

**MINUTES**  
**CHAPEL HILL/CARRBORO NAACP BRANCH MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 1, 2008**

1. **Welcome** – President Eugene Farrar
2. **Invocation** – Minister Robert Campbell
3. **Minutes** for September and October were approved
4. **President's Report – Eugene Farrar**
  - a. Civilian Review Board – We will continue to work with the Chapel Hill Town Council committee that was established at their 10/15 meeting.
  - b. The IMA/NAACP Education Committee meeting will be held on Nov.. 3rd (later canceled). The strategic plan prepared by Michelle Laws and Rev. Josephine Harris, and reviewed with written feedback by School Board member Jean Hamilton, is available on the Branch website (chapelhillcarrboronaacp.org). Ms. Hamilton also urged more after school programs and mentoring programs to help close the achievement gap.
  - c. The Jan. 19th, 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Ceremony at the First Baptist Church is moving forward with extensive outreach efforts.
  - d. The Bus trip to the DC will follow our MLK Jr. day event. We will be boarding a bus to DC for the inauguration.
5. **Treasurer's Report presented by Jesse Gibson** and showing the Branch treasury in good order was approved.
6. **Nominations Committee – Fred Battle**, Chair of the Nominations Committee. Each candidate accepted the nomination and stressed the importance of democratic participation, team leadership, the need for recruitment and member participation especially in our committees, the important time in our state and nation with bold challenges ahead for the new branch leadership. The slate of officers were approved unanimously. Eugene thanked Fred and the nominating committee for their efforts.
7. **Committee Reports**
  - .. History – Yonni Chapman. The 1947 marker is scheduled to be erected in February, Black History month. It is also the 100th anniversary of the NAACP. The Peace & Justice marker and is getting cooperation by the Chapel Hill Town Council naming committee who has asked the Branch to suggest more appropriate quotes to replace the Ben Franklin (slave owner) quote the naming committee had proposed. Yonni distributed suggested quotes from leaders in the African and African American community. Members are asked to choose among the options or submit their own quotes by either calling Yonni at 819-3843 or going to the Branch website.

.. Legal Redress – Al McSurely. Al introduced Paul Wolford head of the Black Public Workers Association, the organization now leading the fight in Chapel Hill to address workers grievances, the cumbersome nature of the procedures, and the unresolved effort to find the perpetrators who targeted another BPWA leader, Jerry Neville, with nooses at his work station. We were reminded that in the last legislative session, the NAACP fought for and won noose hanging as a hate crime and establishing such hate crimes now as a felony. It was agreed that the Branch needs to be more publicly visible in exposing these grievances. A motion to that effect was carried unanimously. Strategies suggested include a Press Conference the day of the Town Hall meeting, and testimony at the evening meeting on Nov. 10th, and action at the Public Works Administration.

A Branch STRATEGY meeting, to which all members have been invited, has been called to pursue these actions and prepare for the Nov. 10 Town Hall meeting. The strategy meeting will be a pot luck at Eugene Farrar's house at 803 Estes Drive, NOON, ON SAT. NOV. 8TH.

We also discussed the firing of numerous custodial workers, for whom the Branch has brought grievances and the connection to the school board's policy of contracting out custodial work. These actions follow the pattern we are seeing at UNC and is related to NAACP and HKONJ's pursuit of dismantling the vestiges of the Jim Crow Public Law 95-98 which does not allow public workers to organize, form a union and collectively bargain. Again the Branch needs to be more public and hold public hearings, and be more visible at school board meetings.

Political Action – Fred Battle reported that the Anderson/Thorpe Breakfast Club has recommended James Merritt to the Town Council to replace Bill Thorpe. He will be interviewed on Monday 7pm, Nov. 3 by a Council committee. Mr. Merritt is a retired H.S. Principal, native of North Carolina and our community, and brings extensive policy and executive skills to the office. The Club also endorsed Greg McElveen for the Chapel Hill/Carrboro School Board vacancy. Mr. McElveen has been Branch vice president, is a parent in the school district and has chaired several school board committees. Branch members are urged to support these two candidates by writing letters to the Chapel Hill Town Council and School Board.

.. Education – Michelle Laws reviewed the last IMA/NAACP education committee meeting and urged each NAACP member to sign up to be present and report back the School Board meeting proceedings. (See President's report #4 above.)

.. Youth Council – Liz Carter reported the council now has 32 students, is collaborating with the Mayor and the Council's Sustainability committee on a sustainability project especially in public housing, is planning to go to a statewide council conference. She asked for donations to help subsidize the youth, is looking for more youth of color to participate, invited the UNC NAACP branch to help outreach, and urged support for making her position be made permanent.

.. Membership – Nate Davis noted we are developing a system to update active and lapsed membership, and assure timely renewals and new memberships, and is seeking teen age membership including the youth council (\$10).

8. Announcements. Members were urged to help get out the vote on Nov. 4th's historic election. Fliers were distributed about the second HkonJ People's Assembly on Nov. 15th 10am to Noon at the Hargraves Center. For more information, call Tom Fewel at 929-3594, Lori Hoyt 968-4114 or Miriam Thompson 370-4114. On Nov. 15th, Michelle Laws will keynote the Durham Freedom Fund Dinner and all are invited. She will also deliver a sermon on the first Sunday in December at Rev. William Barber's church in Goldsboro.

9. Introductions. President Farrar introduced Keith Cooke, NAACP District Director and Tiffany Whiting, President of the UNC NAACP Branch.

10. Adjourned at 1:10pm

Respectfully submitted, Miriam Thompson, Secretary