

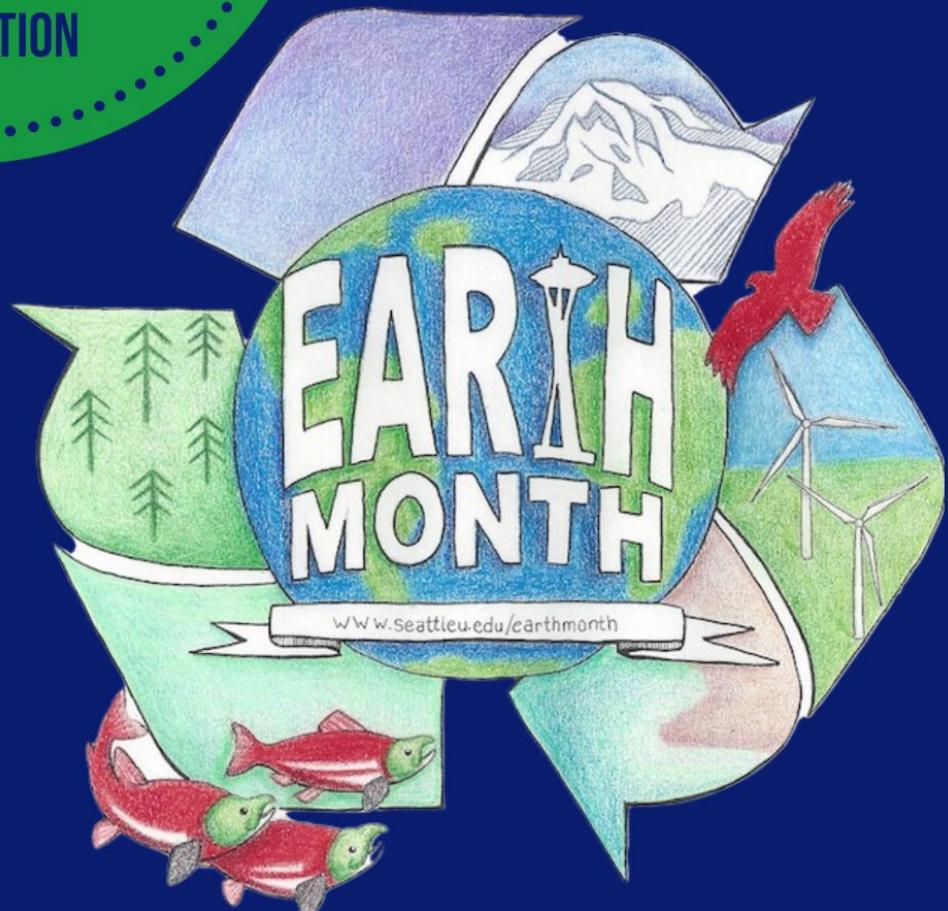
DUPAGE COUNTY NAACP

Proudly Representing DuPage, Kane, Kendall,
Will and NW Suburban Cook Counties

APRIL
2021

4TH EDITION

“WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!”



Follow on Social Media
@dupagenaacp

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Events

STAMPED: A Discussion with the Authors

Conversation with Dr. Ibram X Kendi, Jason Reynolds, and Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, the authors of Stamped.

Date: May 17th, 2021

Time: 6-8pm

More Info: Click [HERE](#)

Tulsa Massacre Remembrance

The Criminal Justice Committee is holding a commemoration in honor of the 100 year anniversary of the Tulsa Massacre.

Date: May 27, 2021

Time: 7:00pm

More Info: [REGISTER HERE](#)

STEAM SCHOLARS Enrichment CAMP 2021

This is an inclusive, multi-faceted problem-solving initiative designed to increase the exposure of students to coding, chess, art, game design, science, math, STEM-careers and the college experience. The classes are taught by educators, teacher candidates, and STEM professionals who provide students with 12 hours engaged weekly instruction. Each week students will receive weekly materials for the camp.

Date: June 28th - July 24th

Time: TBD

More Info: [REGISTER HERE](#)

Meetings

May 8th, 2021- 10:00 am

Virtual Meeting

Quarterly Meeting

July, 2021

Virtual or In Person*

National Convention

September 24th-26th, 2021

Virtual or Macomb, Illinois*

84th Illinois State Convention

November 13, 2021

10:00am

Virtual or In Person*

Quarterly Meeting

Meeting Registration Links Can Be Found on the Website Towards the Date of The Meeting.

[Website Link](#)



President's Corner

With great pride DuPage County NAACP is celebrating its 65 th birthday. I am extremely humbled to lead one of the most powerful and influential organizations in the western suburbs. Our branch is an amazing collection of talent. Our branch leadership consist of judges, attorneys, current and former law enforcement professionals, clergymen, educators, financial advisors, healthcare professionals and elected officials just to name a few.

DuPage County NAACP played a pivotal role this year as well as the 2020 elections; hosting several extremely important candidate forums. We were actively engaged in the 2020 and 2021 GOTV, recruiting and training volunteers to register voters, manage phone banking, canvassing key districts and discussing key issues important to the NAACP.

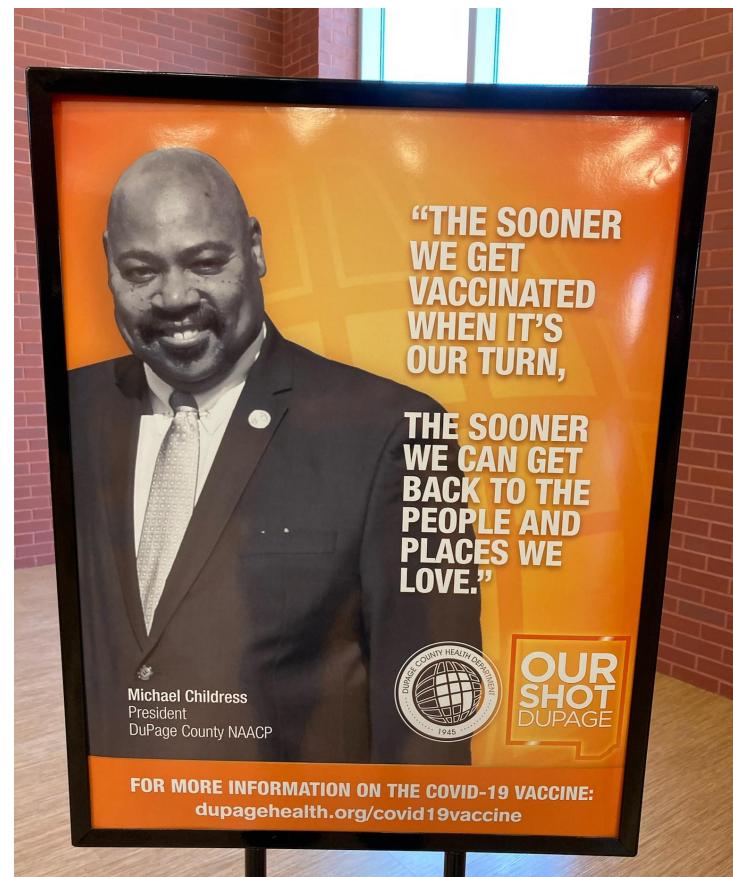
Our membership is one of most diverse and inclusive branches in the United States. Our branch is made up of all races, creeds, colors, faiths and religions in key leadership roles. Members are of all genders and sexual orientations.

The only requirement is that you believe in equal justice under the law. Our branch is currently active in voting rights, police reform, health equity, educational opportunities, criminal justice, financial literacy, environmental justice and social advocacy.

One pillar that our branch has built is a solid relationship with many key community partners. These partnerships include mental health professionals, doctors, nurses, elected officials, boards of health, school districts and superintendents, police chiefs, Greek fraternities and sororities, county board members, faith based organizations and local businesses.

Needless to say, our branch moves at the speed of life. As conditions in the counties change, we must remain agile enough to, not only react to the change, but anticipate it. This is the forward thinking our branch will continue to recruit for the communities we serve.

As president, I see myself as your soldier looking for war. If you see yourself as a soldier, please join us in this war as we fight for our collective civil rights.



April Events

Health Committee

The Health Committee collaborated with the Fox Valley Community Faith Network with its program "40 days of Prayer, Fasting and Renewal". The program provided a plant-based guide, daily prayer calls, and fitness Saturday's for churchgoers in the Fox Valley Area.

Between February 17, 2021 and April 3rd, licensed Zumba Fitness Instructor and Health Committee member, Temeka Booker provided Virtual Zumba Dance classes to connect the community through fitness after the Pandemic. Booker stated that, "although it was virtual, it was very impactful and members would talk about how healthy they felt afterwards. I love my community and look forward to the next opportunity to serve."



Temeka Booker

Shot of Hope Event

In collaboration with numerous community health partners, The Health Committee hosted a Shot of Hope event on May 1st. The event was a tremendous success garnering much support and participation!

[A Covid-19 Vaccine Readiness & Safety - YouTube](#)

Economic Development Committee

Yasmeen Bankole, DuPage County NAACP's Economic Development Chair, was recently elected to the position of Trustee in the Village of Hanover Park, a northwest suburb of Chicago. At the age of 27, Bankole will be the youngest Village Trustee on the Board and third ever African American to serve in this capacity. Bankole will also be the first Nigerian-American elected official in the state of Illinois.

In addition to her new role, Bankole currently serves as a congressional staffer for Senator Dick Durbin and as a Board member for the Firehouse Community Arts Center of Chicago.



Yasmeen Bankole

Congratulations, Yasmeen!

April Events

Youth Council

The Youth Council hosted a career fair on April 25th. In attendance were professionals who exposed our youth to fields in the arts, STEM, entrepreneurship, consultancy, military, and first responders.

Alan Johnson, a web developer, imparted the wisdom that “you do not have to have everything planned out from day one.”

Jessica Guider, a clinical researcher, suggested taking time to identify what you want to do in your career. In her own life, taking on temporary work allowed her to dabble into various fields that interested her until she landed into a fitting role.

Ray Perry, a software engineer, diligently balances his personal goals along with a demanding job. He believes that if you value something, there will always be time for it.

The event was a success and allowed the youth to gain insight on different careers.
Committee Chair: Stephanie James

Criminal Justice Committee

The Criminal Justice Committee has been hard at work planning for their upcoming Reentry Now Panel on May 6 (link below) as well as a Commemoration for the Tulsa Massacre (May 27).

[Click to register for the Reform](#)

[Panel](#) Committee Chair: Dr.

Vincent Gaddis

ACT-SO

The Act-So Committee has concluded their annual competition for students across the Collar Counties and it has been a tremendous success! This year's theme was 'Legacy' and although virtual, the participants gave all their effort to make this year's competition one to remember. The committee also held a virtual awards ceremony which features many performances, speeches, and much more!

[Click here to watch the ceremony.](#)

[Click here to learn the history of ACT-SO](#)

Committee Chair: Dorletta Payton



April Events

Education Committee

During April, the education committee partook in a flurry of activities. From facilitating school board forums to planning their STEAM Summer Scholars Enrichment Camp (June 28th-July 23rd), the education committee has been actively looking out for the educational needs of students in the Collar Counties. On the state level, Governor JB Pritzker's House Bill 2170 expanded equity by addressing learning loss due to the COVID-19. Bill HB 2170 will help Black students on their pathway to a college degree.

To Read More About..

- [**What is happening on the State level in Education**](#)
- [**STEAM Summer Scholars Enrichment Camp \(June 28 th -July 23 rd \)**](#)
- [**Collar County School Board Results**](#)

[Click Here!](#)

Black Owned
Business Corner

Bailey's Catering LLC.
Making Connections With Real Food

Click the
link in the
name!

Bailey's offers single plates as well as catering options. Next time you order from Bailey's, mention the DuPage County NAACP Newsletter for a 5% discount! They are also offering a Mother's Day Special. You can contact them at [**331-775-1075**](tel:331-775-1075)

Check out the video!

April Events

ALTAR'D STATE  ABeautiful Soul
Since 1924

Mission Monday

This season at all Altar'd State & A'Beautiful Soul boutiques, 10% of Monday's net proceeds will go directly to local charities that support Our Precious Water.

With YOUR help, the Oakbrook, IL boutique is supporting:

**The Illinois Chapter
of the Sierra Club**



Stand Out. For Good.

Environmental Justice Committee

April 26th was Environmental Lobby Day. Legislators and guest speakers rallied to discuss The Clean Energy Jobs Act, Illinois Partners for Nutrient Loss Reduction Act, and Protecting Illinois Communities from Toxic PFAs Contamination with the Illinois Senate and House.

Altar'd States, a clothing store in Oakbrook Shopping Center, contacted the Sierra Club about donating 10% of their Monday sales from mid April to July. The local Sierra club will donate all proceeds to the Centerville community that experiences appalling issues with water and sewer infrastructure.

Committee Chair: Connie Schmidt

Political Action Committee

The Political Action Committee has been very active during the month of April. On April 14, League of Women Voters of Naperville had a live talk with representative Anne Stava Murray about IL HB 3653.

The John Lewis Mobilization Town Hall was held to promote advancements in voting rights.

April 19th, the Muhammad Ali Day Resolution was heard by the House State Government Administration Committee. This resolution will establish the birthday of Muhammad Ali as a commemorative holiday.

April 29th, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives Emanuel Chris Welch, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, and Lake County State's Attorney Eric Rinehart partook in the Criminal Justice Reform: Facts vs. Fiction Town Hall.
Committee Chair: Patrick Watson



Congratulations Anisha Kolambe!

In honor of National Poetry Month and Earth Day, the Youth Communications Committee hosted a poetry contest to address the concept of environmental justice. Below is the winning piece!

**United we stand, Divided we fall
Heed my words, and answer my call
For years I've stood, passing the test of
time. Now I watch, as I am ignored for a
dime.**

**My air and water, once so pure,
Ravaged by pollution; still, I must endure.**

**When my children and resources are
destroyed without shame.
I am burning, melting, chilling -- while you
seek something else to blame.**

**Make no mistake, I will survive
With or without you, nature will ultimately
thrive.**

**Even as it seems that humanity has lost its
sight. It's not too late. Stop and make it
right.**

*To read the other
amazing entries,
click HERE!*

Summer Opportunity

Amazing opportunity to learn the ins and outs of running a political campaign with Senator Laura Ellman!

*Senator Laura Ellman
Campaigning Summer Camp*

Thanks For Reading!

| Contact the Communication, Press and Publicity Committee |
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[**Click Here to Join!**](#)



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**Presented By The Youth
Communications Committee**



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Writer

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Writer

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Writer