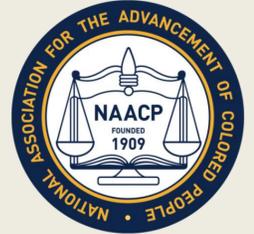




African Americans in Winslow: Scenes From Our History



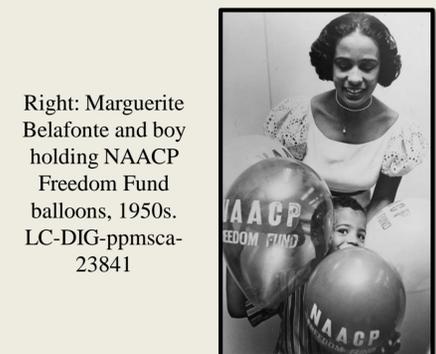
A Brief History of the NAACP



Left: Poster for the NAACP Birthday Ball, New York City, 1943; Louise E. Jefferson. LC-DIG-ppmsca-24947



NAACP 20th Annual Session, June 26, 1929, Cleveland, Ohio. LC-DIG-ppmsca-05523



Right: Marguerite Belafonte and boy holding NAACP Freedom Fund balloons, 1950s. LC-DIG-ppmsca-23841

Founded in 1909 and currently boasting more than half a million members, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, better known as the NAACP, is the nation's oldest and largest grassroots civil rights organization. Their mission is to "ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination."

The NAACP was formed by a group of black and white activists to address the ongoing discrimination and violence against African Americans. These activists proposed to create a "new abolition movement" in order to secure the rights guaranteed in the 13th Amendment (1865), which promised an end to slavery; the 14th Amendment (1868), which promises citizenship and equal protection under the law; and the 15th Amendment (1870), which promises universal adult male suffrage.

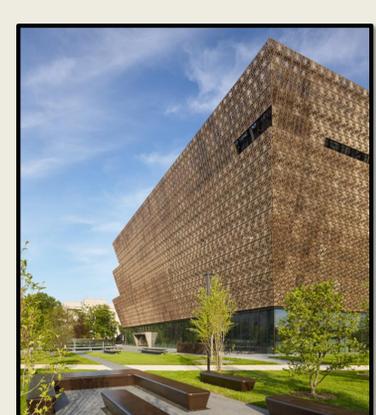
The NAACP established its national office in New York City in 1910, and founding editor W.E.B. Du Bois soon established *The Crisis*, the organization's official publication. The NAACP pursued their mission with strategies that included legal action, lobbying, peaceful protest, and publicity. They provided these supports for causes such as anti-lynching legislation (1920s); integration of the federal government and armed forces (1948); *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which outlawed segregation in public schools; the Civil Rights Acts (1957 and 1964); the Voting Rights Act (1965); and the Fair Housing Act (1968).

NAACP membership and activism continued to grow, particularly in the South. Former NAACP Branch Secretary Rosa Parks sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-56) and the modern civil rights movement. NAACP Youth Council chapters staged lunch counter sit-ins (1960) to protest segregation. The NAACP helped organize the March on Washington (1963) and Mississippi Freedom Summer (1964).

The NAACP supported school desegregation and affirmative action programs in the 1970s and 1980s, although it faced financial and philosophical challenges in the 1970s and civil rights challenges from the Reagan administration in the 1980s. In the 1990s, the NAACP sought new ways to define its mission and pursued economic empowerment, youth programs, and voter registration. Today the NAACP continues to devise new strategies to expand membership and build coalitions so it can continue to work towards racial equity in education, employment, housing, health care, voting rights, civic engagement, and the criminal justice system.

A Brief History of Black History Month

National African American History Month celebrates the contributions that African Americans have made to American history. In 1915, historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded the organization now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The ASALH initiated the first Negro History Week in February 1926, which soon became an established part of African American life. In 1976, the ASALH expanded the observance to Black/African American History Month. President Gerald Ford officially recognized the observance that same year, and American presidents have issued a National African American History Month proclamation ever since. The ASALH continues to promote the study of African American history throughout the year, as does the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened in September 2016 (right).



Acknowledgments: Winslow's Black History Month is a project of the Winslow branch of the NAACP. The *African Americans in Winslow* exhibit was developed for their Black History Month events by Old Trails Museum Director Ann-Mary Lutzick. This introductory panel was adapted from pages at www.naacp.org and www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov. Unless otherwise noted on the remaining panels, all images and information are from the Old Trails Museum Collections, the OTM Oral History Collection, or articles from the *Winslow Mail* by Janice Henling and others. This exhibit was made possible by the Old Trails Museum.

