



February 18, 2009

## NAACP announces contest winners

*Submitted story*

FREMONT --Winners of the Sixth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Contest, sponsored by the local chapter of the NAACP, were recently announced. Winners were chosen in four categories: primary, elementary, intermediate and middle through high school.

"The students' speeches expressed their thoughts on Dr. King's accomplishments, in a variety of interesting ways. For poise and courage at their ages, they were amazing," said Molly Fails, secretary of the local chapter and one of the organizers of the contest.

### **Winners were:**

- Primary -- first place Berlin Swaisgood, a second-grader at Otis Elementary; second place Ja'Naja Liggins a second-grader at Lutz Elementary; third place Deidre Walls, in the third grade at Otis.
- Elementary -- first place, Akari Rhea, fourth-grader at Atkinson Elementary; fifth-graders Riara Holland from Stamm Elementary and Tyree Jones from Croghan Elementary tied for second place. Third place winner Georgianna Lochotski is also a fifth-grader at Croghan Elementary.
- Intermediate -- first place winner, with a perfect score from all three judges, was Sergio Palacios, a sixth-grader at Croghan Elementary; second was Jaliya Lindsey, a sixth-grader Stamm. Marquel Harris from Atkinson and Shia Paredes, from Stamm tied for third place.
- Middle and high School -- first place Hunter Jaramillo, a seventh-grader at Fremont Middle School, and second was Gabriella Reeve, a junior at the Ross.

Each student received a certificate of participation and winners received plaques presented to them by NAACP Vice President Joyce Huntley and Fremont City Schools representative Brenda Bilal.

Members of the community judging the contestants included Brenda Bilal, Rev. Charlotte Evans and Cate Knipp. Timekeeper was Marvin Hines while scorekeepers were Dr. Anita Lewis-Sewell and Sister Mary Roseria, SND. Ross High School students Taylor Brown and Morgan Brown served as ushers at the event.

Other activities of the local chapter include an Academic Achievement Reception for African American students in the Fremont school district who make the honor roll during the school year. This activity has drawn more than 100 families in the past. It is held usually on the last Sunday of April. Students receive a plaque for their efforts.

A banquet to raise funds for scholarships will be on Feb. 28, with featured speaker Marty Miller, president/chief executive officer of Miller Public Relations of Columbus. Miller is also the wife of state Sen. Ray Miller of Franklin County. The proceeds of this event are used to award \$1,000 scholarships to local graduating high school seniors to the college of their choice. Award winners are announced at the Ross High School senior awards night.

For information on the local NAACP or any of its activities, call 419-332-6811 or write to P.O. Box 855, Fremont OH, 43420



The winners of the Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Contest. (Submitted photo)