

OPINION

THE CHRONICLE

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Our Mission

The Chronicle is dedicated to serving the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by giving voice to the voiceless, speaking truth to power, standing for integrity and encouraging open communication and lively debate throughout the community.



New chapter for local NAACP begins

While national and state elections still hang in the balance in some respects, the election for the new officers of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is final.

The Rev. Alvin Carlisle was elected president of the local NAACP branch on Tuesday, Nov. 22. He had announced his candidacy earlier this year.

This year's election was quite different than the one held last year. First off, the final election was held months behind schedule, into 2015, when the final election should have been held in November 2014. Several election irregularities with the first election in November 2014 led to two other elections, with the third one being the charm.

Unlike the previous election cycle, too, Carlisle ran unopposed. Before, two candidates for president jockeyed until one dropped out, leaving Isaac "Ike" Howard as the victor. Howard has been elected third



vice president this time around.

The bad news is that Carlisle and most of the elected officers ran unopposed and a few posts are unfilled because no one ran for them.

The good news is that Carlisle is a young man with a vision for the organization. (See story on page A1.) He is third vice president of the Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem and Vicinity now, but will give up that seat to head the local NAACP. Elections for officers of the Ministers' Conference will be held next month.

With all that has happened and is happening on the national and state scenes, such as national and state recounts going on or are about to happen, with the president-elect still tweeting divisive missives, with a probable Democratic governor who did not help Calvin Michael Smith get out of prison, with who-knows-what-else will happen to African-Americans in these United States, we need a viable NAACP in Winston-Salem working with the N.C. branch and the national organization. It appears we will have that now.

The new officers will be sworn in during the meeting on Jan. 31.

Thanks, Linda Sutton, for your service to the NAACP

New officers of the Winston-Salem Chapter of the NAACP have been elected. Linda Sutton's name was not on the ballot.

Linda Sutton has been a household name in the civil rights arena. She works with Democracy N.C. and became secretary of the local NAACP last year after the final election.

She worked closely with President Isaac "Ike" Howard and First Vice President Earline Parmon before she died this year. Sutton has been the face of the local NAACP for many people in the area.

Sutton has decided not to run for secretary in 2016, but we hope she will continue to work with the local NAACP in some capacity, even if it's just as a passionate member.

The local NAACP needs your passion, Ms. Sutton.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voting is over, now what? We need to pray

To the Editor:
 Prior to the election, we were urged not "to boo," but to vote. Some people took that advice some did not. Regardless of what we did, the election is over. Now, I think, we need to pray. We need God to help us not to be misdirected because of the unexpected. We need to pray for correction as well as for direction.

We heard a lot about change but some decisions that have been made can't be changed by us. We are only human but there is our divine intercessor who told us in the Bible "I changeth not." Because God is in full control of what happens, he alone is able to bring all needed changes.

After the vote counting, we heard "too close to call."

Let us remember that there is one who is too close not to call.

That one is God. Whether we are satisfied or disappointed, God is aware and can make it be available for us.

We cast our votes but God has not cast us away, and we have the assurance that we can trust Him because He changeth not.

Jessie Meadows Crockett
 Winston-Salem



U.S. Rep. Adams

Leadership of Saunders-White will be missed

To the Editor:
 I am saddened by the passing of Chancellor [Debra] Saunders-White.

Her leadership, her dedication to our students and her commitment to excellence will be sorely missed at NCCU and all across our great state.

She was a powerful force in our educational system and she played an integral role in shaping the lives of so many young people.

On behalf of the entire Congressional HBCU Caucus, I extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and the entire NCCU community. The legacy of Chancellor Saunders-White will be felt for generations to come.

U.S. Rep. Alma Adams (NC-12)
 Charlotte

Note: NCCU alumni mourn the passing of Chancellor Debra Saunders-White. See page A1.

NC AIDS group urges public to speak out about AIDS

To the Editor:

World AIDS Day is an opportunity to remember and reflect on those we've lost to HIV and AIDS. But it also must be an opportunity to stand up and speak out about what we need to do to end the epidemic.

Maintaining a strong AIDS Drug Assistance Program, expanding access to PrEP [pre-exposure prophylaxis] through our county health departments and investing in prevention so that young people have the tools and information they need to stop the spread of HIV.

These are the tools to end AIDS as we know it in North Carolina. The only question is, will our local, state, and national political leaders have the courage to act.

Lee Storrow, Executive Director
 N.C. AIDS Action Network
 Raleigh

Note: World AIDS Day 2016 is Dec. 1. Here are some events:

*Dec. 1: World AIDS Day Service at 7 p.m. at St. Anne's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, hosted by North Star LGBTQ Community Center and Interfaith Voice. The theme of this year's service is "Love, Serve, Remember" and will feature remarks by N.C. AIDS

Action Network Board member Adam Linker.



Storrow

*Dec. 1: A World AIDS Day Luncheon at noon at Marriott Charlotte City Center in Charlotte, hosted by RAIN. N.C. AIDS Action Network Executive Director Lee Storrow will make remarks.

*Dec. 1: World AIDS Day Gathering at 8:30 p.m. at The Junction Salon and Bar in Raleigh, hosted by Crape Myrtle Festival. N.C. AIDS Action Network Executive Director Lee Storrow will make remarks at this gathering to remember those that have lost that battle and those still fighting.

*Dec. 2: "Where Do We Go From Here?: HIV Treatment and Prevention Advocacy in North Carolina" at 8:30 a.m. at the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy in Durham, hosted by the N.C. AIDS Action Network. The main event will consist of a panel conversation to discuss HIV treatment and prevention efforts in North Carolina and the policy changes we need to make in 2017 to keep our state moving forward. Vanessa Duren-Winfield, N.C. AIDS Action Network board member and Winston-Salem State University professor, will serve as the panel moderator, and national expert, Ronald Johnson, the vice president of policy and advocacy at AIDS United, will join a panel of North Carolina HIV advocacy experts.

About the NC AIDS Action Network: The organization improves the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and affected communities through outreach and public education, policy advocacy and community-building to increase visibility and mutual support of people living with HIV/AIDS throughout the state of North Carolina.

We Welcome Your Feedback

Submit letters and guest columns to letters@wschronicle.com before 5 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication date.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and include your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep letters to 350 words or less.

If you are writing a guest column, please include a photo of yourself, your name, address, phone number and email address. Please keep guest columns to 550 words or less. Letters and columns can also be mailed or dropped off at W-S Chronicle, 617 N. Liberty St., W-S, NC, 27101; or sent via our website, www.wschronicle.com.

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