



THE MONITOR

2025 Fall Issue

Volume 5 Issue 4

2025 National Conference Highlights

“The Fierce Urgency of Now”

The 116th NAACP National Convention convened in North Carolina in July. With this year's theme of ***“The Fierce Urgency of Now,”*** the conference was focused on strengthening our collective power and setting the course for the future. With the continuing assault on our community and culture, there is indeed much work to be done!

The Montgomery Chapter delegates to the conference were Clive Alexis, Carolyn Coleman, Melissa McKenna, Kimberly McLurkin-Harris, Ricky Petty, Linda Plummer, Janet Ricks, and Vernon Ricks.



“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there ‘is’ such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.



NAACP LITIGATION & LEGAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

Continuing Legal Education (CLE): During the National Convention, the NAACP Office of the General Counsel hosted the Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. CLE Program. It featured timely substantive legal panels on *Environmental Injustice*, *The Legal Implications of Harmful Practices in the Beauty Industry*, *Supreme Court Updates* and *Legal Challenges on Attacks on Diversity and Inclusion*. The CLE program reaffirmed the NAACP's commitment to equipping legal professionals with the tools and insight needed to combat systemic inequality through litigation, advocacy, and education.

Preliminary Injunction Against the Termination of Federal Grants: On July 30, 2025, while the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a preliminary injunction on behalf of the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc. (MAEC) preventing the U.S. Department of Education from abruptly terminating the Equity Assistance Center (EAC) grant. While the Court questioned the NAACP's standing at the preliminary injunction stage, it ruled in favor of MAEC, thereby preserving educational equity resources that benefit both MAEC and NAACP members. NAACP President Derrick Johnson called the decision “a crucial victory for educational equity across the country,” affirming continued advocacy to safeguard civil rights in education.



MOCO Teens at the 2025 National Conference

ACT-SO Montgomery County Student Wins Gold!

The Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) of the Montgomery County Maryland Branch of NAACP received two (2) National ACT-SO Medals at the ACT-SO 2025 Competition on Sunday, July 13, 2025. The 2025 National ACT-SO Medalist is:

Donovan Holt-Harrington	Music Composition Gold Medal	Seneca Valley High School
Donovan Holt-Harrington	Instrumental Classical Gold Medal	Seneca Valley High School

Mr. Holt-Harrington has participated in ACT-SO since his freshman year of high school. He has earned five medals throughout the journey and awarded more than \$9,000. He will be studying engineering and music at the University of Maryland College Park. His two gold medals were a great way to close out his ACT-SO career.

The NAACP Montgomery County Maryland Branch congratulates all of our outstanding students who participated in the National ACT-SO competition. These talented young scholars demonstrated exceptional dedication to academic and artistic achievement, representing our community with distinction:

Anah Ambuchi	Filmmaking	Walter Johnson High School
Brainy Akpala	Original Essay	Poolesville High School
Kennedy Brokenborough	Short Story	Northwest High School
Guiandine Cadet	Vocal Contemporary	Northwood High School
Jacqueline Daphnis	Painting	Albert Einstein High School
Julianne Elam	Poetry Performance	Winston Churchill High School
Donovan Holt-Harrington	Instrumental Contemporary	Seneca Valley High School
Craig Martin	Vocal Classical	Governor Thomas Johnson High School
Noah Morris	Poetry Written	Classical Conversations

Five ACT-SO MOCO students were selected to perform in the ACT-SO National Awards Ceremony. Our student performers in the ACT-SO Choir were: Guiandine Cadet, Julianne Elam, Craig Martin, and Noah Morris. Anah Ambuchi performed as an orator in the dramatics portion of the awards ceremony. These amazingly talented students joined the roster of gifted National ACT-SO students who performed in a Broadway-caliber awards show after only two days of rehearsals.

The NAACP Montgomery County Branch takes pride in our ongoing work to support the growth and development of our talented high school scholars and performers. ACT-SO offers more than 30 competition categories. High school students interested in participating in ACT-SO 2025-2026 should contact Pat Price actsomc@gmail.com or Laura Dennis Idennis99@comcast.net.



ACT-SO Local Gold Medalists and supporters (left to right):

Back row: Nicole Hider, Craig Martin, Bristol Martin III

Front row: Laura Dennis, Kennedy Brokenborough, Julianne Elam, Donovan Holt Harrington, Anah Ambuchi, Guiandine Cade, Naomi Simwenyi

Montgomery County NAACP Parents Council

2025 - 2026 Calendar and Agenda

August 27, 2025	New and Returning Parents Council Representatives Meet & Greet! Orientation and On-boarding
September 24, 2025	Unpacking Literacy & Math Assessment Data & Policy Updates Boundary Study & Program Analysis; Special Education Service Changes
October 29, 2025	School Improvement Plans; Accelerated Learning & Magnet Programs; Academic Supports
November 19, 2025	Planning to Celebrate Black History
December 17, 2025	Preparing for Mid-Year Literacy & Math Assessments
January 21, 2026	The Maryland Blueprint; Summer Planning
February 18, 2026	Conversation with the Superintendent
March 18, 2026	TBD
April 15, 2026	Meet the Board of Education
May 13, 2026	Recognition of Exemplary Leaders, Teachers, and Staff; Best and Brightest Celebration
June 10, 2026	Progress Assessment & Planning for the Upcoming School Year

The History of Montgomery County's Sundown Towns

Source: theblackandwhite.net

This is an excerpt from an article in "The Black and White", the student news site of Walt Whitman High School. To read the full article, visit theblackandwhite.net

Through the late 1800s and beyond, many communities in the Northeast and Midwest U.S., including some in Montgomery County, employed manipulative discriminatory tactics to enforce racial segregation. From sundown laws to prejudiced housing contracts, these policies robbed Black families of their place in communities across the nation as well as the opportunity to create intergenerational wealth.

Following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, "sundown towns" became a phenomenon across the U.S. as a way for communities to retain a white-only population. Predominantly white areas throughout the country used discriminatory laws, intimidation and violence to prevent minority

groups, particularly Black families, from moving into their neighborhoods.

While most overt discrimination strategies are often associated with the Deep South, sundown towns were most common in the Midwest and Northeast.

During the 20th century, three such communities emerged in Montgomery County: Silver Spring, Chevy Chase and Washington Grove. Some sundown towns, like Silver Spring and Washington Grove, also incorporated policies similar to redlining — a process in which real estate developers deny financial services such as mortgages and insurance loans to minorities — to discourage minority groups from populating the area.



NAACP Montgomery County Maryland

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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!

Montgomery County Maryland NAACP Receipt

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Thank You for Your Support!

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