

Miami, Florida
October 24, 1947

Dear Co-workers:

We are pleased to inform you that the 1947 membership drive has been successful in many respects. We have received a total of 200 new members, of which 100 are women. This is a record for our organization in Florida. We are also pleased to report that we have received a total of \$1,000.00 in contributions from our members. This is a record for our organization in Florida. We are also pleased to report that we have received a total of 100 new members, of which 50 are women. This is a record for our organization in Florida. We are also pleased to report that we have received a total of \$1,000.00 in contributions from our members. This is a record for our organization in Florida.

We are deeply concerned about the lag in our membership campaign, which on July 15 had netted only 1500 members from Florida branches. Most of our branches were far behind their individual goals, and some had not reported any memberships at all for 1947. Orlando, with 500 members, led this branch in memberships reported up to that time.

It is necessary, therefore, that we launch an "all-out" fall membership drive in Florida. The Membership Committee appointed earlier in the year has not functioned properly, appoint a new committee. We are designating November as a special "NAACP Month" in Florida. Branches are urged to arrange mass meetings during this month. Get out-of-town speakers to appear on your programs. Get in touch with your local ministers and ask them to speak about the good work of the NAACP each Sunday in November. Ask each pastor to permit branch representatives to make a membership appeal at the close of one of his regular services. Ask your local lodges, clubs, etc. to make membership appeals for your branch. Let all old branches try to reach, or surpass, their membership goals before Dec. 31. Let all new branches increase their memberships as much as possible this year. ~~Let us all pull together and~~ Let Florida's membership go to 25,000.

The "Lucky Draw" in Lake Wales on July 15 was a success. It netted off a net of \$1,000.00 to help ease the financial strain on the organization. We plan to have a similar draw to secure a net net. However, we plan to raffie off a new 1948 Silver-tone radio-gramophone, console model, as pictured on page 255 of "Hearst's Discard Fall Catalog. (If the winner prefers, he can get the value of the prize in cash. A contributor does not have to be present to win.) Tickets will sell for 50¢ each. Branches and youth councils that help to sell tickets may retain 10% of the cash from their sales. The raffie will be held in Lake Wales Saturday, Nov. 29, at 7:30 P. M. Please let us know at an early date how many tickets your branch or council will be to sell.

Sincerely yours,

Edward N. Davis, President
601 W. Broadway, Ocala

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary

Florida State Conference, NAACP

Our Goal 25,000 Members

Mims, Florida
December 5, 1947

Dear Co-workers :

A Financial Appeal For Legal Cases

During our Seventh Annual Meeting in Lake Wales, Nov. 28 - 30, several important legal cases were brought to the attention of the delegates.

The Washington County Branch of the NAACP has retained a lawyer to help prosecute four white men involved in criminal attacks on two Negro school girls near Chipley about three months ago. As a result, the two men who actually made the attacks have been convicted and sentenced to prison terms of seven and five years. The Branch now plans action against the other two men, who sat in a car and watched while the attacks were being made.

On Sept. 27 Mrs. Lillie Mae Dyer, an expectant mother of Lake City, was murdered by a white merchant who operated a grocery store in the colored section of town. Local citizens became aroused over this incident and steps were taken to get this case as much as possible. Counsel was employed to assist local officials with the prosecution. When this incident occurred there was not a branch of the NAACP in Lake City, but local citizens appealed to us for help through officers of our Suwannee County Branch. Since then a branch has been organized in Lake City.

Although we have failed to secure a conviction in this case, we feel morally obligated to help raise the \$700.00 needed for attorneys' fees. The reputation of the NAACP is at stake. Let us not disappoint the race-minded citizens of Lake City who took the initiative and made an effort to secure justice in this matter.

For the past four months the Daytona Beach Branch, through Atty. L. E. Thomas, has been working on the case of Aaron Quince, 19-year old Negro, charged with the murder of a white woman near Holly Hill. As a result of a brilliant attack on the lily-white jury system of Volusia County, Judge Jackson recently ordered the County Commission to purge the entire jury list and refill it "according to law". This case has been stubbornly fought, and the expense on the local branch has been heavy. There is also a possibility that this case will be carried to the State Supreme Court, as Atty. Thomas is convinced that the facts do not warrant a conviction for first-degree murder.

Our Miami Branch is handling two important cases in which efforts are being made to secure justice for our people. As a result of efforts by Atty. Leo S. Shamer, acting for the NAACP, a Miami policeman is facing a charge of second-degree murder for shooting a Negro veteran in the back. In another case this Branch is defending a Negro charged with rape. Facts uncovered in this case have led local Branch officials to believe that this Negro is innocent.

Financial assistance is needed for these cases. Can your Branch help? Please present this appeal to your members and ask them to make up a contribution to help finance the cases mentioned above. Unless you label your contribution for a specific case, funds received will be pooled and awarded to these cases in proportion to individual needs. Make checks or orders to K. S. Johnson, Pasford. Mail them to the executive secretary at Mims.

Sincerely yours,
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP

Mims, Florida
December 8, 1947

Dear Co-workers :

The National Office has just released figures showing that Florida branches have reported only 8,219 memberships up to Nov. 20, 1947. This places us below our figures for 1946 and only one third of the way to our goal for 1947. Ten branches have not reported any memberships at all for 1947, while 14 other branches have reported less than 50 memberships for this year.

This report shows that your Branch has reported _____ memberships up to Nov. 20, 1947. Your membership goal for 1947 is _____.

Please work hard on memberships during this month. Do not wait for the people to come to a meeting. Send out a special committee to solicit memberships. Make arrangements with your pastors for this committee to make membership appeals in the churches at the close of regular services. Many pastors will help you to do this. Sometimes a little private talk with a minister will encourage him to give you much co-operation in putting over a better NAACP program in your community.

Remind the people of the good work that is being accomplished by the NAACP, even in our own state. Tell them how the Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, and Brevard County Branches have recently helped to open up white primaries to Negro voters. Tell them how the Daytona Beach Branch recently made a successful attack on the lily-white jury system of Volusia County. Tell them that recent efforts of the Miami Branch have helped to bring second-degree murder charges against a white policeman who shot a Negro veteran in the back. And be sure to tell them about that unusual case at Chipley, where legal action by the Washington County Branch has helped to convict and sentence two white men to prison terms of five and seven years for criminal attacks on two Negro school girls. Surely every sober-minded Negro would want to join and help support an organization that is doing so much to secure justice and equal opportunities for our race.

In order to be sure of holding its charter, every branch should try to report at least 50 memberships for 1947. Let all branches work hard and get in as many memberships as possible by Dec. 31, 1947.

Some of our branch officers and members have been very active in helping us to get new branches of the NAACP organized in their section of the state. We are very grateful for this co-operation, and we solicit your continued support in this respect. Only 50 members are needed for a chartered senior branch. If there is a near-by community that does not have a branch of the NAACP, please try to get a committee of interested persons to help solicit memberships for a branch. Send us the names and addresses of such persons, and we shall be glad to send them the necessary material. There is a lot of space in Florida, so let us continue to spread this good work.

During the month of September we wrote you relative to the election of members of the National Board of Directors. Two of the persons endorsed by the Florida delegation at the last Annual Conference have been nominated, and their names are on the ballots sent out from the National Office. If you have not already returned your ballot, we again recommend these two candidates : (1) Mr. T. V. Mangum, Statesville, N. C., (2) Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, Baltimore, Md. Mr. Mangum and Mrs. Jackson are presidents of their respective state conferences, and both are very active workers for the NAACP.

Sincerely yours,
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP

Mims, Florida
April 23, 1947

Dear Co-Workers :

Mr. Daniel E. Byrd of New Orleans, co-ordinator for the Fifth District in our Membership Campaign, will visit Florida early in May to give a little stimulus to our drive for 25,000 members. Mr. Byrd is particularly anxious to meet all branch membership chairmen. He also would like to meet other officers and members who are key persons in this campaign.

For the convenience of our branches, we are making arrangements for Mr. Byrd to hold four district meetings in different sections of the state. Branches are urged to send representatives to the meeting that is nearest to them, or that is most convenient for them to reach. Each district meeting will begin at 2:00 P. M., and it is expected that in most cases delegates will be able to come and go the same day. However, if you desire to spend a night at the place of meeting, please notify the branch officer whose address is given below.

- Schedule Of District Meetings -

May 3	Ocala	Mt. Zion A. M. E. Church	Rev. A. R. Raiford, Pres. P. O. Box 12
May 5	Tampa	<i>new Salem M. Baptist Church</i> (Place to be announced)	Rev. M. C. Strachan, Pres. 1521 Lamar St.
May 7	West Palm Beach	<i>Tabernacle (5th St. Division)</i> (Place to be announced)	Miss Annie L. Motley, Sec. 711 - 14th St.
May 10	Marianna	Joe McLane Community Center	Mr. T. A. Harris, Sec. P. O. Box 207

We have not received word from Tampa and West Palm Beach as to where our meetings may be held. However, we shall get this information to you before time for the meetings.

In several communities we have local committees working up new branches. We shall be glad to have representatives from these committees to attend the district meetings that is near to them. This will be a splendid chance to get more information about the NAACP and its work. We also welcome other persons who are interested in the work of the Association.

Delegates will be asked to register with \$1.00 to help take care of State Conference expenses in the campaign.

Again we urge you to put your best efforts into this drive. Florida now has 69 branches. We must get at least 25,000 members this year. If you need any assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference, NAACP

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 Varren, Jr., Paul Cuyler, Crandall Warren, William Daughtry, Jocille 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

Jocille Daughtry, Secretary

Mims Unit -- Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Mims, Florida
October 10, 1947

A Message To Negro Citizens
Of Cocoa, Rockledge, And Merritt

Dear Co-Workers :

No doubt you have read announcements in the papers stating that registration books are now open for the registration of freeholders in School Districts 2 and 5, which include Cocoa, Rockledge, and Merritt Island. This registration is for the school bond elections, which will be held in these two districts on Nov. 3, 1947.

The books will not be sent out to the various precincts this time, but they will be open at the Court House in Titusville until Oct. 29th. Negro property owners who are not already registered should go to the office of W. J. Bailey, supervisor of registration, from 9:00 to 12:00 A. M. and from 2:00 to 5:00 P. M. It is worth the time and expense that it will take you to come up to the Court House. So get with some of your friends and neighbors and make the trip to Titusville, so that you can help to determine the outcome of these bond elections.

The school bond elections to be held on Nov. 3 are of vital importance to the Negro citizens of Cocoa, Rockledge, and Merritt Island. It is proposed to borrow \$350,000 for new school buildings and for school improvements in the Cocoa - Rockledge District. It is proposed to borrow \$125,000 for the construction of a new elementary school on Merritt Island. If these bond issues pass, Negro citizens of these communities will have to pay their share of increased taxes to pay off these debts. Therefore, every Negro - man or woman - who is 21 years of age, and who owns a foot of property, should be registered to vote on these issues. We also should get together and find out just how much of this money is to be used for the construction and improvement of Negro schools in these two districts. Since you will have to pay your share of taxes to help pay off these debts, your schools should receive a just proportion of the money to be spent.

We also wish to remind you that the all-important state and county Democratic Primary will be held in May of next year. If we wish to help elect our next governor, attorney general, sheriff, county superintendent, and other state and county officers, we must be prepared to vote in this Democratic Primary. And in order to vote in the Democratic Primary, we must be registered as Democrats. Therefore, when you go to register for these bond elections, we suggest that you ask to be registered as Democrats. (We have been advised that Supervisor Bailey has promised to register Negroes as Democrats. However, if you have any difficulty getting registered as Democrats, please notify us immediately.)

Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore

Harry T. Moore, President
Progressive Veterans' League
Brevard County, Florida

Mims, Florida
October 10, 1947

A Message To Negro Citizens
Of Cecoa, Reckledge, And Merritt

Dear Co-Workers :

No doubt you have read announcements in the papers stating that registration books are now open for the registration of freeholders in School Districts 2 and 5, which include Cecoa, Reckledge, and Merritt Island. This registration is for the school bond elections, which will be held in these two districts on Nov. 3, 1947.

The books will not be sent out to the various precincts this time, but they will be open at the Court House in Titusville until Oct. 29th. Negro property owners who are not already registered should go to the office of W. J. Bailey, supervisor of registration, from 9:00 to 12:00 A. M. and from 2:00 to 5:00 P. M. It is worth the time and expense that it will take you to come up to the Court House. So get with some of your friends and neighbors and make the trip to Titusville, so that you can help to determine the outcome of these bond elections.

The school bond elections to be held on Nov. 3 are of vital importance to the Negro citizens of Cecoa, Reckledge, and Merritt Island. It is proposed to borrow \$350,000 for new school buildings and for school improvements in the Cecoa - Reckledge District. It is proposed to borrow \$125,000 for the construction of a new elementary school on Merritt Island. If these bond issues pass, Negro citizens of these communities will have to pay their share of increased taxes to pay off these debts. Therefore, every Negro - man or woman - who is 21 years of age, and who owns a feet of property, should be registered to vote on these issues. We also should get together and find out just how much of this money is to be used for the construction and improvement of Negro schools in these two districts. Since you will have to pay your share of taxes to help pay off these debts, your schools should receive a just proportion of the money to be spent.

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Sincerely yours,

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, President
Progressive Voters' League
Brevard County, Florida

Taking Political Stock In Florida

It might be well for Florida Negro citizens to pause at this point and take stock of our political assets and liabilities.

The recent primaries witnessed the greatest political activity among Florida Negroes since the days of Reconstruction. Various civic, fraternal and religious organizations over the state joined hands in chalking up a record registration of about 80,000 Negro voters. Over 69,000 Negroes were eligible to vote in the Democratic Primaries.

It is interesting to note the influence of the Negro vote in the campaign leading up to the primaries. Many candidates - from governor on down - openly solicited the support of Negro voters. In other recent campaigns some candidates have tried to capitalize on such prejudiced slogans as "White Supremacy", "preservation of the white primary", and "the CIO-controlled Negro block vote". So far as we know, the race issue was not raised during this campaign. Candidates were careful not to offend Negro voters with such trash.

Progressive Voters' League has taken the lead in making contacts with candidates and in getting Negro votes to those candidates who seem to be most favorable to our cause. The League has tried to keep its bargaining with candidates on a high level. Group welfare - and not the welfare of a few individuals - has been our guiding principle. We have questioned candidates closely on such issues as lynching, mob violence, police brutality, equal job opportunities for Negroes, equal salaries for Negro teachers, equal school facilities, and adequate bus accommodations for Negro children. These are fundamental issues, and we see no reason for "soft-pedaling" them. We want equal consideration for the masses of our people. The Progressive Voters' League stands for a full program of civil rights for Negro citizens. In fact, the Progressive Voters' League was organized by the Florida State Conference, NAACP, and through political action the League is fighting for those same fundamental objectives that have been advocated by the NAACP for nearly 40 years.

The balance of power enjoyed by Florida Negro voters was clearly demonstrated in the second primary when Fuller Warren, with the endorsement of the Progressive Voters' League, won the nomination for governor over Dan McCarty by less than 22,000 votes. It is quite evident that a similar endorsement of McCarty could easily have thrown the election to him. This same situation was true in many county races. Sheriff Sweet of Duval County, for example, was re-elected by a margin of less than 700 votes. The same thing happened in Hillsborough County, where Sheriff Tulbreath, with heavy Negro support, won a close victory.

The recent campaign revealed some dangerous tendencies against which we must constantly be on guard. For example, there is a tendency on the part of some candidates to evade fundamental issues and try to buy our votes on a cheap basis. There was a good example of this in Brevard County, where a member of the State Legislature was opposed for re-election. The county units of the Voters' League sent questionnaires to the two candidates in an effort to sound them out on such issues as equal salaries for Negro teachers, graduate study within the state for Negroes, etc. The new candidate sent a favorable reply several days before the election and promised "to represent all of the citizens of this county without regard to race, color, or creed". The man who was seeking re-election gave some free fish fries in an effort to win Negro support. Then just a few hours before the election he sent a letter to the Voters' League which failed to answer any of our questions and merely referred us to his record in Tallahassee. The Voters' League endorsed the new candidate, and he was elected by a margin of 250 votes.

There also is a tendency on the part of some Negroes to be bought over by such flimsy benefits as free fish fries, free drinks, and free rides to the polls. Our votes are more valuable than that, and we must seek more lasting benefits. Another grave danger facing us is the tendency of some Negro leaders to "sell out" to the politicians. Such leaders have little interest in group welfare, and they are concerned primarily with getting dollars for their own pockets. They are ready to sacrifice principles for money. This is one big mistake that was made by our fathers during the Reconstruction Period, and we cannot afford to repeat it now. We must be on the look out for these "sell-out" leaders and be ready to expose them.

And finally, we must not be too willing to follow the leadership of white politicians. Many of

them are liberal with sweet talk - and even with dollars, but in most cases they have selfish interests. A recent report from one community quotes a white politician as saying that he had control of 2000 Negro votes. That is a bad sign. It seems very doubtful that this white man will use those 2000 votes for the welfare of the Negroes themselves. Most likely he will use them primarily to promote his own selfish interests.

Fellow citizens, let us get ready now to march on to even greater accomplishments in the political field. Let us try to avoid the mistakes mentioned above, and let us move forward under honest leadership of our own race. Let us prepare to drive "hard bargains" with the candidates, and let us pool our votes in an effort to get such lasting benefits as better schools, equal salaries for Negro teachers, better streets, a fair share of government jobs, and better protection against lynching and police brutality. This can be done best by consolidating our voting strength under an organization like the Progressive Voters' League, which stands for these fundamental principles. Write to-day for information on organizing local units.

Harry T. Moore

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
Mims, Florida -- July 26, 1948

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The Progressive Voters' League has taken the lead in making contacts with candidates and in directing Negro votes to those candidates who seem to be most favorable to our cause. The League has tried to keep its bargaining with candidates on a high level. Group welfare - and not the welfare of a few individuals - has been our guiding principle. We have questioned candidates closely on such issues as lynching, mob violence, police brutality, equal job opportunities for Negroes, equal salaries for Negro teachers, equal school facilities, and adequate bus accommodations for Negro children. These are fundamental issues, and we see no reason for "soft-pedaling" them. We want equal consideration for the masses of our people. The Progressive Voters' League stands for a full program of civil rights for Negro citizens. In fact, the Progressive Voters' League was organized by the Florida State Conference, NAACP, and through political action the League is fighting for those same fundamental objectives that have been advocated by the NAACP for nearly 40 years.

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Harry J. Moore

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
Mims, Florida -- July 26, 1948

Progressive Voters' League of Florida
Endorses Candidates

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida endorses those candidates for the election on Nov. 2 :

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. President | Harry S. Truman |
| 2. Representative in Congress (5th District) | W. J. Moss, Jr. (Orlando) |

The League endorses President Truman primarily because of his stand for civil rights. We recognize the fact that Mr. Truman, as president of the United States, appointed a committee of prominent citizens in 1946 to make a study of the civil rights of minority groups. This report ranks with the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation in its plea for justice and equal rights for all mankind. Soon after this report on civil rights was made, Mr. Truman sent a special message to Congress, asking that the Committee's recommendations be enacted into law. And recently Mr. Truman issued two executive orders - one to establish an FEPC for government workers, and the other to create a committee to eliminate discrimination and to guarantee equality of treatment in the armed forces. Because of his stand on these issues, Mr. Truman has lost the support of many in his own party. It seems that the Dixiecrats are trying to defeat him just for spite. In view of these facts, we feel that Mr. Truman deserves our full support at the polls on Nov. 2.

The League has sent letters to the various candidates for Congress in an effort to determine their stand on such vital issues as anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and FEPC legislation, Federal aid to education with safeguards against discrimination in the use thereof, and the elimination of segregation in the armed forces. We have a reply from Mr. W. J. Moss, Jr., Republican candidate from the 5th District, pledging his support of these liberal measures. We therefore heartily endorse Mr. Moss for Congress. Mr. Charles E. Bennett, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 2nd District, sent a very cordial letter, in which he took time to express himself freely and frankly on the issues mentioned above. He feels "that major efforts should be made to improve the educational, recreational, economic, and health facilities and opportunities of the negro". Mr. Bennett "deplores any lynching", and "as a member of the Florida Legislature he voted to abolish the poll tax". He "believes, however, that most of these things should be handled entirely by the individual states involved", and "in general he opposes the so-called 'civil rights' program inaugurated by President Truman for the above reasons". No reply has been received from Miss Camille M. Geneau, Republican candidate from the 2nd District, and we have no replies from Dwight L. Rogers and Ralph Kaltenborn of the 6th District. (If these send replies before it is too late, information will be released.)

The League is against proposed constitutional amendment " 1, which would take from our schools the gasoline tax money that they now receive. The League is against amendment " 2, which would make it more difficult for school officials to provide for additional school buildings and other facilities through bond issues. The League is for amendment " 6, which would permit Supreme Court and Circuit Court judges who have retired to return to active duty, if needed.

We re-affirm our position as an independent political organization, devoted to the cause of good government for ALL the people. ~~****~~ The Progressive Voters' League stands on the principle of "men and measures" rather than blind allegiance to any one political party. It is our policy to endorse candidates on the basis of their record, their ability, and their inclination to give fair and equal consideration to all citizens, without regard to race, color, or creed.

In view of the great importance of this election, we solicit the full co-operation of all ministers and lay leaders in an effort to get out a heavy vote on Nov. 2. We have much at stake in this election. Our future welfare hangs in the balance. Therefore, let us not fail to take part and vote for the liberal forces of our state and nation.

Wilton P. Fooks, President
1135 Pierce St., Clearwater

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Mims, Florida -- October 21, 1948

Progressive Voters' League of Florida

Endorses State Candidates

On May 15, 1948, the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc., met at the First Baptist Church in Lake Wales to consider state candidates who are running in the second primary on May 25th. After much discussion, the Board went into executive session and voted to endorse the following candidates:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Governor | Fuller Warren |
| 2. Attorney General | Richard W. (Dick) Ervin |
| 3. Justice of State Supreme Court | J. Tom Watson |

J. Tom Watson was probably the unanimous choice of the Board for a position on the State Supreme Court. As attorney general, Mr. Watson has issued several favorable opinions with regard to the citizenship rights of Negroes; and on the basis of his past record, we feel that Mr. Watson will advocate justice for all citizens who come before the Supreme Court.

Richard W. Ervin served for some time as first assistant to J. Tom Watson, and many feel that he shares Mr. Watson's attitude with regard to the rights of Negro citizens. Those who know Mr. Ervin testify that he has been liberal and fair in his dealings with our people.

Probably the most difficult decision for the Board to make was the choice of a candidate for governor. However, the Board was concerned about the fact that Mr. McCarty seems to have the support of Governor Caldwell, whose machine is said to be opposing Senator Claude Pepper. It is generally agreed that Senator Pepper is one of the South's most liberal statesmen - a staunch friend of labor and of the common people. On the other hand, we have much evidence to prove the Governor Caldwell's Administration has shown very little regard for the basic rights of Negro citizens. In the election in 1950 it is likely to be Caldwell against Pepper for the U. S. Sen. Mr. McCarty, as governor, would no doubt support Mr. Caldwell. Mr. Warren is said to be a strong supporter of Senator Pepper.

these

We admit that no candidate's record is perfect, and that ~~some of these~~ who were not endorsed have some good qualities. But at this point we must make a decision, even if it is a matter of choosing the lesser of two evils. Now is the time for the 69,000 Negro Democratic voters to make their power felt. The campaign has now boiled down to the point where 50,000 votes might easily mean the difference between victory and defeat for any candidate. If we pull together now, we should be able to wield the balance of power. Such a demonstration of our voting strength will mean much to us in this fight for justice and equal opportunities for our people.

Fellow citizens, this is the greatest political opportunity that Florida Negro citizens have ever enjoyed. We solicit the full co-operation of all groups and organizations in this effort to get out a strong united vote on May 25th.

The Board also agreed that the Progressive Voters' League should go on record as being bitterly opposed to the segregated regional school plan advocated by the Southern Governors' Conference. Years of experience have made it quite clear to us that the theory of "separate but equal" is a judicial myth. Negroes never have had - and probably never will have - equality of educational opportunities under a segregated school system. We therefore are strongly opposed to the regional school bill that has been introduced in the Senate by the Junior Senator from Florida, and we wish to remind Senator Holland that his support of this measure is contrary to the best interests of the Negro citizens of Florida and of the South.

Harry J. ...

Progressive Voters' League of Florida
Endorses Candidates

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida endorses these candidates for the election on Nov. 2:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. President | Harry S. Truman |
| 2. Representative in Congress (5th District) | W. J. Moss, Jr. (Orlando) |

The League endorses President Truman primarily because of his stand for civil rights. We recognize the fact that Mr. Truman, as president of the United States, appointed a committee of prominent citizens in 1946 to make a study of the civil rights of minority groups. This report ranks with the Declaration of Independence and the Emancipation Proclamation in its plea for justice and equal rights for all mankind. Soon after this report on civil rights was made, Mr. Truman sent a special message to Congress, asking that the Committee's recommendations be enacted into law. And recently Mr. Truman issued two executive orders - one to establish an FEPC for government workers, and the other to create a committee to eliminate discrimination and to guarantee equality of treatment in the armed forces. Because of his stand on these issues Mr. Truman has lost the support of many in his own party. It seems that the Dixiecrats are trying to defeat him just for spite. In view of these facts, we feel that Mr. Truman deserves our full support at the polls on Nov. 2.

The League has sent letters to the various candidates for Congress in an effort to determine their stand on such vital issues as anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and FEPC legislation, Federal aid to education with safeguards against discrimination in the use thereof, and the elimination of segregation in the armed forces. We have a reply from Mr. W. J. Moss, Jr., Republican candidate from the 5th District, pledging his support of these liberal measures. We therefore heartily endorse Mr. Moss for Congress. Mr. Charles E. Bennett, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 2nd District, sent a very cordial letter, in which he took time to express himself freely and frankly on the issues mentioned above. He feels "that major efforts should be made to improve the educational, recreational, economic, and health facilities and opportunities of the negro". Mr. Bennett "deplores any lynching", and "as a member of the Florida Legislature he voted to abolish the poll tax". He "believes, however, that most of these things should be handled entirely by the individual states involved"; and "in general he opposes the so-called 'civil rights' program inaugurated by President Truman for the above reasons". No reply has been received from Miss Camille M. Geneau, Republican candidate from the 2nd District, and we have no replies from Dwight L. Rogers and Polph Kaltonborn of the 6th District. (If these send replies before it is too late, information will be released.)

The League is against proposed constitutional amendment "1, which would take from our schools the gasoline tax money that they now receive. The League is against amendment "2, which would make it more difficult for school officials to provide for additional school buildings and other facilities through bond issues. The League is for amendment "6, which would permit Supreme Court and Circuit Court judges who have retired to return to active duty, if needed.

We re-affirm our position as an independent political organization, devoted to the cause of good government for ALL the people. ~~***~~ The Progressive Voters' League stands on the principle of "men and measures" rather than blind allegiance to any one political party. It is our policy to endorse candidates on the basis of their record, their ability, and their inclination to give fair and equal consideration to all citizens, without regard to race, color, or creed.

In view of the great importance of this election, we solicit the full co-operation of all ministers and lay leaders in an effort to get out a heavy vote on Nov. 2. We have much at stake in this election. Our future welfare hangs in the balance. Therefore, let us not fail to take time out and vote for the liberal forces of our state and nation.

Wilton P. Rooks, President
1135 Pierce St., Clearwater

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Mims, Florida -- October 21, 1948

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida endorses these candidates for the election on Nov. 2 :

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| 2. Representative in Congress (5th District) | W. J. Moss, Jr. (Orlando) |

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Wilton P. Rooks, President
1135 Pierce St., Clearwater

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Mims, Florida -- October 21, 1948

Florida State NAACP Meeting

In Lake Wales

Florida Branches of the NAACP will hold their Seventh Annual Meeting in Lake Wales Nov. 28 - 30. Sessions will be held in the First Baptist Institutional Church, of which the Rev. Wm. Smith is pastor.

Registration will begin Friday, Nov. 28, at 11:00 A. M., and the opening session will be held at 1:30 P. M. At 4:00 P. M., Friday, Nov. 28, there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Progressive Voters' League of Florida at this same church. The Lake Wales Branch is presenting a local program at 7:30 P. M. Friday, at which time Major C. Leroy Packer, director of public relations at Bethune Cookman College, will be the principal speaker. Business sessions will be held Saturday, and the Conference will close with a mammoth mass meeting Sunday, Nov. 30, at 3:00 P. M. The speakers for this occasion will be Miss Lucille Black, membership secretary from the National Office in New York, and Attorney L. E. Thomas, brilliant Negro lawyer of Miami.

Miss Black is coming to Florida in an effort to help stimulate our fall membership campaign. Although Florida has a large number of NAACP branches, we are far below our membership goal for 1947. Miss Black will be with us throughout the Conference, and branch workers are urged to come and get the benefit of her rich experience in conducting membership campaigns.

Attorney L. E. Thomas is one of Florida's most outstanding criminal and constitutional lawyers. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, and he did his early practicing under the guiding influence of that master legal mind, Attorney S. D. McGill of Jacksonville. During the past three months Attorney Thomas has been leading a determined defense of Aaron Quince, Daytona Beach Negro, who is charged with the murder of a white woman near Holly Hill last summer. Because of Attorney Thomas's brilliant attack against the lily-white jury system of Volusia County, Circuit Judge Jackson recently ordered the County Commission to empty the entire jury box and refill it "according to law". A large crowd is expected to gather in Lake Wales on the Fifth Sunday afternoon to see and hear this famous Negro lawyer of our own state.

The general theme of the Conference will be: "An Active Branch of The NAACP In Every Community". Much time will be devoted to a discussion of the problems of local branches and of methods by which branches can carry on a more active and a more militant NAACP program in their respective communities. Delegates are urged to bring their branch problems to the Conference, so that helpful suggestions can be given.

The Lake Wales Branch, under the energetic leadership of Rev. W. J. H. Black, is making elaborate preparations for our entertainment. In view of the fact that there is a large number of branches in Central Florida, a heavy delegation is anticipated. And since Lake Wales is located in the most beautiful part of Florida's Citrus Belt, only a short distance from the famous Oak Tower, it is expected that a host of visiting friends will come to view the scenery and to enjoy the interesting programs that will be offered during this meeting.

Come to Lake Wales Thanksgiving week-end. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

Edward D. Davis, President
601 E. Broadway, Ocala

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
P. O. Box 4, Miami

Florida State Conference, NAACP

Our Goal

25,000 Members

H. J. Moss, Jr.

For Representative In Congress

To Negro Voters Of The
Fifth Congressional District

Are you interested in full civil rights for our people? Do you see the need of a Federal law against the terrible crime of lynching? Do you think we need a Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission (FEPC) to guarantee equality of opportunity for all workers, without regard to race, color, or creed? Do you see the need of abolishing racial segregation in the U. S. armed forces, so that Negro servicemen will not be subjected to the various forms of discrimination and humiliation that they have suffered in the past?

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida has asked our candidates for Congress to state their position on these vital issues. H. J. Moss, Jr., Republican candidate from the 5th District, has promised to help pass the liberal laws mentioned above. The Democratic candidate has not promised to support such laws. Therefore, the Progressive Voters' League has endorsed H. J. Moss, Jr.

If you feel the need of these laws, be sure to vote for H. J. Moss, Jr., on Nov. 2nd. Tell your friends and neighbors about this. Ministers and heads of organizations are asked to help pass out this information through your churches, clubs, lodge meetings, etc. Let us all get busy and work to support the man who promises to work for the best interest of our people.

Harry T. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
Mims, Florida ----- October 27, 1948

H. J. Moss, Jr.

For Representative In Congress

To Negro Voters Of The
Fifth Congressional District

Are you interested in full civil rights for our people? Do you want Federal anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, FEPC and FEPC laws? Do you want Congress to abolish racial segregation in the armed forces? Do you favor Federal aid to education, with adequate safeguards against racial discrimination in the use thereof?

In reply to a questionnaire sent to candidates by the Progressive Voters' League, H. J. Moss, Jr. has promised to support these liberal measures in Congress. The Democratic candidate has not promised to support such bills. The Progressive Voters' League, therefore, endorses H. J. Moss, Jr., for Congress. (This endorsement is not made just because H. J. Moss is a Republican, as the Progressive Voters' League does not advocate blind allegiance to any one political party. We stand on the principle of "men and measures".)

If you feel the need of these laws, be sure to vote for H. J. Moss, Jr., on Nov. 2nd. Tell your friends and neighbors about this. Ministers and heads of organizations are asked to help pass out this information through your churches, clubs, lodges, etc. Let us all get busy and work to support the man who has promised to work for the best interest of our people.

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

INSTALLATION PROGRAM OVIEDO BRANCH OF THE NAACP.

Sun. Dec. 7, 1947.....3:00 P.M.

at

FOUNTAIN HEAD M. B. CHURCH

Rev. S. R. Rembert, pastor

PROGRAM

1. Selection.....Choir from Grants Chapel A. M. E. Church
2. Scripture.....
3. Prayer.....
4. Selection.....Choir
5. Reading.....Mrs. Edna C. Burton,
Mgr. of Burton Funeral Home, Sanford, Florida
6. Reading.....Miss Corine Varn
7. Selection.....Choir
8. Address.....Mr. C. D. Maxey, Mgr. of the
Afro Life Ins. Co.
Sanford, Florida
9. Selection.....Choir
10. Introduction of speaker... Mr. J. H. Browdy, Pres.
of Local Branch
11. Speaker.....Mr. Harry T. Moore
Executive Secretary
Florida State Conference
NAACP
12. Offertory.....

Installation of Officers.....Mr. Harry T. Moore

13. Announcements.....

14. Benediction.....

Reed

The 1948 General Election
And Its Importance To Negro Voters

Because of our one-party system, general elections in the "Solid South" usually arouse less interest than Democratic primaries. In most cases the winner in a Democratic primary is considered a sure winner in the general election. The primary is usually The Election in the South.

But the general election facing us on November 2nd is a most unusual one. Not since 1860 has this country been so divided in a presidential election. In fact, the presidential elections of 1860 and 1948 are similar in many respects. In 1860 the slavery question was the burning issue. The Democratic Party split over this issue and eventually offered two candidates for president. The Constitutional Union Party tried to "soft-pedal" the slavery question and adopted a platform that emphasized the importance of upholding the Constitution and preserving the Union. The new Republican Party opposed the extension of slavery into the territories and nominated Abraham Lincoln for president. Lincoln was elected; and when the smoke of the Civil War cleared a few years later, chattel slavery had been abolished.

In 1948, as in 1860, we find our nation again divided on the race question. In 1860 it was called the slavery question. In 1948 it is called the question of civil rights. But the fundamental issue is the same in both cases. The basic question is this: Shall America continue to treat Negroes as slaves, inferior beings, and second-class citizens, or shall Negroes be treated as free human beings, with all of the rights and privileges of full citizenship? When this question was raised at the Democratic Convention in Philadelphia this year, the reaction was about the same as it was at the Democratic Convention in Charleston and Baltimore in 1860. The reactionary "States' Rights" slave holders walked out in 1860, held another convention in Richmond, and nominated Breckinridge of Kentucky. The reactionary Dixiecrats walked out again in 1948, journeyed to Birmingham, and nominated Thurmond of South Carolina.

The Dixiecrats' "walkout" in Philadelphia was perhaps the best thing that could have happened. The line was then clearly drawn, and liberal forces gained control of the regular Democratic Party. The party adopted a strong race plank that fully endorsed Truman's civil rights program and dedicated the Democratic Party to the liberal principles of "human rights" instead of the old reactionary doctrine of states' rights.

American Negroes have much at stake in the general election of 1948. In advocating the civil rights program Mr. Truman has stuck his neck out farther for the Negro race than any president - perhaps even farther than did Abraham Lincoln. Truman has risked the loss of support from many of his own party. The Dixiecrats are trying hard to defeat Truman just because he is advocating full citizenship for Negroes.

Negro citizens of Florida and other Southern states must get ready to play an important part in the election on November 2nd. The "Solid South" is not so solid this year. The South is not "in the bag" for the Democratic Party in 1948. Votes for president will be split four ways, and in some Southern states the race may be very close. Negroes should realize that we are a very important issue in this campaign. The outcome of this election may have as much effect on our future welfare as did the election of 1860.

Registration books are now open. Every adult Negro in Florida should be registered to vote in November. We hereby urge NAACP branches, local units of the Voters' League, and other civic, fraternal, and religious organizations to put on intensive drives for registration of Negro voters. Let us double the 80,000 Negro voters that we had for the primaries. Fellow citizens, the Negro vote may prove to be the balance of power in the presidential race in Florida this year. We are the ones who need civil rights. Therefore, let us get prepared to throw a strong vote for the liberal forces that are trying to secure the complete emancipation of our race.

Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
1. Florida State Conference, NAACP
2. Progressive Voters' League of Florida, Inc.
Mims, Florida August 14, 1948

Harry T. Moore

Progressive Voters' League of Florida
To Meet In Orlando

The Progressive Voters' League of Florida will hold a state meeting at Mt. Olive A. M. E. Church, West Washington Street, Orlando, on Saturday, October 9th, to make plans for the general election next month.

Beginning at 11:00 A. M. there will be a general session open to the public. At 2:00 P. M. there will be a closed session, open only to members of the Board and delegates from affiliated local units. Each affiliated local unit is entitled to 1 representative for every 100 ~~\$\$\$~~ paid members, or fraction thereof.

The Progressive Voters' League is an independent political organization devoted to the best interest of Florida Negro citizens and to the general welfare of our state. The League does not cater to any foreign "isms". It stands for the fundamental principles of American democracy. The League is not tied to any one political party, nor is it controlled by "professional politicians".

We are devoted to the cause of good government for ALL the people, without regard to race, color, or creed. The League stands for full citizenship rights and equal opportunities for Negroes. We are particularly concerned about the crimes of lynching, mob violence, and police brutality, and we favor more effective measures to check these evils that plague our people. We also favor equal job opportunities for Negroes, equal school facilities, adequate bus accommodations, and equal salaries for Negro teachers, based solely on training and experience. We firmly believe that these objectives can be reached through the proper kind of political action, and it is our policy to support those candidates who promise to advocate these basic civil rights for our people.

Florida Negro citizens now enjoy wonderful political opportunities. With the exception of a few counties, we have free access to the ballot box. It is up to us to vote wisely for the general welfare of our people.

We solicit your support in our efforts to promote a program of wholesome political activity among Negro citizens. Fellow citizens, let us consolidate our political strength. Organize a unit of the Progressive Voters' League in your community and thus become affiliated with the political organization that is fighting for the complete emancipation of our race.

It is easy to organize a unit of the Progressive Voters' League, even in a small community. You may start with 10 members. There is an annual membership fee of \$1.00, which is divided equally between the local unit and the State League. Membership cards are issued by the State League, which is chartered under the laws of Florida. Local political, civic, and social clubs may become affiliated with the Progressive Voters' League by reporting 50¢ per member to the State League. Cards will be issued for memberships so reported. Write the executive secretary for further information.

Mary J. Moore
Harry T. Moore, Executive Secretary
Progressive Voters' League of Florida
Mims, Florida -- October 2, 1948

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

D. Rogers, Tampa
P. Stewart, Jax
Otis Saunby, Miami
Joe Harris, Daytona B
S. Fluellyn, W. P. B.
C. T. Williams, Orlando
L. L. Youngblood, Delray B.
Mrs. Viola T. Hill, Orlando

*Progressive Voters' League
of Florida*

~~2912 26th STREET~~

~~TAMPA 5, FLA.~~

STATE OFFICERS

Earl E. Broughton, Pres.
Emma A. Pickett, Sec'y.
Rev. H. J. Fordham, Asst. Sec'y.
R. B. Watman, Corr. Sec'y.
Harry T. Moore, Treas.
M. C. Bodie, Director of Publicity

ORIGINAL

APPLICATION FOR CHARTER

of

Clay County, Fla. Branch

of the

**National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People**

(Not to be filled out by branch)

Date of Organization Meeting

Received at National Offices

Approved by Committee on Branches

Executive Authorization Granted

Application for Charter Approved

Charter Forwarded

FIRST INDORSEMENT

Date.....

This is to certify that this application for charter has been duly considered by the COMMITTEE ON BRANCHES, and that the granting of an Executive Authorization is hereby approved.

.....
Chairman, Committee on Branches

EXECUTIVE AUTHORIZATION

Authority is hereby conferred upon the members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People whose names are subscribed herein, to undertake all activities which are proper to a Branch of this Association, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

As soon as the Branch shall have become fully organized and actively engaged in the work of the Association, its application for charter will be presented for the consideration of the Board of Directors, and upon their approval a Permanent Charter will be granted.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

By
Chairman of the Board of Directors

By
Secretary

Dated.....

69 Fifth Avenue
New York 3, N. Y.

E. G. ...	1
E. ...	2
H. ...	3
H. ...	4
F. ...	5
S. ...	6
E. ...	7
H. ...	8
W. P. ...	9

211172

They are getting off
the topic

The topic is
how can we
agree the
minutes and
not

Keep this meeting
non-factional