

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, March 5, 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 February 5 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report

President Rogers Johnson reported on NEAC meeting hosted by the Manchester Branch on March 3. The Seacoast NAACP made a good showing, with nine members attending. At the meeting, a representative of the Santander Bank announced that the bank is hoping to develop an ongoing relationship with the NAACP, to promote diversity and inclusion by bringing about business, financing, education, and mortgage services to previously underserved communities.

Rogers reported that as a result of a meeting with Newmarket Police Chief Kyle True, Newmarket will sponsor an internship for a minority college student majoring in law enforcement and racial justice at Hampton-Sydney College. If all goes well, they hope to expand the program next year to include more departments and more schools. This is an effort to bring more diversity to NH law enforcement and more young people of color who will hopefully stay to live and work in NH.

On February 26, Rogers listened in on a conference call with a group coming together to establish an organization dedicated to enhancing the diversity of the New Hampshire workforce. The goal is to attract and retain minorities in the workforce for New Hampshire companies.

On February 27, Rogers received a call from Joseph Cafarelli, lead investigator of the U.S. Attorney's office in Concord. Based upon their previous discussions and heightened awareness of racial tensions in New Hampshire, the U.S. Attorney's office will sponsor a series of four listening sessions around the state, with the main emphasis on involving the regional clergy. Rogers noted that K-12 and higher education, police departments, government agencies, and now the clergy are all involved in diversity issues.

Rogers is pursuing the possibility that a minority student will serve an internship as a student teacher in the Oyster River school system.

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Diversity and Inclusion has held two meetings to date. The next meeting is scheduled for March 8 in Concord.

Rogers noted that the Seacoast Media Group has continued to cover the Council, stating that he welcomes their help in this effort.

On March 14, Rogers will give a speech on diversity to several upper school classes at Farmington High School.

Rogers noted that many positive efforts are currently underway in New Hampshire, and encouraged members to help by speaking up and sharing the information with family, friends, and members of the community.

Guest Speaker

Will Arvelo was selected by Governor Sununu in October 2017 to head NH's Department of Business and Economic Affairs, and has recently agreed to serve as Chairman of Economic Development for the Seacoast NAACP. He spoke of his role of recruiting and retaining businesses to the state, and working with business and industry to develop programs that lead to good jobs. Arvelo served for eleven years as President of Great Bay Community College, and sees education and economic development going hand in hand. He has seen a growing diversity in New Hampshire, with businesses becoming interested in attracting a diverse workforce. However, at present 60% of NH's college graduates leave the state for economic opportunities elsewhere. A challenge is to attract diverse students and a diverse workforce and then help them adapt to the state so they will remain.

Ongoing Business

The NEAC Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 14 at 6:00 p.m., at the Boston Marriott Newton Hotel in Newton, MA. Members voted unanimously to approve the payment for a table for ten.

New Business

Nur Shoop and Larry McGhee arranged a meeting with a civil rights group at Traip Academy. Nur and Curtis Lewis addressed this group and were well received. Nur left NAACP materials with the group and hopes that some of the members will be interested in joining a Youth Council. Nur has found a sponsor who has offered to pay the membership fees for those who join.

David Holt attended a kick-off meeting in Manchester for the Poor People's Campaign, a movement that seeks to continue the work begun by Martin Luther King, Jr. and interrupted by his death. David shared materials describing the history, platform, and work of the campaign, which is focused on social and economic equality. The group will hold another kick-off campaign on March 22, in Dover.

Other Business

Members signed a birthday card for President Emeritus Fred Ross.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary