

Hello Portland Branch NAACP Members,

May I ask you to take a few minutes and read this important message-

With only a few days before the NAACP Election on November 17, I just want members to know, it's not about James Posey. It's about respect, love, and commitment to the community. There is too much at stake to treat this election like routine small-ball community politics. I am running for President because I recognize that we need a true champion to fight the unjust, undemocratic forces aligned against us. This election cannot be business as usual. We can't squander this opportunity with trivial infighting, and mediocre governance operating in chaos. It's time for us to step up and make the founders of this civil rights organization proud. Our future and our children's future depend on it. The NAACP, among other things, has always been a vessel of hope. We need to protect, serve and reinvigorate our branch because of what our founders have done for us. We can't take for granted the freedoms we enjoy because of this 113-year-old institution.

Going forward, if you elect me as your Portland Branch President for 2023-2024, here's the preliminary plan:

Immediate IMPORTANT PRIORITIES to retool and re-grow a proud Portland Branch:

1. Recruit a Secretary, a pivotal position, to maintain effectiveness in the Branch. I already have two or three people in mind to recruit and will give them the tools, resources, support, and training, if needed, to monitor and maintain the Branch membership roster and Board minutes. **The Portland Branch has been without a permanent Secretary for most of the past two years, only working with interim secretaries, resulting in three resignations and working now with a fourth interim secretary.** If you vote for me as President, we will have a Secretary, the same as every other NAACP Branch in Oregon.
2. Recruit the key standing committee chairs that all NAACP local branches need to effectively serve the community and grow the membership: First and foremost get a **Membership Chair** in place. The NAACP is a membership-driven organization. I already have a highly competent, committed and experienced person to fill this role if I am elected as your President. The Portland Branch has been without a Membership Chair for one and a half years, only to have a recent chair step forward and resign after a few months of volunteer work. Under my leadership as President, the membership Chair will implement an annual membership drive with the support of the community-at-large and all NAACP bylaw recommended standing committee chairs. Growing the Portland Branch will be about strong teamwork.
3. Reach out to recruit, within the vast amount of untapped talent in the Portland community, key committee chairs in place such as the **Political Action Committee** with the upcoming critical 2024 Election. The Portland Branch has been without a Political Action Committee for the entire past two years under the current administration. I will recruit many important NAACP-recommended committee chairs and give them the admin support, tools, and training, if needed, to accomplish their goals. These committees include Economic Development, Environmental

and Climate Justice, Education, Legal Redress, Communications, Press & Publicity, **Youth Works, and the Freedom Fund Committee** to organize the Annual Freedom Fund Dinner.

The Freedom Fund Dinner is so very important in the fundamental tradition of the history and spirit of the NAACP. It is also a key opportunity for community engagement and the annual membership drive. Although we have been fortunate to live through a pandemic, in the roll-out to trying to get the community and economy back to work, **the Portland Branch, in the past two years under the current administration, unlike every other NAACP Branch in Oregon, has not held a Freedom Fund Dinner. Also, it has not held one single face-to-face meeting with the public in two years.** Some people in the community tell me they didn't even know there was an active NAACP Branch. They thought it had been shut down.

I say to you, our NAACP members, if you elect me as your Portland Branch President, there will not be a lot of flowery speeches or writings, or sitting down on so-called past accomplishments, or any bragging about the money in the treasury, largely the PCEF-Portland Clean Energy Fund grant--brought in by the *former* NAACP administration, 2019-2020, not the current Branch leadership, 2021-2022.

Instead, if you elect me as your Portland Branch President, we will work together to solicit funding and to build education and community programs that support democracy, equality, dignity and freedom, ***especially for our youth, the marginalized and disenfranchised in our Black community and other communities of color.*** Friends, they are depending on us. There will be an engaged community of volunteers, committee chairs, a cohesive Board of Directors, supporters, strong business alliances, and the appropriate connections with our Oregon and national political leaders.

NAACP members and friends, if you elect me as your Portland Branch President, we will, through our collective hard work, as written in the Preamble of the NAACP, "continue to fight for justice until all, without regard to race, gender, creed or religion enjoy equal status."



NAACP
PORTLAND BRANCH 1120

NAACP Portland
branch 1120-b
Election

November 17th
3-7 p.m./PST

*Ballots sent via email or
phone

Contact me at:

posej@comcast.net

Vote James Posey for President

"Being the oldest NAACP branch west of the Mississippi is notable, however, if I am elected President of the Portland branch November 17th, it will be all hands on deck to make it the best branch west of the Mississippi. Through teamwork, effective organizing, and inclusive leadership we will thrive to enlist the talents of the entire community."



"All people in Portland

deserve nothing less than fulfilling the NAACP's historical mission. We pledge with all our might to fight for social justice, work to eliminate racism and discrimination, and in Portland, reestablish our branch as the preeminent agent and advocate for equity"

James's Profile

James Posey is a long-time resident of the Northwest having lived in Portland for 40 years after serving our country in the US Air Force for eight years which included a tour of Vietnam. James also served Oregon in the Air National Guard. Born in Indianapolis James now resides in Northeast Portland. He is married and the father of three adult children. Since earning his Master's in Education from Wichita State University, James has served the community as a probation officer, drug treatment counselor, mental health counselor, and community and health center Executive Director, He worked for the US Forest Service as a personnel management specialist and served as a construction training and recruitment manager for Professional Training Systems focusing on inclusion of underserved populations. In the last 30 years, James has been the owner of Workhorse Construction Metro Inc. and in 2000 opened Eliot E-mat Café, another small business in northeast Portland. Additionally, he has been a community activist running as a candidate for the Mayor of Portland in 2004.

James is the founder and former President of the Portland chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors, former President of the Portland Coalition of Black Men, Vice President of the Portland NAACP, Chairman of the Black Parent Initiative, founder of the affiliate chapter of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. He currently is a member of the Community Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) for the I-5 Rose Quarter Expansion project and sits on the Work Systems Inc board of directors.