



Drew County NAACP General Membership Meeting Minutes

January 21st, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

Members present: Clarissa Pace, Miyoshi Smith, Lou Lambert, Chris Allen, Sharonda Forte, Velinda Woodard, Anthony Jackson, Jerome Pace, Peggy Orr, Juanita and Jeremy Campbell, Melanie Rawls, Brenda Binns, Stacey Smith, Darrion Buffington, Kiana Bolden, Nancy Bowman, Jemarrio Stephens, Elisha Allen, Regina Wells, Erica Wells, Tenesha Hill, Iesha Smith, Monica Allen, Special Sanders, Bettina Randolph, Keith Wells, Constance Harrell, Kimberly Martin, Carl Owens, Iesha Smith

President Pace opened the meeting by asking for a motion to approve the January 2025 agenda. Anthony Jackson moved that we accept the agenda as presented. Sharonda Forte seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was officially called to order at 7:02pm. Anthony Jackson provided the prayer. President Pace recited the mission statement. President Pace called for a motion to accept the general meeting minutes for December 2024. Anthony Jackson motioned we accept the previous meeting minutes as presented. Sharonda Forte seconded the motion. All were in favor. President Pace asked for a motion to accept the treasurer report. Jemarrio Stephens made a motion to accept the treasurer's report for January and Miyoshi Smith seconded. All were in favor.

The submitted committee reports were as follow:

1. Education
2. Economic Development
3. Membership/Life Membership
4. WIN
5. Young Adult
6. Youth Works

Education Committee, Anthony Jackson, reported on the activities of the committee planning and finalizing for the presentations, art contests, and awards for the Drew Central and Monticello School District. Anthony thanked everyone who celebrated, contributed, and attended the MLK Celebration. President Pace was chair, Anthony Jackson was the co-chair, Daniel Pace, Vice President Darrion Buffington, Secretary Miyoshi Smith were a part of the committee.

Economic Development Committee Chair, Chris Allen, reported the committee agreed to have a representative from UAM to lead the workshop. If the UAM representative cannot present, Dr. Allen and Quantel Williams will work on gathering activities and educational videos to help educate on the basics. Additionally, the committee agreed to purchase raffle gifts, morning snacks, and coffee for the event. Dr. Allen was tasked with creating a flyer for the investing seminar. The library has been booked for Saturday, January 25, 2025. The committee is working on having refreshments for the meeting also.

Win Committee Chair, Constance Harrell, reported the committee met to discuss paying the national WIN dues, the upcoming Chat & Chew introducing the WIN committee, and upcoming events for the committee. In May, there will be a conjoined feminine hygiene drive with the Young Works and Health committees. The committee also will be working with the health committee for breast cancer awareness month.

Membership Life Committee report was read by President Pace. The Membership/Life Membership Committee discussed the upcoming Beth Maxwell Basketball Classic to be held at the Billie Arena scheduled for December 6th and 7th. Members were asked to contribute and or volunteer their time if possible. The branch will host the Hospitality Room on Friday evening, December 6th. The group discussed the upcoming plans for 2025. Plans included increasing membership by at least 25 by the end of the year. The committee's signature promotional campaign- March Madness- Each One-Reach One will begin March 1st. Members who recruit at least (3) members, whether they are new or members renewing their membership name will be placed in a drawing for a \$25.00 gift card. Four members will receive a card. The committee members were encouraged to get involved in the various activities to recruit new members. The branch's and community announcements were given. The next meeting will be held on January 6th, 2025 at 6:00.

Youth Works Committee report was ready by President Pace. Stacey Smith attended the 2024 End-of-Year Roundtable which was held on December 12th at 8 PM ET. This was an All-Unit call which reflected on our significant victories and challenges throughout 2024, setting the stage for our strategic vision in 2025. This meeting included leaders from all seven regions to share key experiences, accomplishments, and lessons from 2024. Together, we celebrated our wins, understood our challenges, and named how these lessons can fortify our strategies for the upcoming year. The reflection ensures we continue building a resilient, impactful NAACP. In December, Drew County Youth Council met to discuss the Winter Formal. There was a recommendation to table this event until January 2025 meeting. I made sure all members of the Drew County Youth Council had a ballot to vote for the National Board Election. Information shared with the Youth Council on serving at the Go Red Gala for those that needed community service hours. We donated blankets to the Homeless in Little Rock, Arkansas. I would like to thank everyone that donated items to the homeless in Little Rock, Arkansas. I encouraged our youth to attend the Winter Block Party sponsored by ACT-SO and the community clean up. We will meet January 11, 2025, at Morning Star Baptist Church at 1 pm for our general meeting. We have gained three new members.

Young Adult Committee, Ebonee Farmer reported the Young Adult Committee plans to do housekeeping and prepare for the upcoming calendar year to give events and dates. We plan to officially elect officers for committee and learn ways to build and strengthen our committee. Plans are also to learn all functions, roles and duties of our committee and the organization.

President Pace encouraged members who are not involved with the committees to join a committee. Committees were reminded each committee needs (3) members. Members were advised to visit the branch's website: dcnaacp6042.org to learn of committees' missions. Members were advised all reports would be published to the branch's website. President Pace reminded members we are community activists.

Unfinished Business

MLK Celebration: Ed

Branch Budget: Sharonda Forte reminded each committee they are responsible for their \$500 donation to the branch annually. The funds will assist the branch with their expenditures throughout the year. Sharonda Forte the budget for the branch will continue to be a working progress until all budgets have been given. President Pace requested all requests and budgets be submitted to the finance committee prior to the executive committee meeting in February.

New Business

Branch Calendar: Constance Harrell reported the Economic Committee Workshop will be on January 25th, 2025 from 10am to 12pm at the Monticello Library. GoRED on February 7th, 2025 and the GoRED Gala on February 22nd. Constance reminded everyone of the executive committee, general committee, and individual committee meetings. Each committee was encouraged to send their events by the following Friday of the general committee meeting.

Arkansas State Conference Update: The annual conference will be held September 18th through the September 20th. President Pace encouraged members to schedule to attend the conference. President Pace will be serving as a co-chair for the NAACP State Conference and requested the support of the branch. The quarterly meeting branch dates will be given at a later time. The 2025 National Convention will be held July 12th through July 16th and all information is on naacp.org. Members were encouraged to attend also. Members were also encouraged to ensure their memberships are active.

Community announcements:

The Arkansas Legislature will begin meeting January.

Mission for Children's Expo will be January 26th, 2025 from 1pm to 5:30pm

St. James MLK Banquet will be 4pm with Lonzo Hampton of UAPB in Wilmar Community Center. The tickets are \$25.

January 24th, 2025 will be Soul Soup Sunday that will have a free soup dinner from 1pm until they have served all food.

Great I AM Temple 27th Church Anniversary will be February 16th, 2025 at 3pm.

Adjournment:

President Pace called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lou Lambert motioned the meeting be adjourned. Lou Lambert seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Report submitted by,
Assistant Secretary, Constance Harrell