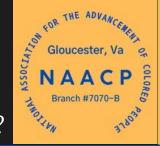


# **NEWS PRESS**

July 2022

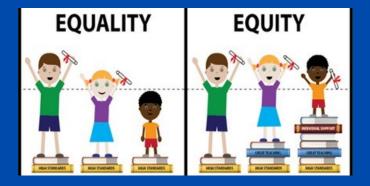




**Branch President Brenda Dixon** 

#### Mission Statement

To secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and to ensure the health and well being of all persons.



### 83 Years Serving Our Community

The Gloucester Branch of the NAACP was founded on March 13, 1939. The first president was George Nelson Carter grandfather of GHS teacher, attorney and alumna of W&M, Dianne Carter de Mayo.





# **Membership Awaits You**



### We need your help!

Chairperson of membership, Kathleen Kellar, is working hard to increase membership. The branch cannot function without members and volunteers. Unfortunately, Freedom is not Free, and we must continue to be Freedom Fighters. Join us as we travel the path to an equal and just society. Adult Membership is only \$30.00 yearly and \$10.00 for youth. We can do this if we all work together. The NAACP consists of the following committees:

- Criminal Justice
- Political Action
- Health & Wellness
- Economic Development
- Communication, Press & Publicity
- Legal Redress
- Membership
- Finance
- Freedom Fund
- Education
- Environmental & Climate Justice
- Community Coordination
- Political
- Religious Affairs
- Housing
- Young Adults
- Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs
- Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scienific Olympics



Join the organization and choose a committee that interest you.



# **Black Lives Matter!**



# Communication, Press, and Publicity



Welcome to the NAACP Gloucester Branch Website. A generous donor agreed to pay the start-up costs and to pay a year's subscription. Thank you Dr. Ella Webster! The site is being managed by the Gazette Journal. This site open doors to the world. Thank you Ella Webster, Roberta Ray, Donna Osborne and John Millington for all of your hard work in making this dream a reality.



Chairperson Elizabeth "Ella" Webster

# **Community Coordination**

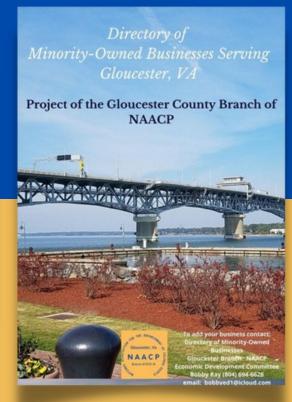
The Community Coordinator Chairperson, Donna Osborne, has been extremely busy! From designing the Gloucester NAACP logo, banner, Letterhead, and numerous flyers, She also designed the Branch's Thalheimer's Award Submission. She is a technological GENIUS!











# Criminal Justice and Legal Redress

Criminal Justice Chairperson, Velma Benns and Legal Redress Chairperson, Kathleen Kellar, work to collaborate addressing legal issues referred to the branch. Efforts are ongoing in their attempt to establish legal resources to be used as "consultants" or for referrals. Issues range from alleged voter fraud to inequality in punishment. Vincent Dixon and Freddie Dean Vines remain very active in supporting the committees' efforts. William and Mary School of Law has been contacted as well as a nonprofit group called "We the People". From hosting a forum with Sheriff Warren to developing complaint forms, both committees have been very busy. Also Mrs. Benns stays abreast of legislative bills that involve crimination such as the legalization of marijuana and the benefits of expungement of records. Pictured below are Vincent Dixon, Richard Dixon and Chairperson Velma Benns.

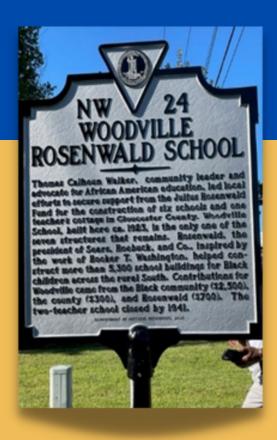


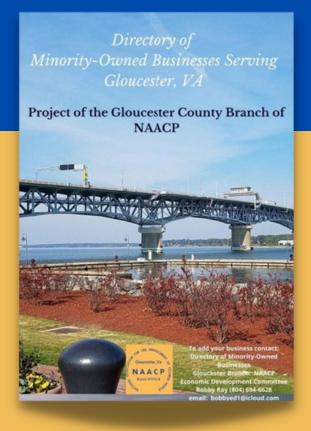


# **Economic Development**

From the unveiling of the Woodville Rosenwald School Historical Marker to developing a place where black and minority owned businesses can advertised, Roberta Ray has her hands full. Over 20 businesses have expressed a interest in the site. Plans are underway to focus on a different business on a regular basis. Plans are also underway to Make Woodville Rosenwald School a National Park Service unit. Please support this worthy and historic effort.







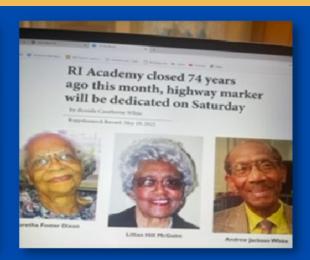
### Education



Education Chairperson Dr. Lourdes
Travieso-Parker is busy planning our third
College/Career Fair. Meeting with the High
School Principal, Dr. Stefan Mygas was
important in establishing a collaborative
relationship. The Fair is scheduled for
October 13, 2022 at the High School.
Students from neighboring counties will be
invited to attend. From regularly attending
School Board meetings to celebrating the
achievement of Gloucester's African
American Superintendant to mentoring
teenagers in High School to monitoring
SOL scores, the education committee is
extremely busy.

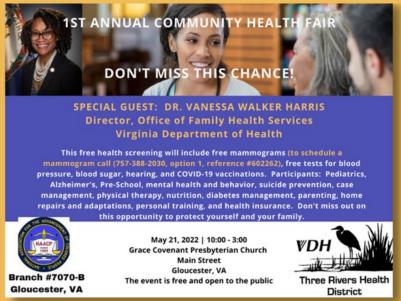






### Health and Wellness





The Gloucester NAACP Health Committee Chairperson, Natalie Johnson spearheaded the Branch's First Health Fair. It was well received by the community. Over 125 people attended this much needed event.



Dr. Vanessa Walker-Harris was was the Keynote Speaker. Having served under Ralph Northam, she was highly Qualified and gave a excellent presentation.

> Dr. Dwayne North giving a lecture on colon cancer in black males



# Health and Wellness (cont.)





From February 2021 to May 2022, The Gloucester Branch NAACP continues to fight against the deadly COVID 19 virus by making the vaccine more accessible. The NAACP was featured on WAVY TV 10 for their ongoing efforts to provide education and vaccination especially to the underserved population





### **Environmental and Climate Justice**





Susan Crockett, Chairperson of The Environmental and Climate Justice committee, along with The Middle Peninsula Chapter Virginia Master Naturalist, conducted a BlackBird Watching event. Twenty-six species of birds were spotted. As many of you may know, a black man by the name of Christian Cooper was out birdwatching in Central Park when he was falsely accused of threatening a white woman. The incident went viral and brought to light how easy it was to falsely accuse a man of color of misconduct. The woman was charged with filing a false police report and Mr. Cooper now has his own Natural Geographic Television show.



Housing partnership members, Eddie Washington and Freddie Dean Vines, working to keep our homes safe and affordable especially the low income population and the elderly.

## **Armed Services and Veteran Affairs**

Chairperson Charlene Galvez knows her stuff about Veteran rights and benefits. She is a great source of information. Contact her for your veteran or armed service-related needs.





### **Political Action**

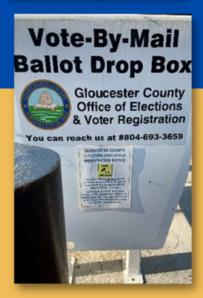


Chaired by the very talented, thorough and consciousness, Yvonne Ray, The Political Action Committee has been extremely busy taking people to the polls. Committee Members attended the Voter Action Network training, (VAN), which provided strategies to encourage people to vote. From volunteering as Election Officers to having regular Voter Registration drives, to having campaign debates, to staying abreast of the latest political legislative laws and bills, this committee is keeping your right to vote in the forefront. Pictured below are B. Dixon, Chairperson Y. Ray, T. Byrne and B. Howard













### Freedom Fund



Our Freedom Committee, led by Kathy Phillips, is off to a roaring start. Last year was a COVID Fundraiser bummer! Limited interactions with the public, the Branch had to make the best of a bad situation and we had a Flower Bulb sale. This year, we had a BBQ Fundraiser on July 9, 2022. On September 24, 2022, The NAACP are having a BLACK-TIE FREEDOM FUND BANQUET. Guest speaker is none other than, television and radio host Barbara Hamm Lee. Musical entertainment will be provided by the smooth sounds of Keith Anderson from the Cloud 9 Singing Ensemble in Richmond, Va. You don't want to miss this!!. Kathy is leaving no stone unturned as she and committee members promises a grand time.





# **Religious Affairs**



Chairperson Deacon John Perrin has done a fabulous job uniting people of all religions and race. He spearheaded a workshop titled "Facing Racism in a Diverse Nation" and Deacon Perrin established the CARE program. (Citizens Advancing Racial Equality). This Committee coordinated a successful 1st Annual Fall Bazaar in 2021. The 2nd Annual Fall Bazaar will be October 8, 2022. Join us for a fun-filled day.









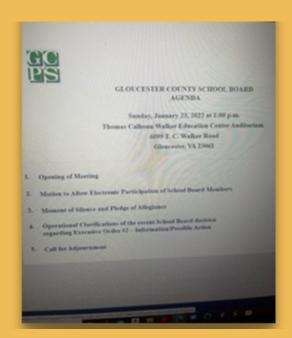


### Youth Works



There are no words to describe chairperson Dianne Carter de Mayo. She is multi-talented and serves as "a walking goggle resource." She initiated the High School Chapter of the NAACP. The students are very involved and have participated in poetry reading, musical events, Juneteenth celebrations, role-playing and an array of other activities. Meetings are held on Wednesdays and students shall any concerns they may have and discuss possible solutions. The students are involved in attempting to diversify the teaching staff at the schools. We are 4 students shy of becoming a full pledge high school chapter.





# Stand with Teachers

#### STAND WITH TEACHERS

who are losing their limited planning time to cover sick teachers' classes.

#### STAND WITH TEACHERS

who are being forced to come to work sick because there are no subs available to cover.

#### STAND WITH TEACHERS

who are being threatened by parents for teaching history and literature.

#### **STAND WITH TEACHERS**

who are facing more behavior problems and violence this year than ever before.

#### STAND WITH TEACHERS

who are spending their own money to make their classrooms safe and welcoming for students.

#### STAND WITH TEACHERS

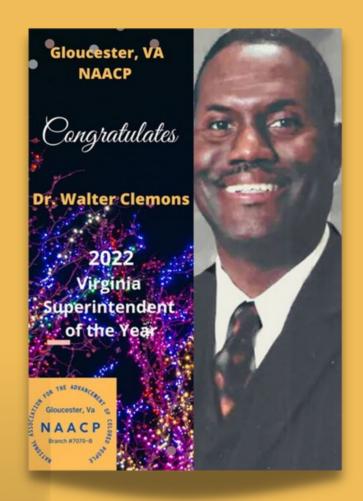
who are being asked to teach students not only academic skills, but also social skills that have been stymied by a multi-year pandemic.

#### **STAND WITH TEACHERS**

who, despite their vast education and experience, are dismissed by the public as little more than babysitters.

#### **STAND WITH TEACHERS**

who are being asked, once again, to sacrifice their health and safety to keep the economy turning.





**Education Matters!** 

### Juneteenth 2022

Even with a last-minute venue change, THE CELEBRATION CONTINUED!! The Juneteenth Celebration was held at The First United Baptist Church. Thank You Gloucester County citizens for a successful celebration of FREEDOM, FAMILY, FAITH & FUTURE!





#### Juneteenth

June 19th commemorates the end of slavery on that day; It was in 1865...General Granger had something to say.

He went to Texas stating the slaves were free; then I wondered how could that be... because the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863.

> In 1863, the messenger was murdered on the way... Also, slave owners deliberately did not tell their slaves ...they could go or stay.

Freed slaves celebrated by shedding their old slave clothes...
they had to go.
They were just a reminder of being beaten and bleeding from head to toe.

They prayed, danced, sang and had soul food to eat; Greens, corn bread, BBQ and fried chicken for meat.

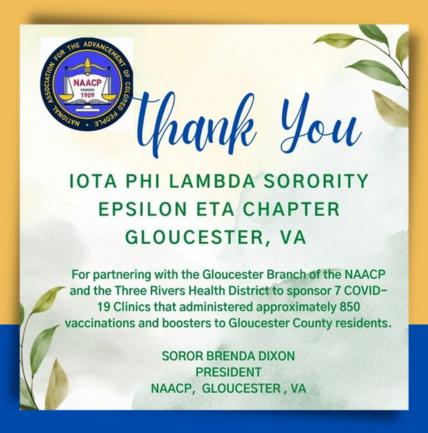
All states celebrate Juneteenth plus D.C., Except North and South Dakota, Montana and Hawaii.

The flag is red, white and blue to symbolize the slaves were Americans, no matter what they say.

The white star symbolizes Texas...the first state to celebrate the holiday.

So now I wonder and ask why...
We don't stand and cross our hearts when the Juneteenth flags fly?

Written by: Corrine F. Young



# Partnerships Matter!

