

SEACOAST NAACP #2070  
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT  
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING January 9, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

14 members and 3 guests were in attendance.

#### Secretary's Report

The minutes of the December 5 meeting were read and accepted with an amendment.

#### President's Report

President Rogers Johnson has been invited to address the student body of the Portsmouth Christian Academy on Friday, January 13 on the topic of Civil Rights and the Church.

Rogers noted that we need a new Treasurer, since he cannot fill the Treasurer's role while also serving as President. He will call every member hoping to find someone willing and able to serve as Treasurer.

In the past, telephone calls to the Branch have gone to Nina Jordan's phone. With Nina in California, they will be switched to Rogers' phone.

At the conclusion of the MLK Day events, Rogers will start the process of holding the second of our Community Dialogue meetings with local police, business leaders, clergy, news media outlets, political leaders, and educators. He will be working in collaboration with "New Hampshire Listens" at the UNH Carsey School of Public Policy.

The Branch will reserve a table at the NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner to be held on May 20 at the Newton Marriott Hotel.

The Seacoast Branch will participate in the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. at The Red Brick Church in Exeter, from 9:00 p.m. until noon on Monday, January 16. We have secured enough funds and participation for a successful event. The Branch will have a table set up to enlist new memberships. NAACP Membership pins have been donated to help identify ourselves as members to the crowd and to show a visible presence of strength to the community. Every available member is needed to show up in support of this event.

#### Committee Reports

##### Freedom Fund

Freddye Ross will check with Grill 28, site of last year's fundraising dinner, for available dates for our 2017 event.

##### Legal Redress

We need local volunteers to address the concerns of complainants while Nina Jordan is in California.

##### Sunshine Committee

Jennifer Stiefel sent one get well card in December, as well as a card to Dom Domingo on his 90th birthday.

#### Website

Sandi Clark reported that she and Linda Freeman continue to update the Branch website.

#### Ongoing Business

There was a discussion of possible meeting places for the next Community Dialogue. UNH was suggested as a venue. Sean McGhee noted that a meeting at UNH should be held in March, before the exam period, in order to facilitate attendance by students. Nur Shoop noted that we should consider ideas for ensuring that interactions in small groups are positive and productive.

#### New Business

Sean McGhee noted that there has been a recent rise in racially motivated hate incidents both at UNH and at Keene State College, often taking the form of white men accosting women of color. Some of those harassing students of color specifically refer to Trump as part of their intimidation. Discussions have been held on campus regarding the situation. Unfortunately, those most in need of taking part in the discussions do not participate.

Sean spoke of several areas in which members of the Branch might make a meaningful contribution at UNH.

- The “Men of Strength” group, consisting of students and staff mentors of color, coming from various backgrounds and experiences, could use an NAACP member willing to be a consistent presence at their meetings.
- The President’s Commission On the Status of Persons of Color has an opening.
- The annual Black Family Weekend will take place on the 3rd weekend of April. The NAACP could hold an educational session such as a PowerPoint presentation on the Civil Rights movement.

Members voted to name ex-President Fred Ross as President Emeritus of the Seacoast NAACP.

President Rogers Johnson presented ex-President Ross with a bottle of red wine and two glasses inscribed with the NAACP logo.

Members agreed that the February meeting of the Branch will be held at 6:30 p.m. instead of 7:00 p.m. The Executive Committee will meet at its usual time, 6:00 p.m.

Following the round table discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore  
Secretary