

SEACOAST NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING May 1, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson, an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan, and round-table introductions.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 3 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report

The June 3 **NEAC Quarterly Meeting** will be hosted by the Branch at our usual meeting place at 1 New Hampshire Avenue at the Pease International Tradeport. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room before the event begins at 10:00 a.m. and to put the room back in order when the meeting is over at approximately 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are also needed to pick up foods and supplies from local businesses that are making donations for the event.

President Rogers Johnson encouraged members to attend the event, to get a picture of what other Branches of the NAACP are doing in the New England area, and to enjoy meeting a group of interesting people. He emphasized that a good turnout of members shows that we have a strong Branch willing to do what it takes for social justice.

All ten seats reserved by the Branch for the **NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner** in Boston on May 20 have been taken. Those planning to attend have made arrangements to carpool to the event.

The Branch has received donations for the **Nathaniel Holloway Community Scholarship**. The Branch will follow the successful procedures and guidelines established in the past by Robert McGann. Since it is too late in this year to carry out the process of selecting a recipient, the money will be deposited in the Branch account and reserved for a scholarship or scholarships to be presented in 2018.

Rogers reported that **SB 3**, which changes the definition of domicile for voter registration purposes, has had a hearing in the House of Representatives and as of May 1, is awaiting an executive meeting which has not yet been scheduled.

Guest Speaker

Rogers introduced Beth Tener, a member of SURJ (Stand Up for Racial Justice), which is part of a national network of groups of whites who want to fight racism and get beyond white supremacy. SURJ wants to work with black groups and take direction from them as to how they can help. Noting that well-meaning people need education and preparation to be effective, Beth reported that a workshop was held in April in Durham, with another workshop scheduled to be held in June in Concord.

Beth also works as a consultant carrying out surveys to find out what groups are active in the area and to make each group part of the system so that they can be most effective. Rogers affirmed this effort, saying there's a need for better coordination of groups, in order to make a bigger impact on the Seacoast and to make a difference in the lives of people in communities in this area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Dialogue

The second Community Dialogue will be held at UNH on May 17 from 2-8 p.m. Participating will be police officers from several communities in the area and National and State legislators, including US Senator Jeanne Shaheen, State Senator David Watters and Representative Martha Fuller Clark.

Rogers Johnson noted that these dialogues include various elements of our communities and can keep lines of communication open between them, helping to prevent negative incidents and to be better prepared if such incidents arise.

Freedom Fund Dinner

Members gave a round of applause for Freddy Ross, without whom the dinner would not have been possible. Rogers Johnson was the MC for the evening, and the Reverend Eric Jackson gave the blessing for the food. The Reverend Bob Thompson sang a powerful rendition of "Old Man River."

The 2017 Freedom Fighter Award was presented to JerriAnne Boggis by her two sons. JerriAnne thanked those present for the honor, and spoke of the many groups and individuals who are active in raising awareness of black history in New Hampshire.

Freddy thanked all the volunteers who helped make the dinner a success.

Legal Redress

In the absence of a full committee, Rogers is dealing with two complaints that have come in recently. He noted that with Nina Jordan in San Diego, we need to have committee members on the scene to work with complainants. He also noted that calls for the committee are still going to Nina's phone, although they should be directed to his phone. Members discussed ways of correcting this problem.

MLK Breakfast

The breakfast will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018. Jon Ring reported that the committee is working with the Holloway family on such details as choosing a venue, identifying possible speakers, deciding how much to charge and how to divide proceeds from the breakfast, and whether to cater the breakfast or have members prepare the meal.

Sunshine Committee

Jennifer Stiefel sent three condolence cards to members in the past month.

OLD BUSINESS

Members set Sunday, August 20 as the date for the annual picnic. Jody Hoffer Gittel, Larry McGhee, and Nur Shoop volunteered to serve on the picnic committee, with Jon Ring and Rogers Johnson volunteering to do the barbecuing. Rogers also volunteered his two sons for the task.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary