

Mon Valley NAACP to celebrate 42 years

by Christian Morrow

Courier Staff Writer

When it comes to fixing organizations, Doris Carson Williams can share a few pointers. That's why she was a natural choice to serve as mistress of ceremonies for the NAACP Mon Valley Branch's 42nd annual Human Rights Banquet.

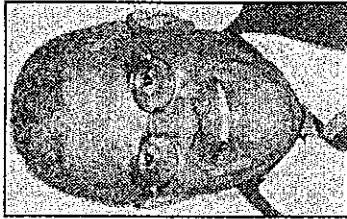
"Getting Doris fits into our theme, but it was really luck of the draw that she was available and agreed to do it," said branch President George Burroughs Jr.

The theme for this year's dinner is "It must be fixed: And it's on us."

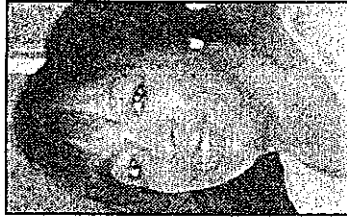
As president and CEO, Carson Williams resurrected the African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Pittsburgh and made it a major player in the region's business community.

Reverend Dr. James E. Simms, Allegheny County Council president and pastor at St. Paul's Baptist Church, will deliver the keynote address.

"A lot of things in this world are broken," he continued. "It's not all racial



REV. DR.
JAMES SIMMS



DORIS CARSON
WILLIAMS

problems, but terrorist attacks, business ethics, religious and ethnic violence. And the question is where does the solution lie. I think answer is with the individual—in the community, in the NAACP family and in this country. It's time to stand up and say it's time we've had enough."

Burroughs said the banquet is the branch's primary fund-raiser, helping to fund community service programs including candidate forums and voter registration drives, and the branch's

defense of civil rights for all.

This banquet, he said, is even more important because the branch is developing new good-citizenship programs to assist area youths. The branch is also seeking to reactivate its youth chapter to prepare them to move on and be active NAACPers as adults.

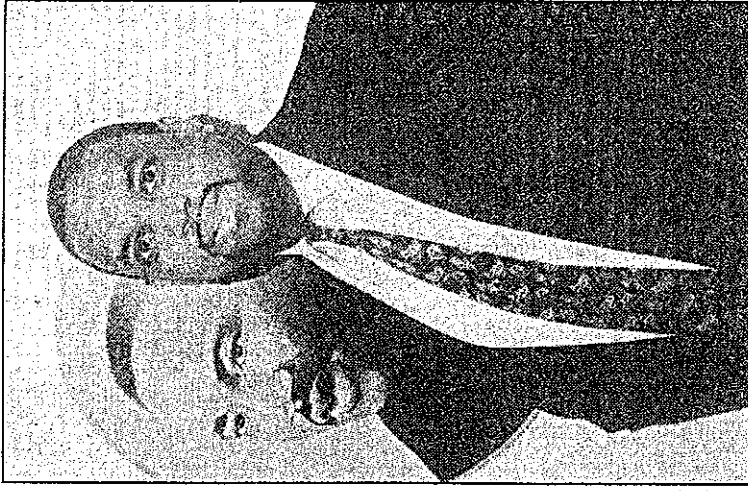
This year's event will also pay tribute to those who have served the branch and the area with distinction.

Honorees include U.S. Rep. Frank Mascara, Realtor Jeri Drake, Dean of Students for the Monessen Middle School and Senior High School Marlon Wheeler, and past branch President James Dews—all the way from his home in Smyrna, Ga.

Branch Secretary Gail Haywood said the evening's musical entertainment will be provided by "Dr. Pepper."

"He really is a doctor and his last name is Pepper," she said.

The banquet will be held Sept. 21 at the St. Spyridon Hellenic Center on Reeves Avenue in Monessen at 6 p.m. For more information, call the Mon Valley Branch NAACP at 724-684-8545.



GEORGE BURROUGHS JR.

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