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1965 JOURNAL



# NAACP

## WHAT THE NAACP IS .....

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), founded in 1909, to work toward full equality for Negro Americans, is today the nation's largest civil rights organization with nearly 450,000 members in 49 states and the District of Columbia. There are 15,000 units of the Association.

## GOALS OF THE NAACP....

The Association seeks to end racial segregation and other forms of discrimination in all public aspects of American life. This objective includes equal justice under law; protection of the right to vote; personal security against mob violence and police brutality; the end of segregation in public education, in transportation, in housing, health and recreational facilities, in libraries and museums, and in hotels, theatres, restaurants and taverns.

Cover Sketch donated by  
Mrs. Judy Trueman, Setauket

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Office Of:  
President

Dear NAACP Supporter,

On the eve of my departure from office, I can reflect back on moments of sadness and moments of joy we shared together while I was serving as your President. We all recall the murder of Medgar Evers and the bombing of the church in Birmingham, Alabama that took the lives of those four children. We can also recall the beautiful symbolic March on Washington, August 28, 1963 and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I say to you, let these moments of joy and sadness serve as a spur to renew our dedication and support more strongly the fight we are waging for full equality.

The NAACP is no stronger than what you, the individual member, make it. Great strides have been made, goals have been attained and victories have been won, but the fight still goes on and will go on, until all men are free. Let us continue to fight for those ideals and ideas we so richly cherish. Let us never lose sight of the goals of this great organization: Freedom, Equality and Justice.

Let me express to all who have worked so diligently with me and for the NAACP my sincere thanks and deep appreciation for the job you did. Many have gone the "second mile" in this fight which introduced the challenge to others yet to work. My job was made much easier because of the dedication and work of these true fighters for freedom.

Let us not be content to ride on the backs of others, but each of us in our way carry his own weight, in this fight for freedom with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Isaac W. Cole".

ISAAC W. COLE

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President's Message ..... Isaac W. Cole  
Installation of Officers  
Greetings from Town of Brookhaven  
Supervisor Charles R. Dominy  
Greetings from County of Suffolk  
County Executive H. Lee Dennison  
Special Presentation ..... Isaac W. Cole  
Introduction of State President  
W. Burghardt Turner  
Address ..... Attorney William Booth  
President New York State NAACP  
Remarks ..... W. Burghardt Turner  
President Patchogue Branch NAACP



### *PATCHOGUE BRANCH NAACP ACTIVITIES*

The Patchogue Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had its inception in November, 1960 when the South Shore Citizens Association, under the presidency of Mr. Isaac W. Cole, decided to convert itself into a branch of the NAACP.

The first President of the Branch was Mr. W. Burghardt Turner, a history teacher at Patchogue Senior High School. Mr. Turner served from November 1960-1962 and brought to the Branch at its inception dynamic, forceful and knowledgeable leadership. It was due to the groundwork laid by him and other leaders that the Branch at the present time occupies a place of leadership in New York State.

During its first years the Branch established the pattern of assisting the Negro and Puerto Rican population through the various problems they faced because of racial prejudice and discrimination. Cases were investigated involving housing, employment, welfare and education. In particular, there were many cases of individuals who were in dire need and having difficulty obtaining assistance from the Dept. of Welfare. NAACP aid in communicating with the Dept. speeded the clearance of these cases.

The most dramatic action arose in the cases in Center Moriches where there seemed to be negligence on the part of officials in prosecuting the case of a major crime against a Negro resident. These led to meetings held in the community with the District Attorney and the Commissioner of Police. The residents had the opportunity to air their long standing complaints against both departments and to hear explanations. At this time, the great poverty indicated the need for further aid to the community which resulted in the toy and clothing drives which have been repeated each year. This also led to the campaign against the horrible slum housing existing in many parts of the County.

The second President of the Branch, elected in December 1962 was Isaac W. Cole, a mathematician at Brookhaven National Laboratory. He brought a new vigor and youthfulness to Branch leadership. Under his administration, the action of the Branch was broadened and vitalized.

Throughout the short history of the Branch, we have been fortunate in having as a part of the membership and Executive Board, people of leadership and ability, dedicated to the fight for freedom. It was because of their leadership that the following report of Committees is possible.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### *HOUSING COMMITTEE*

During the year 1964, the Housing Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ben Watford concerned itself primarily with an Open Occupancy Survey. The purpose of this survey was to ascertain "first hand" the attitude of the Patchogue community in regards to renting and for selling homes to minority groups. The response in some areas were gratifying and in others disappointing. Mr. Kenneth Sanderson of East Patchogue was the director of the survey conducted in Patchogue.

As a result of the Open-Housing Survey conducted in Patchogue, a group of interested citizens and churches of Bayport conducted a similar survey in their community. This effort was spearheaded by Mrs. Virginia Poli with our housing chairman acting as advisor.

In 1964, the Metcalf-Baker Law barring discrimination in housing was amended. In its present form it now covers about 95% of all housing in the State. Meetings were held by the chairman with the Suffolk County Realty Board to discuss the amendments to the housing law and its implementation.

The following persons were members of this committee: Mr. Clayton Chesson, Mr. Kenneth Sanderson and Mr. John Sears.

#### *LABOR AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE*

The Labor and Industry Committee was organized in November 1963. At that time the following statement was made: "While it is recognized that job opportunities have been limited and in many cases denied up until the present, the main problem identified by the group is that of locating qualified workers and encouraging training to meet the current and near future demands for labor. Efforts are needed to change the image of refusals which operates to prevent active job seeking on the part of Negro and Puerto Rican applicants. In addition, the skills of job hunting may need developing.

During the past year the committee has worked toward the stated objectives by initiating the HELP Project, preparing information regarding job and training opportunities for the Branch News Briefs and local press, presenting a panel discussion on "Breaking Job Barriers"



at the Branch meeting in January and contacting employers to enlist the cooperation of industrial and business firms in the hiring of minority group workers.

The most outstanding of these efforts is the HELP (Help Educate for Labor Placement) Project which offers counseling service to minority groups unemployed one evening each week. A group of volunteers who have training and experience in social work, education, guidance and psychology assist in determining the employment potential of applicants, encouraging additional training where appropriate, developing job seeking skills as well as making job referrals. It is anticipated that this project will serve as a pilot demonstration for extended services under County auspices. The following persons are members of this committee:

Mrs. Joyce Turner, Chr.	Mr. Leroy Jefferson
Mr. Harold Avent	Mr. Keith Kavanagh
Mrs. Mary Alice Borg	Mr. Jack Luchsinger
Mrs. Shrifra Greene	Mr. James Malone
Mrs. Agnes Harper	Mrs. Nancy Marr
Mr. Lou Hodkin	Mr. Lowell McLean

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

One area of concern to the branch in the field of education was the lack of Negro teachers in the school districts in Suffolk County. Because of this concern, the Patchogue Branch organized and administered the Teacher Recruitment Committee.

The Committee (the first of its kind on Long Island) was established in an effort to increase the number of Negroes teaching in the public schools within the general area of Brookhaven Town. Ben Watford and Gerald G. Glass were appointed as Co-chairmen. The Suffolk County Human Relations Commission agreed to assist the Committee and its field workers by making available facilities for printing, mailing and secretarial help as well as the advice and counsel of their Director, Mr. Valdes.

After a series of organizational meetings more than 30 volunteer field workers were appointed to twelve of the fifteen school districts in the area. The workers were instructed to contact their own local school administration to explain the purpose of our program and to obtain a list of the positions that would be open in the district as of September, 1964. Ben Watford assumed the responsibility of preparing the materials needed to contact schools and teacher training institutions throughout the country. Gerald Glass was in charge of receiving the information as to openings from the field workers and

notifying the appropriate prospective teacher who had sent his application into Mr. Watford. Applications were received from 82 teachers located in 21 states. Twelve school districts listed job openings with us but we still have not ascertained how many were hired. In general, we received excellent cooperation from almost all of the school districts. In fact, in some we were received with enthusiasm.

In December, a special book drive was conducted in which books were collected, wrapped and distributed along with toys to needy families.

In keeping with the program of dramatizing the May 17, 1954 Supreme Court desegregation decision, the Education Committee drew up letters outlining what steps they felt the school districts could take to make this day more meaningful. On a separate page in this journal, is a copy of the letter sent to all the teachers in the Town of Brookhaven. Similar letters were also forwarded to principals and to school board members.

Dr. Gerald G. Glass, Chairman  
Mrs. Sylvia Kurshner  
Mrs. Joyce Turner  
Mr. John Sears  
Mrs. Esther Glass  
Mr. Ben Watford



Presentation of check for final payment of Life Membership by Vice Pres. W. Burghardt Turner to Isaac Cole, Branch Pres.



PATCHOGUE BRANCH

National Association For The Advancement Of Colored People

14 E. 7th STREET PATCHOGUE, L. I., N. Y.

Telephone Atlantic 9 - 0778



Office Of:

May 13, 1964

Dear Teacher:

An historic anniversary is coming which must be of interest to you and your students. Ten years ago on May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision that forced us to be cognizant of the inadequate education that Negro children were receiving. We found that these youngsters were caught up in a self-defeating treadmill. Their negative self-image, re-enforced by the attitudes of the white community, caused Negro students to manifest the very difficulties which resulted in the negative image. There is a crucial need now for teachers such as yourself to break into the negative cause-and-effect spiral and to start all youngsters on the self-fulfilling path of positive human relationships.

Your help is vital. You influence the youngster during many hours of the day and for many days of the week. Your attitudes and actions can affect significantly the growth of both Negro and white students.

Specifically, you may:

1. become knowledgeable as to the history of the Negro movement toward equality in the eyes of social and civic law
2. use the anniversary of the Decision to study and discuss with your students its implications and applications to our modern-day America (An information sheet is enclosed.)
3. seek out and use curriculum material which may help in your work to foster better human relationships. The excellent resource booklet published by the New York State Department of Education, "Inter-Group Relations--A Resource Handbook for Elementary School Teachers," is available through your administrator.

May 13, 1964  
Page 2

Teachers of all grade levels would profit from examining this booklet

4. help youngsters work through apparent prejudices and hostilities concerning inter-racial matters
5. be careful to avoid use of textbook materials that even subtly picture minority groups in a subservient and degrading manner. Develop teaching units and discussions which highlight the contributions Negroes have made to our American culture
6. welcome Negro teachers as colleagues and help them to become contributing members of the faculty. It is educationally sound for youngsters, both white and Negro, to see a Negro in a position as important as a teacher
7. take advantage of the human relations workshop which is available to you through the Suffolk County Human Relations Commission.

There is evidence that if we all work in a concerted effort, we may have the opportunity for a breakthrough--a breakthrough which can only lead to better schools, better students, and a resulting better America.

The best to you and your students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isaac Cole".

Isaac Cole, President  
Patchogue Branch, NAACP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald G. Glass".

Gerald G. Glass, Chairman  
Education Committee



## POLITICAL ACTION AND VOTER REGISTRAION

The work of this Committee was confined primarily with "getting-out" the vote and educating the membership on issues affecting civil rights. During an election year, the Committees sponsored "Candidates Night" which gives the various candidates from both parties an opportunity to present their views to the Branch.

The year 1964 saw the NAACP for the first time in its history come out opposed to a particular candidate. The opposition to this candidate, the Republican nominee for President, Senator Barry Goldwater, gave rise to the need to increase voter registration. The Branch in cooperation with other civic groups conducted voter registration drives in Selden, Centereach, Patchogue, Gordon Heights, Bellport and Center Moriches. As a result of this effort, we were able to increase the voting strength in the various communities.

Throughout the year, personal contacts were made and letters were written to elected officials urging their support of various pieces of legislation that affect civil rights. The Political Action Chairman is Mr. Tyrell Wilson and the Voter Registration Chairman is Mr. Robert Wilson.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

At its inception, the Branch had an active membership of ninety-three (93). Since that time, we have increased our membership to about 325. The work of this committee has been and will continue to be the seeking out of persons who are sympathetic to our cause and who are willing to join the NAACP.

Each year the Branch conducts two membership drives, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. In order to cover the large geographical area of the Branch, it has been necessary to organize membership teams in each community. This has not been as successful as we had hoped, nevertheless efforts will continue to be made to increase our membership.

Because the list of names of those who worked in the membership drives are too numerous, we would like to thank all individuals who worked to make the efforts a success. The chairman of the membership committee is Mrs. Emma McNeese.

Regular membership is vital for Branch functioning. Types of memberships vary, the minimum fee is \$2.00 yearly. A Life Membership of \$500.00 can be paid in full or over a period of ten years.

## LEGAL REDRESS

The activities of this committee in this Branch deals mainly with the handling of complaints of police brutality, job discrimination, discrimination in housing, advising people of their rights and securing legal counsel when necessary. Mr. Lowell McLean served as Chairman to the Committee with assistance from the President and Mr. Turner. Attorney

Victor Yannacone, Jr. served as legal counsel and represented many of our complainants in court cases.

These are some of the highlights of the standing committees of the Branch. Other Committees such as the Church Work Committee made important contributions to the work of the organization. Under the leadership of Mrs. Ella McLean, the committee sponsored Freedom Sunday, commemorating the May 17, 1954 decision and also maintained liaison between the churches and the branch. The Press and Publicity Committee, under the direction of Mrs. Judith Herschman, published a branch newsletter and also submitted articles on the Branch's position and activities. This job, though not spectacular, is a very important aspect of the Branch's program. Each year the Branch sponsors a Freedom Ball to raise money toward our Freedom Fund quota, and also to serve as a social outlet for the membership. In our four years of existence, we have never yet failed to meet our Freedom Fund Assessment. This accomplishment was due mainly to the efforts of our chairman, Mrs. Barbara Brogan.

Two accomplishments of the Branch's history that stand out are the establishment of the Suffolk County Human Relations Committee and the adoption by Brookhaven Township of a housing code. Due mainly through the farsight and hard work of the Branch under the leadership of Mr. Burghardt Turner, we were able to convince the County Board of Supervisors of the need for the agency to serve to mediate and work toward the solution of problems affecting human relations. Hence the Suffolk County Human Relations Commission was created in 1962. The following officers of this Branch are now members of this commission: Mr. Tyrell Wilson, and Mr. W. Burghardt Turner.

During 1963, the Branch held a mourning march and memorial service for the murdered Medger Evers, picketted several Woolworth stores to support the desegregation effort in the South and held our annual Freedom Rally at which time Jackie Robinson came to Patchogue as our speaker.

Also at the urging of the Branch leadership, a Long Range Study Committee was established by Brookhaven Town. The purpose of this committee is to study the needs of the Town in terms of job opportunities, availability of housing and the education requirements of minority groups. The following members of the Branch are members of this committee; Dr. Gerald Glass, Mrs. Sylvia Kurshner, Mr. Loweli McLean, Mr. W. Burghardt Turner, Mr. Tyrell Wilson, and Attorney Victor Yannacone, Jr.

It is our hope that this report will serve as a help to apprise you of the work that has been done and is being done by the NAACP in this area. We will continue to work and support efforts by other groups, public and private. Let us all join in the fight for freedom!



### *SPECIAL PROJECTS*

Bean Sunday Project — each member was asked to contribute the cost of a meal and the proceeds raised were sent to aid distressed families in Knoxville, Tenn.

Toy Drive for Christmas 1962 and 1963 to aid underprivileged families

Sent representatives to Albany to discuss the NAACP's position on the passage of the Metcalf-Baker Bill.

#### HELP Project

Sponsored and Education Survey to determine the ethnic group distribution in the Patchogue, Middle Island, Bellport and Selden School Districts.

#### ANNUAL EVENTS:

Freedom Ball — proceeds are used to pay the Branch's Freedom Fund quota to the National Office

Freedom Rally — Summer outdoor program

Freedom Sunday Observance to commemorate the 1954 Supreme Court Decision

Interesting Panels and speakers were presented at Branch and special meetings. Some of the topics discussed were:

"The Morale Responsibility of the Church in the Fight for Civil Rights".

"Human Relations and Education".

"Prejudice and It's Fruit in Discrimination".

"Our African Heritage and the Name Negro."

"The Effect of Deprivation of Living in a Depressed Home Environment and its Effect on the Children."

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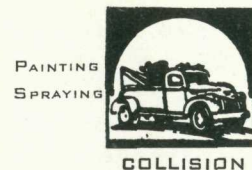
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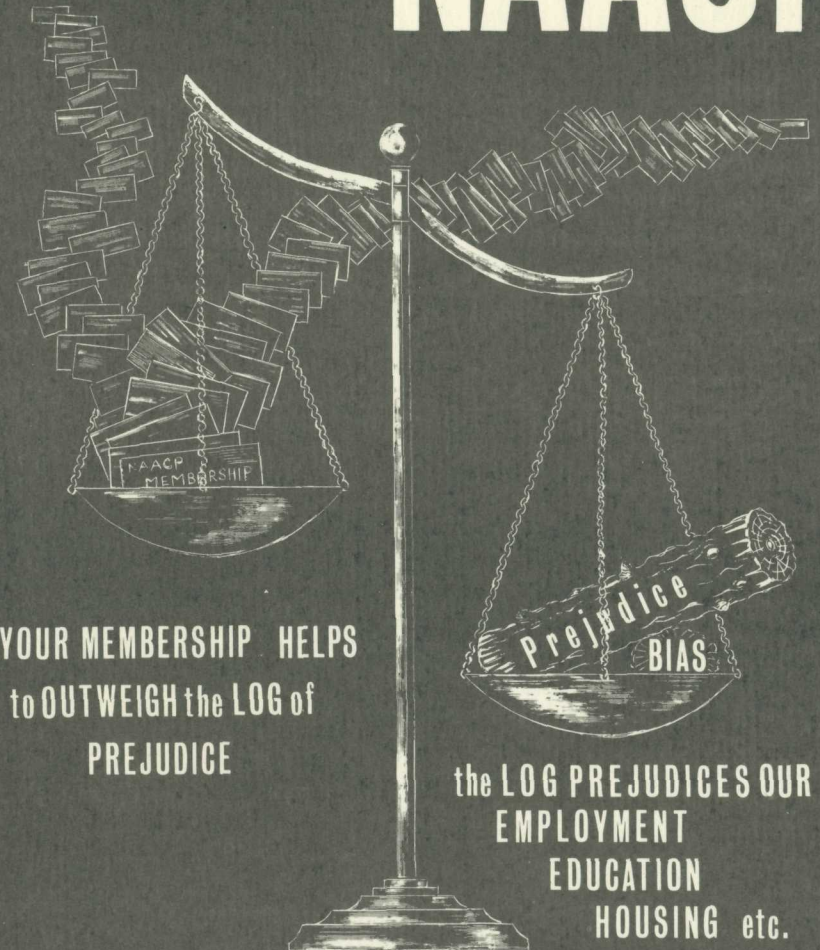
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