

NAACP Seacoast Branch 2070 Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2019

A. Executive Committee Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, Freddy Ross, Renee' Goins, Irving Heugan, Brad Randolph, Phyllis Killam-Abell, Sandi Clark Kaddy, Fred Ross, Nur Shoop (arrived at 6:22), Jon Ring.

1. Meeting was convened at 6:11 pm. Frances Elsemore, Secretary, was not present.
2. President Rogers Johnson summarized topics for the Branch General Membership Meeting this evening. There was much discussion. He noted that the NEAC Quarterly Meeting will be held on June 8 in Rutland, Vermont, the first NAACP Meeting in VT for many years – very exciting. Juneteenth 6/19 is now a recognized Holiday in NH, thanks partly to NAACP.
3. He said NH Law re. school districts create difficulties for potential discrimination lawsuits.
4. Executive Session was closed at 6:28 pm.

B. Branch Membership Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, all members of the above Executive Committee, Bob McElwain, Nancy Winterbottom, Anne Romney, James "Bat" Kaddy (arrived at 7:03), Rev. Jeff (arrived at 7:19) - (see meeting sign-in sheet).

1. Meeting was opened at 6:36 pm and Chaplain Irving Heugan led the Branch in prayer. There were introductions around the room.
2. Secretary Report was given by Bob McElwain in the absence of Frances Elsemore, who read the Minutes of May 6, which were approved as written.
3. President's Report by Rogers:
 - a. He noted that NH Law creates a hardship for filing suit against a School District, such as Dover and Hampton, due to civil rights violations of students. Dover Teacher John Carver continues on paid leave, while Student Chloe remains suspended from school with tutor classes. Rogers gave additional background on the Hampton Cochran case relative to District mismanagement of race issues. State Laws are in the process of being amended to allow suits against Districts for such matters, but it is uncertain if they will pass objections from School Unions. There was much discussion.
 - b. He reported that every recommendation from the Governor's Council on Diversity and Inclusion has been addressed, supported, and implemented by NH Governor Chris Sununu.
 - c. He said that UNH President James Dean is doing a terrific job shutting down racial incidents on campus in Durham. Allyson Ryder of our Branch has just recently been awarded a key administrative position at UNH.
4. Nur gave a report on the process of forming a Student NAACP Club at Dover HS, which is increasingly frustrating. Fred and Rogers discussed race issues in our communities.

5. Anne Romney spoke about the “Portsmouth Listens” Community conversation dialogues this fall concerning Race Issues. They are looking to involve adults, students, and youth. There may be four sessions scheduled, with a Report following to the City Council and Business Leaders. There was much discussion.
6. Nancy Winterbottom explained her intent to help turn the tide against racist actions as a Divinity Student beginning this fall. She will provide many hours of service to NAACP as part of an Internship compiling events of the Cochrane Case at Hampton Elementary School. She will also intern for Black Heritage Trail NH, and Racial Unity Team Exeter.
7. Phyllis Killam-Abell will lead a group to show the PBS Television Series titled “Reconstruction” as an educational program perhaps at Portsmouth Public Library in October. Anne suggested that Portsmouth Listens may help with that effort.
8. Sandi Clark Kaddy said that Juneteenth will be observed on June 22 at Middle Street Baptist Church in Portsmouth from 11 – 4, with a Gospel Concert that night at 7:00. This is a collaboration between the Black Heritage Trail of NH and Seacoast African American Cultural Center (SAACC). It will include a panel presentation, community dialogue, soul food lunch, Drumming Ceremony at the African Burying Ground, and music by the North Star Jazz Group.
9. Brad Randolph announced that the NH Death Penalty has been repealed, thanks to a legislative override of veto by Governor Sununu.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Ring, Assistant Secretary