



Branch Newsletter

February 2022

By the Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PLEASE NOTE: We are continuing to hold meetings via Zoom because of the pandemic and the omicron variant. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24. Here's the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7913393153?pwd=VEZWc1FKRU12UiswWjc0Rmw3Z2hEQT09>

TUNE IN TO HEAR JOHNNY CORSON ON PORCHCAST POTTSTOWN

Pottstown podcasters Amy Wolf and Matt Green are going to focus on the Branch for their podcast on Thursday, Feb. 24. They'll be interviewing our President, Johnny Corson, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Pottstown United Brewing Company, 251 E. High Street. Audience participation invited! The event is streamed live to Facebook and YouTube.

REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING ART COMPETITION

Youths ages 6 to 20 are invited to show off their artistic ability – and their understanding of an important lesson from Dr. King -- in the second annual youth arts competition. The Branch's Religious Affairs Committee is partnering with the YMCA and YWCA Tri-County Area, for the event. This year's theme is "It Starts With Me," based on Dr. King's challenge, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" All artwork must be on a 22x28 poster board. Pottstown Community Arts, a committee of MOSAIC Community Land Trust, is providing the boards, which can be picked up at their office in the YMCA building, 724

N. Adams Street. For art supply questions or to arrange pick-up, email topottstownarts@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28.

DRESS LIKE YOU MEAN IT – IN YOUR NAACP T-SHIRT!

Isn't it great to go to an event and see all those branch members in their bright yellow T-shirts? Wouldn't you like to be one of them? Membership committee member Bobby Watson, aka our T-shirt mogul, has long-sleeved T-shirts in pretty much every size. A bargain at \$20! Email him at BobbyWatson1969@gmail.com or call him at 310-487-6631 to get one of your very own.

KEEP SOMEONE WARM THIS WINTER

The WIN (Women in the NAACP) Committee is holding a drive to collect winter essentials through Feb. 28. They want gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots and just about anything else that would keep a person warm. Drop-off hours are 9 a.m. to noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Mission First, 414 E. High Street, or 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays at the Salvation Army, 137 E. King Street, side entrance.

EMANUEL WILKERSON THROWS HIS HAT IN THE RING

Lifetime NAACP member, former Branch Secretary and current Membership Committee Chair Emanuel Wilkerson has announced his candidacy to be the Democratic nominee for the 24th State Senate district. Here's his campaign website: <https://www.emanuelwilkerson.com/> The NAACP does not endorse candidates, but we wish him well.

ALANA HOOK ON WHAT THE NAACP MEANS TO HER

When the magazine, Gilbertsville Living, wanted a local resident's perspective on the NAACP, they came to the right person! In their February issue, they ran a piece by Alana Hook, the Branch's Assistant Secretary, on what the organization has meant to her. There's no online link to the article, but here's our favorite part: "Although I am not a person of color, I am a mother raising children who will become adults one day. I want our community, our schools, and the systems in place to not only reflect the faces of the people they serve, but instill the values of a just and anti-racist society. The NAACP works to empower marginalized groups, change legislation towards equitable distribution, and to empower *all* people to seek justice and empowerment at every turn!"

ISSUES:

The Political Action Committee, as usual, has multiple irons in the fire. The committee has been keeping a close eye on the re-drawing of state house and senate districts, whose boundaries, it appears, will be decided by the courts. Also, of great concern, is the won't-die proposal to create judicial districts in the state, which would be a form of gerrymandering designed to hand control of the State Supreme Court to the GOP. The PAC is also watching a GOP effort to end cross-filing for school board seats, a move that would further politicize school boards. Finally, the PAC continues to follow police efforts to catch the vandals who defaced the Boyertown "No Place for Hate" mural. Whew!

OUR CHAPTER IN THE NEWS

Johnny Corson's Letter to the Editor, praising the Spring-Ford School Board for adding the Muslim holiday, Eid, and the Hindu holiday, Diwali, to their school calendar, ran in the Pottstown Mercury on Jan. 26. [Click here](#) to see it.

WOMENS' WORDS OF WISDOM ON FACEBOOK

Last year during Black History Month, the WIN and Communications Committees teamed to run a daily graphic, each with an inspirational quote by a famous Black woman, on our Facebook page. Think Michelle Obama saying, "When they go low, we go high." Or Misty Copeland, the first African-American principal dancer with the American Ballet Theater, saying, "You can start late, look different, be uncertain, and still succeed." The project was so well-received and so popular that we decided to run it all over again this year. Check out the entries here:

<https://www.facebook.com/pottstownnaacp/>