

Plan for county organization
(Revised)

Department of Public Health

Florida State Department of Health

STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
FLORIDA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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Mims, Florida
October 16, 1947

Dear Co-Workers :

It now seems that our long fight to secure unrestricted use of the ballot is about to be won. Negro citizens of Titusville broke into their City Primary last month; and we have every reason to believe that Brevard County Negro voters will be able to register as Democrats when the books open for the primaries next spring.

Our next big job is to get our people properly organized, so that our voting will be more effective. We must try to get the masses of our people organized under one banner; and we must get prepared to trade our votes - not for a few drinks of liquor, or for a few dollars to be put into the pocket of some selfish Negro "politician" - but for equal opportunities and a fuller measure of justice for the masses of our people.

It was with this thought in mind that we organized the Progressive Voters' League of Florida in August, 1944. We felt the need of an organization whereby the political strength of Florida Negro citizens could be united. We could not use the NAACP for this purpose, because the constitution of this organization prohibits its endorsement of political candidates. We therefore decided to organize the Voters' League.

For your information, we are inclosing copy of a circular letter that explains the objectives of the Voters' League. We feel that the time is now ripe to get local units organized in our most populous communities. Will you help us to organize a unit in Cocoa ?

I plan to be in your section of the county Sunday, Oct. 19, and I would like to discuss this matter with you. If possible, please meet us at the home of Mr. Nick Ford at 2:30 P. M. Sunday.

Very truly yours,

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.

To :

1. Mr. W. D. Monroe
2. Mr. Horatio Dixon
3. Mr. A. R. Snowden
4. Mr. T. W. Williams
5. Mr. Nick Ford

Mims, Florida
November 1, 1947

Information released by the Mims Unit of the Progressive Voters' League :

1. Every colored voter who owns property is urged to vote in the Brevard County School Trustee Election, which will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4.
2. It is suggested that you vote for these 3 candidates :
 - (1) T. A. Canty
 - (2) Henry Coleman
 - (3) W. J. H. Howe
3. Just mark an "X" (cross mark) in front of each name listed above.
4. Study these 3 names, so that you can remember them when you go to vote.
5. It is suggested that you vote "Yes" for the school tax millage that will be listed on your ballot. Most likely the words "For" and "Against" will be printed in 2 places on your ballot. Just mark an "X" (cross mark) before the word "For" in each place.
6. Polls will be open from 7:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. Tuesday.
7. If there is anything that you do not understand and you want more information on voting, please see one of the following officers : Joseph Warren, Jr., Paul Cuyler, Crandall Warren, William Daughtry, Jecille Daughtry, or Harry T. Moore.
8. The next meeting of the Mims Unit of the Progressive Voters' League will be held at Shiloh A. M. E. Church on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 P. M. All colored citizens of voting age are urged to be present. At this meeting we shall discuss the Canaveral Harbor Bond Election, which will be held on Nov. 25.

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, President

Jecille Daughtry, Secretary

Mims Unit -- Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Mims, Florida
November 1, 1947

Dear Co-workers :

The Mims Unit of the Progressive Voters' League held a special meeting Thursday night, October 30, to consider the four candidates who are running in the Brevard County School Trustee Election, which will be held in every precinct Tuesday, November 4.

As you will note, three trustees are to be elected from the county at large. After some discussion, the Mims Unit voted to endorse and support these three candidates :

1. Mrs. T. A. Gentry	Rockledge
2. Henry Coleman	Melbourne
3. W. J. H. Howe	Herritt Island

You might pass this information on to the voters in your community.

In the near future we hope to get local units of the Progressive Voters' League organized in Titusville, Cocoa, Melbourne, and other communities of Brevard County.

Sincerely yours,

Harry C. Moore, President
Progressive Voters' League
Brevard County

Mims, Florida
November 4, 1947

Atty. H. K. McIlrath
121 Graham Building
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Atty. McIlrath :

I received your letter with material relative to the dismissal of the Rogers and Burso suits. I also received your letter of Oct. 29, in which you asked my opinion of the Titusville General Election on Oct 21.

It seems that this election was carried out in an orderly manner. I think the drop in the number of voters, both colored and white, was due to the fact that this was a general election and most people were just confident that the same five men nominated in the primary would be elected.

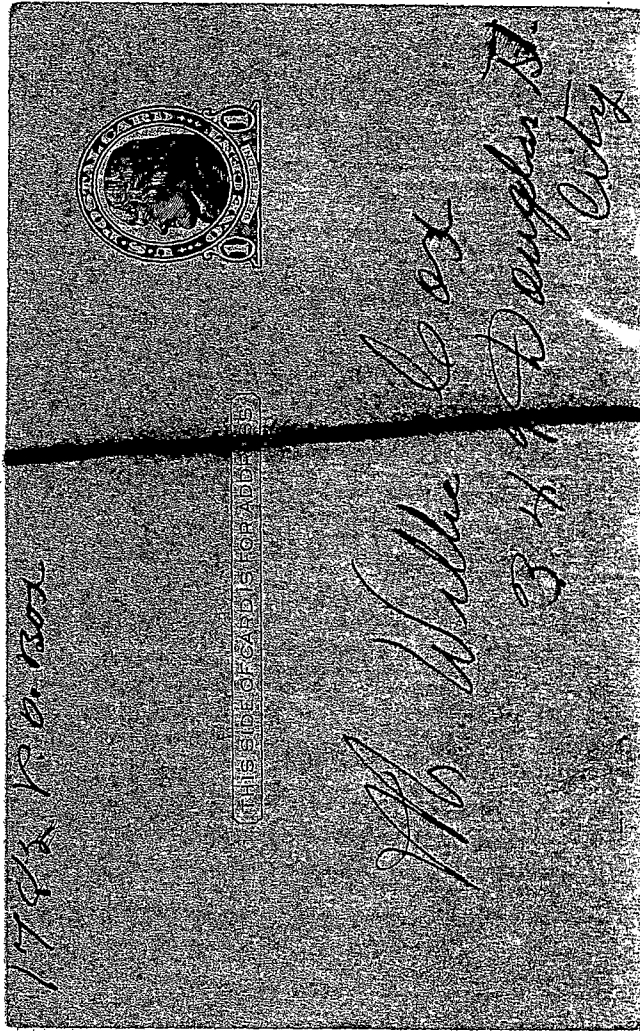
I regret to say, however, that we had some dissatisfaction in the Mims Precinct in our school trustees election to-day. From my present estimation is that more than 12 qualified Negro voters were kept from voting because the polls in Mims were closed before 6:00 P. M. When I learned about this, I went to the polls with three of the men who had been turned away. I told the clerks that I understood that the new law requires the polls to remain open until 7:00 P. M. The clerks said they knew nothing about this, and that they closed at sundown. It was then 5:00 P. M. While we were there two other Negro voters came in to vote, and they were turned away, also. There were others who went there before 6:00 P. M. and were not permitted to vote.

This is a bad practice. It seems that some officials in these small counties either do not know the state laws or they have little regard for them. You already know that they have not been issuing registration receipts to colored voters in this county. In a close election in a small county like this, a dozen or two votes might make a big difference. This early closing could have been designed to catch colored voters, because most of our men work until late.

Do you have any suggestions as to how this might be cleared up? If necessary, we can get affidavits from some of those who were not permitted to vote to-day.

Very truly yours,

Harry H. Moore



1782 P.O. Box

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Willie

Box

347 Douglas St.
Cory

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Jan 22, 1948

We are having our regular
Church Sunday Jan. 25, 8:30
Harry D. Moore, NAACP Executive
to speak to us in a mass meeting
Feb. 4, Dr. Ralph Mark
ference of NAACP will speak
Church. All members are re
TWO BIG NIGHTS

NAACP meeting at the Trinity M. E.
O'clock Monday night, Jan. 26. Mr.
Executive Secretary of Florida, will be here
at the Friendship Baptist Church.
ber, President of the Georgia State Con-
at the Mt. Hermon Primitive Baptist
expected to be to these meetings if possible.

ARMENIUS WALKER, President
J. C. GAMBLE, Secretary

STAPLES

STAPLES

Declaration of Negro Voters

MAIL



Progr...

NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE
OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
2272 SEVENTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 30, N. Y.

Mr. H. T. Moore
Box 4
Mims, Fla.

THE NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE, N. Y. A. S. P. IN ARCHES

12th Annual Conference, May 31-30, 1932

Headquarters: Grace Baptist Church, 52 Sixth Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.

CONFERENCE THEME: "LOOKING OUTWARD AND ADVANCING"

State Conference Officers

James Herbert Allen, New York City	President
Leon W. Scott, New Rochelle	Vice-President
Lionel C. Barrow, New York City	Secretary
Mrs. George W. Bowks, Albany	Assistant Secretary
Miss Amanda Kemp, New York City	Treasurer
Mrs. Lavinia Robinson, Mamaroneck	Youth Advisor
Mrs. Effie A. Gordon, Rye-Port Chester	General Welfare President
Mrs. Hortense H. Gibbs, Ithaca	General Welfare Vice-President
Miss Zayola Blakeney, Flushing	General Welfare Vice-President
George W. Burrus, Rochester	Regional Vice-President

Local Branch Officers

Alfredson R. Henderson	President
Mrs. Ruth Sommerville	Vice-President
Roland E. Hospie	Recording Secretary
Mrs. Anglia Foster	Financial Secretary
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Greene	Corresponding Secretary
Dr. Clarence C. Fair	Treasurer

Committee Chairmen

Benjamin F. Levister	Planning
Bertram Green	Finance
Mrs. Lola P. White	Education
Fred Rosenberg	Extension and Industry
Dr. James E. White	Coordination and Fact Finding
Martin F. Nurse	Press and Publicity

A Message From The Executive Secretary
To
The Florida NAACP One-Day Emergency Conference

Dear Co-workers :

Just a few months ago we submitted a detailed report of our activities to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Florida NAACP State Conference, which was held in Panama City, June 7 - 9. Our report for the intervening period, therefore, will be brief.

The program adopted in Panama City marks the beginning of a new era for the NAACP in Florida. Under this program Florida becomes one of the first, if not the first state, to employ a full time executive secretary. The Conference approved a budget of \$7000 to launch this program and to finance the work for the first year. Mr. H. E. Broughton, Mrs. Viola T. Hill, Mr. Edward D. Davis, Mr. G. D. Rogers, and Rev. R. H. Johnson are members of the Budget Committee, whose task it is to help raise this fund.

The time between the Panama City Meeting and our meeting to-day has been a period of transition. From June 9 to Aug. 31 we continued to operate on a part-time basis, as we had done prior to that time. On Sept. 1 we began full-time work as executive secretary. On that same date Mr. Edward D. Davis of Ocala, who had unanimously been named president-elect at Panama City, assumed his new duties as the third president of the Florida State Conference. Thus, paraphrasing the words of the Apostle Paul, we may say : W. W. Griffin planted, Harry T. Moore watered, and now may Edward D. Davis help to produce the increase.

During this period of transition our work in Florida has continued its steady growth. At the time of our Panama City Meeting there were 53 branches in Florida. To-day it is our pleasure to report 60, or more, branches scattered from Pensacola to Key West. Among these new branches are Hamilton County, Sulphur Springs, Clewiston, Walton County, Hallandale, Clay County, and Deerfield. As we have often said, such progress is not the result of action by any one individual. It is the result of the operations of a well-oiled machine, in which all parts are clicking smoothly. Among our co-workers who have helped to produce this increase are Messrs. E. K. Bass and R. A. Reddick of the Suwannee County Branch, Mr. Hilton Turner of Washington County, Mr. R. W. Davis and Mrs. Claudia W. Holland of Ft. Lauderdale, Rev. J. R. Thompson of Pompano, and Mr. N. S. Fennell of Orange Park. Other workers are helping us to plant seeds in various sections of the state, and it is our hope that these will soon sprout and eventually bring forth much fruit.

Again the Grim Reaper has visited our ranks and cut down two of our veteran warriors. Since we left Panama City Mr. James Green of Pompano and Dr. E. D. Strickland of Sanford have passed to their reward. Mr. Green has labored for the NAACP since some of us were little boys, and for a number of years he was president of the Pompano Branch. Dr. Strickland was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Seminole County Branch, a Gold Certificate holder, and one of our most loyal supporters. The Florida State Conference mourns the passing of these two workers.

We are still deeply concerned about the wave of lynching, mob violence, and police brutality that is threatening to engulf our Southland. Our hearts have been filled with horror as we read about the terrible crimes in Moore, Ga., in Batesburg, S. C., in Minden, La., and in other places where the life of a Negro citizen is still a very cheap article.

And our own state is no exception. No positive action has yet been taken in the case of Leroy Bradwell, Negro veteran of Midway, who disappeared on Jan. 7 while in the custody of Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple of Gadsden County. Through the co-operation of Pres. R. W. Davis and other members of the Ft. Lauderdale Branch we were able to get a personal interview with the mother and the sister of Leroy Bradwell. We have submitted copies of their affidavits to Gov. Caldwell, to the Department of Justice, and to our Legal Staff. It is our opinion that Sheriff Edwards and Deputy Maple should be held responsible for the disappearance of Bradwell. If this Negro cannot be found safe and sound, these two officers should be suspended from office. We recommend that the various religious, civic, and fraternal organizations in Florida be asked to petition Gov. Caldwell for such action.

During the past few months several of our branches have employed lawyers to work on cases of police brutality and "legal lynchings", and the Ft. Lauderdale Branch is raising money to help appeal the convictions of Joe Ferguson and James Andrew Maxwell, accused of rape in Broward County. We also have been corresponding with lawyers with regard to the many cases of police brutality in Polk County, and we wish to discuss this matter with delegates from Polk County branches during this meeting.

Every community in Florida is exposed to the dangers mentioned above. Sooner or later your branch may be called upon to help fight such cases. You should be ready with some money already on hand. We recommend, therefore, that each branch raise a legal fund to be held in reserve until these emergencies arise. Our people must be trained to realize that one dollar per year from each member cannot finance the full program of the NAACP. Members should make additional contributions, so that we can build up a "war chest" to help fight the many battles that are sure to confront us.

Another matter that we have taken up during this period is the question of graduate and professional study for Florida Negro students. Several months ago the State Board of Control established a scholarship fund for the benefit of Negro students who have to leave Florida to obtain graduate and professional courses that white students are now getting at the University of Florida. Unfortunately, the Scholarship Fund was exhausted before the opening of summer schools this year, and many teachers were not able to get the benefit. This Fund has recently been replenished with \$10,000, and we urge that all eligible Negro students who had to leave Florida earlier this year to do graduate work, now make application for scholarship aid to Dr. William H. Gray, Jr., Florida A. & M. College. As you know, the NAACP upholds the principle that each state should provide within its own borders equal educational opportunities for all citizens from the elementary grades to the graduate and professional level, and we have reminded our State officials that we regard the Out-of-State Scholarship Program only as a temporary measure.

Again we wish to remind you of the great importance of our youth work. Let us train our young people to love, and to work for, the NAACP. We urge every branch to help organize a youth council. Let us get our young people ready for the Eighth Annual Youth Conference of the NAACP in New Orleans, Nov. 21 - 24, and for the Third Annual Meeting of the Florida State Conference of Youth Councils, which will be held in Miami next year.

We wish to express our deep appreciation for the many words of encouragement that have come to us from various members and friends over the state. Among these is a recent letter from Pres. W. E. Combs of the Florida State Teachers' Association, pledging the full support of that organization to the program of the NAACP. We also are very grateful for the splendid co-operation that we have received from our many branches, and we solicit your continued support in the work that lies ahead.

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP
Orlando -- Nov. 1, 1946

THE NEGRO PROGRESSIVE VOTERS LEAGUE OF FLORIDA

2912 26TH STREET — TAMPA, FLORIDA

October 11, 1944

The Negro vote means more today than ever before. In past years the Negro vote was brought into play primarily to defeat somebody, but today the Negro vote stands in a position to enable the Negro to integrate himself into every important phase of our government service.

The Negro possesses the balance of power if he will use it. In ten or twelve States the balance of power lies in the hands of the Negroes and they can determine the trend of the election.

For this reason the Executive Board of the State Progressive Voters League met at West Palm Beach, September 10, 1944 to devise plans by which our people might be informed of the importance of registering to become qualified to vote and to teach our people the necessity of using the ballot.

The following Vice-Presidents were elected from each Congressional District.

Vice Presidents

Alternates

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. G. D. Rogers, Tampa | Capt. Paul Diggs, Lakeland |
| 2. Mr. Joe James, Jacksonville | Mr. Chas. Chestnut, Sr., Gainesville |
| 3. Mr. W. M. Harris, Tallahassee | Dr. H. D. Goode, Pensacola |
| 4. Mr. Otis Mumby, Miami | Capt. John Scott, Miami |
| 5. Mr. Joe Harris, Daytona Beach | Mr. C. T. Williams, Orlando |
| 6. Mr. S. Fluellyn, West Palm Beach | Mr. Youngblood, Delray Beach |

It is our desire that you accept this position and see to it that every person is reached in your district. Get a captain in each County. Then let him or her get others to help pass the information on. In this way we can easily cover the State.

Let us wake up. This program calls for quick action. Election is in November. Act and act NOW!

The Board will do the bargaining with candidates for various political officers.

There will be pooling of funds in local set-ups to bear local expenses in carrying out the program.

A Recommended Plan of Action:

We recommend that our various organizations cooperate in the following manner:

1. Churches— That the heads of the various denominations and auxiliaries be asked to send circular letters to their district and local heads, requesting that they encourage their members to register and vote. (Such letters might also be published in our papers)
2. That each presiding elder, moderator, and district superintendent will urge the pastors and local heads on his district to keep the matter of registering to vote before their members.
3. That each pastor will take a little time at each service to teach his

4. That representatives from voters leagues, NAACP branches and other civic organizations be given a little time during regular services to bring this matter before the people.

5. That each class leader, deacon, and club leader be asked to urge his members to register and vote.

II. Fraternal Orders

1. That the head of each fraternal order or civic organization be asked to send circular letters to his local order in the same manner mentioned above.

2. That the local lodges or clubs will do everything possible to get their members qualified to vote.