William & Mary

NAACP

2009-2010

CHAPTER GUIDE

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

The history of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a story of courage, sacrifice and unwavering faith and determination. Together, thousands of brave men and women tirelessly fought to ensure the promise of America for *all* citizens. Their actions have forever shaped each of our lives.

Now in its second century, the NAACP faces a major crossroads. The once imposing racial barriers and dilemmas of the past have become more nuanced and much easier to conceal. Immigration and increasing globalization present new challenges, while long-standing issues like the achievement gap and segregation persist. To remain relevant, the NAACP must be willing and able to effectively tackle today's major challenges. The William & Mary NAACP is committed to doing just that.

The chapter's motto, *Boldly fighting with E.A.S.E.* (an acronym for "Empowerment through Advocacy, Service and Education"), reflects this commitment. The organization strives to promote the interests and wellbeing of all people of color and employs a diverse and talented membership to successfully carry out its mission.

We are the leaders of tomorrow. Our training begins today.

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP

- **Eligibility & Costs:** Any currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate student is eligible to join the NAACP College Chapter. A one-year membership costs $15.00 (for those under 21) or $30.00 (those ages 21 and older). This includes a year-long subscription to the NAACP's official magazine, The Crisis – founded in 1910 by W.E.B. Du Bois.

- **Application Process & Instructions:** The William & Mary NAACP collects applications throughout the month of September. During this time, applications must be downloaded and printed from the chapter website and submitted to the Chapter Treasurer. Those wishing to join after September should contact the Chapter Treasurer for instructions.

- **Expectations:** All members are highly encouraged, but not required, to serve on a chapter committee (See Section 5, pg. 4 and Section 6, pg. 5).

  To serve as an Executive Officer or Committee Chair, an individual must be a paid member.

  Minimum Expectations:
  1. Continuously uphold and promote chapter ideals
  2. Support chapter events and initiatives
  3. Set aside an hour once a month to attend general body meetings

SECTION 3: MEETINGS

General body meetings are held on the first Monday of every month at 6pm and regularly feature special guest speakers.

Committee meetings are held on subsequent Mondays between 6 and 8pm at the discretion of the Committee Chair.

SECTION 4: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee manages the William & Mary NAACP – ensuring the chapter's overall success and efficiency. It is comprised of the chapter's five elected officers, each of whom fulfills a number of important tasks.

- In addition to leading the organization and serving as chief spokesperson, the **President** is responsible for appointing Committee Chairs and presiding over all Executive Committee and general body meetings. The President establishes the chapter's vision, monitors assigned tasks, and ensures that chapter goals are met.

- The **First Vice President** serves as the chapter's issues and advocacy "expert" – researching and monitoring social justice and diversity-related news, and leading chapter response and mobilization efforts when necessary. The First VP is also responsible for maintaining relations with other campus multicultural and social justice organizations.

- The **Second Vice President** assumes the duties of the Chapter President in his/her absence, serves as the chief liaison between the college and local NAACP, and is responsible for ensuring chapter compliance with the State and National Offices. The Second VP also oversees all major scheduling and AV requests.

- The **Secretary** maintains the chapter archives and records, writes and distributes meeting minutes, and is responsible for all chapter mailings.

- The **Treasurer** manages the chapter's financial records and spending, oversees fundraising, and processes all membership applications. Each fall, the Treasurer must submit the chapter funding request to the Student Activities Office and attend the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) hearing in the spring. The Treasurer is also responsible for completing the Year-End Financial Report and typically serves as the de facto chair of the Jobs-Finance Committee (See *Jobs-Finance* – Section 5, pg. 4).

SECTION 5: STANDING COMMITTEES

The National Office requests that each college chapter maintain eleven, issue-specific Standing Committees that work in conjunction with the Executive Officers. The William & Mary NAACP has consolidated these eleven committees down to five. All Committee Chairs are appointed by the Chapter President and are responsible for submitting quarterly reports to the Second VP.

- The **Health** Committee monitors health and medical-related news and research – giving special attention to issues that affect people of color at high or disproportionate rates. The committee is responsible for coordinating events, programs and campaigns that raise awareness, provide helpful resources, and encourage healthy lifestyles.

- The **Jobs-Finance** Committee works to increase the financial literacy and professional skills among students of color. In addition to monitoring economic and job-related news, the committee coordinates programs and events aimed at increasing knowledge and access to opportunities. The committee is also responsible for organizing chapter fundraising initiatives.

- The **Political Action** Committee coordinates all voter registration and awareness campaigns (See *Fall Voter Registration & Membership Campaigns* – Section 7, pg. 6) and provides assistance, when needed, to similar efforts conducted by the York-James City-Williamsburg (YJCW) NAACP. The committee closely monitors the impact of local, state and federal legislation/policies on communities of color and works to increase minority civic involvement and education.

- The **Public Relations** Committee oversees the chapter's publicity and outreach efforts, which includes membership recruitment, event promotion, and multimedia and press relations. Each fall, the committee coordinates both the Opening Film Screening (See *Opening Film Screening* – Section 7, pg. 5) and membership campaign.

- **Youth Outreach & Advocacy**
  See *Youth Outreach & Advocacy* – Section 7, pg. 6

SECTION 6: SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special Committees are established by the Chapter President each year in order to meet the unique needs of the William & Mary NAACP. There are currently three Special Committees.

- **CORE**
  See *CORE* – Section 7, pg. 6

- **Extended Orientation**
  See *Diversity Extended Orientation* – Section 7, pg. 6

- **W&M Image Awards**
  See *W&M Image Awards* – Section 7, pg. 6

SECTION 7: SIGNATURE EVENTS & INITIATIVES

Events

- The annual **Opening Film Screening** takes place at the beginning of the fall semester in the Sadler Center Commonwealth Auditorium, typically on the Thursday before the Fall Opening Meeting. The entire campus community is invited to join the William & Mary NAACP as they screen an engaging, critically-acclaimed film or documentary that reflects an aspect of the chapter's mission. In addition to bringing the college community together, the event serves as an opportunity to positively introduce the organization to potential new members and others who may be unfamiliar with the NAACP.

- Established in 2008, the **State of Diversity** is a biennial, college-wide forum that closely examines major diversity-related topics or issues affecting the university community. The program is held in late March inside the Sadler Center Commonwealth Auditorium and features a moderated guest panel discussion, followed by audience Q&A. Event cosponsors include AMP (Alma Mater Productions) and CORE member organizations (See *CORE* – Section 7, pg. 6).

- The **W&M Image Awards** is an annual, Oscars-style awards show that honors outstanding individuals for their efforts to "build bridges across lines of difference and foster a truly inclusive campus community." The late April event takes place in the Sadler Center Commonwealth Auditorium and features live performances and special guest presenters. Throughout the school year, students, faculty and staff have the opportunity to nominate deserving individuals for a number of category-based awards. The W&M Image Awards is hosted by IPAX (International Performing Arts eXchange) and cosponsored by the Student Assembly and NAACP, with support from the President's Committee on Diversity.

Initiatives

- **Fall Voter Registration & Membership Campaigns:** Throughout the month of September, the W&M NAACP partners with Student Assembly and other campus organizations to register new voters. NAACP members can be found canvassing inside the Sadler and Campus Centers and at multicultural events and meetings. All applications are printed and mailed at no expense to the registrant. September is also the month in which the NAACP actively recruits new members.

- Each year, the NAACP partners with the W&M Center for Student Diversity to ensure a successful **Diversity Extended Orientation**. The chapter works to recruit qualified facilitators and also assists the Center in training volunteers.

- **CORE (Conversations on Reconciliation & Equality)** engages the College community in productive dialogues about today's most controversial and/or sensitive, diversity-related topics. Through its monthly, faculty/staff-facilitated, dinner discussions, CORE seeks to provide students from all backgrounds an opportunity to share their differing opinions and views in a safe and open environment. CORE member organizations include the Student Assembly (SA) Department of Diversity Initiatives, the Mosaic House, the Admissions Office's Multicultural Ambassador Council (MAC) and the NAACP College chapter. The four groups also cosponsor the biennial State of Diversity forum.

- **Youth Outreach & Advocacy:** The W&M NAACP continuously monitors the success and wellbeing of minority youth attending the Williamsburg-James City County (W-JCC) Public Schools and actively works to increase the number of minority tutors, mentors and advocates within the school system. Each year, the chapter sends dozens of volunteers to the Academy of Life & Learning (the local alternative education program) and actively supports the *Rites of Passage* mentoring program held on Saturday mornings at Toano Middle School.