

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, May 7, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 2 meeting were read and accepted with a modification.

President's Report

Rogers reported that ten participants attended the April 12 NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner in Newton MA. Those attending all reported having enjoyed good food and a good speaker.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion held a listening session on May 3 in Claremont at the River Valley Community College. Much concern was expressed at the meeting about the August 2017 near hanging of a young biracial boy by teenagers of the community. There will be a follow-up listening session in Claremont.

The next listening session will be held in early June in Nashua.

Rogers reported that UNH has a new President, James W. Dean, who most recently served as Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Rogers noted that in his former position President Dean has had experience with a diverse student body, which will serve UNH well in its efforts to increase diversity and create a welcoming community for minority students.

On Tuesday, May 1 Rogers attended an event put on by Turning Point USA, a conservative group with a presence at UNH.

On April 11, Rogers gave a speech on diversity to several upper school classes at Farmington High School.

Committee Reports

Legal Redress

A complaint has been received regarding an incident at the Oyster River Middle School in Durham.

Ongoing Business

Rogers reported that police departments in the Seacoast area are making efforts to increase their diversity. He spoke of the positive relations and collaboration the Branch enjoys with police departments in the Seacoast area, in contrast to the negative reports regarding the actions of police officers in other parts of the country.

Rogers and Will Arvelo are working with the Santander Bank to recruit minority students to serve internships in New Hampshire. Rogers spoke of the economic benefits to the state that come with increased diversity.

The Scholarship Committee has received four applications and will meet during the week to decide who will receive the award.

Rogers noted that we need to establish committees to plan for the annual picnic and the November elections.

New Business

Ken Mendis of the Racial Unity Team of Exeter encouraged members to attend the six weekly sessions of Truth-Telling Talks to be held at the Wiggins Memorial Library in Stratham NH, beginning on May 8. The series is based on the book “WAKING UP WHITE and Finding Myself in the Story of Race,” by Debbie Irving. The desire of the Racial Unity Team is “to bring together people of different racial identities to read the book and to help transform confusion into curiosity and anxiety into action.”

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary