

DUPAGE COUNTY NAACP

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

January 2021

“When We Fight, We Win”

MLK DAY
ONLINE EVENTS

Impact of Virtual
Education

Covid
Conversation

Appreciating Health
Care Workers



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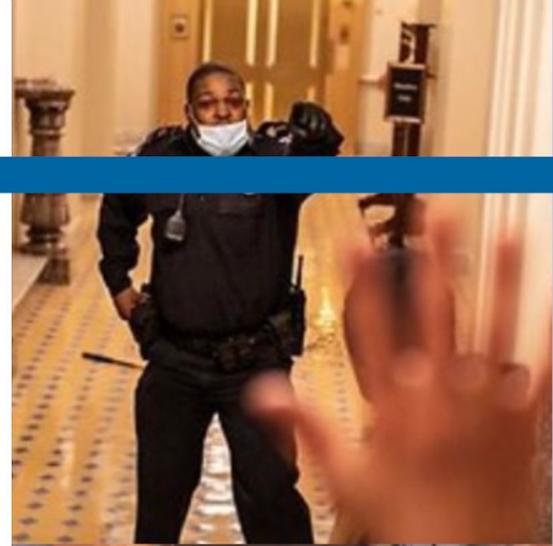
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2021

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UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS



Events

February 6, 2021

Fighting for Social Justice:

[Click Here for Link](#)

April 25, 2021

Freedom Fund Gala:

[Click Here for Link to Register](#)

Be on the Lookout for...

The Health Committee is planning two additional COVID-19 Conversations and will use these events to recruit Health Ambassadors.

The Environmental Justice Committee and Sierra Club Illinois Chapter are having a Panel Discussion with Dusable Museum.

Meetings

February 16, 2021

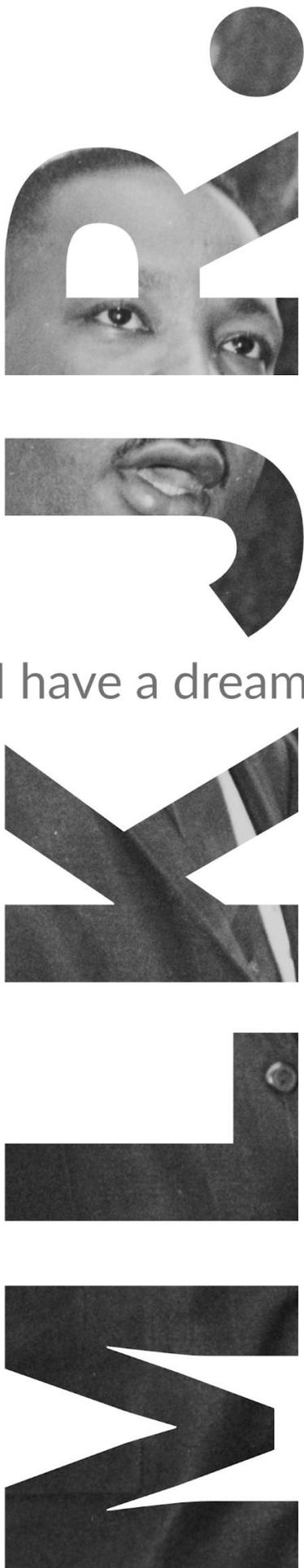
Branch Meeting

February 14, 2021

Youth Council Meeting

Meeting Registration Links Can Be Found Below

[Click Here!](#)



Leading up to MLK Day, Derrick Johnson, the president and chief executive of the NAACP, stated that **“it is undeniable that much work remains to be done before we can say that Dr. King’s dreams have been fully realized.”**

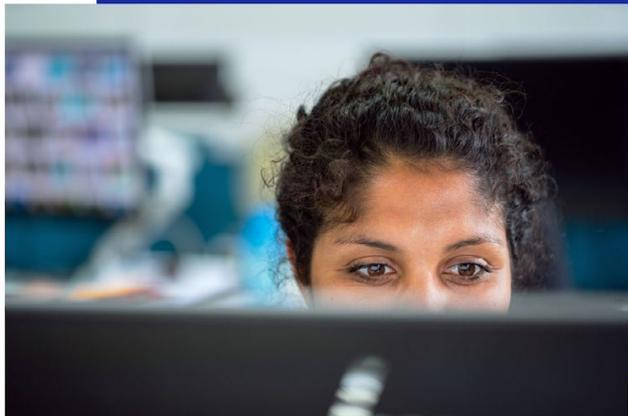
Nevertheless, the work continues. On January 18th, in honor of MLK day, several events highlighted Dr. King's message and how we can make it come to fruition. Leaders within communities, such as the Collar Counties, gathered to talk about the relentless pursuit of equality our society faces and how we can truly fulfill Dr. King's dream.

One of these events was held at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. The school hosted a virtual vision day, including a student-led discussion on turning ideas into action, being Black American at a predominately white institution, and writing and speaking that matters: a rhetorical perspective on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 's communication, life, and work. In addition, **they welcomed keynote speaker, Kijuana Boulrece, to talk about the “blueprint of change” that Dr. King left.** More on the event can be found in the link below.

Click Links The Below For More Information!
[North Central College Hosts MLK Virtual Vision Day | Naperville NCTV17](#)
[MLK Vision Day 2021 Virtual Luncheon Live Stream - YouTube](#)



Recap of January Events



Covid Conversations

On January 5th, the DuPage County NAACP Health Committee launched “COVID Conversations: Staying Alive!” At this event, they **addressed the improvement of the COVID-19 response** in Kane County. The event **went remarkably well**, and there are plans of hosting another conversation that will include more health departments.

Health Committee Chair: Janice F. Guider, MPH, CHES®

Fireside Chat on Virtual Education

On January 8th and 10th, coordinators met to **address disparities in education**- partially due to the opportunity gap from COVID-19. During the meeting, there was a **proposal to make the STEAM Summer Camp four weeks long, with a 90% increase in the African American and Latinx population**, with a budget of \$50,000. The following day, a meeting was held with The NAACP’s Political Action Committee in order to facilitate the School Board Candidate Meeting and **assist the schools in enhancing visibility, collaboration, and reach in the community.**

Education Committee Chair: Kijuana Boulrece



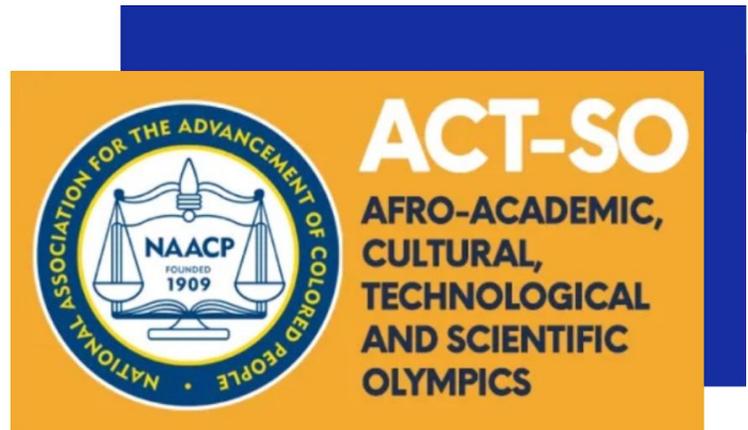
Recap of January Events

ACT-SO Update:

The Argonne/ACT-SO STEM Research Program has **started off strong this year** in a virtual environment. The lab is not allowing any activities to take place in person; therefore, the Argonne program **directors have been looking at innovative ways for the students to complete their research.**

ACT-SO needs volunteers who can operate in a virtual environment. This includes helping **to manage Zoom events** with breakout rooms or using google documents and sheets.

ACT-SO Chair: Dorletta Payton



Bolingbrook Mayoral Candidate Round Table

[Click Here for Link to Video!](#)

DuPage Township Black Caucus and the Dupage County NAACP held a virtual round table on January 28th. **200 Bolingbrook residents attended the virtual event.** JACKIE TRAYNERE, Will County District 4 Board Member, and SHELDON WATTS, Village of Bolingbrook Trustee, participated in the event moderated by Katrina Foster.

Political Action Chair: Patrick Watson



Recap of January Events

Forum on Diabetes

Diabetes range of effects extends much further than its physical effects. **Anxiety, depression, burnout, and eating disorders are all manifestations of this disease.** On January 13, Dr. Jasmin Searcy, a licensed clinical health psychologist, in the diabetes forum **explored how to cope with diabetes impact on mental health.** These coping skills she shared helped to improve the attendees' health through optimizing their diabetes management.

Health Committee Chair: Janice F. Guider, MPH, CHES®



News Recaps from NAACP President

President Discusses Racial Double Standard

President Derrick Johnson stated that it "appears that a peaceful demonstration over racial inequality in this country is more threatening than the riots we saw here at the capitol"

[Click here for more info](#)

Racial Leaders Skeptical of Biden's Police Panel

NAACP President Derrick Johnson told Axios he hasn't discussed the police oversight panel with Biden's team but continues to push for his own idea: appointing a racial equity czar. "Every conversation I start and end with the need for it," he said, "because the urgency for this to happen is immediate."

[Read More](#)

PEOPLE OF THE COLLAR COUNTIES



HEALTHCARE WORKERS

“Within our community, there are a plethora of hospitals that provide care for Covid-19 patients. One of them is Marianjoy Hospital. This is where Director of Pharmacy Helen Afolarin works. **Pursuing the medical field has always been her goal**; bringing aid to those who need it has always been her passion. Ms. Afolarin has 24/7 accountability of the pharmaceutical department, a responsibility that is **daunting enough without a pandemic looming overhead.**”

[Click Here to Hear Afolarin’s Story!](#)

BLACK OWNED BUSINESS



Click To Watch! ↴

19% of businesses in Illinois are Black-owned. Let's take a look at Styles by Monica, a black owned business within Dupage County, and the impact it has had on the community.

HEAR BLACK VOICES

We want to hear from you!

We are starting a segment called Hear Black Voices. Artists are able to submit their work, such as poetry, short stories/narratives, artwork, and more, to be displayed in the newsletter.

We will feature 1-2 submissions in next month’s edition.

Check out @dupagenaacp on Instagram for how to enter a submission!

Hot Takes

"Former President Trump has denied any responsibility for this violent insurrection; however, his Twitter tells another story, stating **“These are the things and events that happen when a sacred landslide election victory is so unceremoniously & viciously stripped away** from great patriots who have been badly & unfairly treated for so long”. Also, he **claimed mass voter fraud** from the early days of the election process. Furthermore, **he motivated his supporters to fight or else they would lose their country.** With all the forethought that went into this event, law enforcement still failed to stop the mob from breaking into the Capitol building."

Find the full story [here!](#)



Disney-Pixar's *Soul*

Capital Riot



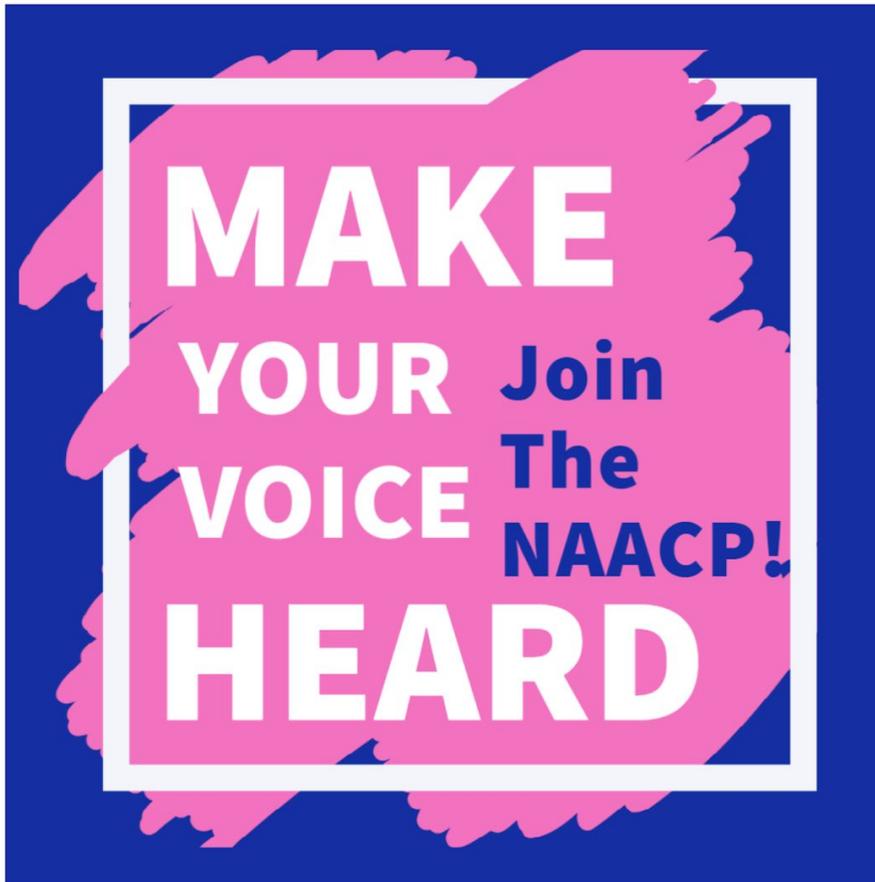
Recently, Pixar released *Soul*, an animated film that in little time has **received critical acclaim** from many. The movie is Pixar's first film with a Black lead character, and does a **fantastic job of exhibiting Black experiences.** Despite theaters across America closed for business...

[Click to read the full story!](#)

Thanks For Reading!

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Meet The Youth Communications Committee



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