



**Fairfax County NAACP  
General Membership Meeting  
October 28, 2025 (7:00 PM via ZOOM)**

President Niki Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:07PM. There were 35 members and guests in attendance. President Zimmerman began by reading the Fairfax County NAACP mission statement:

*“The Fairfax County NAACP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, whose mission is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate well-being, educational, and economic security of Black people and all people of color.”*

Religious Affairs Co-chair Pam Dister followed with an opening prayer for elections, including the following:

*“We pray for civility & respect to replace fear & division. Let all voices be heard & every vote be counted.”*

President Zimmerman then shared her report:

**President’s Report**

- The branch hosted a successful, well-attended Freedom Fund Gala.
- Fairfax Co. NAACP will be participating in [Project GiveBack](#) at the **Hayfield Secondary School on Saturday, November 22**. The event will run from **6AM-12PM** but volunteers can sign up for different time slots. Those who are interested in volunteering should contact President Zimmerman at [president@fairfaxnaacp.org](mailto:president@fairfaxnaacp.org).
- The branch will be hosting an event for furloughed workers & their families. President Zimmerman has contacted union representatives to be present and will also plan to distribute gift cards. She requested that members who know a professional resume writer who could speak at the event to contact her.

President Zimmerman then called on Secretary O’Brien give his report, followed by the treasury and committee reports:

**Secretary**

Mike O’Brien

- Secretary O’Brien requested a motion be made to adopt the September General Membership meeting minutes which were emailed to members prior for their review. At-Large Member Simmons made the motion; 1st VP Spain seconded, and the motion was passed with unanimous support.

**Treasury**

Dr. Monique Norwood, Assistant Treasurer

- All accounts remain in good standing with the state and national NAACP.

**Criminal Justice**

Pratik Kharat, Co-chair

- The committee has been planning a job fair for those with criminal records which take place in 2026. More news to come as details are finalized.

## Education

Dr. Sujatha Hampton, Co-chair

- The next State of Schools event has been scheduled for **Monday, December 15 at the Gatehouse Cafe from 6-8PM**. A flyer with event details is forthcoming.
- The committee will likely be hosting an in-person event sharing information & resources for dyslexia. Further information will be shared as details are finalized.

## Housing

Mary Paden, Chair

- The committee has made several presentations & comments on the county's updated land use policy plan. In particular, the committee is concerned that the plan does not do enough to prevent future gentrification. Chair Paden will be contacting the Planning Commission in the next few days to reemphasize this point of concern.

## Freedom Fund

Evelyn Spain, Chair

- The 2025 Sneakerball/Freedom Fund Gala was an informative and inspirational event.
- Since there has been an increase in attendance at the past few galas, Gala Chair DeShane Jones, President Zimmerman, and Chair Spain have been visiting larger venues to plan for an expanded event next year. More information will be forthcoming on the 2026 Masquerade Ball.

## Membership

Niki Zimmerman, President

- The committee has been working on the Divine Nine & labor union membership challenges.

## Religious Affairs

Pat Jackson, Co-chair

- Committee members have been compiling a list of local faith communities with whom the branch could build relationships. Co-chair Jackson requested that members put the name and contact information of their faith communities in the Zoom chat so she can add to the committee's list.

## Scholarship

Darrell Allen, Co-chair

- The committee has been drafting this year's Michelle Leete Scholarship application which will go live on **November 1**. There are **three scholarships for \$1,000 each** available. Co-chair Allen noted that the application this year will have only one question which will be focused on IT, a passion of Michelle's. The application will close sometime in **February**.
- The Scholarship committee has been putting together the 2nd Annual College Day which will be held on **March 28**. Co-chair Allen asked that any members who know of an organization that may be interested in having a table at the event contact the committee at [scholarship@fairfaxnaacp.org](mailto:scholarship@fairfaxnaacp.org).

## Political Action

Lenior Simmons, Chair

- With assistance from volunteers in the branch, PAC sent out over **200** postcards to Virginia residents to encourage maximum voter participation in this election.
- The committee held a successful meet & greet with over **16** candidates.
- This past Sunday, PAC hosted Souls to the Polls and gave away **100** fish dinners to early voters. Chair Simmons added that the top three concerns expressed by voters were the economy, healthcare, and voting rights.
- [Early voting](#) is now open in Fairfax Co. until **Saturday, November 1**.

After her report, Chair Simmons introduced the guest speaker:

**Guest Speaker, Katherine Hanley**  
Chair, Fairfax County Electoral Board

Safe, Secure, Accurate, and Accessible Elections in Fairfax Co.

- The Board of Elections is appointed by the Governor. The rules governing the Board come mostly from the state.
- Virginia has **808,000** registered voters but voter turnout varies by year and is difficult to predict.
- Recent trends (particularly post-COVID):
  - The creation & maintenance of a permanent absentee voter list.
  - A shift towards voting early rather than on Election Day.
  - An increase in voters who choose to bring mail-in ballots to ballot boxes.
  - The option of same day registration & casting provisional votes, most of which are counted **(close to 90%)**.
- **If voting on Election Day, the vote must be cast in your precinct.**
- Virginia election statistics:
  - **165** precincts
  - **2,350** election officials
  - **250** officials managing early voting
  - **30** rovers on Election Day
  - **585** election machines
  - **63** election machine testers
- Potential issues facing:
  - Hard to find new polling places particularly in urban areas, such as Tysons Corner.
  - Lack of funding in local government.
  - Code has not always kept up.
  - Ensuring that voters are not erroneously removed from the rolls ([e.g. Voter roll purge under Gov. Youngkin](#))

Following her presentation, Ms. Hanley answered questions from members. Prior to closing the meeting, President Zimmerman invited organizational representatives to share any community event announcements:

Debra Graves, Gum Springs Community Center

- Safe Night/Haunted House (October 30, MLK park)
- Community Thanksgiving Dinner (November 20). Ms. Graves will send a flyer out to members.

President Zimmerman brought the meeting to a close at 8:20PM.