

**SEACOAST NAACP #2070  
1 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, PEASE INTERNATIONAL TRADEPORT  
PORTSMOUTH NH 03801  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING, December 4, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. with a welcome by President Rogers Johnson and an invocation by Chaplain Irving Heughan.

**Secretary's Report**

The minutes of the November 6 meeting were read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report**

The report was accepted as presented.

**President's Report**

President Rogers Johnson has co-authored with the ACLU an open letter to the University of NH calling for the University to select a new University President with a record of fostering diversity. Rogers noted that since the racial incidents of last May, nothing has changed to make students feel, and be, safe. He continues to call on the University to carry out mandatory diversity training for all administrative employees and to make a simple declaratory statement that while students have first amendment rights, the University can and will hold any student accountable for what they say in a public forum.

Rogers met on November 17 with the NH Attorney General Gordon MacDonald and John Formella, Legal counsel for Governor Sununu, who are working actively to resolve the issue regarding a racial incident in Claremont in which an eight-year old biracial boy was taunted and wounded by a group of teenagers who pushed him off a table with a noose around his neck.

**MLK Breakfast**

The 2018 Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Day breakfast will be held on January 15 at the South Church in Portsmouth from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, with a program of tributes and music beginning at 10:00. The Keynote Speaker will be Sean McGhee, Director of the Office of Student Multicultural Affairs at UNH. The breakfast is open to the public, with donations welcome at the door.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare food on the morning of the breakfast.

**Oyster River School District**

In response to racial incidents in the school district, faculty and administrative staff have completed diversity training. The family victimized by the incidents now feels that the issue has been resolved to their satisfaction by the actions taken by the school district.

**Seacoast Web site**

The new web page should be up and running soon. It will be possible to send complaints online from the Web site.

**Guest Speaker**

New Hampshire "Drug Czar" David Mara, Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health and former Portsmouth Police Chief, spoke about the opioid crisis, how it effects New Hampshire, and possible solutions. He traced the rise of drug use in NH, spoke of the role of the big pharmaceutical companies in the drug crisis, and of the effect on health care and families. He outlined educational and preventive measures we all can take and noted that there are positive programs going on to deal with the crisis, including places where people suffering from drug use

can find help, such as fire stations in Manchester and Nashua which operate as safe stations, and Harbor Homes, an organization which offers holistic care.

He cited as bright spots in the crisis bi-partisan efforts to address the problem, and affected families who are working to prevent tragedy for others.

Other efforts which would help include taking measures to attract more doctors to the state; providing alternatives to jail sentences, which often end in recidivism upon release; and providing help to prevent recidivism, such as recovery friendly workplaces.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Elsemore  
Secretary