

The Vegas VOICE

NEVADA'S OLDEST
BLACK WEEKLY
NEWSPAPER
SINCE 1963

Vol. 19, No. 29

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE LAS VEGAS VOICE

Saturday, November 13, 1982

FEW NAACP BOARD MEMBERS VOTED TO OUST 3 LEADERS

By Ed Brown

Six members of the 32-member board of the Las Vegas chapter of the NAACP, in a historical shakeup, voted to throw out the top 3 leaders for alleged misconduct of office.

Voted out of office during the October 26 meeting were the chapter president Lovell Gaines, Rev. Sam Roberson, vice president, and Sherman Hatcher, treasurer.

Gaines' reaction to the action, according to Wednesday's Las Vegas Sun, was that they were ousted by "a bunch of thugs" disgruntled with his leadership.

Virna Canson, regional

director of the NAACP, said Gaines had been illegally removed from his position by the six board members in attendance since their action "was not consistent with the bylaws which govern the government of local chapters."

Canson said she plans to attend the general membership meeting to be held Sunday at the Zion United Methodist Church's Dining Room, Revere St. at 4 p.m.

Canson said following the meeting she will make a report on the situation to the national headquarters in New York.

Gaines is alleged to have stated that the

"thugs" don't care about dragging the name of the organization through the mud.

He said that some of



Lovell Gaines

the board members had the locks changed on the doors of the chapter headquarters located in the Nucleus Plaza Shopping Center. He is running the chapter matters from his home.

Roberson said the

board initially wanted to oust Gaines and Hatcher, but "I told the board if they voted the president out, they might as well vote me out too. I did not have enough information on the internal affairs to adequately run the organization. I also told the board members in attendance that the firings were not legal."

It is reported that the regular election of officers will be held during the month of December. The Branch Nominating Committee will report its recommendations of candidates for Branch offices during the Sunday meeting. Local members will also have the opportunity to nominate others.

Political Leaders Stress Participation In Nev. Black Chamber Of Commerce Work

At the monthly gathering of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce luncheon, County Commissioner Woodrow Wilson and a host of past, present and recently elected political figures stressed to their audience the importance of voter participation in the political process and the just as important task of holding those elected officials accountable for their actions.

The luncheon produced speakers to the platform in the likes of Judge Earle White, who stressed the importance of "accessibility on the part of elected officials to those who put them in office;" newly elected District 6 Assemblyman Gene Collins, who thanked those who helped to elect him to the assembly and promised the gathered group that he would work to the best of his ability to "get the things done which he was elected to do;"

former Assemblyman, Councilman and County Commissioner along with a host of other accomplished feats), Aaron Williams, who stressed the importance of supporting our local officials because, "they are no stronger than we are;" and statements from Bob Bailey, Chairman of NEDCO, who admonished our elected officials that "they in the political arena will have to recognize that they are accountable to their constituents," and EOB Chairman Lee Walker, who stated the importance of the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce as being the "vehicle needed to deliver for the Black community." He also cautioned that the political and civic leaders of both our city and state must realize that the Black Chamber is effective.

Commissioner Wilson, the Guest Speaker, in his usual eloquent and articulate manner, first

stressed his pride in the chamber and voiced his dedication and commitment to continue in having a hand to see that its success is continued.

He said that as one of the very first Black elected officials of Nevada, he's had the opportunity to have a direct impact on the community. He felt that the active involvement, concern and support of his constituents were a very important ingredient in whether or not he could function properly on behalf of those he represented. "The participation by the private sector can't be overstated enough," he went on to say. "Keeping officials informed on important issues is a must." Wilson stated in his address that in the past, Black elected officials have not received the support of the community residents. "Less than 30 Blacks have attended vital and important county commission

meetings." He went on to note that one of the greatest frustrations of an elected official is to "act based on certain instincts of his constituents, then they in turn criticize him because they feel that his actions weren't right." He also stressed unity as being a very vital force and acknowledged the need for as many as possible in the community to reach out for appointments to influential boards in our city and state.

Wilson concluded his address by stressing the need to "shop around" and not become tied down to one major party. "Today, it's too much of a luxury for Blacks to become tied down in one major political party and not realize that we can function as other groups. It's time that we shop around. It's time that we look into each political entity. If we do that, then our aspirations will be recognized and attained."

NAACP At It Again

By George A. Burns

NAACP President Lovell Gaines put to rest recent published reports that six members of the organization's board of directors had conspired to oust him as the chapter's president.

"It's totally inaccurate," Gaines was reported to have said in response to the allegation. He went on to say that the bylaws of the organization's constitution do not allow it. In fact, Virna Canson, regional director of that organization who will be visiting the city this weekend, confirmed that claim made by Gaines by agreeing that "such an act is not only unconstitutional but impermissible. An executive board does not have the authority. We have due process and in a situation such as this, there must be defined procedure."

She defined them (procedures) as 1) formally processing the complaint to the national board; 2) a hearing is then in order by the national board, and 3) the national office makes the decision as to whether any board member or officer is removed.

Gaines said that six NAACP members, three of whom were members of the 38 member governing board secretly voted to oust him, vice-president Sam Roberson and treasurer Sherman Hatcher. He declined to name who those six members were.

"I just heard that the six of them met," he stated. "They have chosen to drag the NAACP into the mud."

Gaines, who has yet to declare his candidacy for a second term has reportedly said in the recent past that "I probably won't be running because I need to spend more time with my career. But I've yet to make a final decision."

The Gaines presidency of the local chapter has often been the center of controversy. Since his election in 1980 to that post, a number of dissatisfied board members have tried unsuccessfully to get him to abdicate his position. At the present time, he is being challenged for his post in a decision which will be made at the upcoming election in December, by Ms. Lubertha Johnson, a past president of that organization, and Rev. James Allen.

As previously mentioned, Virna Canson of the regional office plans to attend a general membership meeting of the local chapter on Sunday. When asked if she would probe the most recent dispute, she responded by only saying, "when I get there I can determine what has happened. My role is to report to the national office."

Dizzy Gillespie Brings Quartet To L.V.

Dizzy Gillespie, one of the greatest trumpet players of all time and a man who revolutionized modern jazz, brings his quartet to Las Vegas Nov. 21.

Gillespie will appear in a concert sponsored by the Las Vegas Jazz Society, along with local jazz band Uptown, in the Crown Jewel Room of the Dunes Hotel.

Gillespie has been a leader of the jazz world

ever since. Working with the great percussionist Chano Pozo, he was the first to bring Latin elements into the music. Today he is one of the greatest soloists in jazz.

Gillespie's current quartet consists of Ed Cherry, guitar; Michael Howell, bass; and Bernard Purdie, drums.

Tickets will be available in advance at the Jazz Society office,