

NAACP joins civil rights and other groups to protest SC budget Thousands rally to Stop the Cuts and Fund a Moral Budget



Thousands of people, including members of the Goose Creek NAACP branch, gathered Saturday March 12th on the north side of the South Carolina State Capital to call on the legislature to Stop the Cuts and Fund a Moral Budget.

An anticipated \$700 million shortfall in the state budget this year has led lawmakers to consider deep cuts to public education, Medicaid, and other state programs that mostly serve children, the poor, elderly and disabled.

While some governors are pushing for progressive revenue raisers, in addition to steep spending cuts, to reduce these budget gaps. For instance, Governors Brian Schweitzer (D-

That's why the SC Conference of NAACP Branches and more than 2,000 people from across the state gathered to ask lawmakers to adopt a moral budget.

We want the lawmakers to pass a moral budget and Stop the Cuts to needed programs when the answer is more revenue through fair tax reform.

Calling for a moral budget is asking legislators for a budget that is going to be realistic and just and fair. Don't shift the burden of deficit reduction onto middle and lower class citizens and public workers.

The Tax Realignment Commission reported last year the state is missing out on millions of dollars in revenue because of special interest tax breaks, exemptions, deductions and credits. 59% of South Carolinians pay one of

- We collect \$300 on the sale of a 1989 - \$5,000 Chieftain Winnebago. We collect \$300 on a 2007 - \$130,000 Coach House Platinum Recreational Vehicle - a \$7,500 exemption. {\$7.9 million}

Stop The Cuts Continued on Page 2



BRANCH MEETINGS Day and Location Changed
 Goose Creek NAACP now meets the fourth Monday of the month at:

Berkeley Electric Building
 2 Springhall Drive
 Goose Creek, SC.

**Our next meeting is 7PM
 Monday March 28th**

Inside This Issue

Rally for a Moral Budget.....	1
Announcements.....	2
Highlights of March 7th Meeting	3
Donna DeWitt SC AFL-CIO.....	4
Photos from Rally.....	5
Community Events.....	6
Health Awareness.....	7
Message from Planned Parenthood...8	
Jackie Hicks, SCEA Remarks	9
Message from President Jealous.....	10
NAACP News.....	11
Civil War Sesquicentennial.....	12



Photo by Jean G. Strickler

MT), Mark Dayton (D-MN), and Dan Malloy (D-CT) have all proposed closing corporate tax loopholes and cutting special interest tax breaks to bring more revenue into their states. On the other hand Gov. Nikki Haley has proposed ending the state's corporate income tax corporate income tax, even while she calls for cutting education funding and Medicaid.

the nation's top income tax rates, while 41% pay no taxes (6th highest rate in US).

The state is not broken, our current system of taxation is! For example:

- We collect 90¢ (6%) sales tax on a \$15 model airplane, but we cap the tax on a million dollar Lear jet at \$300 - a \$59,700 tax exemption. {\$1.2 million}



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 2nd VP.....The Rev. Ted Adams
 Secretary.....Herbert Bodison, Jr
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Executive Committee Members

Eddie Anderson Ranese Harrell
 Brenda Bines Watson Orville Hayes
 Kenneth Brown Thomas Lanier

Stop The Cuts from Page 1



Our current system of taxation is mishmash from tax cuts and tax shifts in good years that have left the state deficient in revenue sources.

We're calling for Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. legislators to pass a moral budget that addresses the needs of the poor and vulnerable despite tough economic times.

See keynote messages of SC AFL-CIO President Donna DeWitt on page 4 and SC Education Association President Jackie Hicks on page 9. ■

BRANCH MEETINGS Day and Location Changed

Goose Creek NAACP meets the fourth Monday of the month at Berkeley Electric Building
 2 Springhall Drive; Goose Creek, SC.

Upcoming Meetings

Monday March 28, 2011 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting
Monday April 22, 2011 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting

102nd NAACP Annual Convention
NAACP: Affirming America's Promise

July 23 - 28, 2011

Los Angeles Convention Center
 1201 S Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, California 90015

Convention Housing Information will be available March 2011

For ALL NAACP CONVENTION RELATED INQUIRIES
 call the Events Planning Department at 410-580-5780.

NOTICE:
MEETINGS CHANGED

Goose Creek NAACP Branch now meets the fourth Monday of the month at:

Berkeley Electric Cooperative
 Goose Creek District Office Building
 2 Springhall Drive
 Goose Creek, SC

Our Next Meeting will be 7PM Monday March 28, 2011
April Meeting will be 7PM Monday April 25, 2011

We look forward to seeing you and encourage you to bring family and friends with you.
 David Cakley
 Branch President

Call 843-276-6294 or 843-324-2894 for confirmation of meeting or directions.



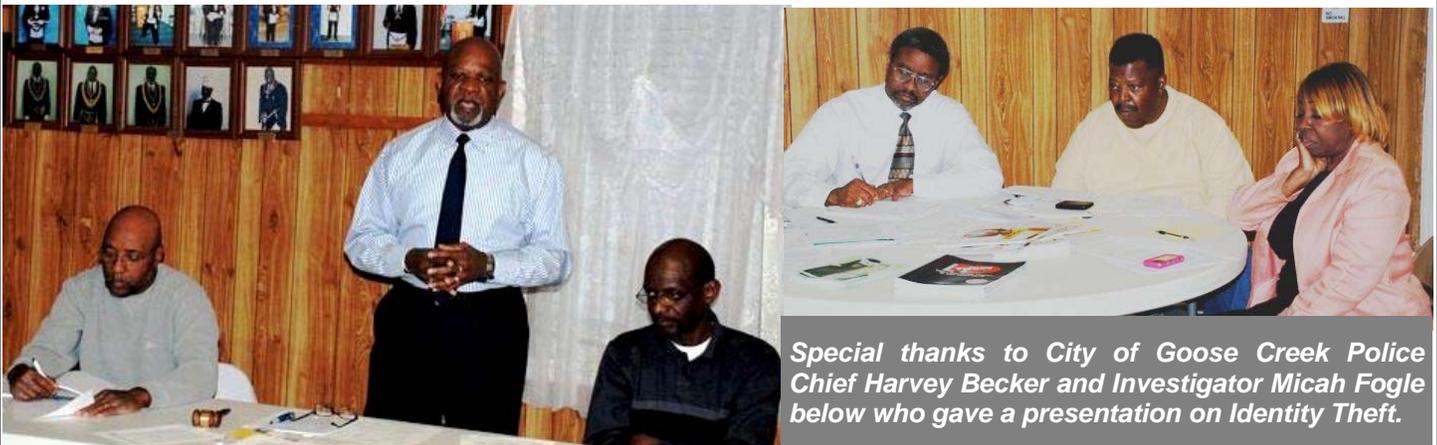
March 7th NAACP Goose Creek Branch Meeting

City of Goose Creek Police Chief Harvey Becker and Investigator Micah Fogle were in attendance to kick off National Consumer Protection Week. Chief Becker updated the branch on police issues in Goose Creek and indicated the City of Goose Creek is looking to hire more police officers. We were encourage to spread the word to those who may be looking to join the City of Goose Creek Police Department. He also open answered questions from those in the audience.

Investigator Micah Fogle gave a presentation on Identity Theft that was very informative and helpful.

During the meeting the branch voted to change the general meeting day from 7PM the first Monday of the month to 7PM the fourth Monday of the month. In addition the location was changed from Abraham Masonic building to Berkeley Electric Cooperative located at 2 Springhall Drive, Goose Creek.

**Our next branch meeting will be 7PM Monday March 28th
at Berkeley Electric Cooperative**



Special thanks to City of Goose Creek Police Chief Harvey Becker and Investigator Micah Fogle below who gave a presentation on Identity Theft.



Photos provided by Ken Brown



We Stand in Solidarity

South Carolina AFL-CIO President Donna DeWitt at the Moral Budget Rally, Saturday, March 12, 2011



We stand today to demand a moral conscientiousness of our elected officials to protect our most vulnerable citizens and the workers that educate them, care for them and provide the services needed to make our cities, states, nations and countries work. Today we are all Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, NY, CA, Libya and Egypt. As our forefathers in other lands declared to Pharaoh and other slave owners and by the 13th amendment of our nation's Constitution proclaimed, we are a free people, owning our own labor.

Last week in an unusual display on bi-partisanship, members of the SC Legislative Black Caucus and Republican leadership of the House Ways and Means reported the SC Health Insurance Exchange bill, introduced by Representative Harold Mitchell, Greenville, out of a subcommittee. Now, the Governor, who has encouraged bi-partisanship, needs to allow legislators to do their job.

Today the members of the SC AFL-CIO and Change to Win stand with our fellow workers, neighbors and friends in solidarity. You may not recognize us, but if you read a newspaper or magazine, drank a can Coke, rode in on a highway with cement or crossed a steel bridge, more than likely you can thank a United Steel Workers (USW) member in SC. If you rode the city bus, you can thank an Amalgamated Transit Workers (ATWU) member. From the tires on your vehicle to the hands that put it together, thank a United Auto Worker (UAW or United Food and Commercial Worker (UFCW) member in SC.

Chances are your electricity is provided by an International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) member- and your phone service by a Communications Workers of America (CWA) or IBEW member. All of the products are shipped to you or from your hands to other places through our SC ports by International Longshoreman Association (ILA), by rail by members of International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT), United Transportation Union (UTU) and other rail members. They are delivered to your homes and businesses that are protected by a growing number of International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), who not only risk their life, but far too often in a state that does not recognize federal laws of safety- give their lives to protect you. Your mail was taken off of trucks by members of the Mail handlers, sorted and delivered by American Postal Workers Union (APWU) and Letter carriers. Many of these buildings around you were constructed by members of the SC Building Trades, plumbers, electrical workers, Sheet metal and Ironworkers, the crane operators of International Union of Operating

Engineers (IUOE), the Elevator and Asbestos workers and, yes, this beautiful State House was painted by International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT). The stages and services of many of our states most utilized venues are built and maintained by members of International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). Not only do members of the Charleston Symphony perform, but as American Federation of Musicians (AFM) some serve on the Symphony Board. Services provided to our states military bases, prisons, Social Security and veterans are by members of American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) and many maintained by Office Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) and other unions. If you fly, your reservationists was more than likely a union member and you can feel safe if an International Association of Machinists (IAM) serviced your plane. Your attendant more than likely is an Airline Flight Attendants (AFA) member, your pilot an Airline Pilots Association (ALPA) member. Your plane is guided on and off the ground by a member of Professional Airways Safety Specialists (PASS). And don't forget to encourage those folks you know who are TSA employees that

they are eligible to vote now to be a proud member of AFGE. You'll be able to fly on the airline that is the envy of all airline union contracts beginning March 15 in SC. Yes, South West, you know the one that told SC officials they didn't need a subsidy in Charleston. If you are a Carolina Panthers fan please support the players. These players are dedicated to their professions, but sacrifice their ability to live a long productive life for the job they love. They were unable to reach an agreement with the 32 team owners, who made over 9 billion dollars last year. If you're a baseball fan you can thank OPEIU that represents all of the minor league umpires in our SC teams.



We take your hand and join with you and raise them to our Creator and ask that in addition to our rights that a true moral conscientiousness will be recognized by the leaders of our nations and that the people will be empowered to make it happen, as they did in the time of Moses. We are at our Red Sea and, while there are those who think they are God, we, the working people, have the ability to recognize the one that will take us to the Promised Land. You see, we are the people that make these lands work and in words more gentle than my friend, Kenny Riley, we can make it cease to work.

Solidarity forever!■





Photos by Jean G. Strickler on the steps of the SC State Capital



Editor gives special thanks to Jean G. Strickler for these photos



The Charleston Chapter Chums, Inc

Presents

A Spring Luncheon

Theme: "Girls to Women: It Takes A Village"

11:30 to 2:30 - April 30, 2011

Mt Moriah Family Life Center

7396 Rivers Avenue

North Charleston, SC 29419

Honorees are: The Honorable Veronica Small, Dr Sherron Jackson, Ms Cecelia Rogers, Ms Paige Weldon, Ms Shelby Jones and Ms Christina Lin Brown, musical entertainment, a silent auction, presentations and door prizes

Please join us

Tickets - \$35/Adults - \$25/Youth up to 18yrs

Contact: Marge Williams(843) 863-0240



Join the YWCA in taking a Stand Against Racism

► Friday, April 29, 2011

THE YWCA TAKES A STAND AGAINST RACISM
Over 250,000 individuals expected to take a Stand Against Racism

The YWCA would like your support - for the "Stand Against Racism" that will take place on Friday, April 29th from 10:00 to 2:00 pm at the YWCA. The "Stand Against Racism" is the program of the YWCA aimed at raising awareness that racism still exists in our communities and that it can no longer be ignored or tolerated.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) the number of hate groups operating in the United States has grown by 56% in the last eight years (there are almost 1,000 active hate groups in the United States today).

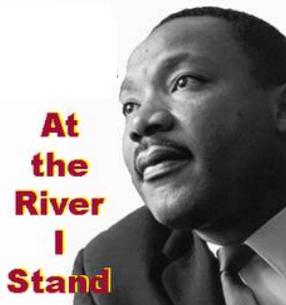
In response, the YWCA created the Stand Against Racism in order to combat the spread of hate and intolerance, and to honor and celebrate the richness of diversity.

Organizations are urged to visit www.StandAgainstRacism.org to join this important movement.

For more information contact:

Kathleen Rodgers, YWCA Executive Director at 843-722-1644 or via email at rodgerskywca@bellsouth.net

"At the River I Stand" to be shown April 4th



The Charleston Labor Council will be showing "At the River I Stand" 7PM April 4th at the ILA Hall. The 1993 film chronicles the AFSCME Memphis Sanitation workers strike in 1968, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have been to the mountaintop" speech. Dr. King was assassinated the following day.

"An excellent film on the movement which drew Martin Luther King to Memphis and his death. It reveals how the Black and labor movements both win by struggling together!"

Julian Bond, Chairman Emeritus, NAACP

International Longshoremen Association (ILA) Hall Located at:
1142 Morrison Drive; Charleston, SC

Berkeley County Teacher of the Year Breakfast



7:30am Thursday, April 7th

Trident Technical College
7000 Rivers Avenue, Building 920
North Charleston

Join us as we recognize Berkeley County's outstanding educators and officially announce the new Berkeley County Teacher of the Year.

Cost: Free

RSVP 577-9549, 761-8238, or nruss@bcoc.com or online at www.berkeleysc.org



Eliminating Health Disparities: An NAACP Strategic Priority

April is National Minority Health Month

Honoring the Negro Health Movement



Historically, African-American leaders recognized the link between health and social/economic well-being. In 1914, Booker T. Washington started Negro Health Improvement Week, which became the National Negro Health Movement. The first National Negro Health Week was recognized in April 1915. Health clinics and hospitals were involved and the health movement reached large audiences through faith-based, school, and community activities. The movement

included health sermons, health talks, meetings, speakers, music, community clean-up's, health screenings, family activities, surveys and data collection, conferences, newspaper articles, and radio and TV broadcasts. This movement ended in 1951, but in April 2001, the National Minority Health Month Foundation and the federal Office of Minority Health launched National Minority Health Month.

This bit of history reminds us that our health challenges have existed for a long time and they need our constant attention so that future generations will not have these same problems. While the National Negro Health Week ended 50 years ago, its significance is still honored today. To the best of our knowledge, Negro Health Week was the beginning of the minority health movement in the US.

Just as Booker T. Washington believed that the health of black America was tied to its economic progress and social acceptance into the broader society, we believe that the health status of black people is still indelibly bound to the role African Americans play in the nation today and their role in our country's future. Advances in medical science have not removed the possibility that a large segment of black America will continue to suffer from preventable death while standing in the shadow of a medical wonder world. Over sixty years ago, *National Negro Health News* stated: "It is a time for remembering the health of the race and how essential it is to our racial progress. There is no better time to think of this than now, when we shall need every racial resource to make the progress we should make in these days."

We call upon public health professionals to examine our history for guidance and to join with the black community now in an inter-racial coalition to promote health and prevent disease among African Americans.

When we accept the moral imperative to improve the health status of poorly served, under served and never served segments of our society, we truly demonstrate the principles of public health as social justice. From this perspective, the National Negro Health Week represents a significant contribution from African Americans to the history of public health.■

Closing the Gap in Health Care



"Clearing Up the Confusion"

By Dr. Thaddeus John Bell, MD

Over the past few years, we have attempted to educate underserved men about the importance of getting a colonoscopy and prostate evaluation. Some men think the two exams are identical and are very confused, so let me clear things up.

The colonoscopy is usually done by a gastroenterologist, whose only interest is the colon, and requires going through the rectum, a section of the colon. The gastroenterologist is looking for evidence of cancer or other diseases that are harmful to the patient. If early evidence, in the form of a polyp(s) is detected, it is removed and sent for evaluation. Polyps are precursors to cancer and if removed early, can prevent cancer. The colonoscopy is done at age 50 and every five years thereafter for most patients, however, if there is a family history of colon cancer, the examination should be done earlier. Recent research has revealed that African American men are less likely to get the exam when compared to Caucasian men and the reason is probably twofold. Some patients may not be advised to get the examination and some patients, who are advised, refuse to get the examination.

The prostate examination, known as the digital rectal examination (DRE), is done by a urologist or family practice physician and is performed in the rectum by using a finger to feel or examine the prostate. The other part of the prostate evaluation is known as the prostatic specific antigen (PSA) which is a blood test. The DRE and the PSA are usually done annually, starting at age 40. If there is a family history (father, brother, uncle, grandfather) of prostate cancer, surveillance for prostate cancer should start earlier than age 40. Recently, the DRE and PSA have come under close medical scrutiny and some physicians are questioning the screening guidelines as improving the outcome and being cost effective. In other words, some physicians do not recommend annual evaluations, particularly for African American men. I continue to recommend the examination annually for men until age 75.

Now that the confusion has been laid to rest, spread the word to men you know about the importance of having both examinations. I am Dr. Thaddeus John Bell closing the gap in health care for African Americans and the underserved.

To learn more about Dr. Bell and Closing The Gap In Healthcare or see the latest videos from Dr. Bell, visit www.ClosingTheGapInHealthcare.com■



Message to the NAACP from Planned Parenthood Health Systems

Planned Parenthood Health Systems is a partner with the NAACP to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. We work together toward the goal of a more open and just society – an America as good as its ideals.

At Planned Parenthood, we're proud to serve women, men and teens of all backgrounds who come to us for affordable, quality healthcare. The doctors, nurses and health professionals of Planned Parenthood work every day to ensure that our patients receive the lifesaving preventive care they need to lead healthy and productive lives.

Though we are a trusted abortion provider, more than 90 percent of the health care provided at Planned Parenthood health centers is preventive in nature. Each year, the doctors and nurses in our 800-plus health centers across the country provide affordable contraception for nearly 2.5 million patients, nearly one million cervical cancer screenings, 830,000 breast exams, and nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including half a million HIV tests.

We are an essential safety net provider in the communities in which we work—our services provide a lifeline for millions of women who lack other sources of basic health care. Six in ten patients who receive care at a women's health center like Planned Parenthood consider it their main source of health care. Three-quarters of Planned Parenthood health center clients live on the equivalent of \$33,000 a year for a family of four (150% of the federal poverty level) or less. Many are uninsured or underinsured.

For almost 100 years, Planned Parenthood has fought for a health care system that treats all people with dignity and delivers excellent health outcomes for all. Increasing access to affordable, culturally competent preventive care is one step toward eliminating the alarming reproductive health disparities that persist among communities of color and are particularly stark in South Carolina. African-American women are more likely to be uninsured or underinsured than white women, and they often are forced to delay care because they lack the resources to pay for it. Ultimately, they experience higher rates of illness and mortality as a

result of the inequities in our health care system. Here are just a few statistics: white women have a greater risk of developing breast cancer than African-American women, but African-American women diagnosed with breast cancer are more likely to die of the disease. African-Americans have eight times the incidence of Chlamydia (a common sexually transmitted disease which can damage a woman's reproductive organs), 18 times the incidence of gonorrhea and six times the incidence of syphilis compared to whites. South Carolina ranks fourth in the country for the proportion of persons living with AIDS who are African-American (73 percent). African-American women experience higher rates of unintended pregnancy and, as a result, higher rates of abortion.

In recent years, instead of working with reproductive health advocates to address these inequalities, individuals and organizations opposed to legal abortion have resorted to divisive messages based on race to further their agenda. The most widely publicized effort is the "Black Children are an Endangered Species" billboards put up in Atlanta last year. Most recently, billboards appeared in New York with the message "The most dangerous place for an African-American child is in the womb." These messages suggest that comparatively higher abortion rates in African-American communities are the result of insidious targeting by providers like Planned Parenthood. That's completely inaccurate. Planned Parenthood health centers provide affordable health care to every woman who comes to us, regardless of her race or ethnic background. Planned Parenthood views these billboards as a reprehensible attack on the right of African-American women to make deeply personal medical decisions based on the advice of doctors in consultation with loved ones and in accordance with their faith. They obscure black women's agency and trivialize the very real violence and discrimination that threatens African-American children in the United

States.

I do want to be clear: Planned Parenthood founder, Margaret Sanger, did make statements nearly a century ago on the issue of eugenics that were wrong then and are still wrong today. These ideas have never been part of Planned Parenthood's mission or the care it offers to women of every community. The abhorrent history of eugenics, when women—many of whom were African-American—were forcibly sterilized and robbed of their ability to have children, is a stark reminder that real reproductive freedom is not just about abortion, but about the ability to decide when and if to become a parent, and the right to parent your children when you choose to have them. In South Carolina, there is much work left to do to make reproductive freedom a reality.

When the South Carolina legislature addresses reproductive health issues, it is usually only to launch divisive attacks on access to abortion care. We're committed to partnering with the NAACP to change the conversation in South Carolina to prevention. Investing in family planning, mandating comprehensive sexuality education, fully implementing health care reform, providing support for the testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, reducing infant mortality rates, increasing access to and education about the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer, and ensuring that families have the support they need to raise healthy children are all areas in which our state government can and should do better. We look forward to increasing collaboration between our two organizations and engaging in a dialogue on how to achieve better reproductive health outcomes for all South Carolinians.

Jessica Bearden Laurenz is the Director of Public Policy for Planned Parenthood Health Systems. She can be reached at jessica.bearden@pphisinc.org



Stop the Cuts. Find the Money. Create a Moral Budget Rally SCEA President-elect Jackie Hicks

March 12, 2011

Remarks from Podium on South Carolina State Capital



Wow, what a crowd! Let me give a shout out to all The SCEA members who are here. It's great to see so many school employees here, standing up...standing together...standing tall... to tell our legislators... Stop the cuts! The money is here. Fund a moral budget! Be fiscally responsible!

Last year, the legislature said "Our state's tax system is broken." They said, "We have a fiscal crisis." "We must find a better way to raise the revenue our state needs." It established a commission and called on this TRAC commission to develop a plan to reform the way we raise revenues.

What happened to that commission? Why are we again planning to shortchange our children instead of reforming our taxes?!

I don't know about you, but I'm sick and tired of hearing "We don't have any money." That is not true. We have the money in South Carolina. Where there is a will there is a way. We must find the will to raise the money for our children's sake. If we have no money, why are legislators contemplating a new private school voucher scheme? It would cost millions of dollars. That's not being a good steward of the state's funds.

We need tax reform that will allow us to create a moral budget.

What, some ask, is a moral budget?

For me as a Christian, a moral budget is first and foremost one that puts the poor, the disabled, and our most vulnerable citizens first.

In one of my favorite verses, Luke 9:48, the Bible tells us how Jesus wants us to treat our children, particularly the poorest of our children: "...and He said to them, 'Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me...for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great.'"

For three years, our state budget has cut school programs that serve the poor and the disabled. It has cut budgets for schools in our poorest communities. I call that an immoral budget. This year, let's put our children's needs first.

Second, a moral budget is one that finds the resources its citizens need to survive. And it finds those resources in a way that is fair to all residents.

For too long, we have let special interests use big tax loopholes to skirt their responsibilities. Last year alone we lost billions of dollars because of special interest tax loopholes. I call that an immoral budget. This year, let's close the loopholes and reform our taxes!

Third, a moral budget must raise more revenue from those who can well afford it and less from those who cannot.

For too long, our sales tax has taken a huge bite out of the budgets of middle class families. But we've capped the sales tax so the rich pay proportionately little for their Mercedes and yachts. Last year we lost millions of dollars because of the sales tax cap. I call that an immoral budget. This year, let's remove that cap and reform our taxes!

Finally, a moral budget is one that safeguards our children's future. For the last three years, our budget has shortchanged our children. It has increased class size and reduced the school year to the point where children are struggling to learn. I call that an immoral budget. This year, let's fund the educational programs that our children will need to get good jobs and support themselves.

Now will you help me send this message to our legislators? Join me now:

Stop the Cuts. The money is

here. Fund a Moral Budget!

Stop the Cuts. The money is here. Fund a Moral Budget!

Thank you for your courage and your sacrifice to be here today. And thanks for everything you do for South Carolina's children!■





Benjamin Jealous



WWW.NAACP.ORG

NAACP



We Are One

Sign the pledge today: <http://action.naACP.org/WeAreOnePledge>

We are facing unprecedented, coordinated attacks on our civil rights across the country.

In recent months, we have witnessed attempts in North Carolina to amend state policy to accelerate the re-segregation of its public schools, a widespread assault on voting rights -- including an effort in Florida that would take up to 300,000 voters off the rolls, continued attacks on the rights of women and immigrants in addition to the well-publicized offensive on the rights to organized labor.

This is one coordinated attack, and our response must be a united one. That's why we need you to pledge to defend civil rights -- wherever they are threatened, whatever form that threat takes. [Join the NAACP today in saying: We Are One.](#)

Sign the Pledge today:
<http://action.naACP.org/WeAreOnePledge>

Martin Luther King Jr. long understood that civil rights and workers' rights were indivisible. Fifty years ago, in a speech before the AFL-CIO that cited our common focus on security access to the American Dream for working families, he noted: "The duality of interests of labor and Negroes makes any crisis which lacerates you a crisis from which we bleed."

Seven years later, when some of Dr. King's advisors recommended that he not march alongside black sanitation workers in Memphis who were fighting for their union to be recognized, he went. Dr. King risked, and ultimately gave, his life because he understood that the struggle to end poverty and the struggle to end racism are as inseparable as the components of the American Dream itself.

Like Dr. King, the NAACP will continue to fight for civil rights, economic rights, women's rights and voting rights in our ongoing crusade to ensure the dream is accessible to all.

On April 4th, the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination in Memphis, community organizers, church leaders, civil rights activists and community members of all stripes will hold events around the country to say, as Dr. King did, that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We will act as one in

defending our sisters' and brothers' established rights from attack.

Two generations ago, in the midst of the Great Depression, my college-educated grandfather worked as the fourth cook on the B&O Railroad, raising a family in the McCulloh housing projects in Baltimore, Maryland. Black, educated, discriminated against and poor, my grandfather understood all too well that civil rights and economic rights are crucial, and inseparable. It steeled in him the resolve to see our country overcome the twin sins of racial discrimination and massive poverty.

It is the duty of all of us to protect the civil and economic rights that have done so much for this country and our families. I hope you will join me in taking action by signing the [We Are One](#).

Pledge: <http://action.naACP.org/WeAreOnePledge>

In 2008 President Obama received his mandate from "the millions of voices calling for change." Decades earlier, Dr. King gave voice to "the masses rising up" to demand equal rights.

In each instance, these visionary leaders recognized the strength of the American people to come together when it matters most. And for more than 100 years, the NAACP has built a better future for us all on that strength.

[As we honor the life and works of Dr. King on the day of his assassination, let us each be of big heart and big mind. Let us understand, in a nation built on rights, that an attack on the rights of one of us is an attack on the rights of all of us. I have no doubt that you will seize this moment.](#)

[Please join us in this fight. Please raise your voice in solidarity on April 4th.](#)

Yours in the struggle,

Benjamin Todd Jealous
President and CEO
NAACP



Charleston NAACP Branch Calls a Town Hall Meeting

To seek public input on recent decision to move high school principals and proposals made by the Charleston County School District



Dot Scott, president of the Charleston National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said Superintendent Nancy McGinley's decision to change principals at North Charleston High, a struggling school that's had nine principals in 10 years, spurred her branch into calling Thursday's Town Hall meeting at Morris Brown A.M.E. Church. The intent was to allow the public an opportunity for input.

More than 50 people attended the meeting including our branch president, David Cakley who said it was good to see citizens and community leaders come out and voice their concerns about education issues.

Many of those at the Thursday session said they will no longer accept what they see as inadequate and inequitable education.

Beverly Gadson-Birch, a member of the Charleston NAACP and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, said if the community doesn't show up when decisions are made, decisions will be made without them.

"We need to go out and be a part of these meetings and decisions because they are not acting in our best interests and our children are suffering," she said.

President Scott indicated she will meet with Charleston County School District Superintendent Nancy McGinley next week. She then plans to hold another town hall meeting to discuss what to do next. ■



NAACP Region V 58th Annual Advocacy Training Institute and Conference Kicked Off

Theme: "Strategy, Strength, and Success"



The NAACP's Southeast Region chose the birthplace of the civil rights movement for its 58th annual Advocacy Training Institute.

The conference kicked off Thursday March 24th and is being held through Sunday (Mar 27) at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center.

The conference will cover a number of issues, including unions, worker's rights, health care reform and legislation in several state legislatures modeled after a controversial Arizona immigration law.



Conference attendees also will discuss creating a "black/brown" alliance by reaching out to other minorities, such as Hispanics, said Gloria J. Sweet-Love, chairwoman of the NAACP Southeast Region Caucus.

Sweet-Love said she fears a backlash toward people of color similar to the one that followed Reconstruction in the South.

"We have got to deal with people who say we want to take the country back. Take it back from who?" she said. The conference will wrap up at 9 a.m. Sunday with a closing worship service. ■



**Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3**

NAACP CREEK CONNECTION

2011 Upcoming Events

(See Page 6 for More Current Events)

- Mar 28 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- Mar 24-27 NAACP SE Region Mtg - Montgomery, AL
- Apr 4 7PM "At the River I Stand" at the ILA Hall
- Apr 25 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- May 23 **7 PM Goose Creek Branch Meeting**
- May 26-29 NAACP Leadership 500 Summit
- July 23-28 NAACP 102nd Annual Convention
Los Angeles, California
- Aug TBA Goose Creek Back to School Unity Day

Did you See Dr. Lonnie Randolph on SC ETV?

On February 18th and again on February 20th the SC ETV program Connections featured an episode on the African-American experience during the Civil War.

The show's host, P.A. Bennett, spoke with Jannie Harriott of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, Dr. Lonnie Randolph, President of the S.C. Conferences of Branches, NAACP, and Michael Allen of the National Park Service about the issues African-Americans faced in the South during the war.

If you missed it you missed a most informative and factual discussion about the roles African Americans had during the Civil War and why we commemorate but not celebrate the U.S. Civil War. You can still see the episode online or purchase a DVD by going to:

<http://www.sctv.org/index.php/connections/>

South Carolina's Civil War Sesquicentennial Events

Learn more about the Sesquicentennial and other Civil War Commemorations
<http://sc150civilwar.palmettohistory.org/events.htm>

Fort Sumter National Monument: <http://www.nps.gov/fosu/>

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site: <http://www.nps.gov/chpi/>

Ordinance To dissolve the Union between the State of South Carolina and the Constitution of the United States of America.
The People of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and in Convention, on the twenty-third day of May, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven...



Civil War Sesquicentennial

The National Park Service today announced the details of the upcoming commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the first shots of the Civil War. Fort Sumter National Monument will offer nine days of living history programs at its three sites in the Charleston area from April 9–17, 2011.

April 12, 2011 marks 150 years since Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, initiating a war that transformed the nation. Not only was slavery abolished, but citizenship was redefined and the federal union was strengthened.

"Fort Sumter provides visitors with the opportunity to understand, reflect upon and deepen their appreciation of our shared history and the relevance of this period to society today," said Superintendent Tim Stone. Quoting Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Stone continued, "The sesquicentennial of the Civil War is a time to commemorate those who fought and died during this pivotal era in American history. At the same time, it is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the ongoing march for freedom and equality for all people."

At Fort Sumter, located in Charleston Harbor, re-enactors will present programs including musket firings and heavy artillery drills. From April 9–13, Union re-enactors will be on site. On April 14, flag ceremonies for the first five tour boats of the day will mark the Union surrender of Fort Sumter to Confederate forces. From April 15–17, Confederate re-enactors will occupy the fort. For information on tour boat availability visitors should contact Fort Sumter Tours, Inc. at (843) 722-2628 or visit their website at www.fortsumtourtours.com. Because of safety concerns, private boat access to Fort Sumter will be restricted during this time.

Fort Moultrie, located at 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan's Island, will have up to 250 re-enactors encamped on the park grounds. They will provide musket firings and heavy artillery drills throughout the day. On both weekends, special children's musket drills will also be held. **From April 9–16 Fort Moultrie will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and on April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The normal entrance fee for Fort Moultrie will be suspended for the duration.**

The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center at Liberty Square, located at 340 Concord Street in Charleston, will have daily programs focusing on the civilian home front at the beginning of the Civil War. From April 9–16 the visitor center will be open for extended hours from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no charge to visit the site.

For more information on the interpretive programs being offered, you can follow us on [Facebook](#) or visit the Fort Sumter [Sesquicentennial website](#). ■