

Greetings on behalf of the Chapel Hill – Carrboro Branch NAACP!

Congratulations on joining the NAACP.

As a youth member, you are following in the footsteps of thousands of young people who participated in the Civil Rights Movement. The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Branch of the NAACP is working to charter a Youth Council. Young people have a long legacy in the NAACP; here is a brief Youth & College History.

In 1935, during the NAACP's St. Louis Convention, a passionate and determined youth delegate, Juanita E. Jackson, challenged the leadership of the Association to create a department that focused on the growing concerns of Black youth in America.

Through her intelligent leadership, the National Board of Directors passed a resolution creating the NAACP Youth & College Division and named Ms. Jackson its first Youth Secretary in March of 1936.

Today, it is evident that the NAACP is an organization that has developed many powerful, intelligent, young people who are destined to change the world.

The Youth & College Division serves as the premier institution for young people to develop the skills they need to meet various challenges that face African Americans and other youth of color. NAACP youth units across the country engage in social justice activism, addressing issues at the local, state and national level, with a primary focus on education, economic development, health, juvenile justice and voter empowerment.

According to its mission statement, the division aims to inform youth of the problems affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities, to advance the status of the African American community, to stimulate appreciation of the African Diaspora and other people of color's contribution to society, and to develop intelligent and militant youth leadership.

"The Youth & College Division helped me develop as a leader and as an activist," stated NAACP Chairman Roslyn M. Brock, a former youth member.

February 2, 1933, Walter White, Executive Secretary, bemoaned the lack of a definite program and activities for the junior branch.

1934 - A group of students from Howard University protest against the anti-lynching in Washington, DC.

1935 - Given the lobbying efforts of Juanita Jackson and others for a national youth program for the NAACP at the 26th annual convention, held in St. Louis, Missouri, in July 1935, board of directors voted to restructure its youth division.

1936 - The restructuring of the youth work led to the establishment of the NAACP "Youth & College Division" in March 1936. Young people embrace the urgency and dedication exhibited by those same young people in 1936. The mission of the NAACP Youth & College Division shall be to inform youth of the problems affecting African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; to advance the

economic, education, social and political status of African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities and their harmonious cooperation with other peoples;

1937- Costigan–Wagner bill was reintroduced in each session of Congress in 1937. February 12, 1937 on Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. "The Great Emancipator" The NAACP Youth & College launched their first nationwide campaign to gain support for the measure.

1937 - In Houston, Texas after several demonstrations drawing attention to the large number of automobile accidents that occurred near black public school, the local NAACP Youth Council was able to get traffic officers stationed in these areas.

1938 - At the 29th annual convention, social reformer Charles Edward Russell, one of the NAACP’s founders, decried the "Mistreatment of the Negro in Public School Textbooks," and denounced at least seventeen specific textbook that included numerous distortions about African American life and history.

1939 - As a response during the 1938 -1939 school year, NAACP youth groups launched a nationwide project to survey history textbooks used in local public school districts, identify those that distorted African and African American history, and demand that these books be removed from use in classrooms.

1948 - The Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio youth council charges against a number of public places which practiced discrimination in their communities. Three Cincinnati youth council members were sued for \$50,000 by a waitress who had been arrested for discrimination against them.

1949 - On April 1949 forty- one senior from Texas Negro Colleges, led by NAACP Southwest Regional Secretary Donald Jones, presented in person their applications for admission to the University of Texas graduate schools, which was denied. 21 year old Herman Barnett became the first Negro student at the University of Texas after 75 years.

1950 - In 1950, the Virginia State NAACP College Chapter was recognized for its leadership in the sit-ins in the city of St. Petersburg. The College Chapters of Indiana and Wilberforce succeeded in getting several local restaurants to serve Negro patrons while the NAACP College Chapter at Florida A&M was financially contributing to the Tallahassee bus protest.

1956 - In 1956, the Division took an active role in encouraging letters of protest in the treatment of black student, Autherine Lucy, at Alabama University. As a result of this pressure, student officers in the university passed a resolution calling upon the administration to admit Miss Lucy and urging students not to participate in further demonstrations against her.

1958 - In 1958, division units in Wichita, Kansas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, set the tone for the civil rights movement of the sixties by launching the first of many sit-in demonstrations at lunch counters and other public places to protest their second class citizenship. That same year the NAACP awarded its coveted Spingarn Medal to nine black teenagers who dared to break the color line at their local high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. 1958 -The Oklahoma City Sit-in Movement was led by NAACP Youth

Council leader Clara Luper, a local high school teacher, and young local students, including Luper's eight-year old daughter, who suggested the Sit-in be held.

1960s - During the 1960's, heightened activity by division units challenged all facets of discrimination. Division units conducted sit-ins, stand-ins, drive-ins, wade-ins, read-ins, mass demonstrations, protest marches, picket lines and selective buying campaigns in the South, Midwest and in virtually every other section of the country. They attended conferences, workshop sessions and rallies; they helped line up students to apply for transfers to integrated schools; and they assisted in voter registration drives.

1961 - The year 1961 saw Division units reach an all-time high in civil rights action. During the year, units led the first sit-ins to take place in the state of Mississippi at Jackson (March 9); integrated 42 new places of public accommodations in Oklahoma City including the John A. Brown Department Store; shifted the emphasis of sit-ins from public accommodations to the area of jobs; led a successful "selective buying" campaign in Durham, North Carolina, where more than 100 new job opportunities were made available to Negro wage earners; ended discrimination in off-campus housing against Negro students at Rutgers University; established active chapters at the following predominantly white institutions of higher learning in the south: Duke University, University of North Carolina and the University of Oklahoma marking the first time since 1948 that the Association has been able to organize and gain formal recognition at such institutions in the south.

1972 - The NAACP Youth & College registered nearly an half million people to vote across the country.

1980s - Priority for the Division in the 80's was voter registration and mobilization. Registration efforts in the northeast were intense. Division units conducted registration drives in shopping centers, subway stations, cheese lines and other public places. Voter registration walk-a-thons were conducted by the New York and New Jersey State conferences; Stamford and Waterbury, Connecticut Youth Councils; and Boston, Massachusetts units. The Over-ground railroad was a three-phase project whose major goal was to stamp out voter apathy and encourage voter participation. This project was one that included youth and adults who walked from northern to southern California, throughout the Midwest, in the south and on the east coast.

2000 - South Carolina Youth & College Division had the largest march at King Day at the dome.

2001 - In 2001 death threats against black students at Penn State prompted an extended sit-in and a debate over whether the university was doing enough to protect black students and promote diversity. Attendees: Youth and College Unit, Penn State College Chapter Howard University College Chapter, Jeff. Johnson – National Director in attendance.

2007 - The NAACP Youth & College Division mobilized youth units across the country to Jena, Louisiana to march against the excessive punishment against the Jena 6 boys.

2007 - Atlanta Youth & College Division led the march in Atlanta, GA to keep the Voter Right Act alive.

2009 - The NAACP condemned an off-campus party held by members of a UC San Diego fraternity mocking Black History Month and urged the university to punish those involved.

2010 - September 15, 2010 Mississippi State Youth & College Division mobilized over a 1000 young people to the state capitol to speak out for the freedom of the Scott sisters.

2011 - North Carolina Youth & College mobilize young people to Wake County to address the re-segregation issues promoted by the school board.