

PORTSMOUTH NAACP, BRANCH 2070
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, December 5, 2011
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Fred Ross, with an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the November 7 meeting were read and accepted.

President's Report

Because of work demands requiring her to travel, Beth Williams has resigned as Youth Council Advisor. To sustain the Youth Council, new advisors are needed. It was noted that most of the Youth Council memberships will expire at the end of December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legal Redress

There have been no new complaints this month.

Veterans' Affairs

Military personnel older than 35 years can now be paid for the expense of taking college courses. Previously, an age cap was in effect.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Following through on the Branch authorization to make an outreach to the Muslim community, Ryan Tarr has contacted three imams about speaking at an NAACP meeting. The imams are interested, but need to discuss the matter within the mosque.

NEW BUSINESS

NEAC has tasked each Branch to set the boundaries for its Legal Redress jurisdiction, with members voting at two consecutive meetings to approve these boundaries. Branches were encouraged to limit their area to a size that can be served effectively. Members voted unanimously to include Rockingham and Strafford counties, and the towns of Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, and South Berwick in York County, Maine. Nina Jordan noted that complainants from outside this area can be referred to the Human Rights Commission, and to attorneys who have agreed to advise complainants by phone. A second vote will be taken at the January meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

Phyllis Killam-Abell, Political Action Co-Chair, introduced Jacqueline Cilley, former member of the State Legislature, who spoke to the Branch about the new direction in the state following the 2010 elections. Following her defeat in 2010, Jackie saw that she could still be effective, and believing that the only way we can have functional government is for people to go informed into the voting booth, she created the "Legislative Action Alert." She described the efforts of the Free State Project to dismantle the government, starting at town and state levels. The Project has chosen New Hampshire as a state they can change, and aim to have 20,000 Free Staters move into NH, some of them pretending to be Republicans in order to be elected and carry out their agenda. Jackie says that we are under siege in the State House, with assaults on education, workers' rights, and women.

She reports that while in the past we could agree on goals to provide education for our children, this Legislature has proposed *fifty-seven* bills aimed at stripping our education system of funding, meaning, standards, and oversight. The Free State Project would dismantle public

schools and replace them with home schooling, private schools, and religious schools.

The Legislature has repealed the NH minimum wage law, and tried to eliminate collective bargaining. Previously, mainstream businesses understood the important part workers play in the economy.

The Legislature has defunded Planned Parenthood, which helps women manage their reproductive health care. One legislator has publicly stated that contraception is equal to abortion.

Jackie said that we must ferret out the Free Staters who are pretending to be Republicans, and get back to two parties that can have a dialogue. In 2012, we must put rational, caring people in the Statehouse. We must be informed voters.

Following Jackie's speech, Rogers Johnson, also a former member of the State Legislature, noted that often legislators are not well informed and simply follow others, and at present many are following dangerous leaders.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore

Secretary