



THE MONITOR

2026 Summer Issue

Volume 6 Issue 2

The Freedom Fund Gala Honoring Our Past *Celebrating Community and the Founding of Black History Month*



The 51st Freedom Gala, held on May 17th, 2026, at Martin's Crosswinds, was well attended. This year's theme was **Unfinished Business: Reclaiming our Rights and Restoring our Power**. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of Black History Month by scholar and historian Carter G. Woodson.

The keynote speaker, U.S. Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove from the 37th District of California, delivered a powerful speech to energize and encourage the crowd to get out to vote and to continue to agitate for justice. Over thirty scholarships were presented to Montgomery County high school students.

The 2026 awards were presented — the *President's Award* to United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Union Local 1994 MCGEO; the *Community Service Award* to Manna Food Center, and the *NAACP Branch Committee Award* to the Education Committee which includes the Parents Council.



2026 Scholarship Winners

The gala also recognized the 90th Anniversary of the NAACP's Youth and College Division. The youth participants were Skylar Wade - President, Montgomery County Youth Council; Violet Ikenberry - Vice President, Montgomery County and Aaron Johnson - President, Emory Grove Youth Council.

The Branch thanks all of the members, supporters, and sponsors for a wonderful event!

NAACP

WE ARE PEOPLE
117TH NAACP NATIONAL CONVENTION

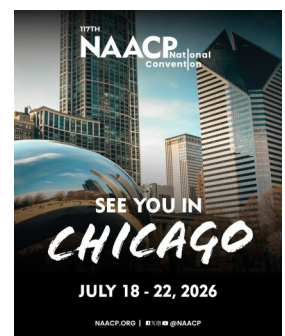
Registration is now open for the **117th National Convention** scheduled to be held in Chicago July 18 - 22, 2026. As the country celebrates its 250th anniversary in 2026, the NAACP continues to fight for the rights overdue to many.

We, The People is a reminder that the equal rights, quality education, accessible healthcare, and diversity, equity, and inclusion we seek are within our reach.

Information on registration, hotels, travel and the schedule can be found at [NAACP.org/convention](https://naacp.org/convention).

The elected delegates representing the Montgomery County branch at this year's conference are:

Carolyn Coleman
Linda Plummer
Melissa McKenna
Millie West-Wiggins
Cherrie Branson
David Fagan
Phyllis Fagan
Dorien Rogers





ACT-SO Montgomery County Heads to Chicago!

The ACT-SO competitions were held in April. We congratulate all the ACT-SO competitors for their commitment to academic and artistic excellence. The following participants achieved Gold medals.

Student	Category	Gold Medal	School
Saidah Brown	Filmmaking	Gold Medal	Springbrook High School
Lailah Connor	Instrumental Contemporary	Gold Medal	Clarksburg High School
Jacqueline Daphnis	Painting	Gold Medal	Albert Einstein High School
Jacqueline Daphnis	Photography	Gold Medal	Albert Einstein High School
Jacqueline Daphnis	Poetry Written	Gold Medal	Albert Einstein High School
Azzaria Fabyan	Drawing	Gold Medal	Bishop McNamara High School
Zion Johnson	Music Composition	Gold Medal	Seneca Valley High School
Ethan Mejule	Original Essay	Gold Medal	Watkins Mill High School
Ava Seyoum	Engineering	Gold Medal	Excel High School
Brianne Strong	Dance: Contemporary	Gold Medal	St. John's College High School

Eight local gold medalists, *Saidah Brown, Lailah Connor, Jaqueline Daphnis, Azzaria Fabyan, Zion Johnson, Ethan Mejule, Ava Seyoum, and Brianne Strong*, are headed to Chicago to represent the Montgomery County Maryland Branch of the NAACP at the National ACT-SO Competition July 15 to July 19. These amazing students represent ten categories: Dance: Contemporary, Drawing, Engineering, Filmmaking, Instrumental Contemporary, Music Composition, Original Essay, Painting, Photography, and Poetry Written.

ACT-SO students and ACT-SO alumni will also participate in the Living Legends Ceremony on June 20, 11:00 a.m. and at the ACT-SO Showcase at 1:30 p.m. as part of the Juneteenth Celebration, both events at BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, MD.

ACT-SO MOCO Gold Medalists 2026



Saidah Brown
Filmmaking



Lailah Connor
Instrumental
Contemporary



Jacqueline Daphnis
Poetry Written
Painting
Photography



Azzaria Fabyan
Drawing



Zion Johnson
Music
Composition



Ethan Mejule
Original Essay



Cianna Strong
Dance: Contemporary



Ava Seyoum
Engineering

We offer special acknowledgements to Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, Clinton AME Zion Church, Kingdon Fellowship AME Church, MTC Art Studios, Pepco, Inc., PVAC Fund Inc., The National Pan-Hellenic Council of Montgomery County, Maryland Chapter, ACT-SO Committee, and Officers, Executive Committee and members of the Montgomery County Maryland Branch of the NAACP.

*If interested in supporting ACT-SO, there are several ways to **DONATE**:*

1. Send via ZELLE to Russell Price for ACT-SO at (917)748-9517
2. Mail CHECKS or MONEY ORDER to ACT-SO
Montgomery County Maryland Branch of NAACP
P.O. Box 2165, Rockville, MD 20847-2165
3. Donate online via EVENTBRITE



Congratulations to the Education Committee for receiving the 2026 Branch Committee Award. The Montgomery County Parents' Council, led by Chairperson Byron Johns and supported by the dedicated School Representatives, has been busy promoting educational initiatives to improve learning outcomes for MCPS students.

Math Momentum Program Using IXL Math Learning Tools

The Parents' Council, working with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), has been actively working to inform parents about the IXL Math platform.

- ⇒ Over 1750 students and their parents participated in the Math Momentum IXL 12-week Challenge.
- ⇒ The program ended with a celebration at the KID Museum Invent the Future Expo in Bethesda on May 31st. Over 900 attended from the IXL program along with the 4,000 attendees for the Expo.

The goal was to prove that providing tools aligned to the Math curriculum for parents to support learning and practice at home would improve student's results on state and district standardized assessments. The results show a positive impact on student's math skills and early indicators are positive on the MAP/M and MCAP scores.



Plan Your VOTE!

- ☒ **Primary Election Day** June 23, 2026
7:00 am - 8:00 pm
- ☒ **Early Voting** June 11 - June 18, 2026
7:00 am - 8:00 pm
- ☒ **Vote by Mail** Ballots must be postmarked or placed in drop box by
June 23, 2026 at 8:00 pm

For more information visit www.elections.maryland.gov

Montgomery County Woman in the NAACP (WIN) Initiatives and Events

Interfaith Works Donations

The WIN committee currently has an ongoing project for assisting 'Interfaith Works' with items needed for families. Please clean out your unwanted or unused items and take to the site below. Please see the web-site for list of needed items.

Interfaith Works

751 Twinbrook Pkwy, Rockville, MD 20851

Tuesday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm / Saturday 8:30am - 2:00 pm

<http://www.iworksmc.org>

Women's Book Club – The Light We Carry by Michelle Obama

Date: September 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Silver Spring Civic Center, 719 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910

The NAACP WIN Committee will present a Women's Book Club featuring *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times* by Michelle Obama. This event will provide an opportunity for women to gather in a spirit of reflection, dialogue, and connection while engaging themes of resilience, leadership, and hope. The program reflects the Committee's ongoing commitment to empowerment, sisterhood, and personal growth through shared learning experiences.

[Women's Book Club Presented by Women in the NAACP \(WIN\) Committee MCMD Tickets, Sunday, September 20 • 3 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#)



Black Women & Power: A Political Salon

Date: October 18, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Silver Spring Civic Center, 719 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Event Description: The NAACP WIN Committee will present *Black Women & Power: A Political Salon*, a dynamic forum designed to elevate the voices, experiences, and influence of Black women in politics and public life. This event will create space for thoughtful discussion, strategic engagement, and community collaboration, reinforcing the importance of civic participation, leadership, and collective advocacy in advancing equity and justice.

[NAACP WIN Committee presents Black Women and Power: A Political Salon Tickets, Sunday, October 18 • 3 PM - 5 PM | Eventbrite](#)





NAACP Montgomery County Maryland

P.O. Box 2165, Rockville, MD 20847-2165

naacpmont7@aol.com

JOIN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____ County: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Branch Affiliation: #7022 Current Membership Number: _____
(if renewal)

Solicitor/Sponsor (if applicable): _____

Please mail this form to the address above along with your check or money order made payable to:

Montgomery County NAACP

Gifts and contributions to this branch are not deductible as charitable contributions. However, a portion of your dues is remitted to the National organization and these amounts are tax deductible.

Regular Annual Memberships:

_____ Regular adult (age 21 and over) - \$30

_____ Youth (age 20 and under) - \$10

_____ Annual Corporate - \$5,000

Lifetime Memberships:

_____ Junior Life (age 12 and under) - \$100

Payable in installments of \$25 or more) ____/____/____ Birthdate

_____ Bronze Life (ages 14-20) - \$400

Payable in installments of \$50 or more) ____/____/____ Birthdate

_____ Silver Life - \$750

Payable in installments of \$75 or more

_____ Gold Life - \$1,500

Payable in installments of \$150 or more

_____ Diamond Life - \$2,500

Payable in installments of \$250 or more

Your support is essential to ensure that the efforts of the NAACP are visible and effective in protecting the civil rights of all citizens.

Remember, FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

Montgomery County Maryland NAACP Receipt

Name: _____ Date: _____

Branch: Montgomery County Maryland Branch Number: #7022

Received by: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Check Number: _____

Thank You for Your Support!

**MC/NAACP
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Rockville, Maryland 20847-2165**

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<http://www.naacp-mc.org>

1-888-649-5991