

NAACP Branch Standing Committees **[By-Laws for Branches]**

Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT- SO). The ACT-SO Program is a major project of the NAACP, providing an instrument through which African-American youth are encouraged and inspired toward excellence in academic and cultural pursuits while benefiting from the maximum support of their community. ACT-SO affords the same respect for African-American Scholastic and cultural achievement that is given to heroes. The ACT-SO committee plans and conducts the annual ACT-SO academic competitions for students in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) in accordance with the published guidelines of the National NAACP Office and oversight of the National Director of the ACT-SO Program.

Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs. The Committee on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs seeks to: (1) establish a working relationship with those agencies in government, national, state and local, having the responsibility in the affairs of members of the various Armed Services and Veterans and to ensure that the programs to which they are responsible are administered fairly and justly to members of the minority community; (2) study conditions pertaining to veterans and members of the Military Service and their dependents and/or survivors in the community; (3) serve as a center of information on matters affecting the members of the Active Military, Reserves, State National Guard and Veterans; (4) maintain a repository of materials, information and forms to be used in assisting veterans and/or dependents of veterans and military personnel with their concerns; (5) receive and act on all complaints relative to acts of discrimination on account of race, color, creed, or denial of benefits to which they are entitled because of discrimination; (6) prepare a quarterly report on committee activities to be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Branch and the National Director of Armed Services and Veterans Affairs.

Communications, Press and Publicity. The Committee on Communications, Press and Publicity seeks to: (1) promote media content consistent with fundamental NAACP goals, which include the elimination of racial isolation and fear and the furtherance of multi-racial and cultural understanding; (2) work to eliminate employment segregation and discrimination in those industries, [comprising the communications arts and sciences] (radio, telephone, television, motion pictures, newspapers, books, related computer communications, business, cable television); (3) ensure African American ownership and control of print and electronic media — both hardware and software; (4) monitor local and national media, especially advertising performance; (5) provide the National NAACP Office with research and data on those local businesses engaged in communications arts and sciences; (6) ensure that all people have a meaningful right to choose from and have access to a variety of high quality telecommunications goods and services at reasonable cost; (7) secure publicity for the work of the Branch and the NAACP in the local press and on radio, television and other media; (8) interest persons in leadership positions in local news media on conditions affecting minority groups; (9) counteract derogatory and erroneous statements in local news media about African Americans and other minority groups; (10) be responsible for forwarding to THE CRISIS magazine items covering Branch activities and important local affairs; and (11) act as far as possible as an agency for the promotion and sale of THE CRISIS magazine. No publicity shall be released without first being approved by the Branch President.

Community Coordination. The Committee on Community Coordination seeks to enlist the support of other community organizations on issues affecting the interests of African Americans and other communities of color.

Criminal Justice. The Committee on Criminal Justice seeks to: (1) eliminate harsh and unfair sentencing practices that are responsible for mass incarceration and racial disparities in the prison system, (2) support and seek to increase trust and public safety by advancing effective law enforcement practices, (3) fight for the restoration of the voting rights of formerly incarcerated people and the removal of barriers to employment, (4) elevate the voices of crime victims in order to identify and advance systemic breakdowns existing in the criminal justice system that perpetuate crime, (5) end the war on drugs for its disproportionate collateral consequences harm in communities of color, (6) the institution and availability of alternatives to incarceration, including education, employment, and mental health services, (7) eliminate zero tolerance policies implemented in our schools which are keeping children out of the classroom and putting them on a path from the schoolhouse to the jailhouse, (8) investigate programs implemented in local law enforcement agencies which derail them from their main purpose of safety and order, and (9) seek budget modifications in states where incarceration receives more funding than education.

Economic Development. The Committee on Economic Development sees to implement local efforts and support national programs to preserve and expand economic empowerment among African-Americans and other communities of color by. (1) researching and establishing relationships with private and public entities; (2) supporting the work of the National NAACP Office in monitoring the progress and activity of private and public economic development entities designated by national NAACP programs; (3) implementing local efforts to promote the growth of business ownership; (4) increasing employment and job creation; and (5) encouraging business development and home ownership.

Education. The Committee on Education seeks to: (1) eliminate segregation and other discriminatory practices in public education; (2) study local educational conditions affecting minority groups; (3) investigate the public school system and school zoning; (4) familiarize itself with textbook material that is racially derogatory; (5) seek to stimulate school attendance; (6) keep informed of school conditions and strive to correct abuses where found; (7) investigate the effects of standardized and high stakes testing practices; (8) promote effective teacher certification; (9) promote parental involvement in education; and (10) aim to be a center of community education on issues affecting minority communities and on the work of the Association.

Finance. The Finance Committee consists of the President, Treasurer, and at least one other member. The committee studies the financial needs of the Branch and is responsible for drafting an adequate annual budget.

Freedom Fund. The Freedom Fund Committee plans and conducts fund-raising activities, entertainment and other projects, for local and national NAACP purposes within the scope of the NAACP's programs. It works closely with the Finance Committee.

Health. The Health Committee: (1) works to promote, protect and maintain the health of African Americans; (2) assesses the health needs of the community; (3) advocates for equal access to health education, care, treatment and research for all Americans; (4) sponsors health-related activities such as health forums, fairs and workshops, highlighting issues of importance to people of color, and (5) supports health initiatives of the NAACP.

Housing. The Committee on Housing: (1) studies housing conditions in the local community; (2) receives and seeks to address complaints of housing discrimination; (3) opposes all public and private restrictive housing practices; and (4) disseminates information and renders support to efforts to eliminate discrimination in housing.

Labor and Industry. The Labor and Industry Committee attempts to improve the economic status of minority groups by: (1) working to eliminate discriminatory employment practices in industry and government, wage differentials based on race, unequal opportunities for training, promotion and unfair dismissals; (2) encouraging greater participation in the trade union movement; (3) working to end discriminatory practices in labor unions; (4) securing the enactment of local, state and federal fair employment practices legislation; and (5) working for improved opportunities in vocational and apprenticeship training.

Legal Redress. The Legal Redress Committee: (1) investigates all cases reported to it; (2) supervises all litigation in which the Branch is interested; and (3) keeps the National NAACP and the Branch informed on the progress of every case. The committee does not provide general legal advice.

Membership and Life Membership. The Membership Committee: (1) works throughout the year to maintain and increase membership; (2) is responsible for planning and organizing the annual membership campaign; (3) is responsible for soliciting new members and for securing membership renewals; and (4) implements on-going initiatives to obtain Life Members.

Political Action. The Political Action Committee: (1) seeks to increase registration and voting; (2) works for the enactment of municipal, state and federal legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of minority groups; (3) seeks the repeal of racially discriminatory legislation; (4) works to improve the administration of justice; (5) works to secure equal enforcement of the law; and (6) keeps the National NAACP Office, the NAACP Washington Bureau, and the Branch informed of all proposed legislation which affects minority groups. The Committee is non-partisan and does not endorse candidates for public office.

Prison Branch Support. The Prison Branch Support Committee shall support the work of the Prison Branch in accordance with Article VHI, Section 6 fi- ll) by (1) working closely and directly with the members of their respective Prison Branch and the Regional Prison Coordinator, (2) maintain contacts with, and report regularly to the Regional Coordinators; (3) build, cultivate and maintain positive relationships between prison officials, Prison Branch members and members within the local Branch; and (4) solicit community organizations and business to establish a volunteer bank (teachers, writers, poets, businessmen, ministers, lawyers, policemen, judges, government officials, politicians and media personnel) to assist the Prison Branch in carrying out its programs.

Religious Affairs. The Religious Affairs Committee shall include ministerial and lay religious leaders who are members of the Unit It shall: (1) promote an educational program designed to give moral and ethical interpretation to the civil rights struggle; (2) interpret the work of the Association to organized religious groups of all faiths; (3) enlist the support of such organized religious groups for membership, fundraising, and the struggle for equality and full civil rights; and (4) provide resource assistance for religious education and social action activities, associated with the improvement of race relations.

Young Adult. The Committee on Young Adult shall consist of Branch members twenty-one (21) - forty (40) years of age. It shall be the function of the Committee to: (1) support all branch activities; (2) stimulate interest through advocacy training and solicit membership of twenty-one (21) - forty (40) years of age; (3) create a mentorship program (Branch to Young Adults and Young Adults to Youth Units) to serve as a support bridge from Youth and College to Branch participation; (4) provide networking and social opportunities for young adults in the local community; and (S) encourage the participation of young adults in all activities and leadership within the Branch.

Youth Works. The Committee on Youth Work for State/State-Area Conferences shall consist of all Youth Unit Advisors and Youth Unit Presidents in the state, and five (5) persons appointed by die State/State- Area Conference President, The Committee on Youth Work for Branches shall consist of the Youth Unit Advisor^), and Youth Unit Presidents) in the same community, and five (5) persons appointed by the Branch President. The Youth Unit Advisors and the Youth Unit Presidents shall choose the chair of the Committee. The Youth Work Committee shall develop and coordinate the programs of the Branches) and Youth Units. The Branch Committee on Youth Work shall turn the names, addresses and membership dues of youth solicited by the Branch over to the appropriate National Office recognized youth group, if any, in their community. The Youth Work Committee shall monitor the youth membership in the Branch If there is no local youth unit recognized by the National Office, the Committee shall recommend the Branch apply to the National Office for a Youth Charter and organize die appropriate youth group.

Women in the NAACP (WIN). State/State-Area Conferences, Branches, Prison Branches of the Association may organize Women in NAACP (WIN) committees subject to the control of the Executive Committee and to such rules and regulations as the Board of Directors may enact WIN committees shall consist of a Chairperson and/or Co- Chairperson and at least three (3) other members. WIN shall address within the framework of the NAACP, civil rights issues affecting women and children and shall carry out other civil and cultural activities to enhance membership and provide financial support to the Branch. The purpose WIN is (1) to enhance the leadership role of women; (2) to serve as an advocacy vehicle to address the social, economic, political. educational, health and welfare issues affecting women; (3) to advocate for the emotional, mental, physical and spiritual development of children and (4) to support the policies as well as the on-going mission and vision of the NAACP.

All Standing Committees must have at least three (3) appointed members. They shall report in writing each month to the Executive Committee at its regular meetings