

NAACP TRI COUNTY BRANCH NUMBER 5063
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES – 3rd QUARTER 2015

By Tori Bailey, Tri County Branch President

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

The Tri County Branch welcomes the Alabama State Conference to our area for the third quarter meeting. We are happy to have you all come here and hope in the future to be able to hold at least one meeting each year in north Alabama in an effort to spread meetings around the state.

Recently in our area, there have been rallies held in support of the Confederate Flag. The protestors properly applied for a license to gather at the Colbert County Courthouse on Saturday, July 25th. This was the second of three planned rallies of this nature, with the first being in Franklin County. We expected a significant turnout, so our initial plan for the second one was to invite local churches, with both Black and White congregations, to attend in an effort to respond to negative stereotypes with love and solidarity. However, after giving the matter some thought, it was decided that we would not add potential fuel to the flame and would simply ignore the gathering. That turned out to be the best response. One law enforcement officer described the event as consisting of only six pot-bellied rednecks. Although we hear that there is a third such rally planned for Lauderdale County, we will continue to respond to individuals on a one-on-one basis. Discussion at our Tri-County Branch meeting was a comparison of the Confederate Flag to the Swastika. While there are those who feel that neither symbol had original negative connotation, both have been misused in the name of evil, resulting in an overall reaction and response to both as conjuring up images of hate and intolerance.

We appreciate Ms. Ollie Parham's willingness to share economic information during the recently held W.C. Handy Music Festival. Several people have since mentioned receiving helpful information.

We are also particularly proud of the Reverend Charles Dale, who well represents not only this branch, but the state of Alabama. His activities relating to heading the Alabama leg of the American Journey for Justice, as well as his activism here in our area, assistance with legal redress issues, and willingness to advocate on behalf of our members, and our community at large are to be applauded.

Workshop presenters during the third quarter have included Dr. Humphrey Lee, president of Northwest Shoals Community College, who spoke to our group about career preparedness; and Attorney Curtis Simpson, who in light of the past year's national headlines, shared with our branch what is and is not legal recourse when dealing with law enforcement. Attorney Simpson, who has won several cases, assured the group that there is indeed legal resolution to police misconduct.

The Tri-County Branch has just submitted thirty new and renewal memberships to the national office. We continue to not only maintain our numbers, but also to grow.

As always, we continue to positively report our national, state, and local activities each Sunday, on our weekly program which airs on WZZA Radio, on Facebook and by Tweeting to inform the public about NAACP and encourage participation in this worthwhile organization.

This concludes the quarterly report of the Tri-County Branch. Respectfully submitted, Tori Bailey