



Stamford NAACP NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

January 2012

Scheduled Events

Currently airing each night on Cablevision Channel 84 @ 10 pm through February 11th: *Meet the Leaders "Community Cares" Edition* highlighting the Stamford NAACP.

2/29/12 – Black History Event, UCONN; President Jack Bryant, Keynote Speaker

2/26/12 – Membership Drive/Toys for Kids with Cancer; Café 804 @ 2:00 pm

5/13/12 – Mother/Daughter Fashion Show; Proceeds to fund scholarship provided by the Stamford NAACP

Inside This Issue

- ◆ **Scheduled Events**
- ◆ **Superintendent Search**
- ◆ **Parent Involvement Survey**
- ◆ **Stamford NAACP Partnerships**
- ◆ **You Can Help... (Repeal the Death Penalty)**
- ◆ **An Excerpt from an Email from Benjamin Todd Jealous**
- ◆ **Membership**
- ◆ **Voter Registration**
- ◆ **General Membership Meetings**
- ◆ **Parent Involvement Survey Attachment**

Superintendent Search

Executive members of the Stamford NAACP are continuing to monitor the process of choosing the new superintendent for Stamford schools. We continue to attend the Board of Education meetings so that we remain informed.

Parent Involvement Survey

Attached to this newsletter is a Parent Involvement Survey. The information on the survey will be used to gather information for the purpose of developing a Parent Coalition. Upon receipt of this survey, Bob King and Dudley Williams, Education Advocates, will schedule a town hall meeting wherein the initial conversations regarding the Parent Coalition will take place. The public will be notified of the meeting using the information provided on the survey, as well as through various community websites, including the Stamford NAACP website. **Please make a copy for a friend, fill out the survey, and mail it in. Change begins with you.** There will also be opportunities to fill out these surveys wherever we are conducting voter registration drives.

Stamford NAACP Partnerships

The Stamford NAACP and the Stamford /Norwalk Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. Sorority are teaming up in a civic engagement partnership for voter registration in 2012.

The Stamford NAACP and the CT State NAACP are partnering with the Connecticut Network to Abolish the Death Penalty (CNADP). We can repeal the death penalty this legislative session if we are able to get one more Senator on board in support.

Partnerships (continued)

Carlo Leone has indicated he is thinking seriously about the issue. We hope he can be the final vote we need to pass repeal. It is important that he hear from his constituents right away. Session starts February 8th, and we would like to have Senator Leone commit to supporting repeal by then.

You Can Help...

By doing any or all of the following:

1. Call Senator Leone at (860) 240-0589. Tell him that you live in his district (if you do) and want him to vote to repeal the death penalty.
2. Mail the Senator a hand-written note explaining why you feel strongly about this issue. His address is:

Senator Carlo Leone
LOB Room 3602
300 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06106

3. Log on to the following website and sign the petition:

http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/1972/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8533

4. Ask your neighbors to do the same.

*Why Repeal the Death Penalty in Connecticut?***RISKS EXECUTING THE INNOCENT**

- Nationally, since 1973, 138 prisoners on death row have been exonerated due to evidence of their innocence.
- In Connecticut, in the last four years, 4 innocent men have been charged with murder and spent years in prison.
- James Tillman, Miguel Roman, Kenneth Ireland, George Gould, and Ronald Taylor collectively spent over 90 years in prison for crimes they did not commit.
- As long as human beings make the decisions, we cannot guarantee we won't execute an innocent person.

BIASED

- Nationally, 50% of murder victims are white.
- In death penalty cases, however, the murder victim is white 79% of the time.
- Studies in North Carolina, Maryland, and California found that one's odds of receiving the death penalty increase significantly when the victim is white

RARELY USED

Since 1973, there have been over 4,800 murders, 15 individuals sentenced to death, and one execution. Currently, 10 individuals sit on Connecticut's death row.

EXPENSIVE

Because of the additional resources and preparation required in death penalty cases, the separate sentencing phase, post-conviction appeals, and the added costs of death row facilities, studies consistently find the death penalty to be more costly to implement than life without release.

HARMFUL TO VICTIMS' FAMILIES

The safeguards put in place to mitigate the risk of executing an innocent person prolong the death penalty process causing pain to victims' families forced to wait decades for an execution.

It is for these reasons that nearly 120 CT victims' family members have called for an end to the death penalty.

An excerpt from an email (2011) by Benjamin Todd Jealous, President & CEO, National NAACP

"Dear NAACP Family, It is with sadness that I write to inform you that Martina Correa, sister of Troy Davis, has died. Martina, who many of you may have met at our 2009 convention (and other activist events), was the catalyst behind the campaign to save her brother for two decades. Those years overlap with the near death, and vibrant rebirth of the anti-death penalty movement in the US. We are all blessed for the time she spent among us. Let's honor Troy Davis's memory and Martina's by ending the Death Penalty.

Yours in service, Ben"

Membership

Membership Fees

	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Life</u>
Adult (21+)	\$30	\$750
Under 21	\$10	\$400

2012 General Membership Meetings

6:00 pm – Gov't Center – 2nd Floor

January 18	July 18
February 15	August 15
March 21	September 19
April 18	October 17
May 16	November 21
June 20	December 19

Voter Registration

Contact us for information on how to assist in getting people registered and getting out the vote.

communications@stamfordnaacp.org

or through the “Contact Us” page on the website:

www.stamfordnaacp.org



If you have any questions or comments concerning the newsletter or the website, please email them to communications@stamfordnaacp.org or mail to:

Stamford NAACP
 Attn: Communications
 P.O. Box 885
 Stamford, CT 06904

You may view our website at www.stamfordnaacp.org.

Website

www.stamfordnaacp.org

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NAACP Stamford

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT SURVEY

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. Do you have a child (children) in the Stamford School System? If so, what level(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary School <input type="checkbox"/> Middle School <input type="checkbox"/> High School	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
2. Does your child (children) attend a magnet school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. Do you participate in your child's classroom activities or projects when asked?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
4. Is your child bussed to school?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
5. Are you made aware of class trips and asked to be a chaperone in a timely fashion?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. Are you informed of your child's curriculum for their current year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. Are you made aware of Parent-Teacher Conferences in a timely fashion, and do you attend?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8. Do you know the steps to take if there is a problem between the school and your child? Example: Who in the school do I contact first?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9. Are you aware of homework assignments and projects due each quarter?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
10. Are you aware of when report cards are sent home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
11. If your child is having trouble in class, are you contacted by the teacher so that you can address the problem(s) before the marking period is closed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
12. Has your child's school ever approached you about attending a PTO meeting or made you aware of the times and dates of these meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

13. Do you attend the PTO meetings at your child's school? If so, how many per year? ____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
14. Does it present a hardship for you to attend these PTO meetings? If so, why? <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
15. Do you have any interest in helping to organize parent education programs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Thank you for completing this survey.

*Please return it to:
Stamford NAACP
P.O. Box 885
Stamford, CT 06904*

(or hand it to an Executive Board member)