

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070**

**1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT**

**PORTSMOUTH NH 03801**

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING, January 8, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the December 4 meeting were read and accepted.

**President's Report**

President Rogers Johnson met on November 17 with the NH Attorney General Gordon MacDonald and John Formella, Legal counsel for Governor Sununu,

Rogers noted that for the past seven months he has continued to call on the University of New Hampshire to start mandatory diversity training for all administrative employees and to make a simple public declaratory statement that while it respects the first amendment rights of students, the University can and will hold any student accountable for what they say in a public forum if it can be interpreted as threatening speech. As of January 14, the University has done neither. Rogers has noted that the New Hampshire ACLU shares these concerns.

On December 14, Rogers was appointed Chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion. The Council will hold community forums across the state, open to all state residents, to hear concerns about bias and discrimination. and will make recommendations to combat discrimination and promote diversity and inclusion. Diversity trainings will be carried out to include police departments and other entities that are funded by public money, such as the administrative staff of the University of New Hampshire system.

Branch member Allyson Ryder has agreed to help in this process. Rogers stated that all members of the Branch can help by talking in our communities about the work of the Council.

The Oyster River School District is about to start the second phase of its diversity training.

On January 12, Rogers will give a speech on race to several upper school classes at Portsmouth High School.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Freedom Fund**

Freddye Ross, who for years has assumed the main responsibility for organizing the Freedom Fund dinner, is stepping down for a much deserved rest. A new person is needed to serve as chairperson for the annual fundraiser.

**Legal Redress**

The Branch received a complaint which was redirected to the Manchester Branch.

**Nathaniel Holloway Award**

Robert McGann reported that a letter regarding the award will go out to schools in the area by the middle of January. The recipient or recipients will be announced in April.

**Web page**

Sandi Clark is working to re-design and update the Seacoast NAACP Web page.

**ONGOING BUSINESS**

Jon Ring gave an update on plans for the MLK Jr. Day Breakfast. Rogers Johnson added that there will be a membership sign-up table at the breakfast, and Freddy Ross volunteered to take responsibility for the table.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Members voted unanimously to donate \$250 for the 11th Annual Black Family Weekend at UNH.

Following the round table notices, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary