

SEACOAST NAACP #2070  
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT  
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, March 6, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

### **Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the February 6 meeting were accepted with two corrections.

### **President's Report: Community Dialogue**

Rogers attended a meeting at UNH with Michele Holt-Shannon to plan for the next community dialogue event. The next planning meeting will take place around May 17.

Rogers shared a list of the goals of the community dialogues, and noted that these events will lessen the chance of conflicts occurring and provide a vehicle to deal with any conflicts that do arise.

### **MLK Breakfast Committee**

The committee will meet on March 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1 at the Portsmouth Public Library. As part of early planning for the event, the committee will discuss planning an interesting program and finding an MC.

### **Hall of Fame Dinner**

We will reserve a table for 10 at the NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner, which will take place on May 20 at the Marriott Boston/Newton Hotel at 2345 Commonwealth Avenue in Newton MA. The Branch will rent a van to take attending members to the event.

### **NEAC Quarterly Meeting**

NEAC president Juan Cofield has asked the Branch to host the next Quarterly Meeting to be held on June 3. This involves providing a continental breakfast and a lunch for approximately 50 attendees. We will need to set up the meeting room for the meals and the meeting, and put it back in order when the meeting concludes at approximately 3:00 p.m. Rogers stressed the importance of a good showing by our membership, to help with the work and to show our commitment to social justice.

### **Legislation in Concord**

Rogers gave information about several bills in the state legislature: SB 193, which creates a program by which parents can receive state funding to send their children to any school they choose, including religious schools and home schooling; SB44, which prohibits the state from requiring any school district to use the Common Core standards; and SB 43, which states that no student can be required to take a school survey or questionnaire without written consent of the parent or guardian. There is also comprehensive Republican legislation aimed at tightening the state's voter registration process by modifying the requirements to prove Granite State domicile.

Rogers spoke of the lack of outreach by schools in NH to recruit teachers of color. Members agreed that the Community Dialogues might be a good place to address the issue.

### **UNH Students of Color**

Rogers shared the minutes of the last UNH Students of Color meeting, which he attended as a representative of the Seacoast NAACP. He noted that the Branch contributed to the successful pop-up barbershop activity described in the minutes.

The Branch received a note of thanks for its **donations to Seacoast Family Promise and the Seacoast Food Pantry.**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Freedom Fund**

Chairperson Freddy Ross reported on plans for the 2017 Freedom Fund Dinner, which will take place at the Grill 28 Restaurant at the Pease Golf Course on April 22, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The members of the planning committee are Freddy Ross, Rogers Johnson, Terry MacDonald, and Mary Lou McElwain.

Freddy announced that JerriAnne Boggis will be honored at the dinner as the recipient of the 2017 Freedom Fighter Award. She noted that JerriAnne is well known throughout NH and beyond.

Meal choices for the dinner are Baked Stuffed Haddock and Chicken Saltimbocca.

Members were urged to contribute items for the Silent Auction.

#### **Legal Redress**

Two complaints have been received by the Branch but cannot be acted on until the complainants file a written complaint.

#### **Sunshine Committee**

Jennifer Stiefel sent a get well card and a condolence card in the past month.

Following the roundtable announcements and comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore  
Secretary