shared the results

on MSNBC, and the WABC talk show "*Here and Now*" with Sandra Bookman. In a demand for total transparency, President Smith also assured the media that the NAACP New Jersey Conference Housing Committee will continue to monitor this issue to make sure that all residents who were displaced or lost their homes as a result of the Hurricane Sandy disaster be afforded an equal opportunity to rebuild and renew.

For information related to the NAACP New Jersey State Conference Housing Committee, please contact the NJSC Housing Chairperson Michael McNeil. The

NJSC AND
LATINO
ACTION
NETWORK
SPEAK OUT ON
ALLOCATION
OF HURRICANE
SANDY
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responsibility of the committee is to study housing conditions throughout the State and local community; receive and seek to address complaints of discrimination; oppose all restrictive practices whether public or private; and disseminate information and tender such other action as may eliminate discrimination in housing. If you share in this interest, please visit our website at www.naacp.org.

Eye on Education: “One Newark Plan” Strongly Opposed..

Residents in the Newark public school district along with school administrators, teachers, and leaders in the community are stirring up the fire in opposition to the proposed One Newark Plan introduced by Superintendent of Schools Cami Anderson. Those opposed to the plan contend that it is no more than a clandestine effort to close or privatize public schools, reduce or replace educators who have been in the school district for many years and to ultimately make good on Governor Christie’s promise to reform public education throughout the State of New Jersey. What most consider to be a pseudo effort to reorganize public schools targets so-called failing schools, old or deteriorated school buildings, and ineffective instructors. However, few answers are offered to questions relating to the tremendous impact this will have in communities with the greatest number of students enrolled in the school district; why instructors are being replaced by short-term Teach for America faculty that lack the experience or the sensitivity to guide students through a productive and meaningful educational experience; or the Plan’s focus on privatizing schools as whole. Of major concern is what happened to the millions of dollars that were earmarked for distressed school districts under the Abbott v. Burke decision, which never made it to schools districts such as Newark, and Camden .

In response to the Newark School district dilemma, Talk Show hosts on “OpenLine” radio invited City Councilman (mayoral candidate) Ras Baraka to comment on the brazen suspensions of five school principals and one parent coordinator for making public statements in opposition to the proposed plan. These individuals have since filed a Federal lawsuit asserting violation of their First Amendment rights. Councilman Baraka urged listeners to attend public hearings, come out to participate in rallies and continue to voice concern about these issues. In addition, State Senator Ronald Rice has introduced a bill that would limit the

authority of any school superintendent to single-handedly target any public school for closing. The legislation seeks to put the power in the hands of the school board. The Board presumably would work in collaboration with residents in the community before any official decision to close or take action could prosper.

Education is one of five NAACP strategic Game Changers devoted to education, advocacy and empowerment. The purpose is to ensure that every child will receive a free, high quality, equitably-funded, public pre-K and K-12 education followed by diverse opportunities for accessible, affordable vocational or university education.

You can stay informed on issues related to education by contacting the NAACP New Jersey State Education Committee Chairperson Adrienne Sanders or by visiting our website at www.njnaacp.org. You can also email an inquiry to info@njnaacp.org.

WIN Empowerment Conference 2014

Women in the NAACP (WIN) seeks to enhance the leadership role of women, serve as an advocacy vehicle for issues affecting women and children, and advocate for the positive development of children.

WIN's theme is "Outstretched Hands and Open Hearts to Women and Children."

Register today for a day of empowerment, workshops vendors and fellowship on Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 9 a.m., to 4 p.m., at Willingboro Center , 429 John F. Kennedy Way, Willingboro, NJ. Adult Admission: \$35.00. Students: \$20.00. Please visit the NAACP New Jersey State website at www.njnaacp.org or contact WIN Chairperson Loretta Winters for more information. Are you a member? Annual membership to WIN is \$10.00. You may join by visiting the State’s website at the pull-down window for WIN. We look forward to your involvement!

NAACP New Jersey State Conference Headquarters

We are excited to announce that the New Jersey State Conference has leased office space to serve as its official headquarters! The location of the office is 13 Front Street, Trenton, NJ. An official groundbreaking ceremony will be scheduled to celebrate the occasion.

We intend to take every opportunity to use this space to promote a greater level of visibility in our State's capitol and to influence policy throughout the State of New Jersey.

A WORD ABOUT OUR YOUTH COUNCIL AND ACT-SO PROGRAM

Please encourage your membership to join our ongoing recruitment of new members, renewals of existing membership and particularly membership to our Youth Councils/Y&C Division, and the ACT-SO Program.

Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is a youth program of the NAACP that is "designed to recruit, stimulate, improve and encourage high academic and cultural achievement among African American high school students." The focus of this year-long enrichment program is to mentor and encourage our young leaders to develop, and expand upon their talents. Involvement in the program strengthens character and helps students to compete on both the State and national level for gold, silver, and bronze medals. For more information on how you can help facilitate the recruitment of membership, please contact Mrs. Rosalind Seawright (Membership) or Mrs. Deborah Smith-Gregory at info@njnaacp.org.

SAVE THE DATES

- ✓ **OFFICERS/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT**
Saturday, February 22, 2014
NAACP New Jersey State Conference Headquarters
13 Front Street
Trenton, NJ

- ✓ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**
Saturday, March 1, 2014
New Jersey State Conference Headquarters
13 Front Street
Trenton, NJ

✓ **QUARTERLY CONFERENCE**
Saturday, March 22, 2014
Location to be determined

✓ **WIN EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE**
Saturday, March 29, 2014
Willingboro Center
429 John F Kennedy Way
Willingboro, NJ
Adult Tickets: \$35.00
Students: \$20.00

Visit the State website for registration, ad journal, workshop and other information.

Recent Information Circulated to All State Presidents:

- ✓ NJ State Police Internship Program;
- ✓ NJ State Police Recruitment Efforts;
- ✓ ACT-SO Recruitment deadline;
- ✓ Affordable Care Act;
- ✓ All Unit Alert regarding VRA;
- ✓ Hurricane Sandy Hearings

Don't have this info? Contact your unit President or the State Secretary at info@njnaacp.org.

Communications, Press & Publicity Committee

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Richard T. Smith, President
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