



**Black History Tea
Keynote Speaker,
Minister Tashara Scott**

The Oconee County Branch NAACP held its 69th Annual Black History Tea on Saturday, February 25, 2024, at the Seneca River Missionary Baptist Association Family Life Center in Seneca, S.C. The celebration began at 4 PM and included musical performances by the Clemson University Gospel Choir and local youth choirs from Double Springs and Poplar Springs Baptist Churches.

We were fortunate to be able to meet again in-person for the second year following the end of the coronavirus pandemic. There was nearly a full house present for the Annual Black History Tea celebration.

The black history tea is one of the Oconee County Branch NAACP's fundraising events designed to support programming, activism and outreach, branch student awards, as well as voter education and advocacy throughout the year. Banquet funds also assist the branch's mission to address issues in the community related to education, equity, labor and economic disparities, voting rights, housing opportunity, access to health care, and environmental and criminal justice. The bottom-line goal is to ensure that the rights of all citizens are protected.

Ms. Alizea Leboeuf served as this year's Mistress of Ceremonies.

The keynote speaker for the event was Minister Tashara Scott who serves as an advisor for the Seneca River Youth Auxiliary. She was proudly Introduced by her mother, the Reverend Yvonne Scott.

Minister Scott's message emphasized the need for the younger generation to take advantage of the synergies that can be realized when we work together rather than depending on the results of our separate efforts. She used the example of the Power

Rangers Cartoon television program that was popular when she was growing up. Each cartoon character had certain valuable powers when working or acting separately. But their work together resulted in a powerful effective force against evil.

She went on to mentioned that God's people currently appear to be scattered and are having trouble getting their intended work accomplished. The actions and interests of the world have pulled us apart. Consequently, we must learn to work in unity if we want to fully use our gifts to achieve the missions God has sat before us. Our hope lies in our ability to work together in unity. We were left with the thought which asked whether we are willing to do what it takes to make this happen, or will we continue to only lookout for our own best interest? The challenge delivered in the message was well received by all in attendance and the branch members were encouraged to continue the fight for unity.

The program ended with a note of appreciation as the Oconee County Branch NAACP President, Mr. George Anderson, thanked all involved with making the program a success.

A special thank you went to Mrs. Eartha White and the program committee for coordinating this year's Black History Tea.

Finally, community members were encouraged to become NAACP members. We especially need Silver and Gold Life Members. Membership is the life blood of the NAACP. If interested, please contact us at phone: 864-972-6122, email: naacpscoconee@gmail.com, or visit our webpage: NAACPOconee@gmail.org.

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