

**NAACP TRI COUNTY BRANCH NUMBER 5063
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES – 2nd QUARTER 2014**

By Tori Bailey, Tri County Branch President
Submitted April 12, 2014

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

On March 17th, we lost our very dynamic First Vice President, the Reverend Carlton Delano “CD” Hamilton, and we express our appreciation to our State President, Benard Simelton, for attending his homegoing service and for reading and presenting to his family a proclamation for Pastor Hamilton’s accomplishments. We have appointed our former first Vice President, Mr. Robert T. Hughes, who is a life member of NAACP, to fill that position, and we intend to pay tribute to our fallen soldier again at our upcoming Freedom Fund Banquet.

Speaking of that, our 21st annual Tri County Freedom Fund Banquet is scheduled to be held Saturday, May 10th at 6:00 p.m. at the Jameson Inn Hotel and Conference Center. Our featured speaker will be the Honorable Senator Hank Sanders. You are all invited to purchase tickets and attend.

During our monthly meetings, we have focused our monthly workshops and weekly radio programs on educating our community about voting – including their rights at the polls, photo voter identification cards, and issues that are of particular importance to our people. It is our hope that armed with this knowledge, the citizens of our area will get registered, have credentials, and make wise decisions at the polls on election day. At our most recent meeting, held Tuesday, April 8th, we invited anyone who was not already a registered voter to become one. Each month, we now have a welcome table at which our members can sign in, check the status of their membership dues, join committees, and register to vote.

We recognize that knowledge is power, and we continue to provide workshops each month during our meetings. The January workshop was presented by Commander Jessie Qualls with Veterans Affairs, who presented information about benefits available to veterans and their families. He is particularly focused on minorities, who all too often do not have adequate access to information about the VA. Our February workshop was presented by our branch president and focused on voter education, especially as pertains to the newly required voter photo id. Our March workshop was conceptualized by local pastors, with whom we have partnered to make a difference – especially to the youth in our communities. We held this meeting in the life center of a centrally located church, and three pastors helped to present the seminar. One pastor provided steps for dealing with trouble teens. (Copies are available.) That month’s panel discussion featured a wife Dr. Jeanette Keith, a gastroenterologist, and her husband, Mr. Al Keith, a respiratory therapist, both of whom spoke about their careers and how they successfully blended families; a chemical engineer for TVA who shared candidly the challenges of raising a teen; a middle school principal and coach who talked about the continued use of prayer and importance of mentorship; and a freshman principal, who told of his own journey and its challenges. All of these presenters were African American.

Our monthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday at six p.m., usually at the Michael Community Center which is centrally located in Colbert County. We have made the decision to hold some of our meetings in both Lauderdale and Franklin Counties. 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.