

SEACOAST NAACP #2070

1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801

Membership Meeting, February 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the January 9 meeting were approved as read.

President's Report

On January 13, President Rogers Johnson addressed the student body of the Portsmouth Christian Academy on the topic of Civil Rights and the Church. His address was well received.

The MLK Day Breakfast, co-sponsored by the Red Brick Church in Exeter, has been described by attendees as "one of the best." The Branch will immediately begin planning for next year's event. Rogers distributed a list of the 2018 Breakfast Committee members.

On February 3, Rogers attended at UNH the meeting of the President's Commission on the Status of People of Color.

Rogers will meet on February 17 with members of local police departments, clergy, business leaders, political leaders, educators, and news media outlets at the Carsey Institute at UNH, to plan for continuing the Community Dialogue meetings begun by President Emeritus Fred Ross. In this second meeting, Rogers hopes to form an even larger and more inclusive group, and to include issues such as the opioid crisis and making people aware of how to get jobs available in the community.

We will reserve a table for 10 at the NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner to be held on May 20 at the Marriott Boston/Newton Hotel, 2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton MA 02466. All members are eligible to attend this dinner, which past attendees have recommended as a very enjoyable event.

Rogers noted that four education bills were defeated by the NH House of Representatives. These included two attempts to repeal the education tax credit (HB 129 and HB 297), a bill to change the rules for charter school teacher qualifications (HB 148), and a bill to make charter school board members subject to Executive Council confirmation (HB 125). Rogers noted that the official position of the National NAACP opposes charter schools.

Rogers reported that on February 8, the House Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services Committee will hear SB 11 and HB 520, both of which are right-to-work measures.

Committee Reports

Freedom Fund - Freddie Ross reported that April 22 has been set as the date for the annual fundraising dinner, which will take place at the Grill 28 Restaurant on the Pease Golf Course. The price will be \$65.00 as in past years. Questions remain as to the size of the room required, and whether to hold a silent auction.

Youth Council

Nur Shoop, Larry McGhee, and David Holt will try to form a Youth Council at one of the high schools in the area.

New Business

Rogers shared a letter from the Durham Police Department announcing that the department is seeking a full-time police officer and encourages females and minorities to apply. Those interested should contact Captain David Holmstock at the Durham Police Department, 86 Dover Road, Durham NH 03824.

The Durham Police Department participates in Great Bay Community College Testing Alliance, which disseminates scores to all 50 police departments that are part of the alliance, providing candidates an opportunity to connect with agencies currently hiring. The next dates for testing are February 11, June 3, and October 14, 2017. Interested candidates can talk to a police officer about what challenges they would be facing by contacting Captain David Holmstock at 603 868 2324, or by e-mail at dholmstock@ci.durham.nh.us.

Irving Heughan and Jonathan Ring volunteered to join the 2018 MLK Breakfast Committee.

Jonathan Ring agreed to serve on the 2017 Freedom Fund Committee.

Jody Hoffer Gittel volunteered to serve as Branch Treasurer!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary