

NAACP #2070

**1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING, September 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Jon Ring.

Nine members attended the meeting in person at the Pease Tradeport location, and five members participated via Zoom.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the August 3 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report

Rogers reported that August had been a very busy month.

- The Law Enforcement and Community Transparency Report was completed and can be read on the Governor's web page. The completion of the report necessitated 5-6 hours daily of Zoom meetings. Rogers noted that the report took a nonpolitical approach, and urged members to read it.

An independent body has been set up to review police force actions, and additional training has been requested. Rogers stated that NH police forces show a high quality in their standards and performance, with 24 hours of training in diversity, use of force, and de-escalation required for recertification. He noted that these standards are more strict than those of any other state in the country.

- Rogers attended the two day Fair and Impartial Policing seminar in early August.
- With no data base existing to show the proportion of inmates of color in the NH prison system, Rogers called each prison in the state to obtain the pertinent information, and found that New Hampshire prisons have a disproportionate number of people of color. He noted that this is partly due to the fact that 50% of inmates are from out of state, many having come to NH to deal in drugs.
- Rogers participated in a meeting of the New Hampshire State Advisory Committee of the Office of Civil Rights on August 17 at UNH. The discussion concerned the prospects of solitary confinement reform in the NH prison system. Another committee meeting was planned for September 21.
- Rogers participated in a Diversity and Economic Vitality and Inclusion meeting on August 18.
- On September 9, Rogers participated by teleconference in a meeting of the Commission on Education Funding, which is trying to find new mechanisms for funding education in the state.
- Rogers has been invited to participate in a BlackHeritageTrailNew Hampshire event in Manchester to talk about his selection as Majority Whip in the NH House of Representatives, where he was the first person of color to be part of House Leadership.
- Rogers met with Tanisha Johnson, the new President of Black Lives Matter Seacoast, on August 21. They discussed distributing laptops and backpacks to children in NH, but Rogers noted that the National NAACP policy prevents such a distribution.

- In preparation for the Branch elections on November 2, the Nominating Committee will meet to receive the candidate consent forms from the Secretary and any other person who intends to run for a position in the Branch.
- Rogers welcomed ideas from members regarding what the Branch can do to celebrate MLKJr.Day in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. The possibility of celebrating via Zoom has been suggested.
- Rogers will meet with Governor Sununu to discuss the \$500,000 that has been allotted to be spent before December 31 on any Covid-19 related issue in the state.
- Rogers received a call from an individual in Columbus, Ohio, requesting help for a relative with health issues incarcerated in the federal prison in Berlin NH. Rogers made inquiries and the inmate was transferred to a prison at a two hours distance from Columbus.

New Business

The Youth council plans to hold a workshop on leadership via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Frances Elsemore