

Long Beach Branch NAACP

**Long Beach Branch....National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
P.O. Box 1594 Long Beach, CA 90801**

Press Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Naomi Rainey, President

Long Beach Branch NAACP

LB Branch NAACP to Receive One of the Highest National NAACP Awards:

2009 Thalheimer Award

The LB Branch NAACP is receiving a 2009 Thalheimer Award on Thursday, July 16, 2009 at the NAACP National Convention which is held from July 11-16, 2009 in New York, NY. Each year, during the NAACP Convention, the Thalheimer Awards are given to branches for their excellence in the areas of Programs and Publication. This award is a significant accomplishment and honor for the LB Branch NAACP because there are over 2,200 units in the NAACP nationally. President Naomi Rainey, who has served as the Branch's President for over nine years, will be accepting the award on behalf of the LB Branch NAACP. Under the leadership of President Naomi Rainey, the LB Branch NAACP has received eight Thalheimer Awards.

The Thalheimer Awards Committee considers various criteria when selecting Branches and State Conferences for these awards, including evaluating the Branch's core areas such as membership, political action, legal redress, education, economic development, Voter Empowerment, Health, Education, Veterans', Affairs, Labor & Industry, as well analyzing the number of people who benefit from the noted activities and programs of the Branch.

The award is named after Ross Julian Thalheimer. Born in November 21, 1905, in Baltimore, MD, Thalheimer died February 20, 1977. He was a Johns Hopkins University professor in philosophy and a University of Washington professor in Philosophy and Sociology. He was also President of the Thalheimer Foundation, Inc. (1957-77).

LB Branch NAACP President Naomi Rainey commented, "Since the Branch was chartered, has addressed many racial and discrimination issues and have won many civil rights cases. On a daily basis, civil rights violations and infringements are investigated and resolved. Our city can boast today of its diversity and inclusiveness because of the struggle for equality and justice that the original LB Branch NAACP founders fought for nearly 70 years ago."

The LB Branch NAACP was founded in 1940 by Ernest McBride, Sr. and two other community activists: Lillie Grisby and Zelma Lipscomb. The LB Branch NAACP launched efforts to hire African-American police officers and to end discrimination in employment and housing. The LB Branch NAACP efforts to put African-Americans on Long Beach's police force was realized in 1950 when several black men were hired, and in 1979, Charles B. Ussery became Long Beach's 1st African-American Chief of Police. In addition, the Long Beach Branch taskforce analysis has caused pivotal changes in the Long Beach community; many recommendations from the taskforce have been accepted and fully implemented. The LB Branch NAACP youth programs, such as the Community Impact Program, Afro-American, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) promotes academic excellence, social responsibility, and professional development.

This year's 2009 National NAACP Centennial Convention will be held in New York, New York where the organization was originally founded in February 12, 1909. This year's theme is "100 Years - Bold Dreams, Big Victories." The NAACP is celebrating their Centennial Anniversary this year as the nations' largest and oldest civil rights organization in the world.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocated for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

The LB Branch is stronger and more effective than ever and is always accepting new members to become involved with the organization's mission for equality and justice.

For additional information please contact: agsnaacp@yahoo.com

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NAACP Hotline: (562)-494-6507

General Membership Meetings are every 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 pm at Ernest McBride Sr. Park, 1550 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90813.