



NAACP
Lawrence Branch
Membership Application

(Please print clearly)

Date _____

[] Mr. [] Mrs. [] Ms. [] Other _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Are you a registered voter [] Yes [] No

Do you wish to affiliate with your local NAACP Unit?

[] Yes, Name _____ [] No

Membership Type (please circle one)

Youth without *Crisis* \$10.00

Youth with *Crisis* \$15.00

Adult \$30.00

Adult - Silver Life \$750.00

Payment

Amount Paid \$ _____

Please mail to:

Lawrence Branch - NAACP

P.O. Box 1567

Lawrence, KS 66044

For more information you can go to:

www.naacp.org or call us at 785-979-4692.

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

Rev. Martin Luther King
 Letter From Birmingham Jail

The future of the NAACP is going to be found, as in the past, in the hearts and minds of people who are committed to the principles of "justice and equality for all."

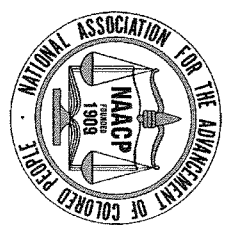
Their resolve and commitment for what is right may lead them to be labeled as being "militant" or "radical". But their understanding and realization that a society can only be truly judged by how it treats its most vulnerable members makes it clear that freedom has always come at a great price.

We can never forget that each of us stands on the shoulders of someone who came before us. For every freedom or privilege we enjoy today someone else sacrificed and paid a great price.



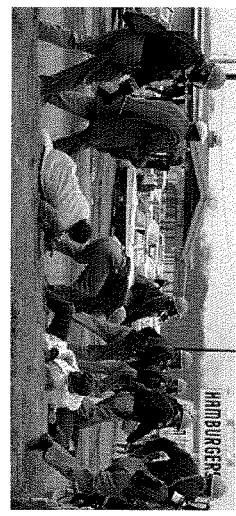
This struggle is not one that can be won by standing on the sidelines or making excuses for not taking a position and getting involved. To often we fail to realize that by not speaking up against injustice or taking a stand against wrong we lend our voice to the contemptible practices of discrimination.

We encourage you to take a stand by joining the NAACP today. Make sure your membership is current and then sign up a friend.



NAACP

YESTERDAY



TODAY



TOMORROW

IS IN YOUR HANDS!

For 96 years the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been working and committed to ensuring the political, educational, social and economic equality or rights. Our resolve to eliminate racial hatred and discrimination continues to be our primary focus.

The issue and problem of race has plagued the United States. Article 1, section 2, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution excluded Indians and noted the value of African Americans as three fifths of a person. The Supreme Court, in the 1857 Dred Scott v. Sanford concluded, "the word 'citizen' does not embrace one of the negro race". "The rights and privileges conferred by the Constitution upon citizens do not apply to the negro race."

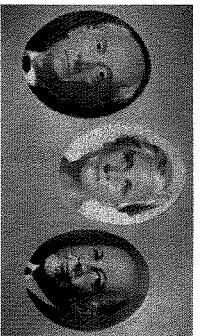
In 1896 the court made racial segregation or second-class status the law of the land in the Plessy v. Ferguson pronouncement. This ruling not only adversely impacted the culture of America but it also created a class of "superior" and "inferior" people based on race.



In 1905 an articulate group of radicals, who disagreed with Booker T. Washington's accommodation policies he set forth in what was called the 1895 "Atlanta Compromise" speech and his ideology concerning the issue of race, came together and founded the Niagara Movement.

Their manifesto clearly outlined their stated position and views concerning suffrage, civil liberty, economic opportunities, education, courts, health, church and other areas.

Because of the ideological bickering, undo influence and undermining of Washington, the group was unable to attract broad support. It was after the 1908 Springfield (IL) Race Riots that white liberals joined with the "militant" Niagara Movement nucleus to form the NAACP.



Moorfield Storey was a lawyer and author who was born in Massachusetts in 1845. He was

a reformer and a strong supporter of civil rights. He was among the 60 prominent Americans who responded to the call of Mary White Ovington to meet in February 1909. It was on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, to protest the many decades of oppressive acts of terror as burnings and lynchings that were taking place. He became the first national president of the NAACP.

Mary White Ovington a reformer and the spirit behind that meeting, was born in Brooklyn in 1865. She grew up in an atmosphere of abolitionism and women's rights. In 1911, she published her 1904 study *Half a Man: The Status of the Negro*. By that time, she had seen her 1909 meeting evolve into the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. For more than 40 years she served as board member, executive secretary, and chairman, and served as conciliator among the various factions that threatened to destroy the movement.

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born in western Massachusetts in 1868. He attended local schools where he was usually the only black. He went off to Fisk University where he graduated and then enrolled at Harvard College as a junior. He was the ideological rival to Booker T. Washington. He was the first NAACP director of research and publications. He founded the official publication of the NAACP known as the "Crisis".

Today, it would be nice to say that we have achieved a race neutral society, regrettably the news reports and other data we see nationally, statewide and locally exposes and confirms that the problem of racism still exists.

The focus of the NAACP is not limited to just employment, housing or public accommodation discrimination; it includes **criminal justice, economic development, educational excellence, health and voter empowerment.**



This struggle for making the promises of America real is something we have seen will not come about in "time". The realization or acceptance of the premise that "all men are created equal and endowed with certain inalienable rights by their creator" continues to elude far too many Americans.

The NAACP continues to fight to fulfill its vision for "a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination." Whether it is biased based policing, racial profiling, disparate charging decisions or sentencing in the courts, or if it is closing the learning achievement gaps, inequitable classrooms, or lack of access to post-secondary institutions. It could also be the over 44 million Americans who no longer have health care coverage or access to preventative treatment. It can be as simple as making sure every vote is counted.

Although there are those who dismiss the need for the NAACP, sadly they also fail to offer any real solutions to the long-standing problems of racism and discrimination.