

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, March 4, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by President Emeritus Fred Ross.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the February 4 meeting were read and accepted with a correction noting that Jody Hoffer Gittell had attended the February 14 Portsmouth Listens meeting.

President's Report

The governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion has held fourteen listening sessions so far in communities around the state. The Council will schedule listening sessions during late March, April, and May, in communities where sessions have not yet been held.

Rogers expressed gratitude to the members of the MLK Breakfast Committee for their leadership in producing an outstanding event. The committee will hold a wrap-up meeting on February 25.

Rogers will attend a meeting in Manchester on January 14 for DWC, the Diversity Workforce Coalition. After the conference there will be a networking event to introduce a new initiative titled Economic Vitality New Hampshire (EVNH), which will focus on enhancing NH's workforce through a focus on diversity and inclusion.

Also, on March 14, Community Change Inc. (CCI) and the Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) will meet to work on creating an Anti-Racism Organizing event for Northern New England, with the goal of providing an opportunity for people already organizing to undo racism in the area to learn about, learn from, and deepen their collaborations with each other.

Rogers will attend one of the March 14 meetings and asked for a volunteer to attend the other.

On February 13, Rogers attended a meeting of Project DREAM, a student civil rights support group formed at Dover High School after a recent racial incident there. Students spoke at the meeting of the racial problems existing at Dover High School.

Members of the group have asked to become members of the NAACP. The Branch plans to form a Youth Council including these students.

The Dover community continues to suffer the consequences of the incident at the High School. The US Department of Justice may intervene to assess the racial situation in the high school and in the community.

Rogers has been invited by UNH staff members to participate in the 21 Day Racial Equity Project and will meet with the planners to learn more about the project.

Rogers will be a facilitator for a meeting of Leadership NH Living Room Conversations on Race and Equity in New Castle. The meeting will focus on Criminal Justice.

Rogers has received a complaint from the parents of a third-grade student in Hampton who report that the child is suffering severe emotional distress as a result of bullying.

Ongoing Business

Jody Hoffer Gittell presented suggestions for a modified format for membership meetings, with the stated aim of increasing attendance and enjoying more in-depth discussions. With such a format,

members would contribute to the agenda, with suggestions submitted previous to the meeting for topics to be discussed.

Jody will write up a proposal for the format, for further discussion and a vote of the membership.

Freddye Ross pointed out that some of our members are not comfortable driving at night, or have given up night driving altogether, and that creating a car pool for older drivers might also increase membership.

Following the round table discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary