



NAACP Caroline County Branch NEWSLETTER

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January 2023

Message from the Branch President



Dr. Willie G. Woods

Here's wishing each of you a
Blessed and Happy 2023!!!

The year 2022 was a branch milestone year as the branch launched a year-long 75th anniversary celebration, concluding with its Freedom Fund Banquet in November. (See photos & write-up inside.)

During 2023 the branch looks forward to another productive year. In January, the initial focus will be on training for newly elected branch officers, input preparation for Election Reform in Federalsburg, and support of the MLK Day Unity March/Day of Service. Among activities planned for February will be the NAACP Youth Black History Program. We look forward to your continued membership, input, and support.

Federalsburg Meetings on Voting Rights and Election Reform: Your Input Needed

January 10, 2023 Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Community Civic League Building, Federalsburg. The branch will host this meeting for Black/People of Color residents to help determine positions they want to support at the January 23 Mayor and Council Meeting. Among issues to discuss:

- Election reform: 2 districts or 4 districts
- Election day: keep a September day or align with other election days.
- Mayor term: 2 years or 4 years.

January 23, 2023 Special Meeting at 6:00 PM at the Federalsburg Town Hall. The Mayor and Council will hold this meeting for "community discussion on proposed election reform including two and four district structure, setting election day, and length of mayor's term in office." (See page 9 of January *Caroline Review*.)

Elected Branch Officers for 2023-2024



Officers. L-R: Dr. Willie G. Woods, President; Sherone Lewis, 1st Vice President; Wanda Molock, 2nd Vice President; Darlene Lovelace, Secretary; Janet Fountain, Treasurer.



At-Large Executive Committee Members. L-R: Norma Robinson, Ezola Webb, Doretha Coursey, Berl Lovelace. *Not Pictured.* Alfreda Dennis-Bowyer and Michele Wayman.

Branch officers and at-large executive committee members were elected November 17, 2022 through the National Office election system; they were installed at the December 20 branch meeting. Their terms of office became effective January 1, 2023.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

January 16, 2023 the Branch will be one of the supporters of the 11th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day Unity March/Day of Service in Denton. Hosted by the Lockerman Schools Association, the event begins at 9 AM assembling at Lockerman Middle School, at 10 AM the March, and the Community Service Project (with donations of cleaning and paper products, etc.) to benefit His Hope Ministries, ongoing. For more information contact Wanda Molock or Janet Fountain.

75th ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE & 2022 FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

On November 19, the year-long observance of the Branch's 75th Anniversary culminated with the 2022 Freedom Fund Banquet held at the Greensboro VFC Community Center in Greensboro. The event theme was, *"75 Years and Still Standing Strong for Freedom, Justice, and Equality."* The keynote speaker was Pastor Barrington Ross of Robinson A.M.E. Church, Grasonville. The banquet program MC was Pastor Keisha Jones of New Beginnings UM Church, Ridgely. With one of its largest attendance, the program featured 7 honorees, over 40 special recognitions, two singing groups, and visiting guests. Below are a few pictorial images from the event.



Mistress of Ceremonies, Rev. Keisha Jones, thanked by President Woods.



Ezola Webb gave The Occasion. Rev. Jones looked on.



Keynote Speaker, Rev. Barrington Ross, addressed the group.



Rev. Ross thanked for his message.



Singing Group: Minister Kenneth Johnson & Praise Team of Metropolitan-Zion UMC Ministries



Singing Group: Robinson A.M.E. Church Gospel Choir.



Elected Government Officials included MD Senator Addie Eckardt, County Commissioner Larry Porter, and Sheriff-Elect Donnie Baker.



Honoree: Dr. Hilliard Gardner, proprietor, Tuckahoe Animal Clinic received Business Achievement Award. Sherone Lewis introduced the honoree; Dr. Willie Woods presented the award.



Honoree: Accepting the Business Achievement Award for Bennie Smith of Bennie Smith Funeral Homes was Rev. Terence Nichols.



Honoree: Abrams Memorial Church, Inc., Elder Thomas Fisher, Sr., Pastor received the Faith-Based Organization Award.



Honoree: Caroline County Public Library, Debby Bennett, Executive Director, received the Community Organization Service Award.



Honoree: Elizabeth Pinkett received the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Honoree: A. Michele Wayman received the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Honoree: Syncere Turner received the Youth Achievement Award.



Branch Presidents: L-R. Willie Woods, current president; Tindley Pinder, 1970s president; Berl Lovelace, immediate past president 2005-2021; Terenda Thomas, 1980s president.



Some Elected Branch Officers: L-R. Ezola Webb, Helen Cannon, Janet Fountain, Patrice Flamer, Darlene Lovelace.



Guest Program Participants: L-R. Rev. Gregory McLaurin (Metro-Zion UMC Pastor); Walter Black (Former President MD State Conference); Rev. Alfred Woods (Former President Warren County VA Branch; Min. Kenneth Johnson (Praise Team Metro-Zion UMC); Robinson Gospel Choir Rep.



Freedom Fund Committee & Supporters: L-R. B. Lovelace, E. Pinkett, D. Lovelace, E. Webb, Alfreda Dennis-Bowyer, Savannah Britt, Sherone Lewis, M. Wayman, William Flamer, Norma Robinson. (Others not pictured.)



Lovelace, Ross, Robinson



Wanda Molock & Janet Fountain



MORE UPCOMING AND PREVIOUS QUARTER EVENTS/OCCURRENCES

Upcoming

January 18, 2023: Swearing-in Ceremony of Governor-Elect Wes Moore. Complimentary bus service to the event was available for sign up in December. Some branch members plan to attend.

February 25, 2023: Branch NAACP Youth Black History Program.

Event will be held 11 am to 1 pm at Allen AME Church, 22461 Hillsboro Road, Hillsboro. (Snow date is Saturday, March 4, 2023.) *The guest speaker will be Devon Beck.* Flyers for this event are available. Please review and share with others. For additional information contact Patrice Flamer at 302-331-1010 or Darlene Lovelace at 410-924-4718.



Devon Beck

Previous Quarter Ending December 2022

October 15, 2022: Wilson – The Branch Nominee for CAALES Honorary Banquet, Easton

Pictured: Doncella Wilson with Rev. James Jones, CAALES convener; Hon. Carl Snowden, CAAL convener, and Wes Moore, MD Governor-elect; (2) Wilson with Webb & Woods; (3) Wilson with Lewis.



October 19, 2022: President Woods Spoke at Rural Life Museum to DAR Chapter. Talk given to DAR-GPB Chapter on historical Black women during their meeting and museum tour in Denton.

November 5 and November 12 Support of Other NAACP Branch Freedom Fund

Banquets. Representatives attended the Cecil County and the Dorchester County banquets, respectively.

December 6, 2022: Sheriff Change of Command Ceremony. Branch was represented by Woods, Webb, Molock, and Fountain, who congratulated Sheriff Bounds on his retirement.



December 14, 2022: Honor for Local Hero. Branch joined other county branches and organizations to honor La'Prentis Doughty, the 11 year-old who courageously saved his young sister from a burning building.

December 21, 2022: Thomas Carney Book Donation by DAR to County Library. President Woods participated in the donation ceremony held in front of the Carney Historic Marker in Denton.

Branch Meetings: Fourth Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 p.m., Choptank Electric Cooperative in Denton.

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