

Chronology

of the San Diego NAACP

1914 October 12: Edward R. Johnson, a church janitor who resides at 2242 N. Street, writes to NAACP headquarters:

Dear Sirs,

The leading colored citizens of San Diego, California, request me solicit such information from you as will enable us to have a branch organization or enroll at headquarters as you may deem best. Awaiting our early reply I remain

Faithfully Yours

E. R. Johnson

Similar letters are later sent by mail carrier Walter L. McDonald, drug store porter Nathan J. Milan, and future branch president William T. Hendrey.

1915 June 19: The first appearance of the “National Association for the Advancement of Colored People” in connection with blacks in San Diego occurs in a letter to the editor published in the *San Diego Union*. In disassociating themselves with the rumored plan of J. Goodman Brayes (a black man from Los Angeles who is a suspicious stranger to them) to start an industrial school for black youth in the county, a number of black community leaders sign the letter, including four who indicate their affiliation is with the NAACP though branch status has neither been applied for nor granted. The four are Walter L. McDonald, N. J. Milan, W. E. Cleveland, N. Robinson, and Edward W. Anderson.

1917 W. E. B. Du Bois (standing third from left in photo), on a tour of western states, stops in San Diego to confer with an organizing committee hopeful of launching a branch. He stays at the Ocean Beach home of his dear friends, Charles and Martha Dodge, at 5074 Long Branch, and poses for a group photo.



1918 December 10: Branch organizing meeting is held and formal application for establishing a branch is completed. “Application for Charter” dated January 1, 1919 lists 65 dues-paying founding members (mostly \$1.00 memberships) with their addresses and occupations.

1919 February 3: "Executive Authorization" to establish the San Diego branch of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is approved by headquarters officials Mary W. Ovington and John Shillady. Final approval of the board of director was contingent upon recruitment of at least 50 branch members and the election of branch officers.

March 6: The charter is received by branch officials from headquarters.

April 22: The charter is presented to members by Superior Court Judge Spencer M. March at the branch's first mass meeting.

April 29: Prominent black attorney Edward Burton Ceruti (right), founder of the Los Angeles NAACP, speaks at a mass meeting of the branch at the Lincoln School auditorium at 12th and E streets.



May 15: On his first organizing effort on the West Coast, James Weldon Johnson visits San Diego and later claims he assisted the branch in recruiting prominent sympathetic whites including, he writes, "two judges, the chief of police and the city treasurer."

July 4: An article in the *San Diego Union* about the growth of the NAACP reads in part: "Most of the branches have been organized by white people, but it is said that negroes (sic) of San Diego have been the first to organize themselves and to invite white citizens to join with them. The white membership here includes some of the most prominent citizens: Mayor Wilde is a contributing member. . . ."

August 1: The *San Diego Union*, which dutifully reports on the early meetings of the branch, estimates branch membership at 347 (126 whites and 221 blacks). A successful membership drive the previous June which "exceeded its quota" is rewarded with a pennant from headquarters.

1920 February 12: A reception is held for Mary B. Talbert, an African American co-founder of the Niagara Movement which preceded the founding of the NAACP, at the home of Charles and Martha Dodge in Ocean Beach.



April 12: Rev. G. W. Reed, president of the Pacific Slope Baptist Convention and president of the San Bernardino NAACP, is guest speaker at a branch meeting.

April 23: Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, director of the San Diego Museum, is guest speaker at a regular branch meeting. He talks about youth character building. Legal redress committee expresses concern about the trials of two black boys who are under arrest.

October 22: A forum at a school auditorium is sponsored by the branch to educate citizens about current political issues, including the alien land law and state ballot initiatives. A city councilman and several other civic leaders attend.

November 7: A meeting of the branch at the Logan Heights Congregational Church features speakers Superior Court Judge Spencer M. March (right) and Rev. William R. Carter, superintendent of the Southern California Negro Baptist Convention. The public is invited and a choir performs.



1921 March 19: NAACP co-founder and board chairperson Mary White Ovington, speaks to the branch at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

1922 September: A letter from branch member Ella R. Hutson to UNIA official Noah Thompson is published in *The Crisis*. She asked rhetorically if she would be wise to send money to purchase shares of Marcus Garvey's Black Star Line. She concluded: ". . . maybe I had better keep my hard earnings at home, for I have an aged mother to support and I haven't one penny to throw away."

1923 January 12: Roving at-large white member Charlotte Stearns, the branch's self-appointed publicist/social coordinator, writes to W. E. B. Du Bois: "Branch here has gone 'all colored' lately as to boards and committees practically speaking anyway--but old white members are still interested. We used to have nearly two hundred of these (white members)."

February 6: A letter to Robert W. Bagnall (right), NAACP Director of Drives, from branch board member Martha Dodge announces that she has begun to establish an auxiliary youth group with about 25 members. She requests instructions for obtaining a charter. She writes: "Our main object in organizing was to help the Senior Branch with its proportionment and also to provide wholesome pleasure for the young people under the watchful eye of the Senior Branch, and by giving various entertainments to get enough money to build a recreation center for our young people here, as we have nothing of the kind." This starts a controversy that rages for six years.



May 10: Missouri Congressman Leonidas C. Dryer, author of the Dryer Anti-Lynching Bill, is the invited speaker of the branch. He speaks at the First Unitarian Church at 6th and Cedar.



1923 March 5: W.E.B. Du Bois arrives in town to speak this evening on "The Black Man in the Wounded World" at the First Baptist Church, 10th and E streets. He is introduced by branch board member Superior Court Judge Spencer M. Marsh (1864-1932). Negro spirituals are song by a choir and a "silver offering" is taken.

May 28: California Senate Bill No. 113, Chapter 235, “An act to amend sections fifty-one and fifty-two of the Civil Code,” is approved. This legislation came about because two daughters of branch board member Robert V. Green, a black minister and real estate agent, were denied service in a drug store. Branch president Charles H. Dodge asked Judge Alfred Haines (right) to “draw up an amendment” that would expand coverage of the state’s civil rights law to include establishments that sell cold drinks, ice cream, and soft drinks.



1924 February 27: Branch president writes to field secretary James Weldon Johnson: “Colored people [in San Diego] are not allowed in restaurants, nor to drink soda water in drugstores, nor can they rent bathing suits at any bathing house or beach in this city.”

May 13: Premier black violinist Clarence Cameron White performs at the Lincoln School auditorium at 3pm. A branch fundraiser, admission is \$5.00.



September 23: There is a celebration of Emancipation Day by the branch at the Civic Auditorium in Balboa Park.

1925 August 16: San Diego Congressman Philip D. Swing speaks at the monthly meeting of the branch.

September 14: Willis O. Tyler, a black attorney from Los Angeles, speaks to the branch on "The Negro and His Advancement" at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

1926 May 2: Under the auspices of the branch, NAACP field secretary William Pickens speaks at the First Unitarian Church.

1927 February: At the invitation of this friends, former branch officials Charles and Martha Dodge, W. E. Du Bois visits and speaks to a group comprised of a number of dissenters in the branch, causing additional suspicion and turmoil.

May 27: The “Kiddie Review” involving 29 boys and girls performing “Vaudeville and Specialties” is held as a fundraiser at Lincoln School.

July 15: The branch arranges a reception for star high school athlete Bert Ritchey at Bethel A.M.E. Church. Years later Ritchey is a respected policeman and attorney in the city.

September 8: A Western Union telegram from James Weldon Johnson reads: “NATIONAL OFFICE CONGRATULATES BRANCH ON SPLENDID VICTORY.” This was in response to the branch’s actions that culminated in the desegregation of San Diego County Hospital’s nurse training program.



1928 May 14: Monthly meeting is held at the Japanese Congregational Church at 431 13th Street.

November 2: Letter from Robert W. Bagnall, Director of Branches, reads: "I wish to congratulate the San Diego Branch on its accomplishments in securing the administration of colored children to the Children's Welfare Home. This is another fine piece of work to be added to the splendid record of your Branch."

December 2: An editorial by Rev. J. H. Brown in the newsletter of Calvary Baptist Church, *Calvary's Messenger*, harshly criticizes officials of the branch charging: "The local branch N.A.A.C.P. of San Diego is about to become a local association for the boosting of white people."

1929 January 21: Branch president Dennis V. Allen, exhausted by the long and nasty controversy over the youth auxiliary and proposed recreation center, sends his resignation letter to headquarters.

February 12: Former branch president Judge Alfred Haines speaks on "Lincoln the Man" at a Lincoln Day celebration at Calvary Baptist Church.

November 23: NAACP field secretary Williams Pickens (right), speaks at the First Unitarian Church on "Some Aspects of the Race Problems of America Today."



1930 February 27: Retired businessman J. W. Gossard speaks to the branch on "The Requisites of Success."

March 27: The donation of a bust by African American sculptor Sargent Johnson (right), is received by the Fine Arts Society and is the occasion for a ceremony at the Art Gallery in Balboa Park. The featured speaker is branch president Rebecca Craft. Invitations to the affair are jointly issued by the branch and the Inter-Racial Committee.



April 12-14: Field secretary William Pickens spends three days in San Diego addressing audiences at Zion A.M.E. Church and Bethel A.M.E. Church.

June 29: Preceded by a parade with a float, the branch's second annual baby contest is held on the playgrounds of Memorial Junior High School and is later reported in considerable detail in the *San Diego Union* and accompanied with photos in a piece in *The Crisis*. \$312 is raised.



1931 April 9: An article in the *San Diego Union* announces the commencement of a class on “The Negro in History,” offered by the branch and taught at night at San Diego High School.

October 26: A meeting is held at Calvary Baptist Church to protest the War Department’s plan for demobilization of the 10th Calvary (Buffalo Soldiers) and 24th and 25th infantry, all-black military units.

1932 April 7: Because of the absence of black workers on the El Capitan Dam project the branch informs headquarters it has asked that the City Council to consider passing an ordinance to ban “discrimination against citizens as workers on public projects because of race or color.”

1933 April: In connection with National Negro Health Week, the branch arranges for a weekly clinic, radio broadcast, and a healthy baby contest. To insure success, Dr. Fred C. Calvert (right), one of the two black physicians in town, is enlisted to oversee activities.



November 21: A letter from filed secretary William Pickens to branch president Edward W. Anderson regarding apportionment of dues sent to headquarters starts with the sentence: “Really, San Diego has done better so far than any other branch west of the Rock Mountains.”

December 2: A resolution is adopted by the branch that denounces Gov. James Rolph Jr. who verbally gave moral support the mob that carried out the lynching of a white accused murderer in San Jose.

December 3: Letter to the editor from branch secretary Walter McDonald is published in the *San Diego Evening Tribune* in which he commends the newspaper for taking a strong, principled stand against lynching.

1934 February 12: Rev. Adam Clayton Powell Sr. (right) of New York City delivers the principal speech at the branch-sponsored Lincoln-Douglass celebration at Bethel Baptist Church.



July: In the July 1934 issue of *The Crisis* field secretary Daisy Lampkin recalls: “A delightful trip of 5 hours along the Pacific shore carried me to San Diego where 3 days were spent with the members of one of the most faithful of the N.A.A.C.P. Branches. A Campaign organization was set up with the goal of 300 members, directed by Mrs. Joseph Childress and Mr. D. (sic) W. Anderson. The San Diego Branch has been active for a number of years against racial discrimination in this naval port, and has won the respect of the community in this effort.”



December 29: At a branch mass meeting there is a discussion of the Costigan-Wagner federal anti-lynching bill.



1935 November 17: At a special ceremony of the branch's youth division graduating high school senior Thelma Gorham Thompson is given a \$50 scholarship (equivalent to \$800 today) to attend San Diego State College.

1936 October 25: On his working tour of the West Coast, NAACP special counsel Charles Hamilton Houston (left) stays at the home of branch secretary Alvessie C. Hackshaw. He speaks at Bethel Baptist Church.

November 22: Dr. C. H. Hudson, state president of NAACP speaks to the branch at an open forum.

1938 February 27: Atty. Curtis Taylor of Los Angeles addresses branch members.

1940 November 13: NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White (right) speaks on "The Negro and National Defense" at the First Unitarian Church. Branch president Theodore Brinson presides.



1941 April 24: Branch officials announce that demonstrations scheduled at area defense plants to protest the lack of hiring of blacks is postponed because, "following a series of conferences with public officials, who expressed the view that differences over employment of colored men in defense industries eventually could be adjusted."

1942 July 23: William Pickens, former NAACP field secretary, now on the U.S. Treasury Department's War Savings Committee, speaks to the branch on "The Negro's Place in War Defense," at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

1943 April 18: Pleasant L. Johnson, branch treasurer from 1924 to 1939, dies in San Diego at age 83. A beloved man known widely as an expert gardener, he was also a tailor and a Mason.

1944 January: Assemblyman Augustus F. Hawkins (future Congressman) of Los Angeles gives a talk to the branch at Bethel A.M.E. Church on how good government affects racial groups.



October 15: Future branch president Rev. John J. Lewis has his eulogy of former Republican Party presidential candidate Wendell Willkie published in the *San Diego Union*.

1945 April 29: Mercer Z. Ray, branch president, speaks on "Problems of Negro Housing" on the campus of San Diego State College.

1946 March: Though led mainly by communist activists, the branch lends its support to picketing of white-owned businesses, concentrated where blacks reside, that are slow to employ them.

1947 July 24: Police Chief Clifford Peterson is introduced to the branch by president Dr. Jack Kimbrough. Peterson gives a talk on police brutality and fields questions from the audience.

August 2: Black attorney Loren Miller of Los Angeles, chairman of the NAACP legal committee, addresses the branch on the topic of restrictive covenants, a legal maneuver that prevents blacks from buying homes in predominantly white neighborhoods. He had previously won attention for representing black entertainers Hattie McDaniel and Ethel Waters in housing discrimination cases.

1948 The branch revises its constitution.

May 23: The opening of the "Portraits of Outstanding Americans of Negro Origin" at the Fine Arts Gallery in Balboa Park is co-sponsored by the branch. The exhibit contains 34 portraits of distinguished African Americans and has toured major U.S. cities.

October 28: NAACP regional secretary Noah W. Griffin of San Francisco speaks at Bethel Baptist Church.



1949 February 25: Guest speakers at a branch forum share their expertise on the role and operations of the City Council and the Board of Education.

March: The branch retains an attorney to defend Robert Sewell, a black man accused of robbing and murdering his former employer, a junk yard owner, because it believes his confession was obtained involuntarily and under duress. Sewell was convicted and died of pneumonia in prison two years later at age 26.



March 7: Gordon H. Stafford, branch board member, has his letter to the editor of *Time* magazine published protesting the offensive racial caricature of a watermelon-chomping black man in an ad (left). The letter reads:

“It seems incredible that a magazine which usually does a fairly good job of reporting on inter-racial affairs and which is willing to acknowledge Dr. Ralph Bunch as ‘a new colossus’ should be guilty of the printing of an advertisement which is offensive to so many people. The Board of the Directors of the San Diego Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People takes this means of expressing their indignation and resentment.”

1950 October 17: Civil rights leader and author Bayard Rustin is co-sponsored by the branch to speak on "Race, War, and Peace" at the Logan Heights Community Congregational Church.



1951 April 22: Admiral Elliott M. Senn recounts his historic voyage to Yalta with President Roosevelt and other international leaders, sponsored by the branch. St Paul's Methodist Church is the venue.

1952 February 13: The branch offers a free showing of the movie "The Quiet One," winner of the 1950 New York Motion Picture Critics Award, at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

October 19: NAACP official Roy Wilkins along with Robert Wilson and DeGraff Austin, two candidates for Congress, address the branch at First Unitarian Church.

November 25: Branch board member Sherman W. Smith, one of the three black attorney's in town, speaks to the Political Science Club at San Diego State College on the topic "The Negro's Place in Politics."



1953 August 11: Edward W. Anderson, highly successful businessman who served multiple terms as branch president, dies in Paradise Valley Hospital at age 81.

1954 July 30: Dr. Jack Kimbrough leads a discussion on "The Goals of the NAACP" at the Filipino American Veterans Association Hall.

December 11: Among the matters discussed at the Southern Area Conference of 31 NAACP branches meeting at the Cafe Del Rey Moro in Balboa Park is halting blackface minstrel shows in public schools.

1955 The branch is successful in petitioning the County Board of Supervisors to change the name of the road on Palomar Mountain from "Nigger Nate Grade" to "Nathan Harrison Grade Road," which honors a beloved pioneer.

March 4: Threes candidates for city mayor talk on issues of importance at a branch-sponsored forum.

1956 March 27: A mass prayer service is held at the Logan A.M.E. Zion Church in solidarity with ministers and others arrested at demonstrations in Montgomery, Alabama.

April 13: The branch celebrates the 47th anniversary of the founding of the NAACP at a banquet held at the El Cortez Hotel, featuring Franklin H. Williams



of San Francisco, secretary counsel of the organization. A fashion show fundraiser is part of the celebration.

September: Heralding the resurgence of the branch, it is noted in the September issue of *The Crisis* that: "After its reactivation in April, the SAN DIEGO branch has shown a steady increase in its membership, which now totals 600. There are 35 members in the youth division, and four initial payments on the life memberships. The branch has also raised over \$1200 in its FFF (Fight For Freedom) campaign."

October 26: An organizational meeting for a proposed branch credit union is held. A month later a federal credit union is established with an elected president (James E. McCann), board of directors, supervisory committee chairman (Charles H. Hampton), and credit committee chairman (John Young).

November: The branch publicizes the start of its Freedom Seal drive "to aid its campaign to eliminate color and racial discrimination."

1957 October 18: Branch-sponsored forum on "Methods of Integration" in held at Bethel A.M.E. Church.

1958 February 4: Principal speaker at the installation ceremony of branch president James E. McCann is Rev. Maurice A. Dawkins, president of the Los Angeles NAACP .



May 29: Membership drive ends with an address by Marguerite Belafonte, former wife of singer-actor Harry Belafonte, at Bethel Baptist Church. She also attends a reception at the home of branch president James E. McCann.

July 21: It is reported in the *San Diego Union* that the branch's redress committee has documented seven cases of memberships being denied to black golfers at the Balboa Men's Golf Club and it asks that the City Council "enter the issue because the club utilizes city owned property" and that the matter be referred to the city manager and city attorney.

1959 March 6: California Attorney General Stanley Mosk addresses the branch at the Lafayette Hotel.

May 17: At a mass meeting held at Calvary Baptist Church, Dr. Raymond Henderson (right), pastor of Second Baptist Church at Los Angeles, is the featured speaker.



August 8: An ad in the *San Diego Union* invites all branch members and friends to come to a "Night of Swimming" at the Mission Beach Plunge.

October 22: At Russ Auditorium, Assemblyman Augustus Hawkins discusses his proposed legislation to fight public housing discrimination. The branch-sponsored event is attended by important state and local political leaders.

1960 March 19-April 3: At the initiative of the branch led by Dr. Harold E. Burt, and supported by Ted Patrick's (right) Chollas Democratic Club, to show both solidarity with the sit-in demonstrators in the South and to protest discriminatory hiring in San Diego there is picketing at chain stores S. H. Kress & Co., F. W. Woolworth Co., and W. T. Grant Co. Up to 300 persons walk the picket line.



October 28: San Diego State College political science professor Richard Gripp speaks to the branch on "Our International Relations" at Golden Hill Presbyterian Church.



1961 November 23: *Jet* magazine reports: "NORTH OF THE BORDER: Down in San Diego, where the best entertainment is sometimes found just across the border in Tijuana, the local gentry got some imported kicks when Dorothy Dandridge turned up at Archie Moore's house for an NAACP tea and sold kisses for \$25 apiece."

1962 March 31: John F. Henning, director of the Department of Industrial Relations, highlights the annual branch awards dinner at the U.S. Grant Hotel.

August 4: At a public hearing on possible charter changes held before the City Council, branch president James E. McCann advocates election of representatives by districts rather than at large.

October 13: Branch cocktail party and fashion show fundraiser at the El Cortez Hotel. Attending the affair is campaigning California Lt.Gov. Glenn Anderson.

November 12: Mississippi NAACP field secretary Medgar Evers gives a talk on "The True James Meredith Story" at Bethel Baptist Church.

1963 June 18: The murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers in Mississippi inspires a memorial service conducted by the branch at Bethel Baptist Church. Rev. James A. Covington of the Phillips Temple C.M.E. Church delivers the eulogy. Evers had spoke at Bethel the previous November.



October 6: "Freedom Flight 101" is the theme of the branch's fifth annual fashion show fundraiser at the El Cortez Hotel, featuring the Jazz Crusaders and other entertainers. More than 1,000 persons attend.

1964 January: *The Crisis* announces: "San Diego branch reports an increase in hiring of Negroes following presentation of the branch's grievances to city officials. The branch is currently spearheading a selective buying campaign against Pepsi Cola to secure (black) drivers on Pepsi Cola trucks."



March 29: Martin Luther King Jr., president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, arrives at branch headquarters and meets with branch president Hartwell Ragsdale and his staff before embarking on speaking engagements here.

December 1964 thru January 1965: The branch's Youth Council sponsors "Brothers-All," a five-week program that places African students in homes to better acquaint them with African Americans.

1965 August 19: In the wake of the Watts Riot and the potential for violence in Southeast San Diego, branch president Ernest Roberson calls for the creation of a city human relations commission.

December 1: At a meeting in San Francisco of the California Association of School Administrators, NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins criticizes San Diego public schools and echoes the branch's report to headquarters that local school administrators are "adamant and the Board of Education is unresponsive and evasive." He states: "Such an attitude leaves no recourse but boycott and so-called overt action." The branch had also reported that "90 per cent of the city's elementary Negro population attends 16 of 115 schools." Wilkins' comments prompts reaction from school officials who are caught off guard.



1966 January: Branch president Ernest J. Roberson Jr. sends a letter to the Board of Education requesting that it declare a moratorium on city schools site selection and planning due to the "adverse effects" on a proposed bond proposition and efforts to rectify "racial imbalance" in the school district.

1967 March 6: A community rally sponsored by the branch at Lincoln High School's auditorium decried the bomb murder of Natchez, Mississippi NAACP official Wharless Jackson (right).



March 12: Member meeting turned into an angry denunciation of Congressman Lionel Van Deerlin who led the fight or punish Harlem Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr.



March 26: Atty. Thaddeus D. Williams (left), a former Little Rock Arkansas NAACP president, now San Diego resident, talks to the branch about the Hatch Act.

1968 March 2: City Manager Walter Hahn's claim that the city is making strides in solving its racial problems is ridiculed by branch president Tom Johnson in the *San Diego Union*. He charges: "It's a fraud on the public because it leaves the impression that the city has an enlightened program well under way. Nothing could be further from the truth. The city, in fact, is doing absolutely nothing to get at the problem. Instead, it is acting and a protector and preserver of a system of white racism. Mr. Hahn evidently still does not know what the problem is. If he cannot define it or identify it how can he claim to have a program to alleviate it?" Shortly thereafter Johnson, along with some other minority group leaders, end their regularly schedule dialog on racial matters with city officials.

1969 August: Charles Johnson, branch president, informs the press that, in cooperation with the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers (a black group), a survey will be made of radio and television stations' hiring of minority race individuals to see if they are in compliance with FCC regulations.

1970 January 15: In observance of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, the branch holds a ceremony at the Southeast YMCA at 2:30pm. The previous day an article in the *San Diego Union* repeated suggestions by branch president Charles Johnson about what people and institutions could do to honor the memory of Dr. King, including turning on car headlights, taking a day off from work, burning Christmas lights, leaving porch lights on, etc.

October 25: 350 persons hear the Navy's first African American admiral, Samuel L. Gravely, speaks at the branch's annual awards banquet at the Royal Inn at the Wharf.



October 26: Former branch president Tom Johnson reflects on his impressions of Angela Davis, who had attended branch meetings, in *Newsweek* magazine.



1971 November 18: In town to meet with branch president Charles Reid, NAACP national president Kivie Kaplan affirms the branch's resolution to oppose the Republican Party's national convention here because its delegates will stay at hotels whose fair employment practices are lacking.

December: The branch publicizes it will survey local hotels and their employment practices in anticipation of the Republican National Committee meeting here in August. It also threatens to go to court if it finds companies awarded government contracts are not hiring blacks.

1972 January: Charles Reid, branch president, appears before the El Cajon City Council and requests that it take a stronger stand against a "whites only" policy of the Elks Lodge in that city.

1974 January 19: In conjunction with the Black Federation, the branch's first annual awards banquet is held at the Royal Inn at the Wharf. Dr. Wilson Riles, State Superintendent of Instruction is the keynote speaker.



1975 April 6: A concert sponsored by the branch featuring San Diego State University's Gospel Choir is held at Logan Temple A.M.E. Zion Church. Life members and past branch leaders are recognized.

May 17: A branch-organized demonstration outside the offices of the San Diego Unified School District protests racist violence attendant to school desegregation in Boston, Massachusetts.

October 25: Annual awards banquet is held at the Royal Inn at the Wharf.

1976 October 30: The branch's annual awards banquet at the Vacation Village Hotel is held partially to benefit the national organization in its fight against two Mississippi court rulings threatening it. The keynote speaker is Emma Darnell, Atlanta's Commissioner of Administrative Services.



December: The branch receives \$274 from Operation PUSH to be used to defend 14 black Camp Pendleton Marines charged with assault against suspected Ku Klux Klansmen in a barracks.



1977 May 2: Branch president Dr. Charles Thomas chairs Subcommittee C of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Racial Integration of city schools, formed by the Board of Education in accordance to the instruction of Judge Louis Welsh, to submit options and alternatives for an school integration plan.

October 22: Ethel Payne, the dean of black females journalists, is the keynote speaker at the annual awards banquet held at Royal Inn at the Wharf.

1978 April: Unable to resolve disputes with the executive board, Dr. Charles W. Thomas, a psychologist and UC-San Diego professor, resigns as branch president.

June: At the request of the branch, the NAACP Western Regional Office in San Francisco asks the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate recent shootings of black suspects by white San Diego policemen, in particular the shocking killing of Samuel C. Brown on a downtown street that was shown on local television.

September 21: The branch announces it plans a salute to United States Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall at its annual awards banquet. Unfortunately, he later had to cancel his appearance.



October 21: ABC-TV "World News Tonight" anchor Max Robinson is the main speaker at the branch's annual awards dinner held at the U.S. Grant Hotel.



November 20: High ranking NAACP officials arrive at branch headquarters at 2857 Imperial Avenue for a meeting with former branch presidents to kick off "Operation Sweep" to raise \$10,000 and sign up 2,000 members.

December: The branch's membership drive culminates with the addition of at least 1,000 members.

1979 May: Gerri Warren, a field representative for state Sen. James R. Mills, is elected to lead the branch after Tom Johnson resigns and runs for a seat on the school board.

1980 November 28: As earlier announced, the branch boycotts the dinner of the Catfish Club that honors County Superintendent Thomas Goodman as its "Man of the Year."

December 16: Rev. Robert Ard, branch president, tells the press that after consulting with its attorneys it will petition the court to enter the Carlin school desegregation case in order to counter the entry of the anti-busing group called "Groundswell."

1981 February 19: According to an article in the *San Diego Union*, upon learning that Ku Klux Klan leader Tom Metzger had sent in his \$10 membership fee at the suggestion of life member Dr. Henry Corey, the branch rejected his membership and returns his \$10.

June 3: In a commentary in the *San Diego Union* titled "The NAACP Responds to Task Force Critics," branch president Mamie Greene blasts the San Diego Teachers Association and the PTA for their defense of the school board's efforts to address court ordered actions to correct racial imbalance and underperforming minority kids.

November 18: At a press conference with Assemblyman Pete Chacon and Assemblywoman Maxine Waters, Mamie Greene calls for an investigation and disciplinary action against California Supreme Court Justice Stanley Mosk who wrote an anti-affirmative action amendment aimed at government employees.

1982 September 3-7: The branch joins with local social service agencies to sponsor a food drive for the area's needy families.

October: Letters are sent by the branch to 23 hotel managers criticizing their hiring of blacks. A boycott is threatened. The branch later holds its annual banquet at a community center instead of a downtown hotel, as was tradition.

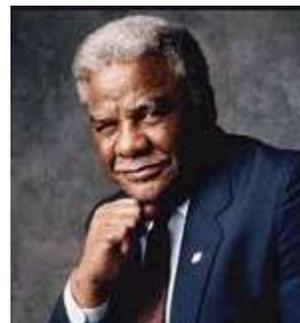
1983 May 6: Following a series of incidents of possible police brutality, at a press conference with several other black organizations the branch approves of criticism of police chief Bill Kolender who, the groups agree, “has always pride himself with a responsive attitude, we find a clear lack of substantive action.” The branch signed off on a statement that demanded “expedient action to prevent any more ‘justifiable homicides’ of blacks by police officers.

May 23: In an article in the *San Diego Union*, Elijah Gentry (not to be confused with a branch president of the same name) credits the branch with having intervened on his behalf to acquire a building lease for his barber shop in 1962.

November 5: Chicago mayor Harold Washington (right) arrives in San Diego to speak to the branch.



1984 October 26: Rev. Julius C. Hope (left) of Detroit, national director of religious affairs at NAACP headquarters, addresses the branch at its diamond jubilee banquet at the Sheraton Harbor Island-East Hotel.



1985 June 15: The first annual ACT-SO competition for students grades 9 through 12 is held at the Educational Cultural Complex.

1986 March 31: The *Los Angeles Times* reports on former branch president Rev. Robert Ard’s campaign as the Republican challenging incumbent Democratic Assemblyman Pete Chacon to represent the 79th District.

1987 March 14: Former branch president Theodore “Ted” McNeal travels to Asilomar, California to meet with members of the NAACP’s regional board and obtains the charter for a student branch at San Diego State University.

1988 November: The NAACP along with the Black Media Coalition files a complaint against KFMB-TV for its poor hiring of blacks and other minorities. This results several month later in the station being denied a 5-year license to operate. Instead, it is given a temporary license until an investigate is completed.

1989 September 16: The branch takes issue with the manner in which Lawrence Miller, a 30-year-old black man, was arrested outside an apartment complex. Family members got involved and both Miller and arresting officers suffered minor injuries.

1990 February 25: The “Save Our Children and Community Campaign” is co-sponsored by the branch and involves 50 churches and hundreds of volunteers going door-to-door speaking to residents in Southeast San Diego about social services and issues affecting the community.

1991 December 17: For the fourth time the branch office at 2857 Imperial Avenue is burglarized. \$12,000 of in office equipment is stolen, including computers and phone system. Branch president Cutis Moring considers moving the office to a different location.

1992 August: The branch's innovative voter registration drive stocks 200 convenience stores with 25,000 forms.

1993 February 10: Pro football legend Jim Brown (right) touts his anti-gang program, Amer-I-Can, at branch headquarters.



April 29: Anticipating a violent reaction to a jury verdict finding police officers innocent in the second Rodney King trial, branch president Frank Jordan announces that the branch will not sponsor a rally or any gathering in conjunction with the end of the trial.

May 24: The *San Diego Union* prints a lengthy article on the branch titled “NAACP On The Defensive: Making It ‘In The Hood.’” It quotes branch president Frank Jordan and other prominent blacks leaders about past and current activities of the branch.

1994 April 12: In an attempt to fast-track the identification, arrest, and prosecution of murder suspects, the branch joins Mayor Susan Golding and Police Chief Jerry Sanders at a press conference at branch headquarters to remind people of the unsolved murders of former branch president Dr. Charles W. Thomas in 1990 and *Voice & Viewpoint* publisher William Thompson in 1987.

June: The branch joins with city councilman George Stevens and San Diego Crime Stoppers to offer a \$6,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of persons involved with the senseless shooting death of James Jones, an outstanding student at Lincoln High School who was bound for Cornell University.



April 8: To promote small businesses owned by minority race persons and females, the branch unites with the Chicano Federation and the Union of Pan Asian Communities to open the Contracting Opportunities Center at 3350 Market Street.

1995 February 20: Frank Jordan, branch president, is quoted in the *San Diego Union* concerning the election of Myrlie Evers as chairperson of the NAACP national board, replacing someone who was accused of misappropriating funds.

1996 November: The branch expands its Saturday School with the assistance of Phi Delta Kappa, an educator's association, and announces it hopes to feed 500 persons during the Thanksgiving holiday.

1997 February 25: The High-Tech & Diversity Job Fair, sponsored by the branch, is held at the San Diego Convention Center and features at least 35 employers and community and professional groups conducting interviews and seminars.



September: Dr. Jack Kimbrough Elementary School, named in honor of a former branch president, is opened in the Grant Hill community.

1998 November 25: The annual branch sponsored Thanksgiving Day dinner and fellowship is held at the branch's office on Imperial Avenue.

1999 January 5: Representatives of the branch and the Nation of Islam protest the failure of the District Attorney to prosecute police officers who participated in the fatal shooting of Billye Venable, a black parolee.

2000 October 20: Branch president Randa Trapp co-authors a report published in the *San Diego Union* that further exposes the problem of racial profiling of automobile drivers. The branch, along with the San Diego Urban League, had persuaded the police department to gather statistics on police stops of motorists.

2001 November 17: A homebuyer's workshop is conducted by the branch to inform those shopping the market for affordable homes.

November/December: The programs and activities of the branch are summarized in an article in the November/December issue of *The Crisis* titled "San Diego NAACP Has Diverse Community Links."

2003 February: The branch reiterates its support of SDSU professor Patricia Washington in her fight to overturn an unfavorable tenure decision.



June: The branch opposes the mayor's appointment of lobbyist Brad Barnum to a seat on the citizens' Equal Opportunity Commission because he has represented building contractors who maneuvered to terminate a minority and female business affirmative action program.



July: The school board votes to name a new elementary school in Lincoln Park in honor of past branch president Walter J. Porter. The school opens in January 2006.

October 8: Branch president Douglas Oden comments on the defeat of Prop. 54 in the *San Diego Union*.

2005 May: Joining with the San Diego Urban League, the branch forms the African American Education Coalition and, upon the resignation of school superintendent Alan Bersin, protests the disappointing performance of public schools in educating black students.

September 22: Along with Californians for Justice, the branch co-sponsors a rally at Gov. Schwarzenegger downtown office protesting the state's high school exit exam. Fifty persons participate and chant, "Educate Don't Terminate."

2006 January 11: Trustees vote to rename the student services building at Southwestern College in honor of Mexican-American union leader Cesar Chavez, an action the branch supported.



2007 January 21: Meeting at the Malcolm X Library, the branch co-sponsors a meeting of progressive groups opposed to Gov. Schwarzenegger's prison reform proposal that would expand the prison system.

May 12: A portion of ticket sales for a performance of the musical production "Josephine Baker Tonight" at the Lyceum Theater in Horton Plaza is given to the branch.

2008 May 17: Interviewed by a reporter for the *San Diego Union*, branch president Douglas Oden supports the idea of same-sex civil marriages.

2009 May 26: At a rally of 4,000 individuals who marched from Balboa Park to downtown to protest the state Supreme Court upholding Prop 8, branch president Lei-Chala Wilson voices support of an effort to reverse the anti-gay marriage measure.

2010 The branch's motion is granted to intervene in opposition to the lawsuit Associated General Contractors of America v. California Department of Transportation.

January 3: As part of the branch's ongoing fight against San Diego State University's admissions policy revamp that disadvantages prospective black students, branch president Lei-Chala Wilson and branch community coordinator Patricia Washington co-author an article in the *San Diego Union* titled "SDSU Must Restore Local Student Guarantee Policy."

March 3: The branch co-sponsors a community forum, held at Bethel A.M.E. Church, on the series of widely publicized racial harassment incidents at UC-San Diego. The highly charged event is well attended by students and community leaders and is shown on the evening TV news.

May 24: "Legislative Day at the Capitol" is the occasion for the branch to bus 26 students from Lincoln High School to lobby lawmakers in Sacramento on behalf of quality education.

May 27: Lei-Chala Wilson, branch president, speaks to a coalition set to travel in a caravan to Arizona to lobby and protest against that state's new anti-immigration law. She reminds the group of that state's anti-ethnic studies stance.

October: For its exceptional advocacy and organizing, at a meeting in Oakland the branch is the recipient of the NAACP California State Conference Dr. H. Claude Hudson Award.

2011 March: The court makes a favorable ruling for the branch, et al., in the case of Associated General Contractors of America v. California Department of Transportation recognizing the need for Caltrans to continue a program that gives racial minority and female owned businesses preference in order to redress and curtail discrimination.



November 12: Branch members attend the christening of the \$500 million Navy cargo ship USNS Medgar Evers, named in honor of the slain Mississippi NAACP leader, with his widow Myrlie Evers (left) participating in the event at General Dynamics NASSCO on San Diego Bay.

