



January 6, 2022

Happy New year to the branch members of the Evanston/North Shore NAACP!

We are deeply grateful for the work our branch accomplished in 2021 and we look forward to the work that lies before us in 2022. These words are being written on January 6th, certainly in paraphrasing Churchill, "A day that shall live in infamy." As the very foundation of United States Democracy was rocked to its core a year ago, a true testament to the character of the majority of people, is that we withstood the siege. An attempted overthrow, an effort to destroy the electoral process, a strictly partisan effort to keep in office a losing candidate and to prevent the winning candidate from taking office, all of this was halted in its tracks.

While we are grateful the revolt was crushed, there is considerable concern regarding the aftermath. More than a year after the election of our current president, millions of people still believe Trump won the election. Their angst and rage is so great until states around the country have usurped the progression of voting rights of black and brown people. Districts have been realigned to favor Republican candidates at the expense of black and brown residents. Voter education, assistance and registration processes have been gutted and in some cases, it is now illegal to offer a cup of water to someone standing in line to vote!

In the year since the insurrection, Democrats and Republicans have not grown closer, but have become more divided than ever. Not one legislator who remained silent about the insurrection, attended the observation ceremony in the Capital Rotunda today where President Biden and Vice President Harris gave remarks. Throughout the last year some legislators have given incendiary remarks that are racist, Islamophobic, sexist and simply twisted, aimed at their own counterparts who sit across the aisle. Mid term elections will be coming up in 2022 in a climate that is rife with continued division led by falsity, misplaced anger and ignorance.

More necessary now than ever, is the work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. We are simply the oldest and boldest, the strongest and longest, the steepest and deepest civil rights organization in our nation's history. We are asking Evanston and the North Shore residents to join us as we continue to break through walls of division and build bridges of repair. If you have not joined us,

please plan to do so today. But we are not just asking for a burgeoning membership. We are hopeful that in joining, you will also share from your own expertise, talent and skills. Consider becoming a member of one of our standing committees;

Membership Committee

Civic Engagement Committee Education Committee

Housing Committee

Freedom Fund Banquet Committee Youth Council Committee

Legal Redress Committee

Health and Wellness Committee

In 2022 our goal will be to have at least 10 NAACP members in each of our standing committees. We are not setting this goal because it looks good. Rather, the urgency of the times, the resurgence of racism, the deep divide in our nation, demands that we are

strengthened through the excellence of our members. After all, what if it is you who holds the key to holding back the next effort to deny the rights of people in our nation? We may not have it all together, but together we have it all.

Warmly,

Rev. Dr. Michael C. R. Nabors President