



Greater Texarkana Branch Newsletter

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July–December 2019
Branch #6231

DATES TO REMEMBER

Citywide Church Svc (TCBHA)

January 29, 2020
Bright Star Baptist
7:00 pm

Next Monthly Meeting

February 1, 2020
10:00 am
New Baptist Bible Fellowship
Texarkana, TX 75501
1st Saturday of the Month

Black History Parade (TCBHA)

February 1, 2020
Downtown Texarkana
10:00 am

Annual Youth Rally (TCBHA)

February 1, 2020
Hickory Hill Baptist
12:00 pm

27th Annual Scholarship Banquet (TCBHA)

February 29, 2020
Texarkana TX Conv Ctr
6:00 pm

2nd Annual Fitness Challenge

March 7, 2020
Texarkana College
Pinkerton Center

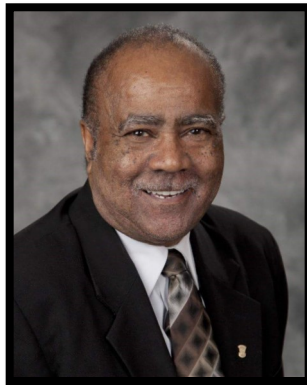
Census Date (Survey)

April 1, 2020

Voter Registration Information

Visit: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/2020-important-election-dates.shtml>

PRESIDENT'S PEN



It is my honor to serve as the President of the Greater Texarkana Branch. The Branch's membership has heighten as well as our community exposure. We have accomplished many goals: 1) the Branch hosted the first state convention in Northeast Texas, October 2016; 2) we have met and networked with other Branches in Northeast Texas; and 3) we are intensely working to keep the community inform of who we are and what we do. However, 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 persevere and maintain our vision for this year and that next year will be better. The Branch has reached its 100th Anniversary Commemoration (1918 - 2018). Please join us as we celebrate the efforts, dedication, activism and our continuous fight for justice and equality for the next century. If you have any narratives/stories and/or photos regarding the Branch's activism, please forward in order that we can chronicle.. In case your New Years' resolution hasn't been determined, the Branch can assist by challenging you to help with achieving 100+ members by the end of the year. Complete a membership application and join us. Once again, thanks for your support!

Robert A. Jones

President, Greater Texarkana Branch

NAACP 110th National Convention, July 20-24, 2019 in Michigan Detroit

Robert A. Jones, president, attended and represented the Branch at National. He returned with and addressed documentation presented at the convention. Assisting with registering individuals to vote and getting them out to vote in the upcoming 2020 election was stressed. Next year's national convention site is Boston Massachusetts.

TEXAS MISSION OF MERCY (FREE DENTAL CARE)

Many thanks to the Texas Mission of Mercy and the Branch's health care committee and members who assisted with free dental care and procedures for the community at Texas High School, July 12–13, 2019.

TEXARKANA TEXAS POLICE CHIEF KEVIN SCHUTTE SPEAKS AT MONTHLY MEETING



(l to r) Police Chief, Kevin Schutte and Branch President, Robert A. Jones

Texarkana Texas police chief, Kevin Schutte, accepted the Branch's invitation and takes time out of his schedule to speak to members at the monthly meeting on August 3, 2019 at New Baptist Bible Fellowship Church.

Two statements that represents Chief Schutte's leadership style are:

- Just because you can, don't mean you should
- We are better than that

A synopsis of the chief's visit is as follows:

- Police officers have to be in control of their emotions and they have to realize it's not personal. Hold supervisors responsible for officers.
- The department offers Policing Experience to the community (area residents gets to experience officer's job responsibilities). Approximately

200 individuals have completed to date.

- He addressed the district courts and judges available and turn around for hearing cases in our area.
 - Most arrests are re-arrests. 300 – 350 average monthly arrests.
 - Four minutes response times. Below average which is five minutes.
 - Citation (Warrant): SSN is required (last four numbers). Should not be asking for the full SSN.
 - Photos during traffic stop: Not done every time there is a stop, but it's usually done if there is a discrepancy with driver's license.
 - All officers have body cameras.
 - The Texarkana police department has completed sensitivity and diversity training. Twice a year diversity training is required.
 - Seeking individuals to complete the civil service exam.
 - The department is in the process of starting a program for teenagers interested in becoming police officers. TISD has a program. Also, in the process of putting together a program for youth similar to the Policing Experience. Coming soon is a Heroes and Pros program (i.e., police, fire department and professional athletes).
- ⇒ Visit Texarkana Texas Police Department's Facebook page for happenings in the community: www.facebook.com/texarkanapolice
- ⇒ For real time neighborhood stats, check out the department's website: www.texarkanapolice.net/393/Police-Department
- ⇒ To view the .pdf of the Church Safety and Secure visit: www.texarkanapolice.net/603/Church-Safety

2019 FREEDOM FUND AWARDS BANQUET, OCTOBER 26, 2019

Thanks to the members, volunteers, community, the Freedom Fund Banquet committee, keynote speaker, Mr. Ivan Whitfield, former Pine Bluff Arkansas Police Chief, and awardees for another successful, informative and stimulating Banquet. There were over 300 attendees. In addition, many thanks to Texarkana Texas Convention Center's staff hospitality and services. Please visit the Branch's Facebook and/or website for upcoming photo and videos.

Greater Texarkana Branch

2019 Freedom Fund Awards Banquet



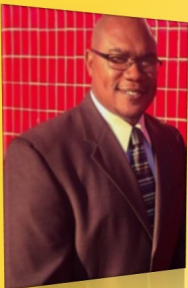
Keynote Speaker

Mr. Ivan Whitfield

Saturday, October 26, 2019

When We Fight, We Win!

Award Recipients



Mr. Kendrick Smith
A.E. Alton
Educational Award



Ms. Damien Davis
John Jay Jones, Sr.
Community Service Award



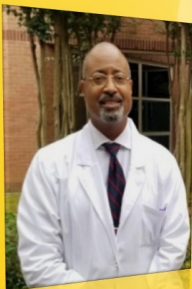
Mrs. Beverly Ann Jack Webb
Benjamin Dennis
President's Award



Mr. Armani Valentino
Dr. Calvin Rolark
Business and Economic Award



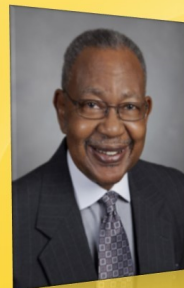
Mrs. Dorothy Henderson
Trailblazer Award



Dr. Dewitt "Charles" Fortenbery
Dr. G. W. Thompson
Award



Pastor Louie B. George, Jr.
Lifetime Achievement
Award



Mr. Gerald Books
Dan Haskin
Torchbearer Award



Rev. Dr. Kai Horn
Religious Affairs Award

VETERAN AFFAIRS OFFICE TO OPEN ON TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Mr. James Keeton has announced that a Veteran's Affairs office will be opening on Texarkana College's campus.

TEXAS STATE NAACP CONVENTION, OCTOBER 3-5, 2019 IN SAN ANGELO, TX

Robert A. Jones, president, Melva Flowers, treasurer, Ruby Hildreth, assistant secretary, attended and represented the Branch at the state convention in San Angelo Texas. The State and National convention are stressing the same importance for 2020 registering voters and getting them to the poles to vote.

COMMUNITY EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS



Reaching out to the greater Texarkana community regarding events for consideration via the Branch website. If you have or are aware of events in our community and would like them highlighted on the Branch website, please visit www.texarkananaacp.org, and click Contact Us and provide details about the event/announcement (i.e., date, time, location, host(s), brief summary and/or website). The Branch must approve all potential events/announcements.

HOW TO FILE A GRIEVANCE WITH THE BRANCH

Please visit the Branch website: 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.

TEXARKANA TEXAS CITY COUNCIL MEETING PORTAL

Please visit the following portal: <http://texarkanacitytx.iqm2.com/citizens/default.aspx> for meeting dates and agenda items/packets.

"We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done and cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we out to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential."

— Ellen Goodman

