

NAACP #2070**1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801****MEMBERSHIP MEETING, May 6, 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 and sharing of relevant information and ideas.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 1 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report

Rogers reported on the April 27 NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner. As usual, the food and the speakers were outstanding.

President Rogers Johnson reported that the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion will hold listening sessions in Concord and Lebanon/Hanover in June.

Rogers reported on the Medgar Wiley Evers Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institute in Princeton, NJ, which he attended on May 3-4. NAACP President Derrick Johnson is aware of the Cochrane case in Hampton and may expand the investigation, possibly bringing a class action suit. President Johnson and others in the NAACP hierarchy are aware that incidents of discrimination have occurred all over NH. President Derrick Johnson, stating that "the NAACP has lost its way," said that our work is to "agitate, investigate, organize, and mobilize." More direct action is called for, with legal action against school systems where discrimination is active. An effort will be made to change laws and policies.

Rogers attended a meeting in Manchester on April 29 for the Symposium 2.0 on Race and Equity in NH. He spoke of the synergy between the different groups at the meeting, noting that a critical mass of effort is needed to get things done.

Rogers reported on the continuing aftermath of the incident at Dover High School in which two students in an Advanced Placement U.S. history class sang a jingle invoking the KKK which they had composed as the fulfillment of an assignment to create a Christmas carol using events from the Reconstruction period. The teacher of the class will return to the classroom in September. The student who videotaped the incident remains on suspension.

Rogers will take part in a Hate Crimes Symposium at UNH with several local police departments sponsored by The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington D.C. Rogers noted that he is already acquainted with most of the officers who will be in attendance because of collaboration with them in the past.

Rogers has been invited by the Deputy Chief of Police from North Hampton to take part on May 10 in a podcast focusing on Police and the People.

Rogers will attend a meeting of Portsmouth Listens on May 8.

Ongoing Business

The annual NAACP picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 4. Nur Shoop volunteered to chair the planning committee.

Guest Speaker

John Cochrane, father of a child who has suffered continued racially motivated bullying in the Hampton school system, spoke at the meeting of his family's experience. He outlined the sequence of events and described the lack of an appropriate response, even when decreed by law, of school officials at each step of the case. He stated that he does not believe that students are protected from bullying in this school system.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary