



THE MONITOR

2024 Fall/Winter Issue

Volume 5 Issue 4

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BRANCH ELECTION RESULTS

Montgomery County branch elections for officers and at-large members was conducted on November 19, 2024. Newly elected officers will serve a two year term starting in 2025.

Montgomery County Branch 7022 continues to be in the forefront to fight for equality, justice, and opportunities to ensure that democracy works for all residents. As advocates for the community, the leadership team is committed to addressing:

- The challenges of affordable housing
- Creating safer communities
- Eliminating discriminatory practices in our schools
- Advocating for an effective law enforcement system
- Ensuring that the basic needs of our seniors and impoverished residents are met

The [2025 NAACP National Convention](#) will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina from July 12 - 16. Further details to be announced. For updates and information on registration and sponsorships visit the NAACP website at naacp.org.

2025 Officers and At Large Members



President
Linda M. Plummer



1st Vice President
Dr. Carolyn I. Coleman



2nd Vice President
Cherri Branson, Esquire



Secretary
Melissa McKenna



Treasurer
Clive Alexis

Executive Committee Members

Janice Freeman
Wanda Freeman
Lucy Hayes
Kimberly McLurkin-Harris

Sherlene Lucas
Janet Ricks
Vernon Ricks
Jacqueline Williams

Save the Date

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the
Freedom Fund Dinner
"The Fight for Justice Continues"*

Sunday, May 18, 2024
2:00-6:00 PM

Martin's Crosswinds
7400 Greenway Center Drive
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Tickets: \$150.00 per person—includes
annual membership



Congratulations and Thanks to . . .

Byron Johns, Chair of the Education Committee for receiving the coveted *J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association Award*. The association focuses on legal excellence, community service and the advancement of African Americans in the legal profession in Maryland.

Mr. Johns leadership has been instrumental in the success of the NAACP-MC Parents Council and the Black and Brown Coalition programs. He works closely with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), the parents and community organizations to ensure parents are supported and our students get the education they deserve!

Recent Branch Accomplishments

Community Initiatives and Support

- **Healthy Food Bill Facility:** Sponsored bill for a food service facility offering healthy meals to children.
- **Systemic Racism Examination:** Continued local examinations of systemic racism and the impact on the community
- **Youth Support:** Successfully resolved issues at schools to better support youth.
- **New Partnerships:** Forged new partnerships with religious and fraternal organizations within the community.

Criminal Justice and Reintegration

- **Program for Returning Citizens:** Strengthened programs assisting individuals transitioning from back into the community.
- **School-to-Prison Pipeline:** Ongoing examination of the school-to-prison pipeline to address its impact on youth.

Advocacy and Representation

- **County Boards and Commissions:** Advocated for increased professional representation on County boards and commissions.
- **Airpark Noise Management:** Branch member, a former FAA manager, appointed to work with the Montgomery County Airport Commission to examine noise levels.

Education and Youth Engagement

- **Smithsonian Museum Trips:** Sponsored 15 school trips to the Smithsonian Museum of African American Culture and History through community donations.
- **Youth Councils and ACT-SO:** Supported youth through three Youth Councils and ACT-SO programs, leading to local, state, regional, and national success.

Financial and Community Engagement

- **Electronic Donations & Dues:** Continued support through electronic donations and dues payments.
- **NAACP Sundays:** Held NAACP Sundays at various churches in the community.

In the News ... County announces new Hate-bias Reporting Portal

Montgomery County announced a new hate-bias incident complaint portal and a telephone hotline to simplify reporting hate-bias incidents to the County Police Department. Residents can report a hate-bias incident online at montgomerycountymd.gov/report-hate or calling the County's 311 Call Center from 7 a.m.–7 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The online form is meant to report things such as harassment, graffiti and violence against someone based on bias. This portal is not for reporting crime. A bias-related incident may be motivated by the same reasons as a hate crime but is different because the initial action did not rise to the level of a criminal offense. Visit the website for more information.



ACT-SO MOCO Strives for Excellence!

ACT-SO MOCO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics of Montgomery County) is continuing to recruit high school students for our program. Please encourage high school students you know to register and participate. Workshops have been hosted in STEM, Visual Arts, Writing, and Summer Programs with more workshops in upcoming months.

Laura Dennis and John Sonnier led an Art Field trip on December 6, 2024, to the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC. Only ACT-SO MOCO students were featured at the NASA Headquarters in Washington DC for an NAACP signing—and, as always, our students were phenomenal!

Please reserve seating for the 10th Annual ACT-SO Poetry Read-In and Visual Arts Showcase on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, MD. Doors open at 2:40 PM; program begins promptly at 3:00 PM. Reserve seating using this link [10th Annual ACT-SO Poetry Read-In](#) You won't want to miss this fantastic afternoon of the poetry and art, featuring community members and ACT-SO students.

Get healthy and support the ACT-SO Fundraiser. It's only \$25—ACT-SO will receive \$20 for each membership—to join and you can order fresh

vegetables and other items for a small fee each month that will arrive directly at your home. ACT-SO MOCO Health Fundraiser Your support is vital to the success of ACT-SO MOCO!

We continue to seek coaches and mentors for all ACT-SO students—STEM, Writing, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, and Entrepreneurship. Support these amazing students for just a few hours per month. Contact [Laura Dennis Idennis99@comcast.net](mailto:LauraDennis99@comcast.net) or [Pat Price actsomc@gmail.com](mailto:PatPriceactsomc@gmail.com). Thanks for your continuing support!



ACT-SO student, Asha Jenkins at the National Portrait Gallery

Education News Update

Maryland Department of Education released the 2024 Maryland School Report Card. Schools earn between one and five stars based on the percentage of points earned across a set of indicators that include academics, school quality and student success. Montgomery County schools that received 5-star ratings are —

- * Elementary schools: Seven Locks, Wayside, Bannockburn, Carderock Springs, Wood Acres, Travilah, Bradley Hills, Stone Mill, Beverly Farms, Cold Spring, Wilson Wims, Westbrook, Wyngate, Bells Mill, Belmont, Bethesda, Moncacy
- * Middle schools: None
- * High Schools : Walt Whitman

The full 2024 Maryland School Report Card and the individual school results can be found on the Department of Education’s website.

County school board approves \$1.3 million boundary study contract — The school board must adopt new boundaries by March 2026 due to new schools opening in August 2027. The new openings include Woodward High School in Rockville, the expansion of Damascus High School and the new Crown High School in Gaithersburg. The boundary study will impact 19 of the county’s 25 high schools and 31 middle schools. Elementary schools will not be impacted.

School field trips to the Museum of African American History and Culture during Black History Month.

The branch Education Committee is working with the Parent Council school reps to coordinate and fund the trips during Black History Month. A critical first step is working with the local school administration to find available dates and securing the (free) museum tickets for your schools preferred dates. To date, 35 Parent Council school reps are working to coordinate trips for their school in the upcoming year.



Props to Kahlil Greene for making the 2025 Forbes 30 Under 30 List !

Kahlil Greene, 24, from Germantown has made the 2025 Forbes 30 Under 30 List under the social media category. He attended Yale and is the founder CEO and founder of “Gen Z Historian.” The social media company is an educational media channel dedicated to uncovering “hidden history” often overlooked in standard curricula. Way to go, Kahlil!



Black History Moment . . . Tribute to Gloria White-Gardner

Tribute to [Gloria White-Gardner](#) who established the first National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) group in Montgomery County. White-Gardner consistently lobbied the Senate to recognize the legacy of the all Black female 6888th (Six Triple Eight) Battalion. She was successful and in 2022 the battalion gained National recognition.

Check out more on the history of 6888th Black women's battalion in the new Tyler Perry movie “The Six Triple Eight”. It is the true story of the brave women of the first and only Women’s Army Corps Unit of color to be stationed in Europe during World War II. It is scheduled to stream on Netflix on December 20.



NAACP Montgomery County Maryland
 P.O. Box 2165, Rockville, MD 20847-2165
 naacpmont7@aol.com

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Street Address: _____ County: _____
 City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____ Telephone: _____
 Branch Affiliation: #7022 Current Membership Number: _____
 (if renewal)
 Solicitor/Sponsor (if applicable): _____

Please mail this form to the address above along with your check or money order made payable to:
Montgomery County NAACP
 Gifts and contributions to this branch are not deductible as charitable contributions. However, a portion of your dues is remitted to the National organization and these amounts are tax deductible.

Regular Annual Memberships:

- _____ Regular adult (age 21 and over) - \$30
- _____ Youth (age 20 and under) - \$10
- _____ Annual Corporate - \$5,000

Lifetime Memberships:

- _____ Junior Life (age 12 and under) - \$100
 Payable in installments of \$25 or more) __/__/__ Birthdate
- _____ Bronze Life (ages 14-20) - \$400
 Payable in installments of \$50 or more) __/__/__ Birthdate
- _____ Silver Life - \$750
 Payable in installments of \$75 or more
- _____ Gold Life - \$1,500
 Payable in installments of \$150 or more
- _____ Diamond Life - \$2,500
 Payable in installments of \$250 or more

Your support is essential to ensure that the efforts of the NAACP are visible and effective in protecting the civil rights of all citizens.
 Remember, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

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Montgomery County Maryland NAACP Receipt

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Branch: Montgomery County Maryland Branch Number: #7022
 Received by: _____ Amount: \$ _____
 Check Number: _____

Thank You for Your Support!

MC/NAACP
 P. O. Box 2165
 Rockville, Maryland 20847-2165
 naacpmont7@aol.com
 http://www.naacp-mc.org
 1-888-649-5991

Join Seasonal Roots & Support ACT-SO of Montgomery County MD Branch of NAACP

Sign-up for just \$25 and the ACT-SO MOCO earns \$20

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Online Farmers Market
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Know exactly where
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Order online. We deliver to
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Seasonal Roots' Market Includes

Local Produce: Delivered within days of harvesting.

Dairy: Milk, cheese, yogurt and eggs, humanely produced by farmers who care about animals.

Baked Goods & Gluten-Free: Sweet, savory items expertly made with wholesome ingredients.

Meat & Seafood: Sustainably-sourced and humanely raised as nature intended.

Specialty Bundles: A delicious array of curated packages to build a meal or celebrate the holidays.

Artisan Fare: Locally crafted coffee, Kombucha, honey, peanut butter, chocolate, and tasty treats.

Dips and Spreads: Fresh and flavorful, they turn ordinary meals and snacks into special events.

Vegetarian & Vegan: A wide selection of creative and delicious plant-based foods.

Prepared Foods: An enticing assortment of ready-made meals to enjoy with ease and convenience.

How Does it Work?

- Pay the annual membership—\$25 for ACT-SO MOCO NAACP supporters & friends.
- Place orders online weekly and pay as you go.
- You select exactly what you get each week, from over 200 items.
- Doorstep delivery.
- Skip weeks or pause deliveries.
- No obligation, stop anytime.



Support ACT-SO of Montgomery County NAACP!

When you join using promo code **ACTSOMOCO** for \$25 (a 50% savings), Seasonal Roots donates \$20 to the ACT-SO of Montgomery County MD NAACP. Scan the QR or visit: www.seasonalroots.com/actsomoco