

NATIONAL NEWS AND FEATURES

DNC Chair Pushing For “Enormous...Huge” Black Voter Turnout Nov. 4

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Now less than two weeks before Oct. 6, the deadline for voter registration in most states, and Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean says he is confident that both African-Americans and many Whites will vote in record numbers for the Democratic ticket because of the high stakes issues and historicity of the election.

“People get what this is about - at least those people in my generation. I was a college graduate when Dr. King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. It’s a different time now. We’ve learned a lot over 40 years,” Dean says in an interview with the NNPA News Service. “Now, some of the most segregated counties are represented by African-Americans although they are 90 percent White. So, it’s a different time, but it’s our



Howard Dean

time. Our generation worked very hard for this. So, we’ve got to do everything we can to win.”

Dean was referring to a time when the Civil Rights Movement meant fighting for Black people’s right to vote and against segregated public facilities in which Blacks and Whites across the South were legally prohibited from drinking from the same water fountain or using the same public bathroom.

Now that America has

its first Black Democratic nominee for president, Dean and others say while Blacks will vote for Obama in order to forge Black progress and because of his understanding of issues, Whites will also vote for him to continue what was started decades ago when Blacks largely marched in the streets demanding change while White lawmakers were forced to establish it.

“Before, we worked together separately. Now we’re working together,” Dean says. “It’s just an extraordinarily exciting time. But, I think the message is resonating all over the country. This is a new generation.”

Dean likened the Obama v. McCain race to the 1960 campaign between Democratic Sen. John F. Kennedy and Republican Vice President Richard Nixon. Kennedy – like Obama - drew large crowds as many claimed he was too

young and too inexperienced, and his Republican opponent Vice President Richard Nixon was viewed as representing the old guard. Kennedy got 49.7 percent of the vote and Nixon got 49.6.

“Change is always difficult. Change is always scary. So, change elections are always close,” Dean says. This is why Democrats are hitting the pavement for last minute registrations anywhere they can get them.

But, Democrats are vigorously campaigning for votes in what they call battleground states; including New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon and Washington.

Meanwhile, Republican leaders, claiming to want the Black vote, appear to be

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Governor Calls Georgians to Serve during ‘Hands On Georgia Week’

Hands On Georgia Week Set for September 27 – October 4

ATLANTA – Governor Sonny Perdue today challenged the citizens and businesses of Georgia to serve and enhance their communities during Hands On Georgia Week, which will take place from Saturday, September 27, through Saturday, October 4.

“We have much to be proud of and thankful for as Georgians, and volunteering in our communities is an essential part of our outstanding quality of life,” said Governor Sonny Perdue. “I challenge each Georgian to join me and volunteer for a local community service project with your family, friends or co-workers during Hands On Georgia Week. I encourage everyone to find something that they are passionate about, whether it’s working with children or senior citizens, cleaning up and preserving our state’s natural resources, or supporting fine arts and sports programs.”

According to the Volunteering in America Report by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Georgians volunteered for nearly 229,575,000 hours of community service in 2007, worth an estimated \$4.4 billion (\$4,479,007,314) of time. Still, Georgia’s overall rate of volunteers was 24.2 percent, compared to the national average of 26.2 percent.

Hands On Georgia is the first statewide network in the nation that is dedicated to volunteer service and civic engagement, acting as a central organizing body for all of Georgia’s 159 counties to mobilize citizens to address community needs and enhance their respective communities. Hands On Georgia Week is the organization’s signature event, which attracted 68,000 volunteers who contributed 191,000 hours of community service in 2007.

One of the projects scheduled for this year’s Hands On Georgia Week include 300 volunteers participating in Beach Sweep-picking up litter on the beach and in the dunes of Tybee Island.

Hands On Georgia has 14 affiliates across the state that include the communities of Athens, Atlanta, Brunswick, Columbus, Covington, Dalton, Dooly County, Forsyth County, Harlem, Macon, Milledgeville, Savannah, Wayne County and Thomas County.

Citizens interested in participating in Hands On Georgia Week are encouraged to e-mail or call Hands On Georgia at info@handsongorgia.org or (404) 979-2842. Specific project information is available at www.handsongorgia.org <<http://www.handsongorgia.org>> .

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McCants Communications Group, in conjunction with Thomas Media, Inc., publishes and distributes Black Pages USA directories in twelve cities throughout five states along the southeastern seaboard of the United States. In addition, McCants Communications Group successfully hosts minority business expositions in Wilmington, North Carolina; Hampton Roads, Virginia; and Charlotte, North Carolina, while attracting hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors.

An avid and committed business leader, McCants' current professional and civic affiliations include the Black Pages Publishers Association (president); Wachovia Bank, Greensboro, North Carolina (board member); North Carolina A&T State University (Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee); University of North Carolina at Wilmington (HUB Advisory Committee); Elizabeth City State University (Foundation board); 200 Plus Men of Hampton Roads; 100 Black Men of the Triad; and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (Tau Omega Chapter, Greensboro). He formerly was president of the North Carolina Black Chamber of Commerce and active with the East Market Street Rotary Club.

McCants, who holds a degree in sociology and urban studies from Virginia Union University, has more than 25 years of experience in sales and publishing. He is a 2006 graduate of the

Minority Business Executive Program at the Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College. McCants believed early on that it was his calling to assist African-American businesses to succeed by providing positive venues where they could be presented to the world. In addition, he has been and continues to mentor young people of all ages interested in pursuing careers in entrepreneurship and other fields. To that end, he has addressed and engaged audiences in educational settings that include the Fuqua Business School at Duke University, Hampton University, Career Engineers, and UNC-Wilmington School of Business.

McCants' dedication to the community and his profession has resulted in numerous honors and awards including Minority Business of the Year, State of South Carolina-U.S. Small Business Administration (1997); Business of the Year, South Carolina Business Network (1998); Blue Chip Enterprise Award-Mass Mutual-U.S. Chamber of Commerce (1999); BB&T Trailblazer Award (2001).

A native of South Carolina, McCants resides with his wife, Sharon, in Greensboro.

Tickets for the awards may be purchased in advance at Lester's Florist, 2100 Bull Street, Capitol City Bank & Trust, 339 MLK, Jr. Blvd or On Time Fashions, 23 West Broughton Street. For additional information call 912-441-6813.