

# DUPAGE COUNTY NAACP

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

# FEBRUARY 2021

## “WHEN WE FIGHT, WE WIN!”

DIABETES & MENTAL  
HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE

CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE FORUM

AMERICAN  
HEART MONTH

COVID  
VACCINE

Black  
HISTORY MONTH

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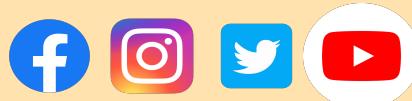


## Hot Takes



## Black History Month

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## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### Events

#### **March 6, 2021**

- Oswego 308 School Candidates Forum (12pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)
- Roselle District 12 Candidates Forum (9am)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 7th, 2021**

- District 108 School Board Candidate Forum (1pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 8th, 2021**

- Bolingbrook Town Hall: Meet the Candidates (7pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 11th, 2021**

- DuPage County NAACP Elgin Aldermanic Forum (6pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 13th, 2021**

- Naperville 204 School Candidates Forum (10am)  
[Register to attend here](#)

### Meetings

General Meeting  
March 16, 2021

Youth Council  
March 14, 2021

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

[Website Link](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

### Events Continued...

#### **March 15th, 2021**

- Candidate Forum for Village of Hanover Park Trustee (7pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)
- Local Woman Makes History: The Extraordinary Life of Ida B. Wells (7pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 18th, 2021**

- DuPage County NAACP Aurora Aldermanic Forum (6pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 20th, 2021**

- Naperville 203 School Candidates Forum (10am)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 23rd, 2021**

- Wheaton 200 School Candidates Forum (6pm)  
[Register to attend here](#)

#### **March 25th, 2021**

- Aurora Mayoral Forum  
[TBD](#)

#### **More Upcoming Candidate Forums**

[Click to Find Dates](#)

### Meetings

#### **May 8th, 2021- 10:00 am**

Virtual Meeting  
Quarterly Meeting

#### **July, 2021**

Virtual or In Person\*  
National Convention

#### **September 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Virtual or Macomb, Illinois\*  
84<sup>th</sup> Illinois State Convention

#### **November 13, 2021 10:00am**

Virtual or In Person\*  
Quarterly Meeting

# Dear Freedom Fighters,

It is said all politics are local. This is especially true as we enter the home stretch of our local elections. We must stay focused on what is at stake. We must not have short memories when it comes to who is looking out for our interest. **What is on the ballot in these elections are the thoughts and policies that will affect the lives of our families for years to come.**

Let's look at what is at stake. There are elected officials currently in office, as well as **candidates who have tried to stand in the way of government and police accountability.** They feed into **the public sphere of misinformation**, hoping you won't do your research. This information was nothing more than posturing for this election.

This election will have a number of candidates running for mayors, city councils and school boards across the quad-counties. **We must ask each candidate what is the diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) plan not for just Black History month, but every month.** There is also a 40-year African American student achievement gap that must be addressed. **We must ask each candidate their plan to close the gap** and then hold them accountable for those plans. Promises made must be promises kept.

We must also hold ourselves accountable to vote in this election cycle. **We must attend the candidates' forums and listen critically to their plans.** We must ask ourselves whether or not their plans align with our interest? We must be **we willing to show up in the same numbers as we did when we changed presidents.** We can never allow anyone to take our votes for granted or think we won't show up.

**Finally, we must fight against the backlash to our historic voter turnout in the 2020 general election.** We know they are grounded in baseless and racist allegations of voter fraud and election irregularities. Legislators here and in other states have introduced well over four times the number of bills to restrict voting access as compared to roughly this time last year. Thirty-three states have now introduced, pre-filed, or carried over 165 restrictive bills this year (as compared to 35 such bills in fifteen states on February 3, 2020). **If your vote is not valuable, why do they fight so hard to limit who can vote?**

Our Struggle Continues,

Michael Childress, President

# February Events

## Health Committee

The Health Committee engaged in a flurry of activities during the month of February. Early in the month, Health Committee Chair, Janice Guider engaged in a **conversation on NCTV**, Naperville Community Television, about bringing the community together under President Joe Biden's theme of "Unity". The video can be found [here](#). In addition to this, the committee partnered with Edward-Elmhurst Hospital to launch a **campaign with hopes that Covid vaccine concerns can be debunked**; during which, DuPage County NAACP constituents received the vaccine and engaged in an open dialogue regarding the topic. A video of this gathering can be found on page 9. Finally, to conclude the month, The Health Committee continued the **conversation on diabetes burnout and mental health** with an event on February 24th, 2021 calling upon Meredith Kober, Director of Programs for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) DuPage, to lead the discussion.

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

## NAACP General Meeting Guest in Attendance

During the February 16th branch meeting, guest speaker, Dr. Anthony Lavacca introduced the DuPage County NAACP member to his services in Naperville and extended the offer for **possible internships or shadowing opportunities to aspiring dentists**. A partnership between The NAACP youth council and Dr. Lavacca would further introduce the field of dentistry to the youth and **expand the plethora of careers presented during the youth councils upcoming career fair**.  
**Address: 55 S Main St #241, Naperville, IL 60540**  
**Phone: (630) 848-2010**  
**<https://ndscare.com/>**



## Did you know?

The Illinois General Assembly passed the HB 2170 Bill efforts through the Black Caucus. What does this mean? A step forward in equity.

### Education Committee is Seeking Sponsors for the STEM Scholars Summer Camp.

For recommendations, email [Dcnedcuationcommittee2@gmail.com](mailto:Dcnedcuationcommittee2@gmail.com)

# February Events

## Education Committee

### Illinois Adopted The Culturally Responsive Teaching Standard On February 16. What does that mean?

Under Illinois' new "culturally responsive teaching and leading standards," approved Feb. 17, **teacher training programs will be expected to cover concepts such as implicit bias, historic inequities, social-emotional development and student advocacy.** The standards apply to programs for future teachers, principals, and school administrators but do not dictate the curriculum for public schools, which state officials stress remains in the hands of local school boards.

[Read more here](#)

### The HB 2170 Bill's Impact on Education

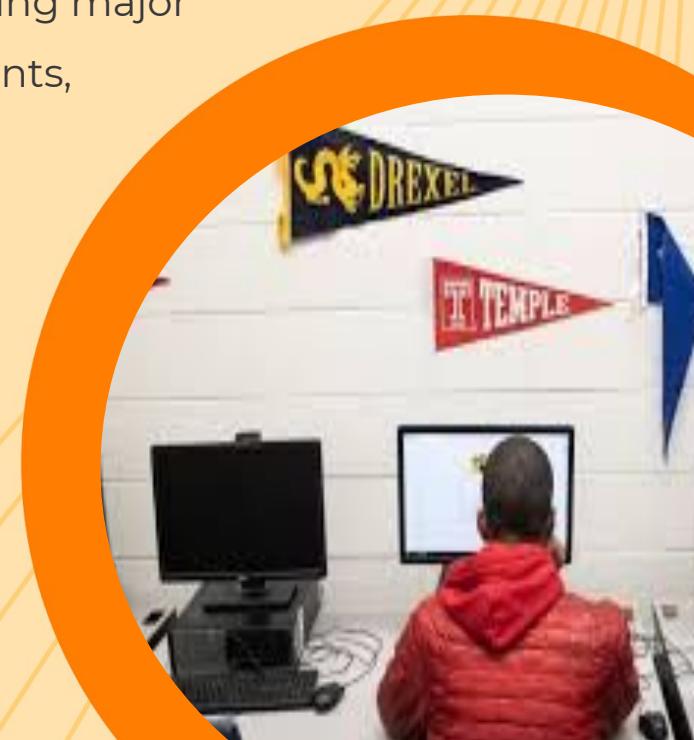
1

The legislation raises the standard creating major changes to high school graduation requirements, starting in 2024-2025.

2

Requires that schools automatically enroll qualifying students into advanced courses, such as Advanced Placement and dual credit, eliminating bias in who is selected to participate in the courses.

[Read more here](#)



# February Events

## Environmental Justice

The **Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA)** introduced on February 9, 2021 is being sponsored by Senator Cristina Castro and Representative Ann Williams. They will be working on moving a bill across the finish line throughout the Spring of 2021. The Governor's office will be requested to help with this initiative. We **welcome you to join in and help with a phone campaign effort.**

If you are interested send an email to Connie Schmidt, Chairperson of the Environmental Justice Committee for the Dupage County NAACP, at [twnstr111@msn.com](mailto:twnstr111@msn.com) and you will receive a weekly reminder.



## Religious Affairs Committee

Each Tuesday Evening, the Religious Affairs Chair, Theresa McGill, attends the service known as Compline with members of the Episcopal Faith where our own Deacon Thomas Craighead generally leads out as the presenter/facilitator.

**Compline also known as Night Prayer, a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day;** a daily changing prayer, ranging from 5 to 9 minutes in length and presented by a number of church leaders, church dignitaries, actors and other celebrities. Visitors are welcome to join. Please contact Deacon Thomas Craighead for link and instructions. Read more [here](#).



# February Events

## Political Action Committee

The Political Action Committee is working on a set of legislation recommendations for the General

Assembly to be included in the next **Illinois voter access legislation**. They are also partnering with several nonpartisan organizations to hold candidate forums. The nonpartisan **“Get Out The Vote (GOTV) along with the “Local**

**Elections and You: Fighting for Voter Apathy** were in session to increase voter turnout in the upcoming elections. Meetings were held with the **Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights** and with the **Muslim Civic Coalition**. **In addition to this**, on Saturday, February 20th the political action committee held a get out the vote phone bank training. **If you are interested in phone banking, registering voters, or helping with our get out the vote effort you can sign up at this link [here](#)**. Also, The political action committee and economic development committee met with US Minority Contractors to speak about an upcoming project the DuPage County NAACP is working on related to minority contracts and procurement. Lastly, to top of this month, The political Action Committee met with new Illinois Senator Black Caucus Chair Robert Peters and Illinois House Black Caucus Chair Kam Buckner to **discuss the Black Caucus agenda and criminal justice reform bill**.

**Political Action chair:  
Patrick Watson**

## Criminal Justice Reform Panel

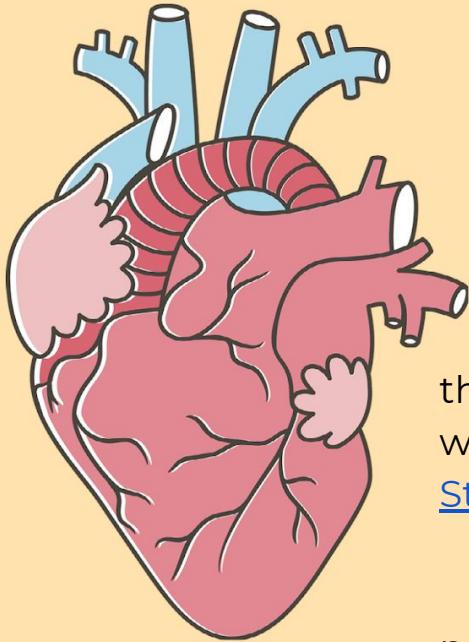
On Monday February 8th, citizens, county chairs, and officials alike met to discuss the newly passed criminal justice bill. The Criminal Justice Reform Act is “one of the four pillars of policy to address systemic racism put forward by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and a reflection of strong democratic values,” stated President Zahorik. The pillars<sup>2</sup> that the President referred to are

- **police and criminal justice reform**
- **education reform**
- **health care and human services reform**
- **expansion of economic opportunity**

[\*\*Read More Here!\*\*](#)

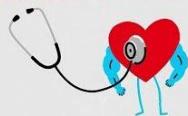


# American Heart Month



Heart disease continues to be the greatest health threat to Americans and is the leading cause of death worldwide, according to the [AHA's Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics – 2021 Update](#).

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING A HEART ATTACK?



In most cases, **heart disease is preventable** when people adopt a healthy lifestyle, which includes **not smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, controlling blood sugar and cholesterol, treating high blood pressure, getting at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week, and getting regular checkups**; The [American Heart Association](#) states. Although this is easier said than done, there are online resources that can help make personal health management a reasonable feat. Linked below are several credible sites that can provide more information on how to manage your health, the racial disparities in heart disease, and the causes of heart disease.



verywell

All Credits go to Verywell Health. Designed by Cindy Chung.  
[How to Do CPR - Step by Step \(verywellhealth.com\)](#)

Click to Watch! 

# Hot Takes

## Hesitancy Towards Covid Vaccine

In an effort to encourage those who are skeptical about receiving the Covid-19 vaccination, **members of Dupage County NAACP received the vaccine administered by Edward-Elmhurst Health and Fitness Center in Lisle, Illinois.**

After almost a year, the time has finally come where the vaccine is being made available. The FDA has approved the vaccine, and in the United States, more and more people are getting vaccinated. While the vaccine is viewed by some as a savior that will finally vanquish the beast known as COVID-19, many suspicions have arisen among people about the trustworthiness of the vaccine...

For more click [here](#)



Click to Watch! 

## In response to “Overview of the Capitol Riots in January of 2021”

In my January newsletter article “Overview of the Capitol Riots in January of 2021” a few questions went unanswered. In response, I am going to answer these questions myself.

**Question 1:** What intentional or unintentional acts generated the storming of the capitol building?

**Answer 1:** Based on the Senate’s decision to acquit former President Trump, the storming of the capitol was unintentional on his part. However, I believe that his supporters assumed that former President Trump would be proud of them if they stormed the Capitol building based on his rhetoric. Statements like “if you don’t fight like hell, you’re not going to have a country anymore.” can amplify a crowd of angry protesters...

For the rest of the responses click [here](#).

# Black HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month (BHM): A time for remembrance and celebration of all Black people. Originally stemming from Carter G. Woodson's organization of National Negro History Week, BHM has flourished. It has become a means for the Black community to take pride within themselves and a way to unite all Black people—especially in marginalized spaces.



[Click to Watch!](#) ↗



With all the landmark accomplishments, deep-rooted global history, and significant actions that should be recognized, the month often feels too jam-packed with information. This has led to the ideology that BHM should be every month, all of the information intertwined with the rest of American history. [\*\*Read more here.\*\*](#)

# Thanks For Reading!

[Click Here to Join!](#)

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Contact the Communication, Press and Publicity Committee |  
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**Presented By The Youth  
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