



Branch Newsletter

June, 2025

By the Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

Membership meeting: Thursday, June 26, 7 p.m., Ricketts Center

Sure, it's the easy days of summer. Vacation beckons. But there's still a lot going on with the Pottstown NAACP. Come out and learn more! The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 26, at the Ricketts Center, 358 Beech Street.

If you can't make the meeting in person, here's a Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJOQT09> Meeting ID:849 9564 8174 Passcode: 937480

Join us to march in the July 4th pa- rade!

We plan to have a bigger than ever presence this year. The Montco Elks Lodge 1271 will join us. Camp Sunshine (pictured here from last year) will be back. And can we ever forget the rousing performances of the Pine Forge Academy Drum Line?! We usually line up at about 9:30 near the post office. The parade begins at 10 a.m., and we'll march from Adams Street to Manatawny Street.



A community day, and a proclamation for President Corson

Montgomery County Commissioner Jamilla Winder recently spent a day in Pottstown, meeting with leaders and focusing on all the ways the community works together and helps others.

During one of the events at the Carousel, she presented a proclamation from Montgomery County's three commissioners to President Johnny Corson. It read, "Your relentless pursuit of justice, equity and civil rights on behalf of all residents of Montgomery County is admirable and deeply appreciated."



With the proclamation are (from left) NAACP Executive Committee member Annette Kobb, President Johnny Corson, Commissioner Jamilla Winder, the Rev. Vernon Ross and Mayor Stephanie Henrick.



At left, Commissioner Winder talks with NAACP member the Rev. Robin Bearden.



For Bethel AME's 154th anniversary...

President Johnny Corson attended the church's anniversary and delivered a plaque. He's pictured here with Bethel Pastor Robin Barrow, also a member of the branch's Executive Committee.



And for another anniversary ...

President Johnny Corson attended the 10th anniversary for Bethel Community Church, joining the Rev. Vernon Ross and the Rev. Allyson Beasley-Brown.



NAACP and Elks, Teaming up for Education

President Johnny Corson recently spoke at an Elks Club meeting and delivered a \$500 infusion for the lodge's education fund. The branch donated \$300, in memory of Newstell Marable and Sam Greene, both Pottstown NAACP icons. Johnny and Paula Corson added \$200, honoring Paula's mother, Clara Nealy, and Johnny's brothers-in-law, James Coleman and Gene Rivers. Pictured above at the Montco Elks Lodge 1271 are (from left) Lamont Bagley, Johnny Corson, Chris Jackson, Tanisha Jackson, Bobby Watson, Tanya Green and Vince Artis.

Memorial Day: A day of honor, remembrance, and marching



President Johnny Corson marched in Pottstown's Memorial Day parade, along with Pennsylvania Auditor General Timothy DeFoor, (pictured at left with Johnny and military marchers), State Rep. Joe Ciresi, State Sen. Tracey Pennycuik and Montgomery County Commissioner Tom DiBello.

And, of course, there was a full military contingent, veterans, marching bands and more.



Pictured are (from left) Branch President Johnny Corson, Road to Reading co-manager Sandy Bauers, Sgt. Steve Hatfield, Sgt. Peter Yambrick, Officer Ryan Guth, Officer Lezlie Saba, and NAACP members John Armato and Vince Artis, who is also the Civil Service Commissioner for the department.

New NAACP initiative: Books + police = a win for the community



The branch has forged a new alliance with the Pottstown Police Department, pledging to donate books for its community policing efforts. Our first batch was 100 books.

The branch's Road to Reading program, funded by an anonymous donor and in partnership with Orion Communities, gives books to Pottstown children ages birth to 8 years. Since we began in October 2023, we have given out about 21,000 books through some two dozen entities in the borough.

Not long ago, a tractor-trailer delivered a pallet with 19 cartons of books on it, nearly 1,000 in all. Within a week and a half, we delivered about 750 of them.

Our July book club pick: *James*

The branch's book club has been wanting to read Percival Everett's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *James*, for months! Alas, the library's copies are reserved for what looks like a loooong time, so we held off. But now, with some loaners from First Baptist Church's book club, which read the book recently, we are able to designate it our book for our meeting on July 14 at 6 p.m. at the Pottstown Library

We hope to see you there!

