

The Evanston/North Shore NAACP continues to forge ahead through activities, events and important networking with community partners. So far this year we have been a co-sponsor for the African American Achievement Awards Program held at Evanston Township High School. We sponsored our first Jazz Concert with Steve Rogers and the evening was simply outstanding. Our branch continues to partner with CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning) helping to bring insight into regional transportation issues. This year we supported C&W Foundation (begun by C&W Market owners Clarence and Wendy Weaver). The branch wrote a letter of support to D65, encouraging the board to hire interim superintendent, Dr. Angela Turner. The branch also supported Unity Day at Niles West High School that was coordinated by Chief Equity Officer Dr. Tawanna Wells. Recently, the branch also co-sponsored an Environmental Justice Program held at Fleetwood-Jourdain. The branch continues to work with the city of Evanston as it rolls out its vision for 2045.

In addition to the public events, the Evanston/North Shore Branch has worked, partnered with and/or cooperated with other organizations regarding issues of justice and equity that are related to housing, education and employment. Because of the nature of many of these issues, there is no opportunity for public discussion. However, it is safe to say that the branch strives to live up to the NAACP's reputation as "the oldest and boldest, the longest and strongest" civil rights organization in the world.

Our membership continues to burgeon with growth, thanks to the commitment of Executive Committee members *and Geri Sizemore*. **Our goal for 2024 is to reach the number "500" for registered NAACP members in our branch.** Our growth in membership should not be a surprise to anyone. The current time in which we live is filled with growing division, unrest and a veritable rise in every form of bias and discrimination. People are looking for a place where they can lend their time, energy and even resources, to help reverse this rising trend in our nation. What is especially hopeful (in my eyes) is the fact that our growth also reflects the diversity of our city. We are evidence that black and white people of goodwill can work together in an engaged effort towards righting wrongs, breaking through barriers and building bridges!

Our Youth Work Committee, led by chairperson *Ndona Mubayayi* has done outstanding work in registering over thirty young people as NAACP members in the past year. *Willie Shaw* and the Political & Social Engagement Committee are everywhere! Their presence can be felt in nearly every sector of our community. First Vice President *John Fuller* continues to lead the Housing Committee. Working with other community organizations, the larger order of the day is finding affordable housing in Evanston and ensuring that the diversity of the town's population will increase rather than decrease. Our Environmental Justice and Climate Change Committee, led by *Andrew Wymer*, is everywhere, forming partnerships and working with dedication. Our Education and Scholarship Committee led by *Teri Shepherd and Judith Treadway*, excels as we continue to partner with Oakton Elementary School for our annual read-a-thon and as we supply scholarship to high school and college students.

I first became president of an NAACP branch nearly forty years ago in Princeton, New Jersey. A few years later and after relocating seven miles down the road, I became president of the Trenton branch of the NAACP. I served for years as a board member with the Detroit branch of the NAACP. While each branch had its strengths (particularly Detroit, being the largest in the nation) I can proudly say that none of them were more impacting in their community than our branch in Evanston and the North Shore. As we move towards the summer months, please consider sharing the work of our branch. And encourage others to join us as we forge ahead with a renewed hope that change is possible, blockades can be removed and justice can prevail.

Peace and Power,

Dr. Michael Nabors  
President