

**NAACP TRI COUNTY BRANCH NUMBER 5063
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES – 1st QUARTER 2014**

By Tori Bailey, Tri County Branch President
Submitted February 01, 2014

The Tri County Branch 5063, made up of three northwest Alabama Counties of Lauderdale, Colbert, and Franklin, reports as follows:

Since our last quarterly report, we have continued to educate the public about voting, health care, financial empowerment, and education. To that end, we have advocated for voter registration (which we make available at each branch meeting), the continued operation of a local head start, have investigated allegations of a possible violations of civil rights violation within one of our local jails, and another with DHR, and we have either provided counsel or intervention for members of our community.

Our workshops during the fourth quarter have included one during which a local retired banker taught about financial management, one promoting GED testing prior to scheduled changes that went into effect this year making it more difficult and more expensive, and another relating to Health Exchanges and the Affordable Health Care Act information. So far in our first quarter, we have held a workshop which focused on Veterans, particularly minority veterans, and their families.

This year, we will continue to partner with other organizations with whom we have shared interests to further the goals of NAACP. One will be our branch working in conjunction with a group to bring the Voter ID Bus to north Alabama, especially to low incoming housing areas. Another is a partnership with the Men's Alliance of North Alabama and the North Alabama Council of Local Governments to provide state issued free voter IDs for seniors aged fifty-five and older. Local nursing homes have already been contacted, and we have made plans to host them at our March branch meeting so that this can be done on site. In the meantime, they have provided us with registration forms so that we can determine the number expected to take advantage of this service, and the Alliance will attempt to get church buses to provide rides to our NAACP meeting on that evening.

We have a commitment from some of our members to make the ten plus hour trip to participate in one of our Truth and Justice Tuesdays in Montgomery. The annual Tri-County Freedom Fund Banquet is tentatively scheduled to be held on May 17th. More details will be made available as they are finalized.

Due to a vote of the members, its meetings will continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at six p.m. at the Michael Community Center which is centrally located in Colbert County. We will, however, be holding meetings this year in both Lauderdale and Franklin Counties as well. Our mailing address is Post Office Box 2110, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662. Our Tri County Branch phone number is 256-383-4260. We use Facebook and twitter and our weekly program on WZZA Radio to inform the public about national, state, and local issues.

This concludes the quarterly report of the Tri-County Branch.