

## NAACP Seacoast Branch 2070 Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2018

A. Executive Committee Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, James "Bat" Kaddy (arrived at 6:11), Freddy Ross, Renee' Goins, Irving Heugan, Brad Randolph, Jon Ring.

1. Meeting was convened at 6:07 pm. Frances Elsemore was not present, so Jon was asked by Rogers to record the Minutes.
  2. President Rogers Johnson summarized topics for the Branch General Membership Meeting this evening. There was much discussion. He noted that there were insufficient hours in the days and week for him to get everything done, which calls for his attention. Agreed.
  3. The September vote to repeal the death penalty in the NH Legislature in failed, as expected.
  4. Executive Session was closed at 6:24 pm.
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B. Branch Membership Meeting Present: Rogers Johnson, and all members of the above Executive Committee, plus 8 others (see meeting sign-in sheet) - total of 15 folk.

1. Meeting was opened at 6:33 pm.
2. Chaplain Irving Heugan lead us in prayer. Amen to that !!
3. Secretary Report was given by Jon Ring in the absence of Frances Elsemore, who read the Minutes of September 10, which were approved as written.
4. The Nominating Committee: Jon Ring, Fred Ross, and Linda Freeman. Jon reported that the slate of Officers for 2018-2020 will include: President Rogers Johnson, First Vice-President James "Bat" Kaddy, Second Vice-President Freddy Ross, Secretary Frances Elsemore, Assistant Secretary Jon Ring, Treasurer Jody Hoffer-Gittell. Proper NAACP Endorsement Forms are on-file with the Secretary. President Johnson invited the Membership to provide any additional nominations from the floor. None were submitted. A motion was made to close Nominations of Officers which was seconded, and approved. The Election will take place at the Branch Meeting on November 5, 2018.
5. President's Report by Rogers Johnson:
  - a. NH Governor's Advisory Commission on Diversity and Inclusion: Rogers reported that Listening Sessions were held last month in Laconia and North Conway. Lancaster and Keene are scheduled soon. Allyson Ryder, also a Member of the GAC, added that there will be targeted Listening Sessions in some communities to solicit additional input for the Commission. There was much discussion.
  - b. Rogers noted that he had attended the Manchester NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner on September 29 to accept an award for the Seacoast Branch.

- c. NEAC Annual Convention was held a couple of weeks ago, and Rogers said that NEAC wants every Branch to work to increase Membership. It was suggested that this be a key focus at the MLK Breakfast event in January. Also, clergy and parishioners of every religious community should be approached. The Youth Council needs to reform. There was much lively discussion. A Membership Drive is in order. The question was raised – how can this Seacoast Branch become more systematic?
- d. A Minority Business Coalition Meeting was held on September 28 in Concord, at which Rogers spoke. Attendance was down, because a number of Caucasians, who typically would have attended, have been threatened by White Supremacist individuals. The group is fully supportive of diversity in the workplace and at their businesses.
- e. Rogers noted that he will speak throughout the day at the Exeter Cooperative Middle School SAU 16 on October 24 to each Social Studies class pod about diversity.
6. Ken Mendis of the Race Unity Team in Exeter told the Branch that the Race Unity Walk on September 29 went very well. Rogers led a 45-minute discussion about current issues for the Governor’s Advisory Commission with many questions and answers. Ken announced that the NH Social Studies Curriculum is currently being revised. He invited folk to participate in the process, and said that there will be a meeting soon. Again, there was much discussion about curriculum, process, and Local and State School Boards.
7. Allyson Ryder asked the Branch if it would be acceptable for the 2019 Seacoast NAACP MLK Breakfast to involve Richard Haynes with a 6-week Art Project inspired by the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. She is working with Claudia Maturell of the Green Acre Baha’i School in Eliot, which would host the Art Project classes. Richard has agreed to be the Key Note Speaker using the Art Project as focus of his remarks. Robert Thompson has agreed to be the MC at South Church in Portsmouth. All is proceeding very nicely. Jon said that the next Committee Meeting is 10/16 at 6 pm. There was much discussion, after which the Membership agreed that the Art Project was a terrific idea.
8. Nur Shoop reported that the NH ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) will hold a Rally at the Exeter Town Hall on October 6 from 1- 3 pm. The Exeter Police Department apparently recently detained an individual for possible ICE deportation. The ALCU has filed suit against the Police Department.
9. Jon reported that he has found a contact to ask about the Sarah Long Bridge Time Capsule, to which no items were contributed from African-American groups.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan S. Ring, Assistant Secretary