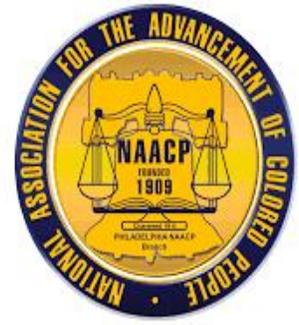


# NAACP NEWS



Philadelphia Branch NAACP Newsletter

February/March 2017

## A Call To Action For 2017

The new leadership team for the Philadelphia Branch, NAACP was sworn into office on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, Sunday, January 15, 2017 at Mt. Airy Church of God In Christ, where Rev. J. Louis Felton is the Pastor. Minister Rodney Muhammad was reelected in November of 2016, as President, along with First Vice President Felton, 2nd VP Joey Temple, (appointed), 3rd VP Felicia Harris, (new), Rochelle Bilal, Secretary and Shirley Jordan, Treasurer. (For a full slate of officers and board members, check

After the oath of office was administered by President Judge Skinner, Minister Rodney shared with guests and members, the work to be done in 2017. " One of the main issues on the agenda is addressing Literacy in the African American community and in the Hispanic community. To have individuals reach adulthood with little or no literacy skills, Muhammad said, is inexcusable. The plan is to work

collaborating with colleges and universities and other education groups. We will continue to fight against House Bill 1538 which conceals police officers identity until that individual is convicted of a crime.

We will continue to fight for \$15 minimum wage in the city.

We will work with the building trades and local corporations to secure diversity and inclusion in various construction projects around the city.

We will always stand up for civil



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# Everything You Want To Know About The National NAACP Convention July 22, 2017– July 26, 2017 In Baltimore, Maryland

The National NAACP annual conferences is an event you want to mark on your calendar now, as a “save the date” event.

The 108th national conference will unfold this year in Baltimore, Maryland, July 22—July 26, 2017 and is sure to be one of the most powerful, thought evoking and action taking gatherings we’ve seen in many years. Due to the climate in America what with the 45th President of the United States having taken the oath of office January 20th, it is a new day in America.

The NAACP is more important now than ever and it is equally important that everyone who is a card carrying member of the NAACP in good standing, to be more active and supportive of the goals and mission of the NAACP.

While this year marks the 108th National NAACP convention, it also marks the 48th annual Commerce and Industry Show, where corporate government, minority and non-profit exhibitors display their products and services is one of the highlights of the annual convention. It will begin on Saturday, July 22nd and concludes Tuesday, July 25th. Over 5,000 visitors are expected at this year’s Show and Job Fair during the 2017 Convention in Baltimore.

If interested in being an exhibitor or vendor, call 410-580-5756.

**What is the purpose of the National Convention?** The Annual Convention of the Association shall establish policies and programs of action for the ensuing year, all actions of the Convention on

Officers and all units, except as hereafter provided. No resolution for change of policy or program of action shall be in order, unless it shall have been favorably voted upon at regular legislative meetings of a unit in good standing, or has been submitted by the President and CEO. The resolution for policy or program change must be certified by the President and Secretary of the unit, and received by the President and CEO in the National Office by May 1st annually. The Convention shall act on all such proposed program or policy changes during the Legislative Sessions.

All of the workshops and seminars were not yet listed on the National NAACP web site at press time for this newspaper, however log onto the National NAACP web site at [www.naacpconvention.org](http://www.naacpconvention.org) for updates on all workshops, guests speakers and more.

**Here’s a couple things to note:** The annual career and diversity fair will take place Tuesday, July 25th, 12pm-6pm. There will also be a health fair during the Commerce and Industry Show. There will be an Author’s Pavilion, a Retail Expo with lots of wonderful vendors and a Mobile Lounge.

Don’t forget our Act-So students will be performing and competing during the National Convention as well. Admission to the Commerce and Industry Show is free and open to the public. For more details about the 2017 National NAACP Convention, log onto the web site at [www.naacpconvention.org](http://www.naacpconvention.org), or call 410-580-5780

# Know Your National President



**Cornell William Brooks**  
**President & CEO, National NAACP**

Cornell Williams Brooks is the 18th President and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a civil rights attorney, social justice advocate, fourth generation ordained minister and coalition builder, Brooks exemplifies the mission of the NAACP to secure political, educational, social and economic equality for all American citizens. Working with the whole of the NAACP, his vision is an NAACP that is multiracial, multiethnic, multigenerational and millions of members strong.

A graduate of Yale Law School, Brooks considers himself “an heir” of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Born in El Paso, TX, and raised in Georgetown, SC, he went on to earn a B.A. with honors in political science from Jackson State University, a Masters of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology, where he was a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar, and a J.D. from Yale Law School. During his tenure as president and CEO of the NAACP, with renewed visibility and voice, Brooks has passionately led the Association in courts, and the community, against racial profiling, police misconduct and the full range of the NAACP’s

Brooks is married and lives with his wife Janice and two sons. For more information on our president, visit the NAACP official web site.



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**A Message from**  
**Minister Rodney Muhammad, President,**  
**Philadelphia Chapter NAACP**

Dear NAACP Members and Supporters:

The time we have entered will truly test the mettle of

# NAACP News You Can Use

**The Philadelphia Branch NAACP** welcomed the new year by partnering with the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity in hosting a celebration of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Mount Airy Church of God In Christ, in the West Oak Lane section of Philadelphia.

The service actually took place, immediately following the swearing-in of officers and board members of the Philly Branch. Rev. Felton, the pastor of the church and 1st Vice President of the NAACP, welcomed all members and guests to participate in both special occasions, the swearing-in of officers and the celebration of Dr. King.

Rev. Janet Jenkins Sturdivant was the keynote speaker for the Dr. King service and she delivered a rousing sermon about the legacy of Dr. King and the labor we yet have to accomplish today. Rev. Sturdivant was promoted to the office of Presiding Elder of the South District of the Philadelphia Annual Conference by the Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, in 2013. Her appointment as Presiding Elder made Connectional history because her appointment makes it the first time that any Annual Conference in the African Methodist Episcopal Church has two female Presiding Elders serving in it, at the same time.

**Congratulations are in order for the local ACT-SO Committee**, which held a successful fundraiser at Lou & Choo's Bar and Restaurant in North Philadelphia Friday, February 9, 2017. The event was well supported by chapter members and our friends. Special thanks to all those who sold tickets and or purchased tickets to support the fundraiser.

## **The 3rd Wave of Reconstruction**

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### **Demise of Illiteracy & Rise of Wealth**

*A Two Day NAACP Symposium  
at the African American Museum in Philadelphia  
701 Arch Street*

The 3rd Wave of Reconstruction Symposium will kick off on Friday, April 21, 2017 with a welcome reception and address, 6pm-9pm. The reception will take place from 6pm-7pm and the official discussion starts at 7pm sharp. Saturday, April 22nd we'll be back at the museum for a full session with several breakout workshops. On Saturday we start at 9am and the day will conclude at 4pm. Save this date on your calendar now. More details will be forthcoming on the Philadelphia Branch NAACP web site, on our NAACP Face Book page, via mass email blasts and at our monthly membership meetings.

**The millennials of our Philly Chapter of the NAACP are spearheading a partnership with WHYY Radio to host a District Attorney Candidates Forum** on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at the WHYY Studio at Independence Mall West, 150 N. 6th room, Phila. 19106. The live broadcast will start at 7pm and will be a one hour forum. Guests must RSVP in advance because seating will be limited. Contact our NAACP office for details on

# A Picture Says A Thousand Words





## Philly Was Strong At NAACP State Conference

More than 25 Philadelphia NAACP members traveled to Millersville University Saturday, January 28, 2017 for the first quarterly NAACP State meeting. The main focus was a mandatory training for all officers and board members. The training was presided over by Paula Brown Edmond, who shared the NAACP history, many of our rules that are in our bylaws, the charge to work harder than ever for the NAACP, and a reminder to all if there's any "tensions"

## NAACP MARCHED. WHEN TRUMP CAME TO TOWN

Thursday, January 26, 2017, as part of responding to actions taken by President Donald Trump to roll back the Affordable Care Act, (Obama Care Health Insurance), pushing for U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions to be the U.S. Attorney General, and to send a message to the White House that the NAACP is not going to sit by quietly and say nothing as Trump dismantles a lot of the great work accomplished by President Barack Obama, Rodney Muhammad and other NAACP members, participated in a demonstration against Trump.

The rally was across from City Hall outside in front of the Municipal Services Building. 5,000 people showed up for the march, even though it had only been organized in less than 24 hours. Rodney Muhammad was one of the leaders at the table, who helped strategize and put the rally and march together.

Participants marched until stopped by police a block away from the Lowes Hotel where Donald Trump was speaking. Minister Muhammad reminded us that our National NAACP President, Cornell Williams Brooks, along with 5 other NAACP leaders were arrested earlier in January, in Mobile Alabama at the senate office of Jeff Sessions, urging his name to be withdrawn for consideration as U.S. Attorney General. According to Rodney Muhammad, "If our national president can get arrested, the least we can do is rally and march."



## Who is responsible for building collapse?

It's been found that the Salvation Army bears 75% of the responsibility for the 22nd & Market St. building collapse. Richard Basciano, real estate developer deserves 5% of the blame, his STB Investment Corporation, 13% of the blame, Plato Marinkos, Jr. the architect on the job, 30% — and again, the two African American men who were working on the job site that day, were found to only deserve 1% of the blame, but they're both in jail and all others involved are free at this time. What



## SAVE THESE DATES FOR NAACP

### GENERAL MEETINGS:

Tues. Feb. 21  
Tues. March 21  
Tues. April 18th  
Tues. May 16th  
Tues. June 20th  
Tues. July 18th  
Tues. Aug. 15th  
Tues. Sept. 19th  
Tues. Oct. 17th  
Tues. Nov. 21st  
Tues. Dec. 21st

The meetings take place at  
**Freedom Theatre**  
1346 N. Broad St.

## Philly NAACP Stands Behind Griffin Campbell

Thursday February 2, 2017, The Philadelphia Branch NAACP held a press conference on the 4th floor at city hall to announce our continued concern that Griffin Campbell is sitting in prison, facing a 30 year sentence, when it was the owner of the building that collapsed on June 5, 2013, and the architect and developer, who were clearly far more responsible for the collapse of that building and the 7 lives lost who were inside at the time. Very the beginning of this sad story, it appeared that the two Black men involved with the case, became the scapegoats, while the whites involved, remained free. After the civil trial concluded, it was announced by the court, that Griffin Campbell and Sean Benschop were found to be only one percent responsible for the building collapse.

Rodney Muhammad is calling for a new trial for Griffin Campbell and the NAACP continues to stand by his wife, who participated

## The Mission of the NAACP:

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (**NAACP**) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about the Philadelphia NAACP. Our number is 215-232-3837.

Our chapter office is located inside the Women's Christian Alliance Building at 1722-42 Cecil B. Moore Avenue., Phila. PA 19123.

If you don't have a membership to the NAACP, get one today. An annual membership cost \$30.

A lifetime membership costs \$1,000.

Our website is :

GET YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NAACP TODAY. CALL 215-232-3837

Philadelphia NAACP  
C/O Women's Christian Alliance  
1722-42 Cecil B. Moore Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19123

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE