

**NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, April 1, 2019**

The meeting was called 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 March 4 meeting were read and accepted with a correction.

President's Report

President Rogers Johnson reported that the Governor's Council on Diversity and Inclusion will have a meeting on April 4 and a new listening session on April 10 in Hampton.

Rogers took part in a Hampton School Board hearing regarding the racial discrimination/bullying charge brought by a family in Hampton through our Legal Redress system on March 27.

Rogers reported on developments in this case. The child shows signs of trauma as a result of the bullying she experienced in the first grade and has suffered again in third grade. The parents report that the school officials have failed to address the problem satisfactorily. They have withdrawn the child from the school and have requested that the school district direct per-pupil school costs to the child's new school. The Department of Justice has become involved in the case.

Senate Bill 263 has passed 20-3 in the NH State Senate. The bill would enable individuals to file civil suits against school districts where they have suffered discrimination.

Rogers attended a meeting in Manchester on March 14 for the Diversity Workforce Coalition (DWC).

Aaron Fowlkes represented the Branch at a meeting on March 14 of CCI (Community Change Incorporated) and GSOP (Granite State Organizing Project). The two organizations asked the Branch to join them in creating an Anti-Racism Organizing Event for Northern New England. The goal of the event is to provide an opportunity for people already organizing to undo racism in the area to learn about, learn from, and deepen our collaborations with each other.

On March 13, Rogers attended a meeting of the U.S. Department of Justice office in Concord to begin an investigation into the Dover School system, with the intent that if the Department found widespread issues of racism in the District they would consider entering into a Consent Decree with the District.

Rogers was a facilitator on March 16 for a NH Living Room Conversations on Race and Equity meeting in Newcastle.

Rogers has been invited by UNH staff members to participate in the 21 Day Racial Equity Project Event.

Rogers noted that the aerospace company BAE Systems plans to build a plant in Manchester and will need many engineers to staff the plant. He suggested that young people of color be actively recruited from college graduating classes for jobs in New Hampshire.

Rogers has signed up to attend an NAACP Regional Training Event which will take place on May 3-4 in Princeton, NJ. He noted that there is a significant cost for participation, hotel, and transportation.

Ongoing Business

With two members signing up at the meeting to go to the NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner, we will have a full table at the event.

We are awaiting the necessary forms to start a High School Chapter at Dover High School. Nur Shoop reports that eighteen students from Dover and one from Kittery have signed up to form a Chapter, and that she will talk at Traip Academy, where she hopes to recruit more members.

New Business

Members discussed Jody Hoffer Gittel's proposal for a modified meeting format. It was agreed that we start each meeting with round table introductions and sharing, and that proposed topics for the agenda can be e-mailed to Rogers and posted in advance of the meeting, with proposed topics prioritized at the Executive Committee meeting.

Bob McElwain agreed to take calls from people needing a ride to the meeting.

A member shared news of a neo-Nazi band scheduled to perform on April 9 at the Chop Shop Pub in Seabrook. Rogers has notified the NH Dept. of Homeland Security, and State Police will be present at the event.

The first Sunday in August was proposed for the annual picnic at the Eliot Boat Basin.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary