In Mississippi we have a wonderful opportunity to be a leader in the field of civil rights. I have just returned from the Annual Meeting and a meeting of the National Board. I need not say how much inspiration I received to really get to work for freedom.

What is the immediate task of the Mississippi Branches? We fully recognize the knotty problems we are faced with, but no problem is too big if we use our resources by fully mobilizing our strength. Our immediate task is to awaken Mississippians to a sense of responsibility, and make positive steps toward achieving full integration into all areas of our American culture.

We must have a program which will outline the branch activities for the year of 1959. Therefore, we are calling upon every branch in the state to send their president, secretary and treasurer to Jackson, Mississippi Sunday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. This will be an all day meeting. Those who cannot be on hand for the 10:00 a.m. session, please be present for the 1:00 p.m. session. We hope to adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

Please do not under estimate the importance of this meeting in which we will outline our program for the year. We must begin immediately our first project, which will very probably close with our May 17th celebration with Mr. Roy Wilkins as guest speaker. This has not been officially confirmed, but Mr. Wilkins stated that he would like to come to Mississippi, although he had received several invitations from branches. More about this later.

You have received communications recently from Mr. Evers impressing upon you the necessity of launching your membership campaign immediately if we are to reach our goal of 5,050 members for this Golden Anniversary. We Mississippians have been bringing up the rear too long. We have the people and the resources to compete with other states in our region. Therefore, we urge upon you to give your fullest support to our Field Secretary in order that we may reach our goal of 5,050 members, and represent with dignity and strength at our National Convention July 12-19th in New York City.

SPECIAL NOTICE

We are asking branches to finance their officers to the January 25th meeting. Have treasurer come prepared to make financial report of your 1958 activities.

Yours for freedom,

C. R. Darden
President
Miss. State Conference of N.A.A.C.P. Branches