

Hairston's successor

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resigns, the vice president succeeds him.

Both say they have rulings from the national NAACP office to support their claims.

Meanwhile Carolyn Coleman, the NAACP's state field coordinator, said it's the job of the local executive board to fill a vacancy.

"That position will be filled by electing the person from within the board," says Coleman. "This is not done with an open election."

Until the executive committee elects a new president, the vice president will fill the post, says Coleman. Also, the state NAACP constitution does not prohibit a person from holding an elected municipal office and serving as NAACP president, Coleman says.

"The constitution does not prohibit a person from holding

both positions; however, it is felt it might cause a conflict of interest," says Coleman. "At one time, the national office did require you to resign."

There is no routine procedure that an executive board follows for filling the top post, says Coleman. If the vice president wants the job, then the executive board goes with him.

"A lot depends on the circumstances," she says.

Marshall says he wants the job. "What McMillan is talking about is wishful thinking," says Marshall. "That's not what the constitution says. What it boils down to is McMillan is not too fond of me. This was just tried by some folk who don't have a liking to me."

Hairston and McMillan haven't taken a liking to each other. The verbal scuffle between the two has gone full circle.

McMillan served as NAACP president for 12 years before Hairston was elected. Hairston ran against McMillan in 1974 but lost. After the '74 election, Hairston threatened to start a new chapter, but was persuaded not to do so by the national office.

In 1976, at the end of McMillan's term, he announced that he would not seek re-election and hand-picked his own candidate, James Graham, to succeed him.

Because of problems during the nominating procedure, McMillan requested that an official from the national office conduct the election. Hairston won 81-50.

Marshall said he is not opposed to an election by the membership.

"The people should have a choice," said Marshall. "But the constitution is clear; the vice president succeeds the president. I'm not afraid of an election."

Marshall is not the only person interested in the job. Rodney Sumler, chairman of the NAACP Labor Committee, said he is also interested. Sumler now holds the post Hairston held when he was elected president.

"I'm interested, but I can work with Marshall," says Sumler. "It won't be a big deal if I don't get it. I can wait."

If it comes down to a vote between him and Marshall, Sumler

says, he will step aside and not let it become a divisive issue.

Hairston says his decision to resign is not based on his winning or losing the November election. As has been the case for the past couple of years, Hairston says he is tired of the job.

"Either way the election goes, I'm resigning," says Hairston.



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'Artfelt' Thanks

Local artist James Huff displays his pencil portrait of former President Richard M. Nixon and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans. The portrait was presented to Nixon by the National Black Republican Committee at a dinner held in honor of the former president's efforts to assist black businesses. The dinner was held Oct. 17 in New York City (photo by James Park).

NAACP

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Thursday has been set aside as "Ministers and Church Emphasis Day" and will include seminars on "The Teen as Parent -- Too Much Responsibility Too Soon, with Too Little Support," "The Church, the Black Family and Economics," "Black-on-Black Crime -- Doing Each Other to Death" and "What Can the Church and the NAACP do Together to Support the Black Family?"

Friday's session is entitled "Getting Down to Business" and opens with a business meeting that will include reports from NAACP State President Kelly Alexander Jr., State Field Director Carolyn Coleman and other statewide committees.

The day will end with a series of workshops on education, housing, branch management, membership development and the ACT-SO youth program.

The meeting concludes on Saturday with another group of workshops covering working with the media, economic development and improving the state Freedom Fund banquet.

An NAACP Life Membership Luncheon will be held at 1 p.m. in the Convention Center.

The annual Freedom Fund Banquet will be held at 7 p.m., also in the Convention Center, with Mrs. Maxine Smith, executive secretary of the Memphis branch of the NAACP, as the guest speaker.

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