



MAY NEWSLETTER

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Mental Health Awareness Month

[What are civil rights in a mental health setting?](#)

- Be treated with respect and dignity.
- Have their privacy protected
- receive services appropriate for their age and culture
- understand treatment options and alternatives
- get care that doesn't discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race or type of illness.



Did you know?

The Baker Act - This law allows for the individual to be involuntarily held for up to 72 hours and may be initiated by mental health professionals, doctors, law enforcement officials and judges.

[Some Challenges....](#)

Public Psychiatric Beds in Virginia - A minimum of 50 beds per 100,000 people is considered necessary to provide minimally adequate treatment for individuals with severe mental illness. Like every state, Virginia fails to meet this minimum standard.

Beds in 2016	Beds in 2010	Beds lost or gained	Beds per 100,000 people	Census of forensic patients	% of all beds occupied forensic	State ranking in beds per capita
1,526	1,407	119	18.2	356	23.3	49

(SOURCE: [GOING, GOING, GONE: TRENDS AND CONSEQUENCES OF ELIMINATING STATE PSYCHIATRIC BEDS](#), Treatment Advocacy Center, 2016)

Criminalization of Mental Illness in Virginia

Like every state in the nation, Virginia incarcerates more individuals with severe mental illness than it hospitalizes.

Total inmate population 2005	Estimated population of SMI inmates	Total psychiatric inpatient population 2004	Likelihood of incarceration vs. hospitalization
57,444	9,191	2,548	3.6 to 1

(SOURCE: [MORE MENTALLY ILL PERSONS ARE IN JAILS AND PRISONS THAN HOSPITALS: A Survey of the States](#), Treatment Advocacy Center, 2010)

Criminal Diversion in Virginia

Criminal justice officials are responding to the criminalization of individuals with innovative

programs designed to divert individuals with severe mental illness away from the criminal justice system. Two of the most promising programs are [mental health courts](#) and [crisis intervention training \(CIT\)](#). *Mental health courts have not yet been implemented in Henrico County.*

Percentage of population served by a mental health court	Percentage of population served by CIT	Combined average	Grade
6%	70%	38%	C

(SOURCE: [PREVALENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION PRACTICES: A SURVEY OF THE STATES](#), Treatment Advocacy Center, 2013)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Learn more about what to do in an emergency, and what resources are available to assist.

Learn about the bills that may impact the rights of those with mental illness like [HB 1573](#).

Join our branch's Criminal Justice, Political Action Committee or the Health Committee and lend your support.

Attend the Henrico County Board of Supervisors Meetings

Attend the Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services Board monthly meetings. [Click here for more information](#)



In the post-civil rights era, the faith community continues to be a strong platform for black mobilization. Faith communities are often the first point of contact when individuals or families are in crisis. Whether it is motivated by financial disparities, emotional distress, legal issues or political concerns. In times of crisis, many will turn to trusted leaders in their communities before they turn to professionals.



Do you have family or friends that live and/or work in Henrico County? Make it your personal goal to ensure that Henrico County thrives in every aspect including education, economics, health and wellbeing and racial justice. Invite them to join the Henrico County Branch.

You can now text to join! It is as simple as texting JOIN to 20707. Send the QR code to family, friends, co-workers, church members, etc. They will simply scan the code to get to the membership page online.



Be sure to have them select [our branch - 7077-B Henrico County Branch](#). Let's get to work! There are many ways you can work to make sure solutions to our most pressing issues are equitable.

Membership is the lifeblood of the NAACP. Take your advocacy one step further and help us grow our branch. Membership Committee

will meet on Tuesday May 16th, 2023 at 7pm via ZOOM.

Click the link below to join the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85304674182?pwd=>

For questions about membership email membershipmembership.henrico7077b@gmail.com.



OUR ADVOCACY CONTINUES

Attending school board meetings allows you to impact decision-making on issues from what students learn and read to how they stay safe and the use of school-owned properties. It lets you make your voice heard on policies that govern the schools and to ensure accountability of those in charge.

Mark your calendar to attend the next School Board Meeting is on May 25, 2023 6:30pm. School Board meetings are held at the New Bridge Auditorium, [5915 Nine Mile Road](#), unless publicized otherwise. [Click here for BoardDocs](#), a web-based tool for publishing School Board meeting agendas, support documents, audio and policies.

NATIONAL NAACP SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the National NAACP offers need-based and merit scholarships to outstanding and qualified Black students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees as part of our Inspire Initiatives program. Through the generosity of our donors, we advance efforts to ensure equity in educational opportunity that prepares students for success in school, work, and life.

The scholarships range in award amount, academic interests, and age. Whether you are a graduating high school senior or early in your professional career, we are pleased to provide financial opportunities and recognition to assist with collegiate and post-educational endeavors. Please be sure to review individual scholarship eligibility requirements and deadlines.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Take a minute and complete this parent involvement survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/JCVG27W>

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT INVOLVEMENT SURVEY SY 2022-2023

*Access the link on your device or Scan
QR Code to Complete the Survey*

English Version



Spanish Version



Parents who have more than one child receiving special education services with an individualized education program (IEP) should submit one survey for each child by December 15, 2023.



ANNUAL

NAACP
Henrico County Branch

Prayer BREAKFAST

Theme: "In Times Like These..."

**SATURDAY
JUN 24
9 AM**



TICKETS \$25.00



**Guest Minister
Rev. Patsy Witcher
Richmond, VA**

**Bon Secour
8550 Magellan Parkway Suite 1100,
Richmond VA 23227**

We are often reminded by the inequities and disparities in our communities of our responsibility to be a part of work. Our best hope for protecting the freedom of people and advancing the gains of the NAACP is in you. Invite people you know to join us.

Our goal is to strengthen relationships between the Henrico NAACP, Faith-Based organizations and our community. Information will be available on our initiatives such as voter registration drives. .

Keynote speaker will be Rev. Patsy Witcher.

Tickets are \$25.00.

[Click here to purchase tickets or make a donation](#)

We look forward to your participation in our Freedom Fund Prayer Breakfast.

Interested in joining the Freedom Fund committee.

[email freedomfund.naacp@yahoo.com](mailto:email.freedomfund.naacp@yahoo.com)



We Fight, We Win, We Repeat.....

When we talk about race and justice, we're talking about the ways that discrimination, policing, prosecutions, and incarceration practices impact Black communities. Our criminal justice system is shaped by biased policing and unfair judicial precedents, rooted in anti-Blackness and racial disparity. The emotional, mental, physical, and financial impact on our communities is a tangible experience for millions of Black people in the U.S. The cost of an unjust justice system is high.

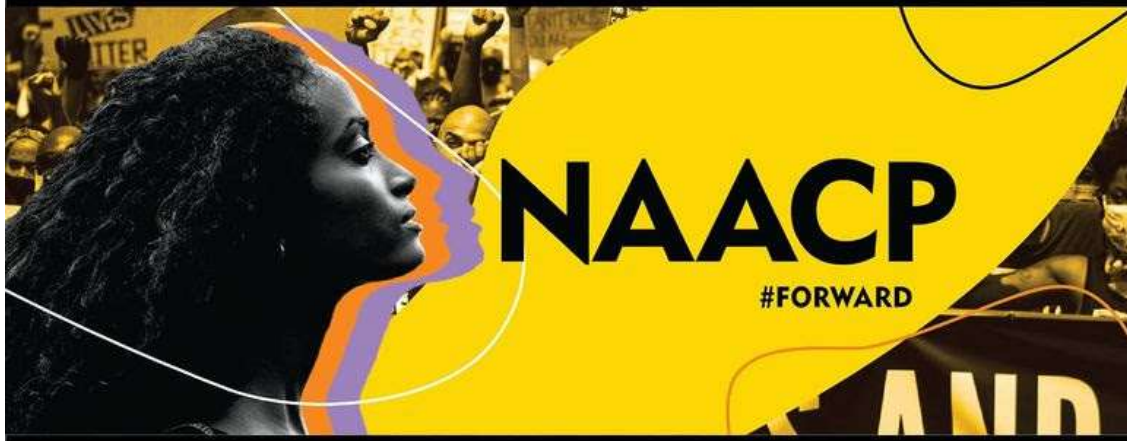


- Black people are incarcerated at more than 5 times the rate of whites.
- 65 percent of Black adults have felt targeted because of their race. Similarly, approximately 35 percent of Latino and Asian adults have felt targeted because of race.

When we see policies that unfairly target or penalize Black people in the criminal justice system, we must address these issues where they are — with laws and legislation, and with elected and appointed leaders.

Join the fight...This is the Right Fight..

THE NAACP IS CELEBRATING 112 YEARS OF ADVANCING JUSTICE



[Click here to sign up for Updates](#)



The housing committee will meet on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Fairfield Library.

The Henrico NAACP Housing Symposium will be held on June 10, 2023 at the IBEW Local 666 located 1400 E. Nine Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075. 10a-2pm. There will be

Housing Committee members are needed. Please email Tara Adams at Intentionalrealty@gmail.com if you have interest in serving on the committee or volunteering just for this project.



Upcoming Events

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 29, 2023 11 am at Virginia War Memorial [621 S Belvidere St Richmond, VA 23220](#). Ceremony to commence at 11am.

SUMMER POPS

Sunday, June 18, 2023 6:00pm - 7:30 pm The Richmond Philharmonic will perform music to uplift your spirits in the E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater. Show tunes, light classics, American favorites—all the best music to usher summer in! Under the baton of Assistant Conductor Will Pattie, the Richmond Philharmonic will perform music to uplift your spirits in the beautiful and moving outdoor setting of the E. Bruce Heilman Amphitheater. This event is free and open to the public. Please note: Free parking is available on site, but the interior museum galleries close daily at 4 p.m.

Hill of Heroes Day

Friday, June 23, 2023 at the Virginia War Memorial [621 S Belvidere St Richmond, VA 23220](#). The Virginia War Memorial Foundation is proud to invite you to the first Annual "Hill of Heroes" Day.

Our volunteers work diligently to install 12,000 flags on the hillside on Friday, June 23rd, as soon as the last flag is placed in the ground, a celebration will begin. Join us and take part in special

programming for children and families.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Guests of all ages are welcome.

Interested in volunteering to help with the event? Email us at mmwachur@vawarmemorial.org for more information.

Alongside the Hill of Heroes flag display, we will be having:

- Military Demonstrations, including K9 demonstrations, virtual reality, and robotics!
- Docent-Led Tours for all ages
- Crafts
- Tactile Learning Opportunities for young learners
- Letter-writing to active service personnel
- Used Book Sale
- Live music
- Food Trucks
- and more!

RESOURCES: FOR VETS

[Virginia Veterans Resource Guide](#)

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Virginia Women's Veterans Program.

Our inaugural ACT-SO Idol was nothing short of amazing! A special thank you to all of students that participated, their parents, the judges, our host, our volunteers and our ACT-SO committee! What a memorable event. Thank you to Alicia Atkins for capturing snippets of their performances and posting them to Facebook. [Click here](#) to view the performances of [Tyler](#), [Devin](#) and [Isabel](#).

Keyionna's artwork is included in the photos from the event. You can view the photos [here](#).



Congratulations to all of the ACT-SO Idol winners: Tyler (Henrico HS), Isabel (Freeman HS), Keyionna (Highland Springs HS), and Devin (Freeman HS).



Next up, Aviation Day at Richmond International Airport in partnership with Richmond International Airport - Aviation Reaching Communities and Henrico County Public Schools. This enrichment activity will give HCPS students an opportunity to learn about the field of aviation from professionals within the field.

The ACT-SO committee is looking for coaches, mentors, sponsors and volunteers. Look for success of the 2023-2024 ACT-SO season.

Drop an email to share your interest to actsohenrico@gmail.com.



PAC Got a minute? Let's talk about the importance of "Action". Action is the fact or process of doing something, typically to achieve an aim. Our aim is to increase voter registration and voting; work for the enactment of municipal, and federal legislation designed to improve the educational, political and economic status of minority groups; work to repeal racially discriminatory legislation; improve the administration of justice; and secure equal enforcement of the law.

When we work together, the power of Black votes is undeniable and unmatched. We have the opportunity to protect our communities by electing diverse governors, senators, and political representation up and down the ballot

The stakes are high. Some elected officials at the local, state, and national level are rolling back rights that we thought were fundamental. They're incarcerating women who have abortions, making it harder for communities of color to vote, banning books about diversity from schools, and making weapons of war more accessible to wreak havoc on our communities.

The next School Board Meeting is on May 25, 2025 6:30pm

The next Board of Supervisors Meeting is on May 23, 2023 7pm.

What action are you taking?



[Click the Image to view the calendar](#)



7 Minutes of Prayer

The Religious Affairs Committee will host *7 Minutes of Prayer* on the 7th day of each month. The next *7 Minutes of Prayer* will be on Sunday May 7th. The Religious Affairs

Committee invites you to join them at 7 am by clicking this link <https://naacpva.us/SevenMinutesofPrayer>

Transportation Equity In The Commonwealth Series #2 - CLEAN SCHOOL BUS NAACP NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN

Recently, NAACP launched the Electric School Bus Campaign - let's do our part to make sure it happens in Virginia!

Black students are more likely to have long-term health concerns due to environmental racism. Investments like the funding for the Clean School Bus Program will help to mitigate their exposure. Black and other people of color live in communities overburdened with significant levels of toxic greenhouse gas emissions that result from transit sources, including school bus tailpipe exposure. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Clean Bus Program is offering rebates to replace existing school buses with clean and zero-emission (ZE) buses. The goal is to replace existing outdated school bus fleets with clean, zero emission buses, to deliver safer, healthier, and more environmentally sustainable learning environments for children in communities that have been overburdened by pollution.

Join us to hear from NAACP representatives, industry experts, and community advocates to learn what you can to make sure your school district submits its payment request form and that the funds are distributed equally.

Date: Tuesday, May 9th

Time: 7:00

Location - Virtual –

Registration Link: <https://naacpva.us/CleanSchoolBus>

127 Years Later: Still Fighting Jim Crow: Education and Civil Rights Symposium
From the reimagining of history to the removal of books from libraries to the lack of adequate funding, Virginia is positioning itself to be a leader in the destruction of public education. The Virginia State Conference will be on the front lines to ensure that every student has access to great teaching, equitable resources, and a safe learning environment from grade school classrooms to college campuses.

Join the NAACP on **Wednesday, May 17, 2023**, from 10 am – 3 pm, the anniversary of Brown v. The Board of Education, [for 127 Years Later: Still Fighting Jim Crow](#). You will hear from experts on the most important education issues in Virginia and leave ready to advocate in your community. This Education and Civil Rights Symposium will be held at the Hippodrome Theater located in [Historic Jackson Ward 526 N 2nd St Richmond, VA 23219](#). The registration fee for this event is \$10. To register, visit <https://naacpva.us/StillFightingJimCrowRegistration>

If you would like to be added the Virginia NAACP email list, please click here <https://naacpva.us/SignUpForUpdates>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to support the Virginia State Conference 2023 Convention. contact Operadella Williams to express interest. communications.henrico7077b@gmail.com.

Biennial State Conference Election

At the Annual Virginia State/State Area Conference of the NAACP, which will be held in person on the 27th-29th of October 2023, the Election Procedures Committee will provide a final report for the purposes of the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee.

The following offices are open: six (6) Members-at-Large, Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, seven (7) Regional Vice Presidents, 1st Vice-President, and President.

Petitions to run for an elected office are due by no later than June 15, 2023, via certified mail to the following address: Virginia State Conference NAACP c/o Election Supervisory Committee PO Box 27212 Richmond, Virginia 23261



Click the image to view National NAACP News

ARTISANS FOR ACTION RVA
PRESENTS

MAY 19 6P



Visionaries Inspiring, Brokering, and Empowering our Communities

Celebrating



Coach Bervenia Wooten
Richmond Road Runners



Sheriff Allsa Gregory
Henrico County



Dr. Shantell Lewis
Here to Hear



Bonita Glover
Girl Scouts of America



Gwen Hurt
Shoe Crazy Wine



Clovia Lawrence
Project Give Back



A Touch of Class
5103 Thrush Lane
Richmond VA 23220



Dr. Michelle McQueen Williams
Guest Speaker

Tickets: \$40.00



What is VIBE 2023? VIBE 2023 is an event that encourages positive relationships amongst community leaders and our community through networking and increase awareness surrounding resources. With each annual event we will highlight community leaders whose work in the community aligns with the mission of Artisans for Action RVA.

Who are Artisans for Action RVA

Artisan for Action RVA (A4ARVA) is a Richmond based organization that supports local non-profit organizations that work in the RVA community to positively affect the lives of residents. A4ARVA does so through supporting initiatives in the areas of mental health care, education, the environment, technology and financial literacy.

Why support this event?

VIBE 2023 is a great way to share information and connect with community leaders. In an ever-growing commitment to our community, we strive to encourage positive relationships amongst community leaders and our community through networking and increase awareness surrounding resources. In doing so, we hope to strengthen

community relationships, foster better utilization of local businesses, civic organizations, churches, and agencies along with inspiring folks to take part in their building a better community.

Non-Profit that will benefit

With each event, A4ARVA selects a local non-profit that aligns with our mission to donate the net proceeds to. We have selected The Excellence Closet for the VIBE 2023 event. The Excellence Closet - provide resources for students in need in Henrico, Richmond, and Petersburg. Expanding services to expose students to cultural and environmental field trips to explore things outside of their environment. Focus demographics will be the families in low-income housing in the greater Richmond area.

2023 Honorees

- Sheriff Alisa Gregory, Henrico County, the first woman to lead the Henrico County Sheriff's office Advocate for the underserved,
- Bervenian Wooten, CEO and Coach of the Richmond Road Runners, author of Up & Running...The Journey Continues, adjunct professor at VUU
- Dr. Shantel Lewis, Here2Hear Foundation, provides free hearing tests and healthy ear examinations to the underserved.
- Bonita Glover, Girl Scout Troup Leader, and Girls Empowerment advocate
- Clovia Lawrence, Project Give Back, a platform for prisoners, former prisoners, and all citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia to give back and contribute positively to their community.
- Gwen Hurt, Shoe Crazy Wine, supports local organizations that make a difference in people's lives.

.Who should attend? Anyone interested in networking with other organizations, inspiring each other and strengthening relationships.

How do I get tickets or donate? Use our Eventbrite page to purchase tickets and donate. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/579877809137/>.

Refreshments will be available.

Raffles, Vendors, cash wine bar, and giveaways.

A special discount code has been set up for the Henrico NAACP. Use promo code ACT23 to receive a 25% discount off tickets purchased by May 12, 2023.

Contact: Operadella Williams (804) 437-7182.



[Henrico County Parks & Recreation Events - Click Here](#)

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Our mailing address is:

P.O. Box 3005
Henrico, VA 23228

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Our work is funded by donors like you, through email just like this! Every dollar helps us turn out the vote, hold white supremacists accountable in court, and advocate for the Black agenda.

Please consider making a generous donation today! We cannot thank you enough for your support. To donate, click here.