

## NAACP Seacoast Branch 2070 Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2019

A. Executive Committee Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, Freddy Ross, Renee' Goins, Irving Heugan, Phyllis Killam-Abell, Nina Jordan, Fred Ross (arrived at 6:12), Jody Hoffer Gitell (arrived at 6:18), Jon Ring.

Executive Session was closed at 6:20 pm.

B. Branch Membership Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, all members of the above Executive Committee, Bob McElwain, Anne Romney, Ken Mendis, Vicki Anderson, Linda Freeman, Aaron Fowlkes (arrived at 6:44) - (see meeting sign-in sheet).

1. Meeting was opened at 6:30 pm and Chaplain Irving Heugan led the Branch in prayer. There were introductions around the room.
2. Secretary Report was given by Jonathan Ring in the absence of Frances Elsemore, who read the Minutes of June 3, which were approved as written.
3. President's Report by Rogers:
  - a. He noted that NH Law has been revised by the Legislature to allow filing suit against a School District, such as Dover and Hampton, due to civil rights violations of students. The Governor will sign the Legislation.
  - b. He said that the Freedom Fund Dinner is needed now to help replenish the checking account, due to the Scholarship Awards. Jody offered to help with the effort, provided that Freddy assist, and said that she would not help with the MLK Breakfast. There was very much discussion.
  - c. Rogers said that John Cochrane of Hampton remains committed to speaking out against the Elementary School District mismanagement of race discrimination issues regarding his daughter. She is doing very well at an alternative school with private expense. He read a letter from the School thanking NAACP for sponsoring TJ Wheeler recently at the School, with which NAACP did not assist. This was confusing communication.
  - d. Student at Dover High School continues to be vilified for her actions causing Teacher John Carver to be on paid administrative leave. She remains suspended from school with tutor classes.
  - e. Rogers will lead three hours of Diversity Instruction for Criminal Justice personnel on July 31.
  - f. All were asked to contact Nur Shoop to offer assistance with the NAACP Picnic set-up and foods on August 4 at the Boat Pavilion in Eliot, Maine.
4. Anne Romney spoke about the "Portsmouth Listens" Community conversation dialogues this fall concerning Race Issues – Live, Work, and Play. They are looking to involve as

many organizations as possible to assist and participate, including adults, students, and youth. There may be four sessions scheduled, with a Report following to the City Council and Business Leaders. There may be a questionnaire to help find partners.

5. Phyllis Killam-Abell shared her vision to show the PBS Television Series titled “Reconstruction” as an educational program at Portsmouth Public Library this fall.
6. Anne shared information about the “Anti-Racism Symposium” to be held on September 14 in Biddeford, Maine. There will be diversity training workshops, and a wonderful key-note Speaker.
7. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Ring, Assistant Secretary