

**PORTSMOUTH NAACP, BRANCH 2070
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MAY 3, 2010
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Fred Ross, with an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the April 5 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report

Those in attendance at the April 24 dinner/dance enjoyed a wonderful occasion, with good food, great music, and lots of dancing.

On behalf of the Branch, President Ross expressed thanks and appreciation to Freddy Ross for the time and hard work she has put in, year after year, to make our fundraisers a success.

Citing the recent rise in manifestations of racism and hatred, Fred pointed out the continuing need for organizations such as the NAACP, and the need for bringing young people into these organizations to carry on the torch from older members.

Fred noted that two of our members, Linda Freeman, now living in Washington D.C., and Allison Grover Khoury, in Los Angeles, continue to support and work for the Branch.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Freedom Fund

Freddy Ross read a list of the many special guests in attendance at the April 24 fundraising dinner/dance, which was MC'd by Sharon Jones and honored Valerie Cunningham, whose research into the history of Portsmouth's African Americans led to the establishment of the city's Black Heritage Trail. Freddy also gave thanks to a list of those who made special contributions in various ways to help make the event a success. She noted that the University of NH was well represented with staff members and students.

Legal Redress

The committee has received four complaints in the last month. Nina Jordan plans to modify the complaint form to provide space for complainants to indicate their desired outcome.

Media and Publicity

Dom Domingo reported that he sent an online announcement of the May meeting to "Foster's Daily Democrat."

Scholarship

The committee will soon make its announcement of the recipient of this year's scholarship.

Sunshine

During the month, one get well card was sent to a member. Jennifer Stiefel provided a card to be signed at the meeting, with encouraging messages for Clarence Cunningham. Clarence was a co-founder of the NAACP in Portsmouth.

Veterans Affairs

Memorial Day will be celebrated on Monday, May 31, with the traditional ceremony at the Veterans' Cemetery in Boscawen.

As Dom has done before, Fred Ross added to the report a reminder of the recent high suicide rate amongst members of the military, and encouraged Branch members to be aware of the needs of veterans returning from duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Website

Sandi Clark reported that the site continues to receive many hits on various topics. We now have a total of \$90.24 towards the \$100 reward for online purchases made through the Website.

Youth Council

Beth Williams presented plans for the Seacoast NAACP Youth Program. She shared a list of possible focus areas for the group, including Culture, with members attending local events as a group, Education, History, Politics, Social Justice, Identity, Leadership Skills, and Goal Setting. She also listed the following examples of topics which might be addressed in the group:

- Why is higher education important?
- How to apply for scholarships
- Who are your role models and why?
- Mock interviews
- Job shadowing
- Addressing cultural identity through the identity wheel
- Community outreach programs
- Team Building activities
- Expression through the arts
- Watching films such as "A Class Divided" and "Precious" with discussion questions

Members added the following suggestions:

- Diversity in the media
- Current events
- Health (emotional, physical, and mental)
- Bullying

The program's target age group will be the 8-12th grades. The group will meet once a month, beginning in September.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Featuring speakers at Branch meetings has been suggested as a way to increase attendance. Fred urged members to suggest speakers who might address the Branch on matters of interest to our members and to the community.

Fred reminded members that they are welcome to participate in the open mike portion of Branch meetings.

Nina Jordan will call to confirm the reservation at the Eliot Boat Basin for our annual picnic on August 1.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore
Secretary