



NAACP

Pennsylvania
STATE CONFERENCE

Together We Rise!

2020
ANNUAL REPORT

NAACP

WE ARE DONE DYING!

**I WAS BORN BLACK.
I WILL DIE BLACK.
BUT I DON'T WANT
TO DIE BECAUSE
I AM BLACK!**

The NAACP was founded in 1909 as a national, biracial organization to help eliminate social injustices. The Pennsylvania State Conference for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has been in existence since 1934. Since its inception, twenty-one persons have served as President of the State Conference. The first president was Mrs. Sophia B. Nelson of Pittsburgh and those who followed are listed below:

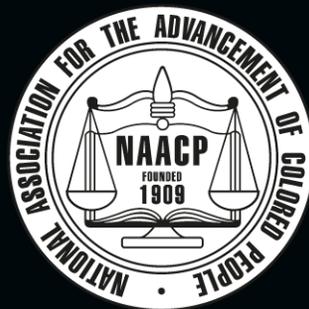
Dr. James A. Gillespie – Hollidaysburg
Dr. George A. Walker – Pittsburgh
Charles A. Brown – Hollidaysburg
Dr. Harry Green – Philadelphia
Joshua O. Thompson – Ambler
Dr. Burrell R. Johnson – Johnstown
Attorney Henry R. Smith – Pittsburgh
Louis E. Waller – Washington
Dr. Fred L. Vaughans – Uniontown
Dr. Charles H. Butler – Coatesville
Thomas A. Smith, Jr. – Johnstown

Richard P. Burton, Sr. – Allentown
Charles T. Stokes – Pittsburgh
John Shelton, Sr. – Chester
Attorney Burrell A. Brown – Clairton
Thomas A. Smith, Jr. – Bethlehem
J. Wyatt Mondesire – Philadelphia
Dwayne Jackson – Harrisburg
Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn – Media
Blanding Watson – Lancaster
Kenneth L. Huston – Monroeville

*Vision
&
Mission*

Vision

The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race or color.



Mission

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.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In accordance with the National Bylaws, the Executive Committee of the State Conference shall consist of all officers, all standing committee chairpersons, State Conference Youth President, State Conference Youth Advisor, and such other persons as the approved State Conference Bylaws provide.

Some of the duties of the Executive Committee are as follows:

- A. The executive committee shall have general control of the affairs and program of the unit, subject to the authority of the unit and the provisions of the Constitution and approved bylaws.
- B. The executive committee shall render a report, containing the reports of all standing and special committees, at the regular meetings of the unit and whenever otherwise required.

OFFICERS

Kenneth L. Huston, *President*
 Blanding Watson, *First Vice President/Economic Development Chair*
 Diana Robertson, *Second Vice President/Communications Chair*
 Connie Craig, *Third Vice President*
 Shirley Jordan, *Secretary*
 Ruth Howze, *Assistant Secretary*
 Alan C. Duncan, Sr., *Treasurer*

A. Jean Arnold	Jarrett Jackson
Rochelle Bilal	Stanley Lawson
Jean Brown	Veronica Norris, <i>Youth Works</i>
Kaaba Brunson	Sean Parker, <i>Act-So</i>
Everett L. Butcher	Rev. Regina Ragin, <i>Religious Affairs</i>
Jessica Butler-Grant	Jamil Reese, <i>Young Adult</i>
Jimel Calliste, <i>Advisor, Y&C Division</i>	Patricia Stringer
Michael Cogbill — <i>Chair, Political Action</i>	Stacey Taylor
Rev. Eric Dobson — <i>Chair, Housing</i>	Dr. Tonya Thames-Taylor
Carolyn Dunklin, <i>Parliamentarian</i>	Brian Jason Turner
Validia Giddens, <i>Chair, Education</i>	Richard Wukich, <i>Environmental & Climate Jus</i>
Nasaiah Hoskins, <i>President, Y&C Division</i>	Gregg Zeff, <i>Legal Redress</i>
Dwayne D. Jackson, Sr.	

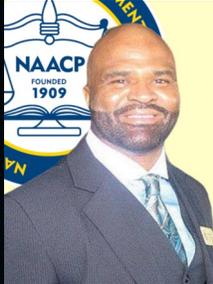
*Kenneth
L.
Huston*



“WHERE JUSTICE IS DENIED, WHERE POVERTY IS ENFORCED, WHERE IGNORANCE PREVAILS, AND WHERE ANY ONE CLASS IS MADE TO FEEL THAT SOCIETY IS AN ORGANIZED CONSPIRACY TO OPPRESS, ROB AND DEGRADE THEM, NEITHER PERSONS NOR PROPERTY WILL BE SAFE.”

Frederick Douglass

President's Message



As I began my term as president in October 2019, it was clear that there would be much work to be done both internally as well as externally. From the beginning, I took to heart the mission, vision and game changers established by the National NAACP, because those key elements are the foundation of the organization along with the Constitution and Bylaws. Additionally, the Bylaws are very specific as to the responsibility, the purpose and objectives of the State Conference.

The 2020 Annual Report will document many of the activities which occurred and highlight the beginning transformation of the Pennsylvania State Conference within a period of a year. Included in the objectives of the State Conference, as stated in the Bylaws, is the responsibility “to stimulate all units to greater activity in the fight for freedom; revive dormant units; organize new units; seek the enactment of laws in the state legislature which will advance the programs and policies of the Association.” With the philosophy of doing things in a more excellent way, and the theme of *Together We Rise!* the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference is moving forward.

We all know that total change is slow to come, but it is happening, nevertheless. However, with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a whole host of new challenges occurred. By the middle of March, Pennsylvania had been shut down, units could not meet in person and inequalities and injustices already identified, were exacerbated by the pandemic while racial unrest persisted. The pandemic caused National as well as all units to become creative and therefore, the use of virtual technology was and continues to be used to communicate with one another. Town Hall meetings, virtual conversations, virtual quarterly meetings, and virtual trainings have all been presented in formats which ultimately maximized the virtual world of communication. I appreciate the work of the units who took on the challenge to stay connected to their local communities to ensure and assure that they had not been forgotten in this pandemic. I thank those units who fully supported the State Conference by their participation in meetings, trainings, and disseminating information as provided as well as to their financial support. So what advocacy is needed to make substantial change?

Anyone who professes to be a civil rights leader must be knowledgeable in what is going on within the systems of education, criminal justice, health, economic development, labor and industry, and other areas where policies and laws exist to adversely impact the well being of African-Americans. You must avail yourselves to teaching others so that they are able to fight for themselves. You must be willing to be a voice for the person who is faced with confronting injustices and the issues that perpetuate systemic racism, for the problem of the twenty-first century remains the problem of the color-line.

In the words of W. E. B. DuBois, “*Now is the accepted time, not tomorrow, not some more convenient season. It is today that our best work can be done and not some future day or future year.*”

A more excellent way!

Kenneth L. Huston
President

Chairman of the Board Message



NAACP

Leon W. Russell
Chairman
National Board of Directors

October 23, 2020

Greetings:

Congratulations to the Pennsylvania State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on your 86th Annual Convention, "Together We Rise."

It is always my pleasure to welcome you as we have occasion to convene. Please take this time to motivate and challenge one another in our civil and human rights work. Yes, we are in difficult and divisive times. With the disparities in healthcare due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing abuse of power by law enforcement, many efforts abound to turn back the clock to erase essential, important progress. However, the NAACP does not succumb to discriminatory tactics. We Are Done Dying – We Fight and We Win! I extend my gratitude to you, as fellow members of the NAACP, for your continued support of our 111-year mission to make equality and justice a reality for all Americans.

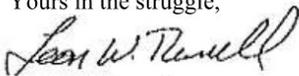


As you know, the Voting Rights Act has been under attack. We are taking every opportunity to reinforce our ongoing fight for freedom, maintain justice, and expand our nonpartisan work to enroll and register new voters toward ensuring a record number on Election Day, November 3. We will let the nation and the world know the meaning of our numbers.

As we have always done, we renew our commitments and make the sacrifices to protect the rights for which we fought and won; for which many made the ultimate sacrifice – beatings, jail and death. The strong local presence and work of each NAACP unit across this country will always be vital to the success of our efforts. Our membership continues to be our foundation and strength. We pursue and fulfill our mission together.

Please enjoy the hospitality of the Pennsylvania State Conference. These NAACP branch members have worked to make this an exceptional occasion, and we recognize and applaud their efforts. I congratulate all who have been involved for their outstanding efforts and a successful event.

Yours in the struggle,


Leon W. Russell

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
4805 Mt Hope Drive • Baltimore MD 21215-3297 • 410.580.5777 • 877.622.2798 • naacp.org



NAACP

Derrick Johnson
President and
Chief Executive Officer

October 23, 2020

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONFERENCE NAACP:

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and gratitude to you as you hold your 86th Annual Convention, “Together We Rise.” It is my sincerest hope that this message finds you in good health and well-being. For 3 years, I have had the highest honor of serving as president and CEO of this extraordinary organization, and over the past few months, I have never been more proud of the work this Association and members like you have done to push this country forward.



This has been the year of reckoning for our nation, and the Black community has shown undeniable power and resilience in the face of glaring adversity. In the midst of battling twin pandemics – the worldwide outbreak of the deadly coronavirus and the resurgence of Jim Crow era persecution of innocent Black people – our community has withstood attack after attack on the dignity of the Black life. To the thousands of our members, supporters, and followers that joined us in boldly proclaiming: We Are Done Dying; thank you. Your voice did not go unnoticed. Truly, we have made real change.

From our Juneteenth Virtual Black Family Reunion to the 2020 Virtual March on Washington, and our first ever Virtual National Convention, we have proven to the world that although we may be physically distancing, our movement cannot be silenced. We have the power to shake the world, if only we demand it. And this November, we must use that power to vote in the most consequential election of our time. All roads must lead to the ballot box, because there is entirely too much at stake if they don’t. We must continue the journey we started in November 2018, when we elected the most diverse Congress in history, and catapulted the conversation around civil rights and social justice to the national stage.

Too many have fought for the progress of this nation we call home, and this year, too many have died. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. George Floyd. Congressman John Lewis. And countless other souls. As we head to the polls this November, we must keep their memories in our hearts and continue their fight. We must vote like our lives depend on it, because they do. Together, we will right-size the balance of justice in this nation. Together, we will do great things.

Peace and Power,

Derrick Johnson

Governor of Pennsylvania





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



GREETINGS:

It is my pleasure to join with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to welcome everyone gathered for the 2020 NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference.

Pennsylvania has a long history of fighting oppression and promoting inclusion. When the commonwealth was founded, William Penn envisioned a place where people could feel welcome, regardless of their identity. The NAACP is an integral part of our history and has continuously advocated for equality and justice for all individuals. The fairness, inclusion, and trust promoted by this organization are necessary for a diverse society and a strong commonwealth. I applaud the NAACP for advocating for change in our society, and I commend the members gathered today who set themselves apart as they work to carry out the goals of this organization. I am confident that the NAACP will continue to have an impact on our commonwealth and the nation for years to come.

As Governor, and on behalf of all the citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I am delighted to welcome everyone to this conference. Please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.



Tom Wolf

TOM WOLF
Governor
October 23-24, 2020

Committees

There are twenty-one Standing Committees outlined in the National Bylaws. Of the twenty-one committees, there are six game changers.

The Six Game Changers Where we need to go. How we will get there.

Economic Sustainability
A Chance to



Economic Sustainability

A Chance to live the American Dream for All!
Every person will have equal opportunity to achieve economic success, sustainability, and financial security.

American



Dream for All!

Health Equality for all Americans

Including a Healthy Life and High-Quality Health Care!



Voting Rights and Political Representation

Protect and Enhance Voting Rights and Fair Representation!

Every American will have free, open, equal, and protected access to the vote and fair representation at all levels of the political process. By protecting democracy, enhancing equity, and increasing democratic participation and civic engagement, African Americans will be proportionally elected to political office.

Economic Sustainability
live the



Education

A Free, High-Quality Public Education For All!

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.



Public Safety and Criminal Justice Equitable Dispensation of Justice for All!

Disproportionate incarceration, racially motivated policing strategies, and racially biased, discriminatory, and mandatory minimum sentencing will end. Incarceration will be greatly reduced and communities will be safer. The death penalty will be abolished at the state and federal level, as well as in the military.



Expanding Youth and Young Adult Engagement

Your Membership is the Lifeblood of our Organization!

Committees

“In 1909, "The Call" forged a consensus among willing Americans of all identities that it was necessary to form a national organization that would advance the interests of people of color through coordinated action and reasoned argument. More than a century later, the NAACP has updated its strategic direction and plan, creating a powerful vision for the future and setting organizational goals that focus its work for the 21st Century. Today, the NAACP continues its pursuit of fairness, equality and justice for all on the local, state, national and global level using 21st-Century strategies and tactics. The six NAACP Game Changers address the major areas of inequality facing African Americans. They are the focus of the NAACP’s work.”

VIRTUAL CANDIDATES FORUM

VOTING: A MUST DURING COVID-19

The NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference invites you to a virtual forum for Pennsylvania's candidates for **Auditor General**.

Thursday, May 21st, at 6pm

Register at <https://bit.ly/2XaizFb>

Moderated by: **Kenneth L. Huston, PA State President**








NINA AHMAD
TRACIE FOUNTAIN
CHRISTINA M. HARTMAN
H. SCOTT CONKLIN
MICHAEL LAMB
ROSE MARIE DAVIS

Sponsored by: **NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference**



State Senator Sharif Street and Rev. Eric Dobson



NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference Forum on Housing

Wednesday, September 2 at 6pm

A virtual conversation on Housing with President Ken Huston, State Senator Sharif Street, and Rev. Eric Dobson.

[Click here to register on Zoom](#)

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

"PROTECTING OUR LABOR FORCE"

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL MEETING
Thursday, May 14, 2020
6:00 PM






Honorable Brendan Boyle
US Congressman
Pennsylvania 2nd District
Honorable Christine Turraglione
Pennsylvania State Senator
and District
Honorable Vincent Hughes
Pennsylvania State Senator
7th District
Steve Paul, Director
Field Operations
One Pennsylvania Action Network

Register in advance for this webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_vhLV7XmPTXmLCgIqgTrWQ




Hosted by
The Labor and Industry Committee

Kenneth L. Huston
President

for more information call: 215-908-5202

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

VIRTUAL TOWNHALL MEETING
Thursday, May 7, 2020
6:00 PM



Honorable Brental Eskin, Executive Director
Director General (2020)
Complaints Board Commissioner, PA
Department of Community and Economic Development







Dan Jarama, Executive Director of Advocacy and Reform, Office of Gov. Tom Wolf
Hon. Dwight Evans, US Congressman, Pennsylvania 3rd District
Stephen L. Lunsford, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, Pennsylvania Department of State
Hon. Mark Spivey, Deputy Director of Policy, Capitalist Chamber
Senator Art Hovocsek, Pennsylvania State Senator for the 4th District

Register in advance for this webinar: <https://bit.ly/3fhr3w>

Hosted by
The Political Action and Civic Engagement Committee




Kenneth L. Huston
President

First Quarterly Meeting

Still recognizing the legacy of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the First Quarterly Meeting was held on Saturday, January 25, 2020, at Millersville University. For those who needed lodging, arrangements were made with the DoubleTree Resort by Hilton Lancaster where some made reservations.

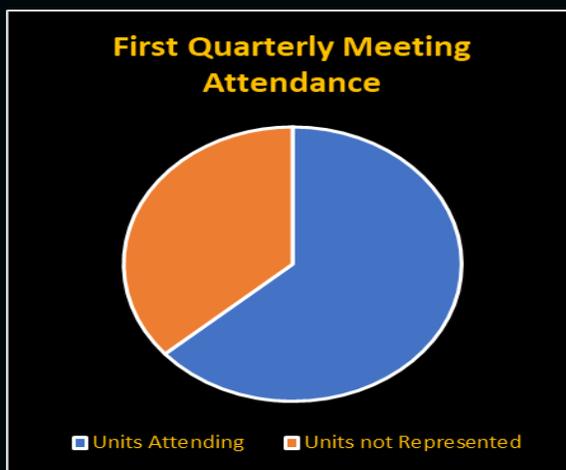
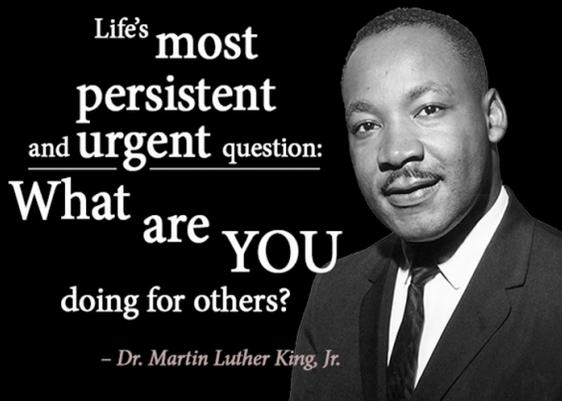
The agenda began with a press conference, continued with a dialogue with the presidents in attendance, and the rest of the time was spent on training by then Mid-Atlantic Regional Field Director, Jonathan McKinney and an intergenerational session presented by Youth and College Division Field Director, Derrick Lewis II. This session was very well presented and very well received. There were more than 150 members in attendance (representing 28 out of 44 units). Lunch was included and the day concluded with an Executive Committee meeting.



Training consisted of basic information that could all be found in the Bylaws. Also, there was a video played discussing the Annual Financial Report which is a report due annually in the beginning of March.

The goal of this first quarterly meeting was to accomplish a few important things. One was to boost the attendance of members from the different units. Previously, attendance had diminished a great deal and therefore one of the goals of the president was to once again arouse interest. Secondly, in knowing the importance of training, it was also important to President Huston that for those who attended, training would be provided by a representative of the National Office to stimulate activity within branches.

Also, at this time, the Youth and College Division was not compliant and therefore National representatives had to begin by overseeing an election for them to be able to move forward. The election produced the Youth Advisor, Jimel Calliste; President, Nasaiah Hoskins; and Vice President, Michael Jefferson.



Second Quarterly Meeting



NAACP Pennsylvania STATE CONFERENCE



Kenneth L. Huston
President



Ms. Tené Crooms
MODERATOR
PA State Conference
Press and Publicity
Coordinator



Brandon J. Flood
Secretary, Pennsylvania
Board of Pardons



Steven McFarland
Pardons and
Commutations Liaison,
Office of Lieutenant
Governor John Fetterman



Julie Strickland-Gilliard
Regional Director,
Western Pennsylvania,
Office of Lieutenant
Governor John Fetterman

PRESS CONFERENCE

EXPECTATIONS OF GOVERNOR WOLF'S HEALTH DISPARITY TASKFORCE

APRIL 18, 2020

Diana Robertson, Second Vice President, PA State Conference
Communications

With the theme of the meeting, ***Vision Made Plain—Advocacy During the COVID-19 Pandemic***, this would be the ***first time*** to have a quarterly meeting held virtually by Zoom. On Saturday, April 18, 2020, beginning at 9:00 am, President Huston launched a press conference which would highlight the expectations of Governor Tom Wolf's Health Disparity Taskforce. The speakers who joined President Huston included Brandon J. Flood, Secretary, Pennsylvania Board of Pardons; Steven McFarland, Pardons and Communications Liaisons; and Julie Strickland-Gilliard, Regional Director, Western Pennsylvania.

In accepting an appointment to this newly established Taskforce, President Huston wanted all to know the expected impact of this Taskforce.

Following the press conference, there was a focus on Criminal Justice.

Presenter Keir Bradford-Grey, Esquire, Chief Public Defender of Philadelphia Defender Association spoke briefly on criminal justice reform that is needed and for the consideration of the NAACP to take action.

Presenter Jennifer Clarke, Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Center spoke on two issues regarding Criminal Justice.

President Huston concluded the session by speaking on how advocacy helps a branch to be effective after being a compliant branch.

Following the general session of the meeting, the Executive Committee took place.

Third Quarterly Meeting

Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part. John Lewis

"Take a long, hard look down the road you will have to travel once you have made a commitment to work for change. Know that this transformation will not happen right away. Change often takes time. It rarely happens all at once. In the movement, we didn't know how history would play itself out. When we were getting arrested and waiting in jail or standing in unmovable lines on the courthouse steps, we didn't know what would happen, but we knew it had to happen." John Lewis

The focus of the virtual Third Quarterly Meeting which was held on August 15, 2020, was:

What it takes for a Unit to Be Effective and Branch Elections

President Huston spent time reviewing slides that focused once again on the various responsibilities of branches as well as branch leadership.

With the recent death of Congressman John R. Lewis, President Huston was able to provide examples of what real advocacy means.

There was also a lot of discussion on voting rights, voter registration, voter education, and the importance of people getting out to vote.

Information was also provided as a reminder to what things must be completed for a branch to be compliant such as payment of unit assessments. The information presented could be found in the Bylaws as well as the branch election guide. The information was referenced in discussing the steps for units to take to have a productive election.

The executive committee meeting followed the general membership meeting.

PSC Annual Convention

Friday, October 23, 2020

The NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference 86th virtual Annual Convention began at 9:00 a.m. with the first Business Plenary Session and President Kenneth L. Huston presiding. This Annual Convention would be the first for the State Conference held virtually. Convention committees were elected.

State of the Commonwealth - Part I



Moderator **Ryan Houston** [Anchor/Reporter for WPXI-TV, Channel 11 in Pittsburgh, PA.] interviewed Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health, Dr. Validia Giddens, Special Educator; and Carol L. Kilko, Deputy Secretary for Business Financing and Workforce Development within the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. The areas of health, economic development and education were the topics of discussion. All spent time discussing their scope of work and how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Commonwealth in general in each of these areas.



State of the Commonwealth - Part II CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Moderator Khadija T. Diggs, Esquire, Board Member, Pennsylvania Parole Board, introduced the panel as:

Attorney General Josh Shapiro

Attorney Keir Bradford-Grey, Chief Defender of Philadelphia

Attorney Lisa Freeland, Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Attorney Robert L. Listenbee, First Assistant District Attorney for Philadelphia

Superior Court Judge Carolyn H. Nichols

George Little, PA Department of Corrections, Executive Deputy Secretary

A very candid discussion ensued on the topic of Criminal Justice Reform from the perspective of the position of the panelists, what reform they believe is needed for their areas to be more effective, and what it will take for that reform to happen.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=2743479679262281&ref=search>

PSC
Annual
Convention

Saturday, October 24, 2020

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS ROUND TABLE



The topic of discussion was:
“The role of social justice in ministry and what needs to be done for interfaith communities to unite in addressing social justice issues?”

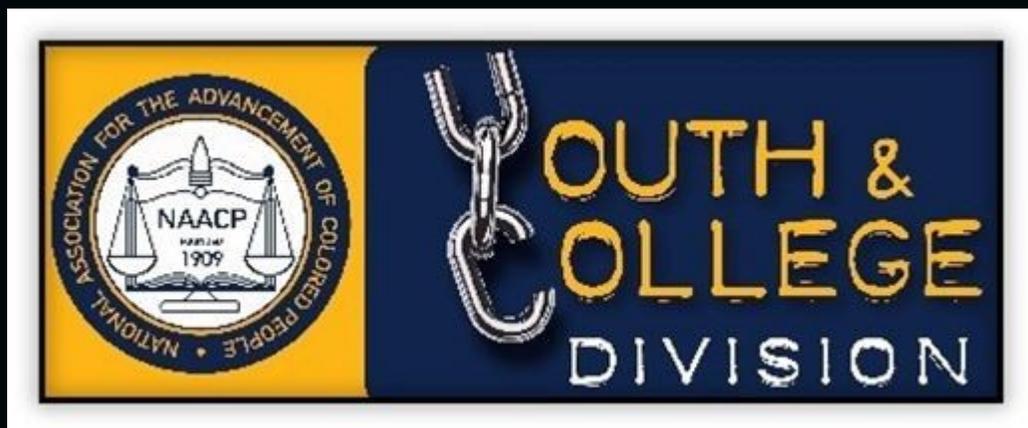
Rev. Dr. Randall Bush, Senior Pastor, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh, PA

Bishop J. Louis Felton, Senior Pastor, Mount Airy Church of God in Christ, Philadelphia, PA

Rev. James A. Pollard, Sr., PhD, Pastor, Zion Baptist Church of Ardmore, Ardmore, PA

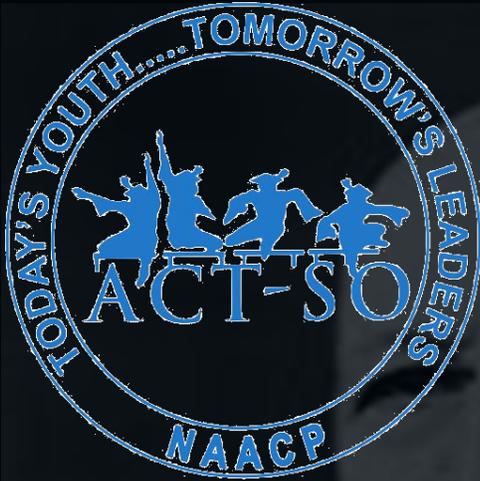
Reverend Regina Ragin-Dykes, Pastor, New Life AME Church

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14M35IvrLxglBdwb5RCLCufGwkGj16mF-/view?>



Members of Youth Councils and College Chapters came together to meet and discuss matters important to them. The PSC was working with them to become fully compliant.

Freedom Fund Finale



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2020 Bronze Recipients

Kenneth Moody—Philadelphia
Lunden McClain—Harrisburg



Keynote Speaker

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson was the keynote speaker at the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference virtual 86th Annual Convention's Freedom Fund Finale. He gave a live talk on zoom discussing the next steps and focus of the NAACP. The Pennsylvania State Conference appreciated President Johnson speaking to the units.

PSC
*Annual
Convention*

Freedom Fund Finale

2020 HONOREES



President's Award

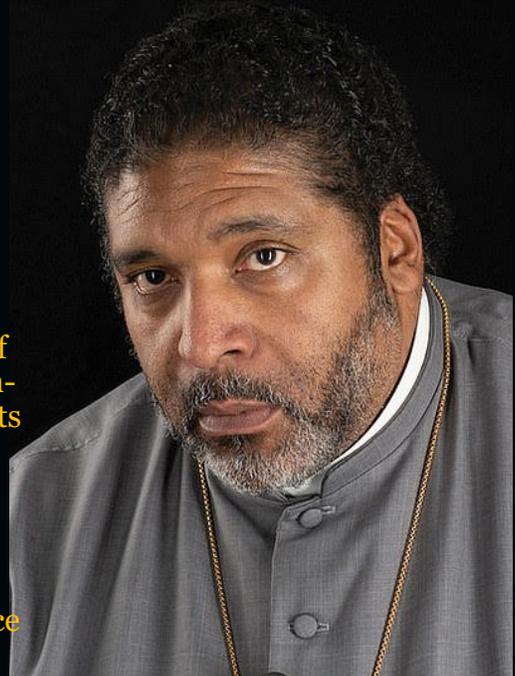
FRED REDMOND

*The recipient of the 2020 President's Award was **Fred Redmond**, United Steel Workers, International VP (Human Affairs). As Vice President for Human Affairs, Redmond oversees the union's Civil and Human Rights Department and has worked with USW allies across the country to respond to right-wing attacks on voting rights and to combat economic inequality.*

**John R. Lewis
Civil Rights Award**

REV. DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER, II

Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II is the President and Senior Lecturer at Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign was the recipient of the Pennsylvania State Conference's *first* John R. Lewis Civil Rights Award. He truly exemplifies the legacy of Congressman Lewis in his Moral Monday marches, Poor People's Campaign and all of the social activism either led or promoted by Rev. Dr. Barber. There is no doubt that he has committed his life to fighting for the dignity of all people. The remarks given by Dr. Barber in his acceptance speech challenged all NAACP civil rights activists to not become weary in well doing and fighting the good fight.



Sponsors



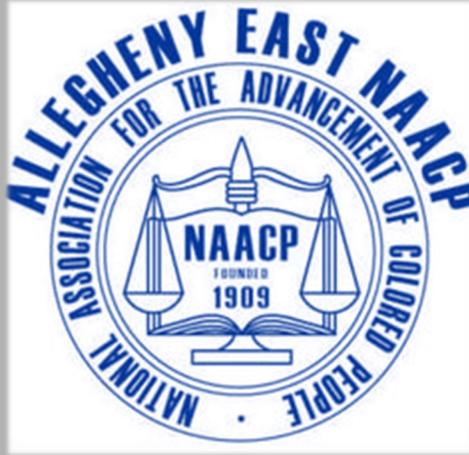
NAACP

President Ken Huston thanks all of the units who supported the Pennsylvania State Conference by submitting ads.

This is the first time that the State Conference has produced an Annual Report which reflects the events of 2020.

Thank you for your patience in completing this publication.

Unit
Support



fully supports the civil rights advocacy

of the

NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference

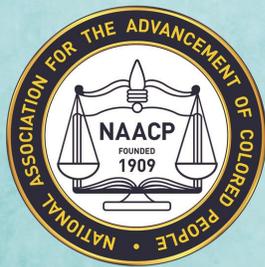
Kenneth L. Huston, *President*

*Through the continuing circumstances of
Covid-19 in 2020*

**Best Wishes for a Successful
86th Annual
NAACP PA State Convention**

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay strong.

Together We Rise!



NAACP
Bethlehem

Officers and Members Bethlehem NAACP

Mrs. Esther M. Lee, President
Mrs. Tomacene Nickens, 2nd Vice President
Ms. Jessica L. Lee, Secretary
Mrs. Millie Nelson, Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Laura Lawrence, Treasurer
Rev. Clinton Bryant, Chaplain

“The struggle continues for education and our civil rights”

bethnaacp.org | facebook.com/bethlehem.naacp

Unit
Support



NAACP

Bucks County Branch

Wishes

The Pennsylvania State Conference

A Successful

86th Annual Convention

"Together We Rise!"

As We Congratulate the 2020 Honorees

**Reverend Doctor William Barber: Repairers of the Breach
Fred Redman: AFL-CIO
The Anne Hines Unit Recognition**



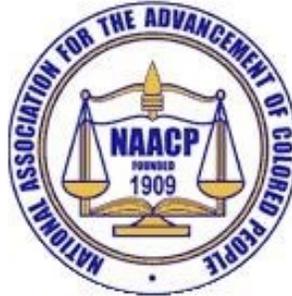
**President: Karen Downer
Second Vice President: William Bennett
Third Vice President: Pamela Janvey
Treasurer: Nathaniel Gagum
Secretary: Lisa Spurlocke**



Visit Us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BucksNAACP/>

Please Vote

CHELTENHAM AREA BRANCH



Congratulates

The Pennsylvania State Conference

On Their

**86th Annual Convention on
Friday and Saturday**

October 23 and 24, 2020

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www.cheltenhamnaacp.com

Unit Support



Indiana County NAACP

Extends

*Best wishes and congratulations to Pennsylvania
State NAACP 86th Conference*



Contact us at Indiana.county.naacp@gmail.com or phone 724-464-9152.

Visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NAACPofIndianaCounty/>.

Mailing Address: Indiana County NAACP, P. O. Box 7, Indiana, PA 15701

Unit Support



NAACP Main Line Branch

OFFICERS

Diana Robertson, *President*
Rev. Virginia Pollard, *Vice President*
Brian Jason Turner, *Secretary*
Anita Friday, Esq., *Asst. Secretary*
Ronald Williford, *Treasurer*
Carol Wallace, *Asst. Treasurer*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Juliet Jeter
Jamil Reese
Dr. Candace Robertson-James
Adrian Seltzer
Alex Tavengar
Craig Whitney

Congratulations

NAACP

PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONFERENCE

**“Racism is so universal in this country,
so widespread, and deep-seated,
that it is invisible because it is so normal.”**

Shirley Chisholm

Continue to Fight!

*Good Luck to the
NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference*

on

*Your 86th Convention,
Together We Rise!*

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – DR. ANDREW GOUDY
1ST VICE PRESIDENT – PHYLLIS WALLER
2ND VICE PRESIDENT – EMANUEL ARCHIE
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CLARA HARPER

EMERITUS

MILDRED IVERY JAMES (COOKIE) MCDONALD

THE WASHINGTON COUNTY PA UNIT #2291

Meetings Secretary's Report

President Huston was elected as the new president to the Pennsylvania State Conference on October 19, 2019. On that same date, President Huston presided over his first Executive Committee meeting while the Conference was still under the Administration of Wandra Ashley-Williams. This Executive Committee meeting was the fourth quarterly meeting of 2019 whereby the basic agenda was set by the administrator. However, President Huston did take the time to thank his supporters as well as stated that it was his hope that even those who had not supported him would find it within themselves to support his administration as the Pennsylvania State Conference moves forward in being the Conference that we all new that it could be. His primary goal was to restore the integrity of the State Conference so that the Conference could once again become a reputable civil rights unit truly representing the mission of the National Association.

Immediately following this meeting, President Huston contacted Administrator Ashley-Williams and then called a meeting with his officers a week later on Saturday, October 26, 2019. The purpose was to discuss all of the expectations of each of the officers. Additionally, although there had just been an executive committee meeting on October 19, 2019, Administrator Ashley-Williams requested President Huston call an in person meeting of the Executive Committee as soon as possible for the purpose of selecting committee chairs and filling any available vacancies. Although Administrator Ashley-Williams was not able to attend, the meeting with the Executive Committee was held in person on Saturday, November 23, 2019, in Harrisburg, PA at Crowdaddy's Restaurant. Vacancies were filled and President Huston put forth recommendations for Committee Chairs that were ratified. At this time, **dates were selected for future Quarterly Meetings** as well as the area of Pennsylvania in which they would be held. It was determined that the First Quarterly Meeting would take place on Saturday, January 25, 2020, in Central Pennsylvania. Millersville University was being considered. Everyone agreed that the focus of this First Quarterly Meeting would be training. President Huston concluded with providing his expectations as outlined in the Bylaws and he also expressed his goals. As well, President Huston commented that the PSC is in a period of transition and that it was his hope that by the January quarterly meeting that we would be further along in that process.

Quarterly Meetings held (Both general membership meetings and Executive Committee Meetings)

Meeting Dates	Description
Saturday, January 25, 2020	First Quarterly Meeting at Millersville (in person)
Saturday, April 18, 2020	Second Quarterly Meeting (Virtual)
Saturday, August 15, 2020	Third Quarterly Meeting (Virtual)
Monday, November 9, 2020	Fourth Quarterly Meeting (Virtual) Part A
Tuesday, December 22, 2020	Fourth Quarterly Meeting (Virtual) Part B
Wednesday, January 15, 2020	Conference Call Special Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2020	Conference Call Special Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2020	Conference Call Special Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, June 4, 2020	Virtual Special Executive Committee Meeting

NAACP Annual Meeting—Saturday, February 15, 2020

Incorporated in New York, in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, every year the NAACP schedules an annual meeting that takes place on the third Saturday of February. It is a meeting where the entire membership of the organization has the opportunity to attend. The National Board Committees met just prior to and the National Board meeting took place following the membership meeting. President Huston, Secretary Jordan, and a few other members of some units attended.

Meetings called and held several times by President Huston included:

- State Conference Officers' Meetings
- Executive Committee Chair Meetings
- Unit President meetings where secretaries were also invited to attend.
- Special Meetings

The 111th National Convention took place virtually in September of 2020. There were 95 PSC delegates representing nineteen branches in attendance.

There were sixty-one delegates representing eighteen units who attended the Pennsylvania State Conference Convention on October 23-24, 2020.

Membership Portal Training

Unfortunately, with the new Salesforce entity in place to handle the processing of the memberships of the National Office which began (July 2019), the Covid-19 pandemic which meant that there was no staff at the National Office, many secretaries were left hanging with not being able to get the credentials needed to access their membership portals. This meant they had difficulty in contacting their membership on-line without having access to information to do so.

These circumstances left the Pennsylvania State Conference in a position to try to provide assistance working with National contacts. For a while, more than half of the State Conference units had no access to their membership list even after obtaining training.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Minutes of **ALL** the Executive Committee meetings were provided to the Executive Committee members prior to meetings and properly voted on for approval with any corrections during quarterly meetings.

NAACP Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute

Because of the pandemic, what National had originally planned to happen on April 24-25, 2020, in Hartford, CT in-person was cancelled. National began to put some virtual training together for the entire membership in which the information received by the PSC was distributed to all of the units. President Huston encouraged all to attend as many sessions as possible.

Finally, when Secretary Shirley Jordan became ill and needed to take a six-month leave of absence, Assistant Secretary Ruth Howze stepped up as acting Secretary. The chair of communications assisted Ruth whenever she asked for assistance. President Huston also appointed Brian Turner as Executive Assistant to help fill the gap as part of the Administrative Team.

Throughout all of the challenges, those who took their oath seriously, continued to do the work to the best of their ability. The administrative team met weekly so that President Huston could inform them of what needed to be done each week. Secretary Jordan has personally referenced the team several times at Executive Committee meetings and General Membership meetings.

Communications

The Communications Committee is responsible for press and publicity, promoting media content, radio, telephone, television, newspapers, pictures, business, social media, internet, and all external communications. Additionally, under the direction of President Huston, the committee was to make sure that external communication approved by him was to be sent to appropriate media outlets as well to share internally with the units and Executive Committee.

Members of the committee in 2020 were Diana Robertson, Chair, Jessica Lee (website), Tene Crooms (press and publicity), Christa Caceres and Brian Turner (social media) and Jarrett Jackson. One of the President's first goals was to ensure that there was adequate communications established with the units. The website was redesigned a couple of times and is constantly updated, there was on-going contact with the media, content was posted regularly on social media, and interviews with the media consistently took place.



President Huston spoke at Freedom Corner in Pittsburgh's Hill District on February 18, 2020, to denounce alleged racist remarks made by Court of Common Pleas Judge Mark Tranquill. <https://triblive.com/local/pittsburgh-allegheeny/naacp-black-community-leaders-call-for-allegheeny-co-judges-ouster-over-alleged-racist-remarks/>



President Huston attended a press conference in support of Treasurer –Elect Antoinette Hodge who was denied the opportunity to be sworn in following being elected. A federal law suit had been filed alleging race as the reason. January 2020

Pennsylvania Primary
Souls To The Polls
 A discussion on the importance of voter mobilization of the black community during a COVID-19 reality

Rev. Mark Tyler
 Bishop Dwayne Royster
 Derrick Johnson

May 30, 2020 | 11:30 AM EDT
 REGISTER AT: <https://bit.ly/2X9EH30>

NAACP ORGANIZING TOGETHER 2020 POWER

WAKE UP 
WEDNESDAYS
WITH PRESIDENT KENNETH HUSTON

A Mid-Week 10-minute message designed to reflect, enlighten and stimulate action!

NAACP
 Pennsylvania
 STATE CONFERENCE

Kenneth L. Huston, President
 Email: pastatepresident2019@gmail.com
 Website: pastatenaacp.org



NAACP
PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONFERENCE

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL GAME CHANGER SERIES

TOGETHER WE RISE
IN GOOD HEALTH

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020
5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM
ZOOM:



Kenneth L. Huston
President



William Simmons, MD
Health Committee Chair

Jessica Issac, PharmD
Lisa Issac, MD
Marvin McGowan, MD
Joan Mitchell, CRNA
Candace Robertson-James, DPH
Rachel Toney, MD
Brandon Davis

Pittsburgh Courier



A VIRTUAL VOTER ENGAGEMENT FORUM
THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2020
6PM-7PM

TUNE INTO THIS NON PARTISAN EVENT TO GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON VOTING AND HOW TO DO SO SAFELY

FORUM PARTICIPANTS:

ANGELA FORESHAIN-ROUSE,
Manager of State Operations and
Community Outreach,
AARP Pennsylvania

KENNETH L. HUSTON,
President,
NAACP Pennsylvania
State Conference

TIM STEVENS,
Chairman & CEO,
Black Political Empowerment
Project

DR. TERRIE GRIFFIN,
Co-President,
League of Women Voters
of Pennsylvania

DR. WILLIAM SIMMONS,
Past President,
Gateway Medical Society

MODERATED BY: CHRIS MOORE, AWARD WINNING HOST

JOIN US AT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THENEWPITTSBURGHCOURIER OR
WWW.NEWPITTSBURGHCOURIER.COM

TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS ABOUT VOTING IN PENNSYLVANIA,
EMAIL EVENTS@NEWPITTSBURGHCOURIER.COM

THIS FORUM IS POWERED BY AARP PENNSYLVANIA



NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference presents:

The State of the NAACP: Western PA

An address from the PA State Conference President

Join PA State Conference President, Ken L. Huston, as he discusses the state of the NAACP for the Western PA region and discusses his vision for the future.



SEP 08 • 6:00 PM TO 7:30 PM

TUNE IN VIA ZOOM OR ALLEGHENY EAST NAACP FB LIVE



<https://www.wtae.com/article/naacp-launches-voter-outreach-program-in-monroeville/34085540#>

Have Your Say
<https://youtu.be/bVPYxPtlemch>
<https://youtu.be/bVPYxPtlem>

Communications

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY VIDEO LINKS

President Huston launched the Wake Up Wednesday series on August 5, 2020. Wake-Up Wednesday is a mid-week ten-minute or more message designed to reflect, enlighten, and stimulate action! The idea was to have listeners consider their action item for civic engagement.

This served as another method of communicating with the membership and anyone else who follows the PSC on social media.

October 21, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4866891306661914/>

October 14, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4836710479679997/>

October 7, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4800416006642778/>

September 30, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4762952523722460/>

September 16, 2020

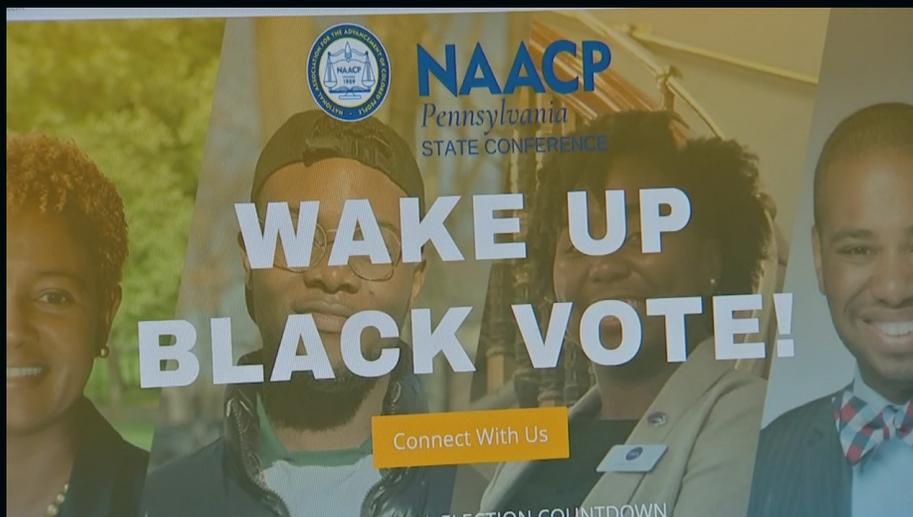
<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4688252094525837/?extid=V2FLHda8zxui5nam>

August 12, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4507227839294931/>

August 5, 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/100000232784521/videos/4473113212706394/>



<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/video/4596773-naacp-launches-wake-up-black-vote-campaign-to-energize-black-vote-in-pennsylvania/>

<https://youtu.be/OwYZrj11twl>

<https://youtu.be/OwYZrj11twl>

Print News

<https://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/category/news/>

<https://bit.ly/2AVvROK>

A MORE EXCELLENT WAY!



"If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

— **Carter G. Woodson**

Following the election of President Kenneth Huston and the new administration in October of 2019, there was a quick realization of just how much work would need to be accomplished to transform the State Conference to a productive viable unit.

Status of the Pennsylvania State Conference in October 19, 2019.

For the first time in its history, on October 8, 2018, National placed the Pennsylvania State Conference under administratorship because of its inability to function, meet and accomplish the work of the NAACP among other reasons. Additionally, the State Conference was not compliant because the Youth and College Division was not compliant and it was also financially unstable. The newly elected president met with the administrator to assess the totality of the challenges and to determine the best way to proceed forward.

The responsibility of State Conferences according to the Bylaws is to "stimulate the Branches, Prison Branches, Youth Councils, High School Chapters, College Chapters, Authorized Committees and any and all Units of the Association in its jurisdiction to greater activity in the fight for free-

dom; to revive dormant units in the Pennsylvania State Conference; to organize new units; to assist the Association in the conduct of the work of the NAACP by increasing support for the Association by the various Units; to coordinate the activities and secure the cooperation of Units within the Pennsylvania State Conference; to eliminate discrimination and injustice against minority people in the area; to seek the enactment of laws in the state legislature which will advance the programs and policies of the Association." Knowing the potential of the Pennsylvania State Conference, efforts began to address the above mentioned areas to start the process of transformation of the Pennsylvania State Conference.

STATUS OF THE STATE CONFERENCE as of December 2020.

Under the leadership of President Huston, the theme of ***Together We Rise!*** was at the forefront. As well, the philosophy of how we do civil rights and advocacy is with excellence.

President Huston Initiatives

CHALLENGE 1: National Administratorship

RESOLVE: Making a presentation at the National Annual Meeting on Friday, February 14 and Saturday, February 15, 2020, along with submitting a President's Quarterly Report detailing some of what President Huston had accomplished since becoming president set the foundation for Pennsylvania State Conference being released from administratorship. At the **May 16, 2020**, Board meeting, the Committee on Membership and Units' recommendation to release the PSC from Administratorship was approved.

Summary

CHALLENGE 2: PSC Compliance

RESOLVE: At the First Quarterly Meeting on January 25, 2020, Jonathan McKinney, Mid-Atlantic Regional Field Director, attended and brought Derek Lewis, Field Director from the Youth and College Division to conduct an election of the PSC Youth and College. Jonathan also conducted training to the units in attendance. President Huston was able to access information on the youth and college chapters that were compliant.

CHALLENGE 3: Stimulating PSC Units to Activity

RESOLVE: What previously existed was that branches had lost interest in participating in State Conference activities and felt there was no adequate communications. President Huston immediately began to communicate with units through memos and encouraged units to attend the First Quarterly meeting so that branches and the State Conference could reconnect.

CHALLENGE 4: Revival of Dormant Units

RESOLVE: At the end of 2019, only about 17 of the 44 Pennsylvania State Conference branches were compliant. This represents approximately 39% of the branches were compliant. At the end of 2020, there were 33 units compliant or about 75%. Additionally, President Huston charged his three vice presidents with an area of the Commonwealth to assist with resolving issues. The areas were western, central, and eastern areas.

CHALLENGE 5: Organizing New Units

RESOLVE: There had not been any new functioning units in the PSC for a while. Individuals began to reach out to President Huston and four new units were established as chartering committees for the purpose of becoming chartering branches. They are Lackawanna County, Lebanon County, Coraopolis, and Schuylkill County in addition to Elizabethtown College. Additionally, two Youth and College units were reactivated.

CHALLENGE 6: The COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RESOLVE: After beginning to establish regular and positive communications, what occurred in the middle of March took everyone by surprise. With literally all of the main venues for meeting being shut down, a new way of communicating needed to be developed and accessed. Within a month, the PSC purchased Zoom in order to communicate through a virtual platform. However, for most units, the virtual transition was not easy, so time was spent teaching unit leadership how to use virtual platforms. National also began to offer virtual sessions to provide important information to units. Virtual forums became the new form of communicating.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS CONNECTED TO PRESIDENT HUSTON

Summary

CHALLENGE : Turnover in Positions

RESOLVE: Prior to the new administration, for the most part either Executive Committee members were totally not functioning or not attending meetings. Under the new administration in 2020, the treasurer resigned because of family and work responsibilities. Then the second treasurer resigned in May and a new treasurer was appointed. Additionally, the secretary had to take a leave of absence for six months. An administrative team was created that consisted of the Assistant Secretary, Chair of Communications, and an executive committee member was appointed as an executive assistant to help. They met with President Huston weekly so that he could provide direction on weekly activities.

CHALLENGE : Communications In the Midst of A COVID-19 Pandemic

RESOLVE: President Huston established the Weekly Update for the purpose of providing new information weekly. This information included State Conference news, National news, as well as any relevant information from the Executive Committee Committees, Unit information and information directly from the President.

President Huston also established the Wake Up Wednesday Facebook Live Social Media information piece that also provided specific information which focused on how members could target certain issues in consideration of advocacy for that week.

VOTING

Voter Registration, Voter Education and Getting out the Vote was a high priority in 2020. To be sure to get the information out, President Huston launched the **WAKE UP BLACK VOTE! Campaign** on Juneteenth 2020. It was an effort that still takes place. Additionally, 2020 represented the 55th year of the March on Selma. President Huston was also able to secure a grant which came through the Tides Foundation for \$49,000. Units who submitted a plan for getting out the vote in accordance with the instructions provided by President

Huston, upon approval, units received funds to help promote voter education in their communities.

APPOINTMENTS

In 2020, Governor Wolf appointed President Huston to three committee positions. They were: the Health Disparity Taskforce in April, the Election Law Advisory Board in July, and the Board of the State Law Enforcement Citizen Advisory Commission. These three appointments were extremely important because of the COVID Pandemic and the new laws and proposed legislation regarding voting in PA that amounts to voter suppression that will have to be fought. This gave President Huston a seat at the table representing the PSC.

https://youtu.be/qgTRe_IU2QY

Summary

Building and Rebuilding Relationships

UNITS

Building relationships began with connecting to the Presidents and having meetings so that it would be clear as to expectations. Bylaws, and a lot of other paperwork was sent to the leadership with the expectation that the appropriate documents would be forwarded to the unit membership. To add another layer, President Huston made sure to get information regarding branch secretaries. The reason for this information was to ensure that the branches were getting the memos and other information distributed to the general membership.

LEGISLATORS

Because of the importance of civic engagement, President Huston made efforts to reconnect with certain legislators and to have discussions with them on the agenda of the NAACP. This presented a chance to determine if their civil rights agenda was aligned with the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference. He felt that forging a positive relationship with the Black Caucus and other important legislators would not only provide an opportunity for him to introduce himself, but for the legislators to get to know him as well.

GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

Early on, President Huston contacted Governor Wolf to meet with him on state matters relative to civil rights issues. This relationship has developed into something positive. On most issues, Governor Wolf was an advocate as well. The three appointments President Huston received provided a seat at the table for PSC.

PENDING LAW SUITS

School Funding Lawsuit – November 10, 2014, six school districts, seven parents, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) and the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference filed a lawsuit in Commonwealth Court against legislative leaders, state education officials, and the Governor for failing to uphold the General Assembly’s constitutional obligation to provide a system of public education that gives all children in Pennsylvania the resources they need to meet state-imposed academic standards and thrive in today’s world. The Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and the Education Law Center-PA are representing the petitioners. Together with the Education Law Center and O’Melveny & Myers LLP, the PSC filed suit on behalf of six school districts, seven parents, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) and the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference against legislative leaders, state education officials, and the Governor. The ask is for a court order that will force the legislature to comply with the state constitution and ensure all students receive access to a high-quality public education. President Huston sat through a seven hour deposition to give testimony as to the validity of the law suit. Trial is expected to begin in **September 2021**.

Prison-based Gerrymandering — A lawsuit was filed on behalf of Pennsylvania State Conference on **February 26, 2020**, regarding “Prison-based gerrymandering” which is the practice of counting incarcerated people, for redistricting purposes, as residents of the prisons where they are involuntarily and often temporarily held, instead of their true homes — the places where they lived before prison, maintain family and community ties, and overwhelmingly return to after their incarceration ends.

2020 Presidential Election

There were five lawsuits filed by the Trump administration and one was filed regarding the voting laws in Pennsylvania. Since Pennsylvania was considered one of the battleground states, it became the target of lawsuits alleging fraudulent actions. The courts denied all of the cases. The National General Counsel as well as the Public Interest Law Center served as counsel in responding to these lawsuits.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN THE PSC HAS NOW ESTABLISHED A FIRM FOUNDATION!

TOGETHER WE RISE!

In Memory



DORIS ANN BOND

June 25, 1946—December 24, 2019
Former President of West Chester Branch



JOHN ROOSEVELT GRANT, JR.

February 8, 1932—March 1, 2020
Former Executive Committee Member of PSC
and Member of Harrisburg Branch



EVELYN WARNER

April 8, 1925—August 2, 2020
Former President of Ambler Branch
Longtime Member of PSC
Executive Committee



DONALD E. WITHERSPOON

June 8, 1943 - December 26, 2020
Longtime President of
Blair County Branch

TOGETHER WE RISE!



I thank all who Contributed to the Pennsylvania State Conference in 2020 moving towards rising together as advocacy was promoted in a more excellent way! Let's continue the legacy begun by our ancestors in making a difference.

*2021 Theme
The Faith, the Fight,
the Foundation*

NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference
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