

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE DULUTH NAACP

THE LIFE, THE WORK, THE FIGHT

2020 FREEDOM FUND DINNER

15 November 2019

Dear Potential Supporter of the NAACP Freedom Fund:

The Duluth Branch of the NAACP is excited to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2020! Our annual Freedom Fund Dinner will be held on February 21st, at Clyde Iron and we invite you to be a part of it!

This year's theme is, "The Life, The Work, the Fight: Black History in Duluth." The evening will feature conversations that acknowledge the people -- past and present -- who have helped to make our history, celebrate our achievements, and build energy to continue our efforts.

The Freedom Fund Dinner is the primary annual fundraising and ceremonial event for NAACP branches across the country. Your support will assist us in funding the event and will ensure the support of our ongoing work toward securing the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all persons.

Over the past several years, our branch membership has more than tripled and we have numerous committees bringing our mission to the community. One exciting development is the growing engagement of our youth and young adults. Formed only a year ago the NAACP student chapter at UMD has hosted numerous events. Additionally, the Young Adult Committee has created opportunities for the involvement of young people with their quarterly Social Justice Socials.

There remains much work to be done and we'd like you to join us. Our future is bright, but it is not guaranteed.

Our work takes the commitment of community members and businesses to ensure this energy will continue. We hope you will join us by participating in the 2020 Freedom Fund Dinner. You can show your support in three ways: be an event sponsor, contribute to a scholarship fund, and/or advertise in the program book. Please see the attached Levels of Support document for more information.

A member of Duluth's NAACP will be contacting you within the next several weeks to discuss your investment in the life, the work and the fight.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Freedom Fund Committee
Duluth NAACP

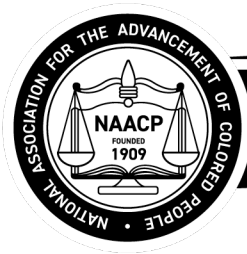
FIGHTING TO ELIMINATE SYSTEMIC RACISM

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History of the Duluth Branch of the NAACP

The **Duluth Minnesota Branch** embodies the mission statement of the National NAACP by working to bring unity in our local communities. Over the past few years the Duluth chapter has achieved the following:

Community Engagement

- Participated in a variety of community initiatives including the Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC); Affordable Housing Coalition; Our Planet Our Future Summit, Northwest Area Foundation's Grant on Economic, Entrepreneurship and Community Development; the Bag It Campaign
- Working to create an Anti-Racist Youth Council in local schools.
- Sponsored events in the Twin Ports that elevate African Heritage culture and history: MLK, Kwanzaa, and Juneteenth.
- Hosted showing of the film "Harriet" to a sold out audience at the Zinema with accompanying talkback and voter registration drive.
- Sponsored Social Justice Socials to recruit young adult activists and Legacy Socials to connect to bridge intergenerational gaps.
- Advocated for ISD 709 to address transparency and equity in policies, redistricting and search process for new superintendent; consulted on potential replacements for *Huckleberry Finn* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Public Health

- Collaborated with UMD College of Pharmacy to conduct community surveys and receive grants.
- Active member and steering committee with Bridging Health Duluth, Community Health Needs Assessment outreach, strategies and implementation, and Health in All Policies, helped develop Essentia Health Vision Northland Environmental Assessment Worksheet Project Policy Brief
- Institute on Environment grant partnership with UMD, Morgan Park Food Justice & Community Garden
- Hosted a NAACP Day at the YMCA
- Steering Committee and speakers for St. Scholastica's Culturally and Spiritually Responsive Health Care Conference
- Collaborations with St Mark AME Church Community Health Fair with UMD Multicultural Pharmacy Students
- Strategy Submission to MN Health and Human Services Blue Ribbon Commission: Health Care Curricula that Enhances Understanding and Engagement with Communities of Color, Tribal and Immigrant Communities

Discrimination

- Rapid Response Team has responded to over 50 requests for advocacy over the past year.
- Met with Duluth Mayor about importance of all communities being represented in the narrative associated with the new city flag

Criminal Justice

- Working with task force to create guidelines for use of riot gear by Duluth Police Department

The History of the NAACP, National, Regional, and Local

Founded Feb. 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 world-wide are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, campaigning for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization. The NAACP was formed partly in response to the continuing lynchings and the 1908 race riot in Springfield. Appalled at the violence that was committed against blacks, a group of white liberals and seven African Americans, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Mary Church Terrell issued and signed a call to discuss racial justice.

In 1913 the St. Paul branch of the NAACP is founded, and the Minneapolis branch followed in 1914. The Twin Cities NAACP branches played what may have been their most urgent early role in the aftermath of racial violence 150 miles north, in Duluth. On June 15, 1920, a mob broke into the Duluth city jail and lynched three black circus workers who were held there as suspects in an alleged rape. In the days that followed, seven other black men were indicted in the rape. The NAACP branches in St. Paul and Minneapolis mobilized to defend them...[Their] efforts on behalf of the accused helped overcome skepticism about the NAACP in Duluth's African American community and led to the establishment of that city's NAACP branch in September, 1920.

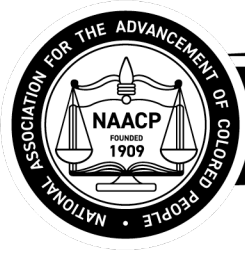
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Support and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Duluth Branch of the NAACP! Your investment in the Freedom Fund Dinner “**The Life, The Work, The Fight: Black History in Duluth**” will support conversation, build relationships, and sustain continuing change in the Northland.

EVENT SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Celebrating the Life | \$3,000 - \$5,000

- Eight tickets, includes dinner and annual membership
- Full-page ad in 2020 Freedom Fund Commemorative Book
- Your name is listed on all materials as major sponsor
- Your name is listed on the promotional materials
- Your name is listed in the event program

Sustaining the Work | \$1,000 - \$2,999

- Four tickets, includes dinner and annual membership
- Half-page ad in 2020 Freedom Fund Commemorative Book
- Your name is listed on the promotional materials
- Your name is listed in the event program

Continuing the Fight | \$500-\$999

- Two tickets, includes dinner and annual membership
- Quarter-page ad in 2020 Freedom Fund Commemorative Book
- Your name is listed in the event program

EVENT SCHOLARSHIPS

“The Life, the Work, the Fight” dinner tickets | \$65/each

- Your sponsorship will provide an annual membership and dinner ticket for those who are unable to pay

AD IN THE 2020 FREEDOM FUND COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

Full Page | \$500 Half Page | \$250 Quarter Page | \$125

You can see past Freedom Fund Commemorative books at <https://duluthnaacp.org/freedomfund>.

Checks are preferred. Make checks payable to the Duluth NAACP and list your support level in the memo line. Please mail checks or money orders to P.O. Box 494 Duluth, MN 55801. If you would like to pay with a credit card, please visit <https://duluthnaacp.org/freedomfund> and click the “Purchase Tickets or Become a Supporter” button.

Thank you for your generosity towards the Duluth Branch of the NAACP.

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