## Brag Sheet! 2021-2023 NAACP Branch 26AA-B Lebanon County, PA



TO OUR MEMBERS & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS,

**DECEMBER 2023** 

We send you this Brag Sheet! to spotlight some of our main accomplishments since our Branch was chartered in February 2021, and to encourage you to renew your membership today — or start a new membership — so we can continue our work protecting & defending the civil rights of all people in Lebanon County.

As an all-volunteer civil rights organization, we depend on the continuing support of members like you. Hence this appeal that you renew your membership — or start a new membership — today.

## What Accomplishments? Here's a very partial list.

- In Feb. 2022, we filed an ethics complaint against Lebanon County District Attorney Pier Hess Graf with the Disciplinary Board of the PA Supreme Court. Our complaint was spotlighted in local and regional media and mentioned in the *New York Times*. In July 2023, the Disciplinary Board reprimanded D.A. Graf for her unethical and unprofessional behavior.
- We established three active standing committees that have begun to have a postive impact in the local community:
  - Public Safety & Criminal Justice Committee
  - Education Committee
  - Legal Redress Committee
- We are currently creating a Housing Committee to address the severe lack of affordable housing in Lebanon County.
- We developed and are following a comprehensive and ambitious strategic plan (see the About Us page of our website).

Q: What have our standing committees accomplished?

## PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE



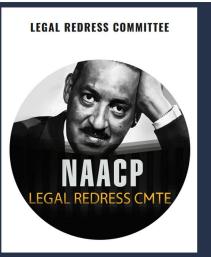
- Gained a seat in the meeting room of the Lebanon Co. Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB)
- Regularly attended the meetings of the Lebanon County Prison Board
- Established five active Working Groups:
- (1) Lebanon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
- (2) Prison Board & Lebanon Co. Correctional Facility
- (3) Lebanon Police Department & Mayor's Office
- (4) Other Lebanon Co. Municipal Police Departments
- (5) The Pardon Project
- Established positive working relationships with key players in the Lebanon County Criminal Justice landscape





Our Education Committee has undertaken a wide range of initiatives:

- Cultivating positive working relationships with:
  - K-12 public school district superintendants & school boards
  - Representatives of higher education
  - The general public
- Establishing & granting an annual \$1,000 Diversity Scholarship for a meritorious graduating high school senior of color
- Organizing an annual MLK Discovery Day community event
- Developing a large & growing list of antiracist educational resources
- Creating & disseminating educational brochures featuring antiracist literature for children, teens & adults



Over the past two years, our Legal Redress Committee has received and responded to more than two dozen complaints of discrimination from members of our local community. This is one of the most challenging aspects of our civil rights work here in Lebanon County. We are not lawyers and we cannot offer legal counsel. What we can do and do is listen to complainants, offer our moral support, and work to identify the legal and other resources that are available to those in need. We have met with complainants, helped to direct them to the legal resources available to them, and developed a "Complaints of Discrimination" form on our website.

## **Special Events**

- We organized & hosted Juneteenth / Freedom Day celebrations at public parks in 2021, 2022, and 2023, and are actively planning for Juneteenth 2024
- We held our 2nd, 3rd & 4th Annual Frederick Douglass Community Orations at Lebanon Valley College
- We helped to develop a Lebanon County African American Heritage Trail
- We hosted a hugely successful Black History Month Gala in Feb. 2023 — and are actively planning several Black History Month 2024 events, including another big gala!
- We engaged in outreach at lots of local fairs & festivals

IN SUM: In less than three years, we've made an outsized impact in Lebanon County, but we can only build on our accomplishments with your support. Please renew your membership today!



Easiest on the national NAACP website: https://naacp.org/join-naacp/become-member