



# Macon Bibb NAACP Newsletter

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PO Box 6452 Macon, Ga. 31208

Monthly meetings held the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @7:00PM

Family Investment Center

905 Main Street Macon Ga. 31204

Office 478-745-9944

## Founder's Day

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909. February 11, 2017 Th Macon NAACP sponsored a NAACP Founders Day luncheon in honor of Rosa Parks who was the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement. The Macon Bibb NAACP Youth Council performed a reenactment of Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus. Hat's off to our Youth Council.



## **Voter Registration and Membership Drive**

The Macon-Bibb NAACP will like to conduct voter registration and membership at your church and at various events around Macon. The NAACP would love the opportunity to set up voter's registration. Contact us at 478-745-9944 Membership Adults \$30.00 Children \$10.00 Youth \$15.00 ages 16-25.

## **Good News from the President Westbrook's**

The Macon-Bibb NAACP has requested and received cases from the District Attorney's office from the year 2012-2015. A report from the Public Defenders has also been requested and received. This report determines how many cases are pleaded and how many cases go to trial. These requests came after rising complaints from inmates and family members.

## **Calling all Churches**

We are living in critical times and we need our churches support. We face the same issues today we faced over fifty years ago. We see more and more where schools are being segregated, children are being bused to other schools to receive the same quality of education, mass incarceration, voter suppression and racial profiling. Our church was once the backbone of the Civil Rights Movement and the NAACP. The churches served as a safe haven during the fight for justice and equality. The churches gave African Americans and all people that played a role in the accomplishments, yes hope for a better tomorrow during a time when it could not be found elsewhere. The NAACP will be needed more now than ever with the rise of hatred, across this county and we need your support again to fight this struggle.

## **Medicare- Part B Late Enrollment Penalty**

In most cases, if you don't sign up for Part B Medicare when you're first eligible for Medicare, you'll have to pay a late enrollment penalty. You'll have to pay this penalty for as long as you have Part B. Your monthly premium for Part B may go up 10% for each full 12-month period that you could have had Part B, but didn't sign up for it. Also, you may have to wait until the General Enrollment Period (from January 1 to March 31) to enroll in Part B. Coverage will start July 1 of that year. Usually, you don't pay a late enrollment penalty if you meet certain conditions that allow you to sign up for Part B during a Special Enrollment Period.

## **Georgia First Offender's Act**

GFOA, criminal defendant charged with a misdemeanor or certain felonies, who meet specific criteria, may plead guilty and receive probation. Upon completion of the probation, the defendant “shall be discharged without court adjudication of guilt,” which means the charge will not be considered a conviction and will not appear on his or her official criminal history. One of the Act’s primary purposes is to protect “minor” criminal defendants from being disqualified from employment consideration based on their criminal records, and **House Bill 310** expands GFOA’s protections retroactively. **Now, with the approval of the court and the prosecutor, anyone who would have been eligible for sentencing under the GFOA, had it been in effect, may now petition the courts for first-offender treatment.** If the petition is granted, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation will modify the petitioner’s criminal record to reflect the outcome that the current law provides. This determination will likely mean that companies will not be able to obtain decision making information on a larger pool of offenders than they previously could. The GFOA still does not protect those charged with the most serious felonies. The NAACP encourage any person that feel that their conviction fall under this act should petition the courts that you were convicted in.

### **New for Convicted Drug Felons**

On April 27,2016 Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed a bill that was part of the Criminal Justice Reform that lifted the ban where persons that that were convicted drug felons after 1996, who were banded from receiving food stamp benefits. The Bill was effective July 2016.

### **Misdemeanor Complaints may be directed to the following:**

**Complaints about misdemeanor probation officers and or traffic court  
Southern Center for Human Rights**

**83 Poplar St. NW Atlanta Ga. 30303 Ph 404-688-1202**

**Macon Bibb NAACP PO Box 6452 Macon Ga. 31208**

**Complaints about Misdemeanor Probation Officers**

**Misdemeanor Probation Oversight**

**Department of Community Supervision**

**2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive**

**Atlanta Ga. 30334-4909**

**PH 404-558-0180**

**NAACP thanks the Bibb County Commissioners and other elected officials who did not vote to abolish the Municipal Court.**

Reports show Georgia, ranks number eight in the nations with the highest incarceration rate, Georgia stands head and shoulders above other states in the amount of people on probation. Georgia's rate of 6,161 per 100,000 adults on probation is almost four times greater than the national average of 1,568 per 100,000 residents. State Probation is being looked as part of the criminal justice reform, more and more probationer's cases who have misdemeanor convictions are being criminalized rather than supervised. This process has raised quite a few eye browsers. State Courts are now servicing probation offices out to privatized probation. The NAACP has been monitoring the office in Macon Bibb. We have seen more and more people being incarcerated for Misdemeanor probation,

Private prisons in Georgia are run by the two biggest private prison companies in the country-Corrections Corporation of America and The GEO Group. These companies are big money-makers. Georgia currently bankrolls four private prisons; three are run by the Corrections Both Georgia and Florida have signed contracts with private prisons throughout the state, promising that at least 90 percent of beds must be full always, or else the respective states must pay a penalty. What does this mean, reports have already been released that reflects that Law suits have been filed due to 90 of beds are not occupied by prisoners

**Macon Bibb NAACP Youth Council**

The Macon Bibb NAACP Youth Chapter attended a training on April 1, 2017 to train them in their role in the NAACP. They are our next generation who will have to carry the torch.



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Jamaica Edwards, Kehmiah Dennard, Gwenette. Westbrooks