OUR MISSION

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Vision Statement
The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

Objectives
The following statement of objectives is found on the first page of the NAACP Constitution - the principal objectives of the Association shall be:

- To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens
- To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States
- To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes
- To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights
- To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination
- To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP's Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.
The History of the NAACP

Founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization. Its more than half-million members and supporters throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

Founding group
The NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing horrific practice of lynching and the 1908 race riot in Springfield, the capital of Illinois and resting place of President Abraham Lincoln. Appalled at the violence that was committed against blacks, a group of white liberals that included Mary White Ovington and Oswald Garrison Villard, both the descendants of abolitionists, William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moscowitz issued a call for a meeting to discuss racial justice. Some 60 people, seven of whom were African American (including W. E. B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell), signed the call, which was released on the centennial of Lincoln's birth.


Echoing the focus of Du Bois' Niagara Movement began in 1905, the NAACP's stated goal was to secure for all people the rights guaranteed in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution, which promised an end to slavery, the equal protection of the law, and universal adult male suffrage, respectively.
The NAACP's principal objective is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority group citizens of United States and eliminate race prejudice. The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through the democratic processes.

The NAACP established its national office in New York City in 1910 and named a board of directors as well as a president, Moorfield Storey, a white constitutional lawyer and former president of the American Bar Association. The only African American among the organization's executives, Du Bois was made director of publications and research and in 1910 established the official journal of the NAACP, The Crisis.

**The Crisis**

Du Bois founded The Crisis magazine as the premier crusading voice for civil rights. Today, The Crisis, one of the oldest black periodicals in America, continues this mission. A respected journal of thought, opinion and analysis, the magazine remains the official publication of the NAACP and is the NAACP's articulate partner in the struggle for human rights for people of color.

In time, The Crisis became a voice of the Harlem Renaissance, as Du Bois published works by Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen and other African American literary figures. The publication’s prominence would rise.

Now published quarterly, The Crisis is dedicated to being an open and honest forum for discussing critical issues confronting people of color, American society and the world in addition to highlighting the historical and cultural achievements of these diverse peoples.

In essays, interviews, in-depth reporting, etc., writers explore past and present issues concerning race and its impact on educational, economic, political, social, moral, and ethical issues. And, each issue is highlighted with a special section, "The NAACP Today" reporting the news and events of the NAACP on a local and national level.

**Growth**

With a strong emphasis on local organizing, by 1913 the NAACP had established branch offices in such cities as Boston, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; Kansas City, Missouri; Washington, D.C.; Detroit, Michigan; and St. Louis, Missouri.

Joel Spingarn, one of the NAACP founders, was a professor of literature and formulated much of the strategy that led to the growth of the organization. He was elected board chairman of the NAACP in 1915 and served as president from 1929-1939.
A series of early court battles, including a victory against a discriminatory Oklahoma law that regulated voting by means of a grandfather clause (Guinn v. United States, 1910), helped establish the NAACP's importance as a legal advocate. The fledgling organization also learned to harness the power of publicity through its 1915 battle against D. W. Griffith's inflammatory *Birth of a Nation*, a motion picture that perpetuated demeaning stereotypes of African Americans and glorified the Ku Klux Klan.

NAACP membership grew rapidly, from around 9,000 in 1917 to around 90,000 in 1919, with more than 300 local branches. Writer and diplomat James Weldon Johnson became the Association's first black secretary in 1920, and Louis T. Wright, a surgeon, was named the first black chairman of its board of directors in 1934.

The NAACP waged a 30-year campaign against lynching, among the Association's top priorities. After early worries about its constitutionality, the NAACP strongly supported the federal Dyer Bill, which would have punished those who participated in or failed to prosecute lynching mobs. Though the bill would pass the U.S. House of Representatives, the Senate never passed the bill, or any other anti-lynching legislation. Most credit the resulting public debate—fueled by the NAACP report “Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States, 1889-1919”—with drastically decreasing the incidence of lynching.

Johnson stepped down as secretary in 1930 and was succeeded by Walter F. White. White was instrumental not only in his research on lynching (in part because, as a very fair-skinned African American, he had been able to infiltrate white groups), but also in his successful block of segregationist Judge John J. Parker's nomination by President Herbert Hoover to the U.S. Supreme Court.

White presided over the NAACP's most productive period of legal advocacy. In 1930 the association commissioned the Margold Report, which became the basis for the successful reversal of the separate-but-equal doctrine that had governed public facilities since 1896's *Plessy v. Ferguson*. In 1935 White recruited Charles H. Houston as NAACP chief counsel. Houston was the Howard University law school dean whose strategy on school-segregation cases paved the way for his protégé Thurgood Marshall to prevail in 1954's *Brown v. Board of Education*, the decision that overturned Plessy.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, which was disproportionately disastrous for African Americans, the NAACP began to focus on economic justice. After years of tension with white labor unions, the Association cooperated with the newly formed Congress of Industrial Organizations in an effort to win jobs for black Americans. White, a friend and adviser to First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, met with her often in attempts to convince President Franklin D. Roosevelt to outlaw job discrimination in the armed forces, defense industries and the agencies spawned by Roosevelt's New Deal legislation.
Roosevelt ultimately agreed to open thousands of jobs to black workers when the NAACP supported labor leader A. Philip Randolph and his March on Washington movement in 1941. President Roosevelt would also agree to set up a Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC) to ensure compliance.

Throughout the 1940s the NAACP saw enormous growth in membership, recording roughly 600,000 members by 1946. It continued to act as a legislative and legal advocate, pushing for a federal anti-lynching law and for an end to state-mandated segregation.

Civil Rights Era

By the 1950s the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, headed by Marshall, secured the last of these goals through Brown v. Board of Education (1954), which outlawed segregation in public schools. The NAACP's Washington, D.C., bureau, led by lobbyist Clarence M. Mitchell Jr., helped advance not only integration of the armed forces in 1948 but also passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964, and 1968, as well as the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Despite such dramatic courtroom and congressional victories, the implementation of civil rights was a slow, painful, and oft times violent. The unsolved 1951 murder of Harry T. Moore, an NAACP field secretary in Florida whose home was bombed on Christmas night, and his wife was just one of many crimes of retribution against the NAACP and its staff and members.

NAACP Mississippi Field Secretary Medgar Evers and his wife Myrlie also became high-profile targets for pro-segregationist violence and terrorism. In 1962, their home was firebombed and later Medgar was assassinated by a sniper in front of their residence following years of investigations into hostility against blacks and participation in non-violent demonstrations such as sit-ins to protest the persistence of Jim Crow segregation throughout the south.

Violence also met black children attempting to enter previously segregated schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, and other southern cities. Throughout the south many African Americans were still denied the right to register and vote.

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s echoed the NAACP's goals, but leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr., of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, felt that direct action was needed to obtain them.

Although it was criticized for working exclusively within the system by pursuing legislative and judicial solutions, the NAACP did provide legal representation and aid to members of other protest groups over a sustained period of time. The NAACP even posted bail for hundreds of Freedom Riders in the ‘60s who had traveled to Mississippi to register black voters and challenge Jim Crow policies.
Led by Roy Wilkins, who succeeded Walter White as secretary in 1955, the NAACP cooperated with organizers A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin in planning the 1963 March on Washington.

With the passage of major civil rights legislation the following year, the Association accomplished what seemed an insurmountable task. In the following years, the NAACP began to diversify its goals.

Assisting the NAACP throughout the years were many celebrities and leaders, including Sammy Davis Jr., Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Ella Baker, an NAACP director of branches who stressed the importance of young people and women in the organization by recruiting members, raising money, and organizing local campaigns; Daisy Bates, NAACP national board member, Arkansas state conference president and advisor to the Little Rock Nine; and NAACP stalwarts like Kivie Kaplan, a businessman and philanthropist from Boston, who served as president of the NAACP from 1966 until 1975. He personally led nationwide NAACP Life Membership efforts and fought to keep African Americans away from illegal drugs.

Close of the first century
Wilkins retired as executive director in 1977 and was replaced by Benjamin L. Hooks, whose tenure included the Bakke case (1978), in which a California court outlawed several aspects of affirmative action. During his tenure the Memphis native is credited with implementing many NAACP programs that continue today. The NAACP ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics) competitions, a major youth talent and skill initiative, and Women in the NAACP began under his administration.

As millions of African Americans continued to be afflicted as urban poverty and crime increased, de facto racial segregation remained and job discrimination lingered throughout the United States, proving the need for continued NAACP advocacy and action.

Dr. Hooks served as executive director/chief executive officer (CEO) of the NAACP from 1977 to 1992. Benjamin F. Chavis (now Chavis Muhammad) became executive director/CEO in 1993, while in 1995 Myrlie Evers-Williams (widow of Medgar Evers) became the third woman to chair the NAACP, a position she held until 1998, succeeded by Chairman Emeritus Julian Bond.

In 1996 the NAACP National Board of Directors changed the executive director/CEO title to president and CEO when it selected Kweisi Mfume, a former congressman and head of the Congressional Black Caucus, to lead the body. The elected office of president was eliminated.

Former telecommunications executive Bruce S. Gordon followed in 2005. [NAACP General Counsel Dennis Courtland Hayes would serve the Association well as interim national president and CEO twice during changes in administrations in recent years.]
In May of 2008, the NAACP National Board of Directors confirmed Benjamin Todd Jealous, a former community organizer, newspaper editor and Rhodes Scholar, as the 14th national executive of the esteemed organization.

Heading into the 21st century, the NAACP is focused on disparities in economics, health care, education, voter empowerment and the criminal justice system while also continuing its role as legal advocate for civil rights issues.

Yet the real story of the nation's most significant civil rights organization lies in the hearts and minds of the people who would not stand idly by while the rights of America's darker citizens were denied. From bold investigations of mob brutality, protests of mass murders, segregation and discrimination, to testimony before congressional committees on the vicious tactics used to bar African Americans from the ballot box, it was the talent and tenacity of NAACP members that saved lives and changed many negative aspects of American society.

While much of NAACP history is chronicled in books, articles, pamphlets and magazines, the true movement lies in the faces---black, white, yellow, red, and brown---united to awaken the consciousness of a people and a nation. The NAACP will remain vigilant in its mission until the promise of America is made real for all Americans.
**Benjamin Todd Jealous** is the President and CEO of the NAACP, the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. In 2008, at age 35, he became the youngest person to serve as its chief executive.

Jealous has dedicated his life to fighting for freedom and justice. He is an organizer and journalist whose work has been credited with helping to: save a Black small farmer who was being framed for arson; expose our nation’s widespread sentencing of children to life without the possibility of parole; stop the state of Mississippi from turning a public historically Black university into a prison; and abolish the juvenile death penalty in the US.

He formerly served as President of the Rosenberg Foundation, Director of Amnesty International’s US Human Rights Program, Executive Director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, and Managing Editor of the Jackson Advocate, a crusading Blackowned Mississippi newspaper that was last fire-bombed in 1998.

A fifth-generation member of the NAACP, Jealous’ family has been deeply involved in the ongoing struggle for freedom and justice in America. His mother, who was one of a handful of Black girls to desegregate Baltimore’s Western High School in 1954, descends from men who were born slaves and died having served as Reconstruction statesmen in Virginia’s House of Delegates and Senate. His father, who was jailed for his participation in lunch counter sit-ins, descends from a soldier who was promoted from corporal to lieutenant during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

A Rhodes Scholar, he is a graduate of Columbia College, Oxford University, and the public and parochial schools of Monterey County, California.
Roslyn M. Brock is Chairman of the National Board of Directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She made history in February 2010 when she became the youngest ever to serve as Chairman of the National Board of Directors.

Over the past twenty-five years, Brock has served the NAACP in several leadership roles. She is a Diamond Life Member of NAACP and joined the Association as a freshman at Virginia Union University where she was elected President of the Youth and College Division from the Commonwealth of Virginia. One year later, she was elected as a Youth Board Member from Region 7—representing the District of Columbia, Maryland, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. During her tenure as a Youth Board Member and Vice Chairman of the NAACP Board Health Committee, Brock led the policy debate to recognize access to quality health care as a civil rights issue that resulted in the National Board’s ratification and inclusion of a Health Committee as a Standing Committee in its Constitution.

In 1989, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Benjamin Law-son Hooks, Brock wrote her Master’s Thesis on “Developing a NAACP Health Outreach Program for Minorities.” Brock is a skilled grant writer and has secured more than $2.7 million dollars in grants since 1991 for NAACP programs that initiated the Health Symposia held annually at NAACP National Conventions; publication of more than 200,000 copies of “HIV/AIDS and You” educational materials distributed to NAACP Units; research and media work associated with documenting the history of the NAACP; support for ACT-SO and the NAACP Law Fellows programs; and commissioned the 2007 NAACP Perceptions Survey just to name a few.

In 1999, Brock was appointed Chair of the Board Convention Planning Committee. In this role, she led the Committee to institute fiscal policies that resulted in the Convention becoming a profit center for the Association with average net revenues of $1 million dollars a year. In 2005, Brock created the Leadership 500 Summit with several other young adult members of the NAACP. The Summit’s goal is to recruit, train and retain a new generation of civil rights leaders aged 30 – 50 to the NAACP. Since its inception, Leadership 500 has contributed more than $650,000 to the NAACP National Treasury to support 2009 Centennial activities.

As Chairman of the Board Centennial Committee, Brock provides oversight for publication of Centennial calendars and paraphernalia; commission of Centennial artwork; and creation of the Centennial logo and theme for marketing and public relations.

Brock is member of the Board of Trustees for the Catholic Health Association of the United States of America and the NAACP Special Contributions Fund Board of Trustees. She’s served on the boards of community mental health; family and children’s services; senior services and faith-based community ministries. She’s also a member of several professional and civic organizations including the American Public Health Association; American College of Health Services Executives; American Hospital Association’s Disparities in Healthcare Task group; Association of Healthcare Philanthropy; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and The LINKS, Inc.
A recipient of numerous healthcare, community service and leadership awards, Brock's leadership skills have been recognized by several national publications and organizations. In April 2008, Brock participated in the United States Department of Defense's 75th Joint Civilian Orientation Conference (JCOC) reserved for American leaders interested in expanding their knowledge of the military and national defense. She toured U.S. Southern Command, responsible for providing contingency planning, operations and security cooperation for Central and South America, the Caribbean, Cuba and the Bahamas, and their territorial waters.

She was a guest lecturer on “Alleviating Global Poverty” in Rome, Italy at the 2007 Martin Luther King, Jr. Conflict Resolution Conference co-sponsored by the Lott Carey Foreign Missions and the Baptist Union of Italy.

From 2003-2005, Brock served as a Young Leaders Fellow for the National Committee on U.S. – China Relations to build cross-cultural understanding and professional networks with young Chinese leaders while exploring substantive issues and developing enduring friendships.

Other highlights include: Wrote the Foreword for the 2008 Edition of Who’s Who Among African-Americans Directory; Featured in December 2007 Forbes Magazine article on Diversity and Economic Parity for African Americans; Recipient of the Network Journal’s “40 Under Forty Achievement Award”; Martin Luther King, Jr. Medal for Human Rights, the George Washington University; Outstanding Alumna, Virginia Union University; Honorary Chairperson, National Black Family Summit; Ebony magazine’s “Future Leader Award”; and Good Housekeeping’s “100 Young Women of Promise.”

Brock is employed as Vice President, Advocacy and Government Relations for Bon Secours Health System, Inc., in Marriottsville, Maryland. Prior to working at Bon Secours, Brock worked 10 years in Health Programs at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

She graduated magna cum laude from Virginia Union University; earned a master's degree in health services administration from George Washington University, an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Theology at Virginia Union University.

Brock's goal in life is embodied in an African proverb “Care more than others think is wise, Risk more than others think is safe, Dream more than others think is practical and Expect more than others think is possible.”
Leon W. Russell currently serves as the Director of the Office of Human Rights for Pinellas County Government, Clearwater, Florida. He has held this post since January of 1977. In this position Mr. Russell is responsible for implementing the county’s Affirmative Action and Human Rights Ordinances.

The Affirmative Action Ordinance provides for the development of a racially and sexually diverse workforce that reflects the general make up of the local civilian labor force. This includes the implementation of the county’s Equal Employment Opportunity Programs. Programs involved in the implementation of this ordinance cover 6,800 employees in all the departments under the County Administrator and the five Constitutional Officers.

The Pinellas County Human Rights Ordinance provides protection from illegal discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations for the county’s 923,000 residents. This ordinance has been deemed ‘substantially equivalent’ to Title VIII of the 1968 Federal Fair Housing Act and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Over five hundred formal complaints of discrimination are filed under the ordinance annually.

In September of 2007, Mr. Russell was elected President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies during its annual meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The IAOHRA Membership is agency based and consists of statutory human and civil rights agencies from throughout the United States and Canada as well as representation from several other nations. These agencies enforce state and local civil rights laws and are actively engaged in reducing and resolving intergroup tension and promoting intergroup relations.

Mr. Russell served as the President of the Florida State Conference of Branches of the NAACP from January 1996 until January 2000, after serving for fifteen years as the First Vice President. He also serves as a member of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP, having been first elected in 1990. He has served that board as the assistant secretary and currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Board. He is a member of the International City Management Association; a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators; In September of 2007 Russell was elected President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies; Chair of the Minority issues Advisory Council of the Children’s Campaign of Florida; past President of the Alternative Human Services Board of Directors; volunteer for the United Way of Pinellas County; past Board Member of the Pinellas Opportunity Council, past President and Board Member of the National Association of Human Rights Workers; Secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, to conduct public hearings and make recommendations with regard to the re-engineering of Florida’s system of juvenile Justice.

In April of 1999, Mr. Russell became the Chairman of Floridians Representing Equity and Equality. FREE was established as a statewide coalition to oppose the Florida Civil Rights Initiative, an anti-Affirmative Action proposal authored by Ward Connerly. Ultimately, the initiative failed to get on the Florida Ballot, because of the strong legal challenge spearheaded by FREE.

Mr. Russell has received numerous civic awards and citations.
From his student days to his current status as Chairman Emeritus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Julian Bond has been an active participant in the movements for civil rights and economic justice. As an activist who has faced jail for his convictions, as a veteran of more than 20 years service in the Georgia General Assembly, a university professor and a writer, he has been on the cutting edge of social change since 1960.

He was a founder, in 1960 while a student at Morehouse College of the Atlanta student sit-in and anti-segregation organization and of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). As SNCC’s Communications Director, Bond was active in protests and registration campaigns throughout the South.

Elected in 1965 to the Georgia House of Representatives, Bond was prevented from taking his seat by members who objected to his opposition to the Vietnam War. He was re-elected to his own vacant seat and un-seated again, and seated only after a third election and a unanimous decision of the United States Supreme Court.

He was co-chair of a challenge delegation from Georgia to the 1968 Democratic Convention. The challengers were successful in unseating Georgia’s regular Democrats, and Bond was nominated for Vice-President, but had to decline because he was too young. Bond serves as Chairman of the Premier Auto Group PAG (Volvo, Land Rover, Aston-Martin, and Jaguar) Diversity Council and is on the Boards of People for the American Way, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Council for a Livable World, and the advisory board of the Harvard Business School Initiative on Social Enterprise, among others.

He was a commentator on America’s Black Forum, the oldest black-owned show in television syndication. His poetry and articles have appeared in numerous publications. He has narrated numerous documentaries, including the Academy Award winning “A Time For Justice” and the prize-winning and critically acclaimed series “Eyes On The Prize.”

He has served since 1998 as Chairman of the Board of the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States.

In 2002, he received the prestigious National Freedom Award.

The holder of twenty-five honorary degrees, he is a Distinguished Professor at American University in Washington, DC, and a Professor in history at the University of Virginia.
Merlie Evers-Williams is a phenomenal woman of great strength and courage. Her dedication to civil rights and equality is exemplified by her activist role, linking together business, government, and social issues to further human rights and equality. On February 18, 1995, she was elected to the position of Chairman of the National Board of Directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). With the support of a strong member base of the NAACP, she is credited with spearheading the operations that restored the Association to its original status as the premier civil rights organization.

A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Mrs. Evers-Williams was an honor student at Alcorn A & M College, Lorman, Mississippi, where she met and married another outstanding student, Medgar Evers. They moved to historic Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where they embarked on business careers with Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company. Business responsibilities demanded extensive travel in the Delta where they witnessed the burden of poverty and injustice imposed on their people. Determined to make positive changes in that society, both Medgar and Myrlie opened and managed the first NAACP Mississippi State Office. They lived under constant threats as they worked for voting rights, economic stability, fair housing, equal education, equal justice, and dignity.

A true pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, Medgar Evers was assassinated on June 12, 1963. Myrlie and their three small children saw the murder at the front door of their home in Jackson, Mississippi. After suffering through two hung jury trials in the murder of her husband, Mrs. Evers-Williams moved her three children to California. She did not see justice for the murder of Medgar Evers until 31 years later. In 1994, she was present when the verdict of guilty and life imprisonment was handed down for Byron De La Beckwith. At last, she was victorious, Her persistence and faith in the pursuit of justice for the assassination that changed her life and that of her children had come to fruition.

Myrlie knew the value of education. She received her B.A. degree in Sociology in 1968 and a Certificate from Simmons College, School of Management, Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, she has received honorary doctorates from Pomona College, Medgar Evers College, Spelman College, Columbia College, Bennett College, Tougaloo College, Willamette University, Howard University and others.

She has held the position of Director, Planning and Development for the Claremont College; first African-American woman to serve as Commissioner, Board of Public Works, Los Angeles, California; vice president, Seligman & Latz; and national director of consumer affairs, Atlantic Richfield. She chronicled the life of her late husband, Medgar, and the civil rights struggle in Mississippi in a book, For Us, the Living. She also anchored a special HBO production, “Southern Justice, the Murder of Medgar Evers. Myrlie Evers-Williams was married for 18 years to Walter Edward Williams, himself a civil rights activist until his death two days after she was elected chairman of the board of the NAACP.
On February 10, 1998, Evers-Williams announced that she had successfully completed her mission and would not seek another term of office but would devote her efforts to establishing the Medgar Evers Institute, linking business, government, and communities to further human rights and equality.

In 1999 Evers-Williams saw her latest book, Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be, published. In the bestseller I Dream A World: Black Women Who Changed America, Evers-Williams says that she “greets today and the future with open arms.” This credo has carried her through years of struggle and success.

Her children and six grandchildren remain her strongest supporters in her continued fight to secure equal rights for all people, and to preserve those rights for future generations.
An NAACP chapter of a different hue

Aiming to expand his membership, national president explains, 'Colored people come in all colors'

By Krissah Thompson
Tuesday, November 3, 2009

WARREN, MAINE -- Benjamin Todd Jealous pulls in front of the prison compound, passes through the only unlocked door in the building and surrenders his BlackBerry and driver's license to guards. He is ushered quickly through a metal detector, then past a heavy green door that clangs shut.

A guard hands him a big beeper to clip to his tailored gray suit. "Push the red button if you feel threatened," he is told. The beepers are given only to the prison's most important visitors, and Jealous -- the national president of the NAACP -- qualifies.

He is led down a concrete path into a courtyard surrounded by a four-story-high chain-link fence topped with glinting barbed wire. He then passes through another heavy door that locks with a click and finally into a large room where 92 inmates are waiting.

A grizzly bear of a white man with a shock of gray hair on his chin stares from the front row. Near him, a young white guy, arms thick with muscles, leans back in his chair. Three rows behind, a balding white man with blue letters tattooed across his forehead sits quietly. White face after white face, inmate after inmate -- a sea of white men with few exceptions.

Here they are: the Maine State Prison Chapter of the NAACP.

And here is Jealous: on a mission to do no less than revitalize his aging organization in a racially changing America.

In other words, a sales call.

"Hey, guys," he says.
On the drive up from Portland to Warren, Jealous laughed at the memory of his first trip to the prison. When he sat down with the warden and said, "Thanks for bringing me to Maine. My grandfather is buried here," an awkward feeling of surprise hung in the room.

"There are things you just don't expect the president of the NAACP to say," Jealous said, driving through the countryside.

And there are places the president of the NAACP is just not expected to be. Such as a prison, in Maine, which, according to census projections, is 95.3 percent white, making it the whitest state in the country.

"No one's been here in half a century," Jealous said, zooming past a small town. By "no one," he meant no one from the NAACP's top leadership.

Though the organization has 2,200 chapters, Jealous has taken a special interest in this Maine group because of the NAACP's ongoing attempts to reach beyond its core in the black community. The association's membership has been stagnant at about half a million members for years, and part of Jealous's plan to increase that number is to be more inclusive.

He has formed an alliance around health-care reform with the country's largest Latino advocacy group, and in recent speeches has highlighted examples of diversity in the NAACP's ranks: the Bangladeshi chapter president in Hamtramck, Mich.; the Southeast Asian presidents in Seattle and San Jose; the Latino executive committee members in the Southwest; the Native American members in Alabama and Oklahoma.

More than any other example, though, the Maine prison chapter has become a kind of symbol of the 100-year-old civil rights group finding its way on the shifting terrain of race. Jealous talks about the chapter frequently, and as he deals with questions about the organization's relevance since Barack Obama was elected to the White House, he has returned here again and again.

Today's trip is his third since becoming president in September 2008. A busy man with a busy schedule, he once again finds himself in this large room with a crowd of mostly white prisoners, greeting a dark-haired white man in starched prison blues with the words, "Hi, Mr. President."

A voice for inmates

The man Jealous is talking to is William "Billy" Flynn, who is in for 28 years to life and is also president of the prison chapter. "All right, gentlemen," Flynn says, stepping to the microphone.

A poster of Malcolm X delivering his "By Any Means Necessary" speech is affixed to the front of the lectern. A cinder block wall is covered in fliers that read: "NAACP You Have the Right to Vote" and
posters of Obama, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Muhammad Ali. In more than a dozen posters, no one is white.

"There's some confusion when people see an Irish guy as president of the NAACP chapter," Flynn says later. "I've had my fair share of comments."

Standing behind the poster of Malcolm X, Flynn talks about what he considers the lack of rights for prisoners. Sentenced at 16 after pleading guilty to a highly publicized New Hampshire murder, Flynn, now 35, has spent his adult life behind bars. He did not know anything about the NAACP when he arrived and is surprised to learn that he is one of the few whites leading an organization chapter.

The history he does know comes from a few well-worn pages photocopied from books, passed down from the men who chartered the chapter to try to improve conditions in the majority-white prison. From those pages, he learned that the NAACP was founded 100 years ago by both blacks and whites, a fact he enthusiastically repeats whenever anyone asks him what a white man is doing in charge.

And if the question is why he is in the association at all, he explains that it seems better than the Jaycees and the Longtimers, the only other organizations the prison allows, because the NAACP chapter receives outside support. The leaders of the Portland NAACP branch and Jealous have been willing to meet with prison officials on behalf of the inmates. With "an extra-powerful support group on the street," Flynn says the prisoners can get the officials' attention. They have been able to get them to grant them lower phone rates and to issue new rules that let social groups meet more often.

Joseph "JJ" Jackson -- the chapter's vice president, who is black -- was locked up in May 1995 and knows Flynn well. "This is a black organization, but you have that felon beside your name and that makes you a minority," he says. "You're treated like you're black. Frankly, everybody needs civil rights here."

Flynn and Jackson take their work seriously. Flynn says he runs his meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order and mails out the minutes to the Portland branch of the NAACP, which sends them to the NAACP national headquarters in Baltimore, where Jealous's assistant reviews them. Together, the inmates and their backers on the outside were able to organize this meeting, where prisoners can register to vote.

During the gathering, Flynn tells the inmates seated before him in plastic chairs that Maine is one of only two states that gives inmates that right. He soon finishes his speech and sits down while the men fill out their cards.

A wary female guard stands at the door, eyes darting from face to face. Another guard walks the edges of the room. A prison administrator stands at the back holding her hand over her mouth as she talks to the guard next to her so that the inmates can't read her lips. The prisoners remain orderly and calm.

A rainbow of prisoners

Then Jealous speaks. He takes a moment to look out at his audience. A Native American with long black hair is sitting four rows from the front; and two black men, one bald and another with cornrows, are sitting in the back row. A Latino man is near the front, and a South Asian man is in the center of the crowd. The rest are white.
"It was pointed out that the name of the NAACP is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. That confuses folks sometimes," says Jealous, standing behind the wooden lectern. "As they say, colored people come in all colors."

The inmates laugh.

"No one should be denied the right to vote in this country -- period," Jealous ends.

From the front row, the grizzly-bear-looking inmate, named Richard, stands to applaud. Most of the other men do, too.

During this week, Jealous will travel to six states in six days, but unlike the fundraiser in Boston and the anti-police-brutality rally outside of Chicago, here he is confined. He cannot work the room, so he stands stiffly and takes a few questions.

Soon a guard taps Flynn on the shoulder. "Time to go. Wrap it up."

Jealous stands by the door -- another guard hovering over his shoulder -- shaking hands as the men file out. The buff young white man wearing a white T-shirt and gray sweats, says "Thank you." So does the chubby balding man with glasses. The gray-haired man with the blue letters tattooed on his forehead slips out without a word.

"Thank you. Thank you, sir. Appreciate it. All right," Jealous says as they leave.

The Native American inmate stops the line.

"Do you think you can help the red man get his headband like you helped the Muslim get his kufi?" he asks Jealous, who tells him to talk to Flynn and Jackson.

Jealous is then ushered out, too, back through the prison courtyard. Through a metal door that bangs shut behind him. He returns the safety beeper and is given his BlackBerry and ID. He shakes hands with the warden, Jeffrey Merrill, who thanks him for coming and invites him back. "It's educational," Merrill says. "The men need that."

Across the prison, doors are closing as the inmates are returned to their cells. Clang. Clang.

Outside, another door closes with a soft click.

"It's nice for a change not to see so many black folks," Jealous says as he pulls away.
Exclusive: Roslyn Brock, Youngest Chair of NAACP

By Jenisha Watts

Essence.com

February 21, 2010

It started with Roslyn Brock taking an aptitude test in high school to determine her skill set. The curious student wanted to figure out her track for college, the results revealed that she should either pursue a law degree, attend medical school or become a hospital administrator. She knew that her career interests were not in medicine or law. Instead she learned everything that she could about hospital administration. "That became the path that I was on so healthcare was really my passion and calling in life," says Brock. Her impressive resume supports her mission. The 44-year-old widow has been a member of numerous health reform committees and has published articles on the health care system. She earned a master's degree in health services administration from George Washington University, an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Brock speaks to ESSENCE.com in her first interview since the announcement of her election as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NAACP. The Fort Pierce, Florida native shares her plans for the oldest Civil Rights organization and how she will lead a "new generation" of advocates to achieve her objectives. In addition, she comments on First Lady Michelle Obama's initiative to reduce childhood obesity.

In making the announcement of her election, Ben Jealous, President of the NAACP who at 35 was the youngest person appointed to lead the organization said, "I am very excited that Roslyn is our new [Chairman for the Board of Directors for the NAACP], she is a huge advocate for social justice and very involved and focused on the crisis for today and the histories of tomorrow. She brings a sense of urgency for all of us who were born assets of the great Civil Rights movement."

ESSENCE.com: First, congratulations on being the fourth and youngest Chairman of the Board of Directors of the nation's oldest and largest Civil Rights organization. How are you feeling?

ROSLYN BROCK: Thank you. A lot of people have had a hand in it. To be at this place is truly a blessing. I never thought I could possibly lead this organization knowing that it is a male-dominated organization and only had three women prior to this time. The fact that only two African American women
have served as chair really made it seem out of my reach. But as I have continued to walk this journey and develop who I am both professionally and personally, getting a little closer seemed possible. This is truly a blessing.

**ESSENCE.com**: What are some of your plans for the NAACP?

**BROCK**: I really want to focus on the NAACP when it comes to what I call PGA, which is an acronym for Policy, Government and Accountability at the board level as well as focusing our ability to properly align our support with the work of the NAACP. I want to make sure that our message is relevant for a new generation of civil rights and human rights advocates.

**ESSENCE.com**: You spoke about your passion for healthcare. What do you think about the First Lady's pledge to reduce childhood obesity?

**BROCK**: I think it is a timely, timely initiative. Because when you see [some] of our young people, they are grossly overweight and it really determines their self-esteem at such young ages during their life span and the quality of life that they have, particularly with communities of color. I think she is right on target in terms of trying to address good nutrition, opportunities to focus on exercise and healthier eating in our households.

**ESSENCE.com**: How will you ensure that your ideas will work?

**BROCK**: I am working closely with President Ben Jealous and the board. We are also planning to have a retreat in the spring to really look at who we are and where we are as we roll out this first year of our second century. Right now, I do not have anything specific, but it is a wonderful opportunity for the NAACP. The future of the nation is calling and the NAACP has an answer.
A New Mission for the NAACP

This February the NAACP marked its 100th anniversary. The venerable organization was on the front lines of some of the most important human-rights battles of the 20th century. But “venerable” is often a polite word for “passé.” During the past several years, there have been times when even supporters have questioned the NAACP’s role in the modern world.

The organization barely limped through the early 1990s after the board dismissed CEO Ben Chavis for improperly using NAACP funds to settle a sexual-harassment suit. Former congressman Kweisi Mfume nursed the NAACP back to financial health. Bruce Gordon was supposed to reenergize it. But instead of reinvigorating the association, it wore him down: the former Verizon executive resigned in 2007, less than two years into the job.

Benjamin Jealous, 36, named to the top job last May, is the youngest NAACP CEO ever. And he has taken over at a time when some Americans question the need for not just the NAACP but for all the civil-rights groups that came of age when blacks were denied the vote, lynching was commonplace and segregation was the proud cause of the South. This, of course, is a new day, with an African-American president who embodies the dream of the civil-rights generation (even if he may not share its preoccupations). “We’re in completely new territory,” Jealous told me recently.

With Jealous, the NAACP is also in completely new territory. He is the first post-baby boomer to head the association, and hopes his more activist bent will appeal to a much-needed new generation of supporters. Like Barack Obama, Jealous is an Ivy League graduate who began his career in community organizing. He also is biracial. Jealous’s father, Fred, hailed from a prominent New England family that traced back its American roots to before the Revolution. Fred’s decision to marry a black woman created a family scandal. “My father was disowned,” says Jealous.

His parents, who met as graduate students at Antioch University, were steeped in the social movements of the times: “Mom desegregated her high school [in Baltimore] at age 14 ... and she would spend her summers desegregating lunch counters in southern Virginia.” His father was arrested at an antisegregation sit-in. “He was the only white guy in jail with a bunch of black activists,” says Jealous. “As a child, he would take me to protests. He registered me as a conscientious objector at age 5.”

Jealous grew up in Monterey, Calif., and came east to Columbia University. The draw was Jack Greenberg, then the undergraduate dean. A former head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Greenberg had argued numerous cases before the Supreme Court, including Brown v. Board of Education. Jealous worshiped Greenberg, who arranged a work-study job for him at the NAACP-LDF. Jealous planned to become a lawyer and follow in Greenberg’s footsteps. “And then Jack kicked me out of college for protests,” recalls Jealous.

Jealous was among those students who occupied university property in 1992 in opposition to a proposal to turn the Audubon Ballroom (where Malcolm X was assassinated) into a biomedical facility. After being kicked out, Jealous worked in Mississippi as a community organizer for the NAACP, fighting a state plan to close two historically black colleges. He also worked as a journalist, investigating corruption at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman for the black-owned Jackson Advocate.

He forgot about becoming a lawyer—litigating cases took a lot of time, sometimes decades. But, says Jealous, “in a two-year period of being a journalist in Mississippi, I saved an inmate’s life, got a black farmer exonerated and had a couple of other smaller successes ... That was a pace I could work with.”

He returned to Columbia with focus and a renewed sense of mission; he also won a Rhodes scholarship (“one of the few achievements you could have as a young black man that would force the most privileged white man to second-guess himself”). After graduating from Columbia and earning his master’s degree at Oxford, Jealous worked for the National Newspaper Publishers Association and Amnesty International before being named president of the California-based Rosenberg Foundation, which focuses largely on civil-rights work. That’s where he was when the NAACP came calling.

He hopes to make the association matter in a way that it has not for a long time: as an irresistible voice for progressive change. “Our first victory in this country was ending lynch-mob justice,” he points out. “We never succeeded in passing the [anti-lynching] law; we simply shamed the country into consensus.” He hopes the NAACP can be successful in building a new national consensus on issues ranging from racial profiling to education reform to reversing “the mass incarceration of black people in this country.” His more visible, more aggressive NAACP will spawn a new mass movement, mobilizing support for wider health-care access and quality jobs. The new NAACP also will monitor the president and “hold him accountable to ... his own ambitions.” Those are big dreams for an organization that many have long thought of as irrelevant. But then, as President Obama himself has shown, audacity—coupled with focus and passion—can lead to interesting things.
Leadership 500

The Miami Herald

NAACP plans to move in new direction

The NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, wants to draw younger members and tackle issues that go beyond those affecting blacks.

BY JAMES H. BURNETT III

Miami Herald

May 29, 2010

As the NAACP gathered in Hollywood, Fla., over the weekend for its sixth annual Leadership 500 Summit, its president Benjamin Todd Jealous said the 101-year-old civil rights organization is moving in a new direction to draw younger members and to go beyond black issues.

Leadership 500, NAACP’s official “young adult” wing, is the brainchild of association chairman Roslyn Brock, who says she conceived the idea to give a means of entry to civil rights activism to anxious young people who’d been lamenting that they wanted to participate but couldn't get past the organization’s “gray wall.”

Indeed for the first time in NAACP’s history, more than a dozen large chapters nationwide have presidents who are white, Latino, Native American or Asian. And two weeks ago, the NAACP joined the legal battle against Arizona’s controversial immigration law, which some view as discriminatory against Hispanics.

The vast majority of last year's five percent membership increase to 600,000 nationwide, was comprised of 20-, 30- and 40-somethings.

Jealous himself recently turned 37, and NAACP chairman Roslyn Brock is 44, making them both members of Generation X.

And the percentage of 20- to 40-somethings making up NAACP general membership has risen from 14 percent to nearly 25 percent over the past 10 years.

``Last year our membership -- paid memberships -- went up by five percent . . . in a recession,” Jealous said, following a town hall-style meeting at the Westin Diplomat on Saturday morning. ``As for our diversity, people forget that our founding chairman was a white woman."

Thursday through Sunday, conventioneers attended workshops led by corporate, government and military authorities, including federal judges, a U.S. Army brigadier general, an FBI agent and retired National Security Agency director and a host of Internet entrepreneurs who boasted seven-figure revenues and higher.

Perhaps most unique were the recurring themes of redefining civil rights issues and peacefully changing the guard of NAACP leadership, so that younger members can shape its identity.
One of the most heavily attended workshops was not about race but rather about healthcare reform.

Panelist Chris Foster, of the global strategy firm Booz Allen Hamilton and a healthcare administration expert, said healthcare reform was a new civil rights battleground -- one of major importance to African Americans but one ```all Americans have a stake in, too.''

``What we will see moving forward will be a very different level of advocacy, engagement and accountability as we move towards the implementation of the legislation. Implementation will spark additional dialogues and call for us to challenge assumptions and our core values. This will help our young people remain very active and involved in healthcare moving forward,'' Foster said.

At Saturday's town hall gathering, Edwin V. Avent, publisher of Heart & Soul Magazine, urged African Americans to become environmentalists and advocate for clean food sources and waterways.

Avent warned that that the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will impact tens of thousands of ethnic minorities living in the region.

```Today's African American is facing different things than 60 years ago,'' Avent said.

Steve Benjamin, an NAACP board member, and the 40-year-old mayor-elect of Columbia, S.C., told a group on Friday afternoon that he recruited voters and support through social networks like Facebook instead of telephone books to unseat a powerful incumbent and become the city's first black mayor.

Benjamin said he also won votes from other ethnic groups by focusing his campaign on issues important to Americans of all backgrounds: ```the economy, jobs, insurance and so on.''

As the NAACP draws younger members, the most difficult mission facing the organization will be keeping its core mission -- fighting for civil rights of blacks -- while taking on new battles.
Tens of thousands attend progressive 'One Nation Working Together' rally in Washington
By Krissah Thompson and Spencer Hsu
The Washington Post
October 2, 2010

A wide array of progressive groups drew tens of thousands of activists to the Lincoln Memorial on Saturday for a rally aimed at firing up their members and showcasing the diversity of their movement.

It was the left wing's first large gathering designed to counter the conservative tea party phenomenon, and many speakers warned that a Republican-controlled Congress would block or roll back progressive changes. Organizers said they also wanted to show that their supporters represent the majority of the nation.

"This march was inclusive," said NAACP President Benjamin Jealous, one of the lead organizers. "We have seen cabdrivers come down from New York, truck drivers from Oklahoma. This is about moving the country with the spirit of unity and hope, and getting the country beyond the divisiveness."

The gathering occurred about one month after conservatives met on the same spot to unite around television personality Glenn Beck's vision of a nation returned to more traditional and religious values.

Ed Schultz, the liberal host of MSNBC's "The Ed Show," served as one of the show's master of ceremonies and harshly criticized the tea party and conservatives. "They talk about the Constitution, but they don't want to live by it," he said to loud applause. "They talk about the forefathers, but they practice discrimination. They want to change this country."

Then, he led the crowd in a chant. "Are you America?" he yelled.

"Yes!" came the loud response.

Saturday's gathering featured many speakers; at times it appeared that organizers wanted to give everyone an opportunity to have their say. The rally lacked central charismatic speakers like Beck and former Alaska governor Sarah Palin, or the two men who will headline an Oct. 30
event on the Mall - Comedy Central television personalities Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. Also unlike the Beck event, the progressive groups were explicit about their desire to reenergize their political base. Beck said his goal was to honor soldiers.

The more than four hours of speeches, poetry and music were buttressed with testimonials from out-of-work Americans, immigrants, veterans and Native Americans. They focused on jobs, education and human rights issues in particular.

Edrie Irvine, a laid-off legal secretary from Silver Spring, shared her story with a gathering of unemployed workers that fed into the larger rally. "The recession was caused by the banks, greed and deregulation," she said. "It didn't have anything to do with me, but I lost my job."

James Keane, who carried a sign that read "Jesus Christ is a Liberal," said he drove from New York City because he felt "it's about time the Democrats marched."

"We've stood by and watched the tea party people go crazy every couple of months," said Keane, who is unemployed. "It's time for Democrats to stand up and fight for what they believe in. Obama has been a great leader, but so many in the Democratic leadership have been playing the fence."

The crowd Saturday, which stretched down the steps of the Lincoln Memorial then petered out down the sides of the reflecting pool, heard repeatedly that voters must band together to keep the country from going back to conservative policies. Speakers also called for a more robust jobs program funded by the federal government and the passage of big legislative programs, such as overhauling immigration laws and providing more money for education.

Still, attendees echoed some of the same frustrations that tea party protesters have been bringing to the Mall during the past 18 months - though their goals are different.

Kimberly Hall took a bus from the Detroit area with 45 members of the NAACP and her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. "I don't like the direction the country is going in," she said. "The auto industry built this country and we are giving it away. We need to take care of home before we start to support other nations."
Luz Villafana, a retired city worker and union member, flew from San Diego because she worries that her children had a better chance for a good education than her grandchildren do.

"We have to demand that the Congress represents us, not the corporations," said Villafana, who wore a purple Service Employees International Union t-shirt.

The leaders of the march celebrated its diversity - in terms of race and the motivations of the attendees. It began with an ecumenical faith program, and groups supporting a variety of causes gathered in their own niches before joining together. The range of participants - who included youth groups to members of the New York City Democratic Socialists of America and the Church of the Evangelical United Church of Christ - showed the tensions in the coalition.

The socially conservative National Baptist Convention stood beside members of the Human Rights Campaign, and members of the mine workers union allied with environmental activists.

Holding the coalition together is the next challenge.

"The truth is there is a lot of focus on the march itself, but a march without a plan of action . . . is simply a one-day event," said Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. "What this is about is using this march as a launching pad for policy change."
NAACCP Releases Report on Troubling Tea Party Ties
July's resolution denouncing Tea Party racism was just the beginning. Now the civil rights group is naming names as it details connections between Tea Party affiliates and militias, anti-immigrant organizations and white-power groups.

The Root
By Cord Jefferson
Oct. 20, 2010

July's resolution denouncing Tea Party racism was just the beginning. Now the civil rights group is naming names as it details connections between Tea Party affiliates and militias, anti-immigrant organizations and white-power groups.

The NAACP and the Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights (IREHR) today fired the second official salvo in the battle between civil rights groups and the Tea Party movement. In a report released this morning, "Tea Party Nationalism," IREHR researchers Devin Burghart and Leonard Zeskind detail the origins of the Tea Party and its connections to militias, anti-immigrant organizations and white-power groups.

NAACP President Ben Jealous writes in a foreword to the report, "We know the majority of Tea Party supporters are sincere, principled people of good will," but, he adds, "links between certain Tea Party factions and acknowledged racist hate groups in the United States ... should give all patriotic Americans pause."

"Tea Party Nationalism" comes several months after the NAACP passed a resolution condemning what it regards as troubling racism within the ranks of the Tea Party movement.

"We take issue with the Tea Party's continued tolerance for bigotry and bigoted statements," Jealous said in a statement released at the NAACP's 101st annual convention in July. "The time has come for them to accept the responsibility that comes with influence and make clear there is no space for racism and anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry in their movement."

Citing numerous instances of anti-Semitism, "birtherism" (the belief that President Barack Obama is not American), white nationalism and nativism, "Tea Party Nationalism" paints a portrait of the nascent Tea Party movement as one with significant dangerous undertones. An addendum to the report, "The Racism Within," even goes so far as to name specific Tea Party supporters the IREHR considers especially worrisome.
In Arkansas, Billy Roper, a self-described white nationalist who advocates for an all-white America, was once "an enrolled member of the ResistNet Tea Party." However, since Roper was exposed as a racist by a report in *The Kansas City Star*, ResistNet and other Tea Party supporters in the Arkansas area have either totally disavowed his ties to their organization or "denied that they even knew him."

In another example, Larry Pratt, a former Republican member of the Virginia Legislature, has for years argued for a "no compromise" gun control stance (that is to say, he opposes any form of gun regulation whatsoever). Pratt is also an active member of the Tea Party Nation and 1776 Tea Party, according to Burghart and Zeskind.

"Tea Party Nationalism" goes on to list dozens of other people of concern, the most famous of whom is Mark Williams, the former chairman of the Tea Party Express, one of the largest Tea Party organizations in America. Williams, who infamously said, "Obamacare is essentially a version of eugenics, even genocide or perhaps an ethnic cleansing -- or all three," was forced out of the Tea Party federation in July because of an inappropriate satirical letter he posted in response to the NAACP's resolution. He has since had little to no involvement with major Tea Party organizations.

In his foreword, Jealous makes it a point to say that the NAACP resolution precipitated at least two major pushes for diversity in the Tea Party: a "Uni-Tea" rally and a Web drive, "Diverse Tea," to expose minority members of the Tea Party movement. But he also argues that there's more work to be done. "I hope the leadership and members of the Tea Party movement will read this report and take additional steps to distance themselves from those Tea Party leaders who espouse racist ideas, advocate violence, or are formally affiliated with white supremacist organizations," he says.

For their part, Tea Party movement members have mostly dismissed the IREHR findings. "Here we go again," said Judson Phillips, founder of Tea Party Nation, in an interview with *The Kansas City Star*. "This is typical of this liberal group's smear tactics."