



NAACP supporters and staff members gather from 91 of the 100 counties in North Carolina for the NAACP State Conference last weekend.



Photos By Mayessa Mitchell

Attorney Lani Guinier speaks at the NAACP N.C. State Conference on Saturday, Oct. 10.

Dr. Mendez wins Minister of the Year Award from N.C. NAACP conference

Attorney Lani Guinier speaks at event

BY MAYEESA MITCHELL FOR THE CHRONICLE

The 72nd annual NAACP N.C. State Conference concluded on Saturday, Oct. 10 with an address from Attorney Lani Guinier at the Freedom Fund Awards held in the Winston-Salem Embassy Suites Grand Pavillion

ballroom. During the Freedom Fund Awards, the N.C. NAACP recognized the Rev. Dr. John Mendez of Winston-Salem with the Minister of the Year award, Rep. Larry Hall with the Political Trailblazer award and fourth Vice President of the Board Courtney Patterson with the District Director of the Year award. Barber presented President's Awards to Linda Sutton, of Winston-Salem, and Kim Porter for community organizing in

the fight for voter's rights, Leroy Lewis for his dedication as part of the security team for many years and the Rev. Gatewood for his dedication to the American Journey for Justice. Additionally, Mitchell County NAACP was recognized as New Branch of the Year. Jessica Frank was recognized as Youth of the Year. Griffith Chapel AME Zion in Burnsville, North Carolina was recognized as Church of the Year. Guinier, an attorney, author and professor best



Mendez

known for her principal stand after being nominated for assistant attorney general for Civil Rights in 1993, spoke to the audience of NAACP staff members and supporters from 91 of North Carolina's 100 counties about a theory called 'the

miner's canary.' "When the canary gasps for breath, it is not a call to fix the canary," explained Guinier. "Because the canary's respiratory system is more vulnerable, when the canary has difficult breathing, it alerts others to the growing toxicity of the atmosphere in the coal mines. Thus, the goal is to fix the atmosphere in the mines to benefit the miners as well as the canary." The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, president of the

N.C. State Conference of the NAACP and a member of the national Board of Directors, said of Guinier's unconventional speech that "they invited a professor and let her teach." During the night, Barber informed the audience about upcoming events, such as the anniversary of the 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which freed slaves in the United States, in December and the 10th Mass Moral Monday rally on Feb. 13.

Adams calls GOP Tea Party 'gangsters' before NAACP

BY CASH MICHAELS FOR THE CHRONICLE

Saying that, "Our nation has been hijacked by insensitive right-wing radical Tea Party folks at the local, state and federal level, so drunk with power that they're deliberately making it difficult for our working families, for our elderly and our children to survive." US Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC-12) told the 72nd annual N.C. NAACP Convention luncheon Saturday that "we've got to get angry enough to act."

Adams, who began serving in Congress last year after many years as a state lawmaker from Guilford County, also chided her Republican colleagues in the House for their recent turmoil over who will replace outgoing Speaker John Boehner, especially after House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-California) bowed out amid controversy last week.

"If you've been keeping up with everything, you

know that the House has gone to hell," Adams said to laughter. "There are 40 Freedom Caucus members in the House ... I call them gangsters, who are disrupting everything. This group wants to tie up everything, even the increases in the debt ceiling, cuts in Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid ... they even want to get rid of Obamacare, and everything else that's made a difference."

"They want to defund Planned Parenthood, as a matter of fact, they even tried to shut down the government just to shut down one organization. So you know what I'm dealing with in Washington."

Adams said she's "disgusted" by the negative politics she's seeing in Raleigh with the Republican-led N.C. General Assembly, and the GOP-led Congress. She said that the hard-fought-for civil rights gains of the

past are now being "stripped away," requiring the NAACP and others to stay in the fight for justice and equal rights.

"It's time to recommit," she said. "It's time for us to get re-engaged, build some bridges and form some bonds so that we can recapture our losses, and protect our progress."

Adams said: "Looking at what's going on in state legislatures across the country, including our own, and observing the insensitive actions of the U.S. Congress, and its impact on our state and nation, they're just devastating, with long-term ramifications. And I'm convinced that at the end of the day, we've got to get angry enough to act."

"In the final analysis, what happens tomorrow will be up to us, and how we prepare today," Adams said, adding that "We know why this crowd continues

to fight our president." "Our people are pawns in a dangerous game of partisan politics that's being played in Washington, and we're paying the price for Washington's dysfunction."

Adams noted that complacency because of prior progress is keeping people from taking back the power that has been gradually siphoned off from them.

"It's clear that as a people, we've got to pump it up," Rep. Adams said, reminding all of the importance of investing in all

children for empowerment. She also recommended that African-Americans regain that sense of community that helped them succeed during the civil rights movement.

"Power controls everything," Adams said, noting that blacks need to get more involved in voting to control the politics and economics that bring about positive change.

Adams paid tribute to the work of her close friend, Guilford County Commissioner and NAACP Board member Carolyn Coleman, N.C.

NAACP Pres. Rev. Dr. William Barber, and the work of the NAACP to bring about justice and equality.

Adams also announced that she has filed a House bill to name a local post office in Winston-Salem after the late author Dr. Maya Angelou, who lived there until her passing last summer. Adams says she has the full support of the 13-member North Carolina congressional delegation.

Rep. Adams introduces legislation to name Winston-Salem post office after Maya Angelou

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

U.S. Rep. Alma S. Adams (NC-12, which includes Winston-Salem) has introduced House Resolution 3735, legislation to name the post office located at 200 Town Run Lane in Winston-Salem after Dr. Maya Angelou.

Winston-Salem was Angelou's primary residence and final resting place. She called Winston-Salem home for more than 30 years.

"I admire Maya Angelou a lot, and one of the things she says I'll never forget is 'People won't always remember what you say, and people may not always remember what you did, but they'll remember how they made you feel,' and that is so impor-

tant, and I remember how she made me feel," Adams said at the North Carolina National Organization of Women meeting on Oct. 10.

Adams' legislation would rename the Center City post office to that of the Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office.

The legislation is cosponsored by every member of the North Carolina House delegation: Representatives G.K. Butterfield (NC-01), Renee Ellmers (NC-2), Walter B Jones (NC-3), David Price (NC-4), Virginia Foxx (NC-5), Mark Walker (NC-6), David Rouzer (NC-7), Richard Hudson (NC-8), Robert Pittenger (NC-9), Patrick T McHenry (NC-10), Mark Meadows (NC-11), and George Holding (NC-13).

NOW

from page A1

bonds and build some bridges. And we need to continue to do that," said Adams. "It's absolutely necessary that women are players at the tables, from the classroom, to the board rooms, from the state house, to the United States house, and in 2016, all the way to the White House."

Mini Timmaraju, national women's outreach director for the "Hillary for America" campaign, and one of the keynote speakers, told the audience:

"It's personally really critical to me that when we're reaching out to women across the country, we're talking about all American women of every generation."

Timmaraju pointed out Clinton's experience of working for women, children and the middle class. NOW has recently endorsed the campaign. There are "Latinos for Hillary" and "African-Americans for Hillary" alongside the "Women for Hillary" mottoes. She also mentioned of how technology, especially emails, are essential of getting more people involved

for support. During the session of panel discussions, Madeline Coffey, junior at Wake Forest University spoke about the younger generation and the Black Lives Matter movement.

"I really think it's important that we start focusing more on people of color and supporting black rights and Black Lives Matter, and move toward focusing on Millennials and working with Millennials," said Coffey.

NOW is pushing for North Carolina, as well as other states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. The Equal Rights Amendment was written by suffragist leader Alice Paul, and was first proposed and introduced in U.S. Congress in 1923. It was passed by Congress in 1972, and on June 30, 1982, ERA received only 35 of the 38 state ratifications.

For more information or to join NOW, go to www.triadnow.org. To learn more about the Equal Rights Amendment, visit www.NC4ERA.org or email info@nc4era.org.

FOOD FOR KIDS HELPS LEARNING, BEHAVIOR & SELF ESTEEM

Mast Store & Merrell Footwear are partnering to provide children with weekend food, and you can help.

For each pair of Merrell shoes purchased at Mast Store from **October 14th** thru **31st**, Merrell will fill a backpack with food to feed a child for a weekend.

Women's Dassie Slide \$94.99	Men's Moab Rover \$119.99	Women's Dassie MJ \$99.99
MERRELL		
Women's Captiva Buckle-Up Waterproof • \$219.99	Men's Moab Rover Mid Waterproof • \$139.99	Women's Dewbrook Moc Waterproof • \$119.99

Free Shipping with any online purchase of \$50 or more.

FOOD SAMPLING	BIG DADDY'S MARINADE Come taste this BBQ marinade, made right here in NC. Saturday, October 17 • 11 am-3 pm
----------------------	--

MAST GENERAL STORE
SINCE 1883

Winston-Salem (336) 727-2015 • Valle Crucis • Boone • Weynsville • Hendersonville
Asheville, NC • Greenville • Columbia, SC • Knoxville, TN
Park in the 6th/Cherry-Trade Street garage. Enter from the 2nd level of the garage.

MASTGENERALSTORE.COM • • •

GOOD THRU OCT. 20