



# Greater Texarkana Branch Newsletter

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January—March 2019  
Branch #6231

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Next Monthly Meeting

May 4, 2019  
10:00 am  
Oak Street Baptist Church  
1st Saturday of the Month

### Rosehill Neighborhood Celebration

April 27, 2019  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm  
Tiger Stadium @  
Grim Memorial Park

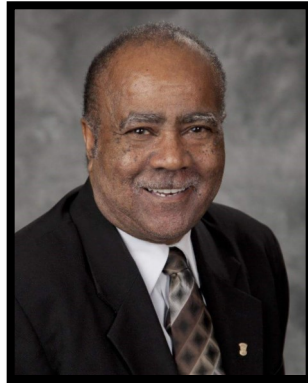
### NAACP 109th Annual Convention

July 20 - 24, 2019  
Detroit, Michigan

### Greater Texarkana Branch Freedom Fund Awards Banquet

October 26, 2019  
6:30 pm · Meet and Greet  
7:00 pm · Banquet

## PRESIDENT'S PEN



To the Members of the Greater Texarkana Branch of the NAACP,

It is my honor to serve as the President of the Greater Texarkana Branch. The Branch membership has heighten as well as our community exposure. We must persevere because there is still a lot to accomplish in health care, education, political awareness and justice for all. I hope and pray that we continue to persist and maintain

our vision for this year and that next year will be better. Finally, please join the Branch as we celebrate 100 years in existence and activism in the Texarkana community (1998—2018). Thanks to members and the community for your continued support of the Branch.

*Robert A. Jones*

President, Greater Texarkana Branch

## TEXARKANA COLLEGE ANNOUNCE SCHOLARSHIP FUND IN HONOR OF ROBERT A. JONES



Congratulations to Robert A. Jones, President of the Greater Texarkana Branch, for the scholarship fund presented in his honor by Texarkana College's President, Jason Smith on February 28, 2019 at the college's Black History Program. Mr. Jones is deserving of the scholarship and accolades for his activism and commitment to the Branch, college, students and community.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PROGRAM

The Martin Luther King Jr Program was held on Monday, January 21, 2019, at Dunbar Elementary. The program theme was *Unity Is Up To All Of Us*. The keynote speaker was Mr. Armani Valentino. The program was hosted by the Branch, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Black Student Association (Texarkana College), Kappa Xi Omega Chapter and the Housing Authority of Texarkana Texas. Many thanks to the Branch members who assisted/attended and other volunteers. Special thanks to Dunbar, their chefs, security and other staff assistance, as well as Texarkana Independent School District. The program attracted approximately 200 individuals from the area. The entertainment and keynote speaker were awesome.



## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR PARADE



On January 21, 2019, the Greater Texarkana Branch participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in downtown Texarkana. The parade theme "The Power of One—One Man, One Dream, One Hope". The Twin City Black History Association hosted the parade, which included floats, bands, cars, and horses. Thanks to Reverend Tony Patterson and Ronald E. Ruffin for representing the Branch.

## FITNESS CHALLENGE

The first annual Greater Texarkana Branch Fitness Challenge was held on March 2, 2019 at 9:00 am at the API Institute. The fitness challenge was 100 pushup within an hour. The prizes were \$100, one year annual membership and a t-shirt for the first male and female to finish. There were four male and two female participants. It was a cold and dreary day, but we had winners and they were:

- Dr. Rosalyn Henry
- Mr. Joshua Kindred

Many thanks to [API](#) for use of their facility, the Greater Texarkana Branch's Health Committee and [JayDee Mullens Photography](#) for the videos and photos. To view the Fitness Challenge Videos/Photos visit the Branch website and click Media.



## LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM CITY JAIL (EXCERPTS)

APRIL 26, 1963

*Retrieved from Teaching American History.org*

<http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/letter-from-birmingham-city-jail-excerpts/>



My Dear Fellow Clergymen,

While confined here in the Birmingham City Jail, I came across your recent statement calling our present activities "unwise and untimely." Seldom, if ever, do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas ... But since I feel that you are men of genuine good will and your criticisms are sincerely set forth, I would like to answer your statement in what I hope will be patient and reasonable terms.....

I think I should give the reason for my being in Birmingham, since you have been influenced by the argument of "outsiders coming in." I have the honor of serving as president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization operating in every Southern state with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. We have some 85 affiliate organizations all across the South ... Several months ago our local affiliate here in Birmingham invited us to be on call to engage in a nonviolent direct action program if such were deemed necessary. We readily consented. You may well ask, "Why direct action? Why sit-ins, marches, etc.? Isn't negotiation a better path?" You are exactly right in your call for negotiation. Indeed, this is the purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has constantly refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue.

My friends, I must say to you that we have not made a single gain in civil rights without legal and nonviolent pressure. History is the long and tragic story of the fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and give up their unjust posture; but as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups are more immoral than individuals.

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed. Frankly I have never yet engaged in a direct action movement that was "well timed," according to the timetable of those who have not suffered unduly from the disease of segregation. For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with a piercing familiarity. This "wait" has almost always meant "never." It has been a tranquilizing Thalidomide, relieving the emotional stress for a moment, only to give birth to an ill-formed infant of frustration. We must come to see with the distinguished jurist of yesterday that "justice too long delayed is justice denied." We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God-given rights. The nations of Asia and Africa are moving with jetlike speed toward the goal of political independence, and we still creep at horse and buggy pace toward the gaining of a cup of coffee at a lunch counter.....

### HOW TO FILE A GRIEVANCE WITH THE BRANCH

Please visit the Branch website: [www.texarkananaacp.org](http://www.texarkananaacp.org) and click forms to obtain a Grievance/Complaint form to submit an official grievance/complaint. Completing this form does not constitute an official complaint with a legal authority. At this time, the Branch/NAACP is only seeking information to assist you concerning your grievance/complaint.



The Legal Redress Committee shall: (1) investigate all cases reported to it; (2) supervise all litigation in which the branch is interested and; (3) keep the national office and the branch informed on the progress of every case. It shall not give legal advice.