

## MINUTES

Meeting of the Executive Board, Detroit Branch NAACP  
8:00 p.m. Monday, May 12, 1952  
Lucy Thurman Branch YWCA

Present: Edward M. Turner, President; Joseph A. Craigen, Mrs. Irene Graves, Mrs. Esther J. Lowe, Mrs. Helen Graham, Mrs. Beatrice Lapsley, Mrs. Agnes Bryant, Mrs. Julian H. Krolik, Mrs. Mabel Thornell, Mrs. Barbara Simmons, Ernest Shell, Dr. J. J. McClendon, Leonard Kastle, Gene Wilson, Mrs. Helene Wilson, Theodore Smith, William Oliver, Arthur L. Johnson, Executive Secretary; Samuel J. Simmons, Administrative Assistant; Mrs. Richard L. Dean, Branch Secretary.

Excused: Ernest Dillard, Dr. and Mrs. W. A. Thompson

1. MINUTES Minutes of the meeting of April 14 were approved as read.

2. REPORT OF THE TREASURER: Mr. Joseph Craigen reported bank balances as of April 30 as follows: General Fund: \$598.25; Budget Fund - \$.99; Legal Fund - \$807.26. As instructed at the last board meeting, the general and budget funds have been merged into one general fund. Outstanding bills as of May 6th totaled \$1,087.33.

Mr. Craigen read minutes of May 6th meeting of the Finance Committee at which time payment of bills totaling \$515.31 was recommended; it was agreed to study the present insurance policy before renewing the policy; payment of per capita tax to the State Conference of Branches was recommended; deferment of payment of the National Conference Assessment until after the June meeting of the Finance Committee was also recommended. The Finance Committee authorized \$400 as partial expenses for four delegates to the National Conference. No allowance for expenses of delegates to the State Conference in Grand Rapids was recommended inasmuch as individuals have expressed a willingness to pay their own expenses.

The Finance Committee approved expenses totaling \$95.20 for Thurgood Marshall, guest speaker at the May 25th Membership Meeting, with the proviso that the payment of these expenses will be deferred until after the June meeting of the Finance Committee. Mr. Craigen reported that the Committee approved the mailing of cards to all members of the Branch notifying them of the May 25th meeting and payment for use of a sound truck if such cannot be secured free of charge, articles in non-pay sections of the weekly and daily newspapers were also approved as publicity items for the May meeting.

The Finance Committee approved expenses in connection with performance of their duties for the Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant.

The motion to accept the report of the treasurer was seconded by Mrs. Simmons and unanimously carried.

3. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: Mr. Johnson reported on the Housing Commission's new resolution, in view of which the Federal District Court has postponed the first trial of the NAACP's housing suit until attorneys for the City of Detroit have been able to file an amended answer. The answer, presumably, will clarify the meaning of the new resolution.

HR 561, The Cox Resolution, was reported in a special memorandum from Clarence Mitchell, Director of the Washington Bureau, NAACP, attached to Mr. Johnson's report. The Detroit Branch has sent telegrams to our Congressmen on behalf of the Branch, asking that they deny appropriations to the Cox Committee.



Mr. Johnson reported a proposal of the Administrative Staff that the Branch conduct a leadership conference in the early part of June which will seek to accomplish two objectives (1) a definition of the major civil rights issues in the elections campaigns and (2) development of a community-wide registration campaign. This conference would involve community organization leaders and representatives, ministers, precinct delegates and out-state NAACP representatives. It is proposed that it be held at the Green Pastures Camp of the Detroit Urban League, available without charge to the Branch except for food for the delegates and travel expenses of the National representatives, plus promotion of the conference itself would be items to be met by the Detroit Branch. The program would involve consultants on the NAACP national legislation program and leaders of the local and state civil rights program. Approval of the program would call for a special committee to work with the Finance Committee in making the necessary arrangements.

Mr. Johnson further reported on the Membership Campaign rally scheduled for May 25 at the Church of Our Prayer, Rev. James Lofton, pastor, will participate in the program and has committed services of one of his choral groups to furnish music. Thurgood Marshall, Legal Counsel of the National NAACP, will be guest speaker and delegates to the National Conference of NAACP are to be elected at this meeting.

The motion to accept the report of the Executive Secretary was made by Mrs. Helen Graham and seconded. Mr. Craigen offered an amendment to the motion, to wit: that the NAACP develop first a community-wide registration campaign between now and the political parties' conventions, and subsequent to the campaign, that the Branch call a leadership conference on the civil rights issues in the campaign. The amendment to the motion was seconded and unanimously carried and the motion for acceptance of the report as amended was unanimously carried.

4. REQUEST FOR FORMATION OF A WOMEN'S AUXILIARY: Mrs. Barbara Simmons presented a request for authority of the Executive Board to organize a Women's Auxiliary to the Detroit Branch NAACP. Such action has been given consideration by the Administrative staff and the plan would seem to provide an organized group of women to render assistance to the branch program and to fund-raising activities, it would initiate and sponsor educational and social activities and various fund-raising projects for the Detroit Branch. The tentative plan for organization as submitted by Mrs. Simmons stated that the auxiliary would be subordinate to the Branch.

In the ensuing discussion there were questions on established precedent for such an organization, constitutional provisions for its organization and whether the creation of a women's auxiliary would imply that there was a male counterpart. The discussion established existence of a constitutional provision for a women's auxiliary if desired by the Branch and that precedent for a women's auxiliary had been established by other branches throughout the country, as well as in previous years in the Detroit Branch.

Dr. McClendon's motion that Mrs. Simmons' request for organization of a ladies' auxiliary be approved, was seconded by Mrs. Graham. Dr. McClendon accepted an amendment to his motion, presented by Mr. Shell, to the effect that the auxiliary be a part of the branch organization and that the president of the auxiliary or an elected member be a member of the Board of the Branch and that all functions sponsored by the women's auxiliary be cleared by this board. Mr. Shell stated that he offered this amendment by way of clarifying the motion on points of independence of the women's auxiliary. The motion as amended was unanimously carried.



Mr. Shell moved that Mrs. Simmons be instructed to act as a committee of one to work on by-laws and details of a working structure for the auxiliary, to be reported back to this body for approval. Mrs. Graham seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

SOS COMMITTEE: Mr. Johnson reported that the SOS (Serve Our Schools Committee) of Detroit asks for a recommendation from the Branch on its future membership composition. Mr. Kastle presented the question of whether the SOS Committee should continue as a group of organizational representatives or as a membership organization and that it would like to have the thinking of the Branch if the group became a purely membership group in terms of the fact that participating organizations that formerly formed the Council would have a voice in the administration if the membership was changed. An individual membership organization would form a broader base for community participation, out of which there would be formed an advisory group with proper representation given to different groups throughout the city as well as the different viewpoints.

There followed considerable discussion, concluding with a motion by Mrs. Bryant that the matter be referred to the Education Committee for recommendation and decision. The motion was seconded and carried.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Wilson reported that the membership campaign has passed the 1,000 mark but this is not an encouraging report in view of the fact that the drive has been in progress for approximately three weeks and will close with the meeting of May 25th. It was noted that there might be some misunderstanding of the responsibility of each Board member to write 100. However, the Board felt that every member may not be able to fulfill his quota and in that case he should be asked to pledge the number of memberships for which he would be responsible. The Membership Committee was instructed to prepare and submit membership pledge cards to each Board member and to report the response received to the Board.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT: Mrs. Graham reported developments on the benefit show as follows: Ex-Senator Charles C. Diggs, Sr., approached the Detroit Branch on the possibility of underwriting a benefit show in connection with plans of the Metropolitan Funeral Association and the House of Diggs' anniversary celebration the last week in June. Mr. Diggs' idea was to have the benefit show as part of the Sunday Evening Hour of the House of Diggs and to broadcast his program from the stage of the benefit show. He is willing to underwrite the cost of promotion and the hall, a total of some \$900, the Branch is expected to plan and stage the show--with two members of the Diggs establishment on the planning and promoting committee.

Mrs. Graham reported further that Mr. Joe "Ziggy" Johnson has been contacted re producing the show on one of two dates - June 15th or June 22 and that Paul Bascomb has been consulted as an orchestral possibility inasmuch as two major items of expense would be the producer and band for the show; other acts would be donated. Mr. Bascomb stated that in addition to his own seven piece band, he would be able to hire five more musicians to work with him at a total cost of \$250.00. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bascomb have indicated their willingness to work with the Branch in staging a benefit show.

Members of the Board expressed fear that such a plan if entered into by the Branch, would be tantamount to an endorsement of the Diggs establishment by the Branch and that we could ill afford to be charged with such action. It was suggested that we accept Mr. Diggs' offer on the basis that he produce the show himself and that the proceeds be given to the NAACP, otherwise that we decline the offer.



On motion by Mrs. Krolik, seconded and unanimously carried, the Entertainment Committee was instructed to thank Mr. Diggs for his offer, but to tactfully and discreetly decline, explaining the thinking of the Board as outlined in the discussion preceding the motion.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The report of the Education Committee will be mailed to each of the Board members with copies of the minutes of this meeting.

LEGAL REDRESS COMMITTEE: Mr. Johnson reported for Mr. Roxborough, Chairman, who was meeting with his committee to set up plans for the suit against the City of Hamtramck brought by Leroy White. Mr. Johnson reported that the Jones Police brutality case will be filed during this coming week.

YOUTH WORK COMMITTEE: Mrs. Simmons, Chairman, reported that the Youth Council had decided in its last meeting to affiliate with the Michigan Youth Commission, which organization is an outgrowth of the Mid-Century White House Conference on Youth held in Washington in 1950. The Commission meets in Lansing on May 17th and 18th, the same dates as the State Conference of Branches, so it is impossible for the Youth group to send delegates to the Lansing meeting. However, the Youth Council has gone on record as being in favor of the organization and agreed to take part in its activities when able to do so.

The motion to accept the report was made by Dr. McClendon, seconded and unanimously carried.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS: From the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, inviting the Executive Secretary of the Branch to be participant in a panel discussion, reporting on present status of our suit in Detroit. The meeting is to be held in New York on May 20th.

It was moved by Dr. McClendon, seconded and unanimously carried that we send our regrets to the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, inasmuch as our membership drive, fund-raising campaign and other activities prevent us from sending our Executive Secretary to their meeting.

State Conference of Branches: To be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on May 17 and 18. No delegates have been elected to represent the Detroit Branch, all who can were urged to go as delegates from the Detroit Branch.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Dean (lh)*

Mrs. Richard L. Dean  
Branch Secretary