

Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP
2009 Year End Report

Although we don't have an exact count of our membership, as of today, we have approximately 380 members in the Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP Branch. This is a significant increase over our 2008 membership. (We will receive an exact count of our membership from the national office at the end of 2010.) The catalyst for this increase was the celebration of the NAACP's 100th anniversary. We publicized this milestone on our website, at branch meetings, in the local churches, through the media and in face to face meetings with diverse groups. The branch received proclamations from both Albemarle County and the City of Charlottesville recognizing the historic significance of the NAACP's centennial celebration.

Of all the challenges we faced in 2009, none was more daunting than finding committed people to actively serve on our Executive Committee and to sustain their commitment. This is an ongoing challenge. As we begin the 2010 year we still have vacancies—in the positions of membership chair, branch secretary, and treasurer, and on important committees: education, health, and housing. We also need more active and committed assistance on our Political Action and Community Organization Committees. Perhaps our most critical need is to fill the key positions of treasurer, secretary, and membership chair. Our Assistant Secretary has been “temporarily” carrying a tremendous load for far too long. We were fortunate to identify two new members to serve as Legal Redress Chair and Youth Work Chair. As president, my primary goal for 2010 is to identify competent people to fill these vacancies and to support them in fulfilling their responsibilities.

In addition to serving as President of the Albemarle-Charlottesville Branch, I also served as VSC State Education Chair and Area 11 (Culpeper, Fluvanna and Orange Branches) Chair.

Under the able leadership of Vice-President Janette Martin, the 2009 Founders' Day/ Black History Month Programs was again two of the most successful, well planned events that the branch has had to date. The community responded generously and enthusiastically. We exceeded our attendance from the previous year, and we made an excellent choice in inviting Congressman Tom Perriello to be our keynote speaker for this event. His message was well received by the entire community.

Speaking of Congressman Perriello, our branch was one of several agencies and organizations from whom the congressman received bogus letters forged by his political opponents who posed as representatives of the Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP and urged him to take actions and positions that they wished for him to take. This story was covered in the local press as well as in the *Washington Post*.

Thanks to the initiative of NAACP member Dr. Robert Gest and Federal Executive Institute administrator (Airmark) John Grady, we were able to develop an Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP scholarship In partnership with FEI.

We were also happy to announce the establishment of the *Virginia B. Carrington Humanitarian Award* to be awarded for the first time in 2010 at our Annual Freedom Fund Banquet.

Our records show that the most pressing civil rights issue facing the community in 2009 was job discrimination and police brutality. With the aid of our Legal Redress committee, efforts were made to offer assistance to the community in this area. Developing stronger and better working relations with other agencies—such as EEOC and Legal Aid for Justice; seeking pro-bono assistance from local attorneys; working with both school systems continue to be major goals for us in 2010.

The development of an annual calendar with timely publicizing of NAACP events-- on our website, in mailings to members, and through print and broadcast media have greatly enhanced our attendance at monthly branch meetings.

My sincere thanks to all of you who have dedicated your time and energy to the Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP. We are especially appreciative of the cheerful and dependable volunteer efforts of Ms. Gloria Beard for her weekly assistance answering the office phones. I look forward to an even more productive and successful year in 2010.

Sincerely,

Dr. M. Rick Turner, President
Albemarle-Charlottesville NAACP