NAACP Berkshire County Branch
General Chapter Meeting
May 1, 2019 6pm – Conte Community School

Attendees (See addendum)

AGENDA:

1. Leah Reed called the meeting to order 6:12 PM – OPENING MOMENT OF SILENCE
2. ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER REPORT 6:13
   a. Review of the report
   b. Discussion of the dues overpaid to national
      i. Erroneously included restricted income.
      ii. Sent a request for an amended return from National.
      iii. Need an operating budget
   c. Discussion of other sources of income
   d. Acceptance of Treasures Report
      i. Al made a motion to approve
      ii. Arlene seconded
      iii. Accepted unanimously.
      iv. Membership recommended EC come up with a plan to come up with an operating expenses.
3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MARCH 6TH MINUTES 6:23pm
   a. Drew made motion to accept
   b. Tommy seconded
4. PRESENTATION: Peggy Kern & Mohammed Memphis
   a. Outgrowth of Bail Fund
   b. Court Watch – Mohammed
      i. Court watch volunteers monitor Court activities.
      ii. Write down data of the situation – including background of accused
      iii. Compare what the judges do compared to DA recommendations
      iv. Ensure new DA follows up on promises
      v. Transparency of Court system
      vi. Public Education Events
         1. Help educate DA Office
         2. Inspire volunteers
      vii. Court Watch is active in Boston
         1. Use social media to inform community in real time
         2. Goal to watch as many cases as possible.
      viii. Use the Center of Learning at Williams as a resource to process the data collected
         1. Anyone in the community can access
         2. Explanations provided
         3. Conclusions drawn
         4. Will assist DA in her job
      ix. Question on impact of observation on the defendant
1. Information is public knowledge
2. Personal information is kept private
3. Presence of Court Watchers has made Court Officers more mindful
   x. Will try to coordinate with Berkshire County DA who is aware of program
   xi. Will reach out to the Court Staff that they will be present
   xii. 80% of Defendants have been through the foster care system
   xiii. Process
      1. Looking for as many volunteers as possible.
      2. Time spent is up to the volunteer.
      3. Will have a schedule and resources available for volunteers.
      4. Develop a relationship with the Clerks so they can provide information and
         answer questions.

5. REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
6. Will Singleton & Marlena Willis - Finance & Freedom Fund 7pm
   a. Saturday Nov 9th Berkshire Hills Country Club
   b. Committee hard at work.
7. Leah Reed - Facebook 7:02pm
   a. Send events you want promoted
   b. Post photos – give relevant info for posting
8. Megan Whilden - PR Media 7:03pm
   a. Not present
9. Chad Roberson - Membership & Life Membership 7:04pm
   a. We are up to ~ 250 members
   b. Working on Williams/MCLA/BCC Youth Chapters
10. Shirley Edgerton & Joel Priest - RACE RELATIONS 7:05pm
    a. No Updates
11. Al Blake, Chad Roberson - Economic & Environmental Justice 7:06pm
    a. Update on P.O.C Hike on April 14th
    b. Ask for more people to attend committee meetings
    c. To environmental justice bills to track.
12. Drew Herzig & Rebecca Thompson - Social Justice Action Committee 7:09pm
    a. Can we support officially support a strike political action? i.e. Stop & Shop Strike
       i. Will follow up with NEAC
       ii. Suggestion that membership shop at places that have unions.
    b. North Adams is moving away from the Civil Service program.
       i. Complicated process – burden for marginalized peoples.
       ii. SJAC wrote a letter to Mayer Tyer of Pittsfield to do the same.
       iii. Will help diversify police departments.
       iv. Need to watch that nepotism does not
    c. Drew and Rev. Letman on the Police Oversight Commission
       i. MA has strict public record laws
       ii. Can report an action was taken, but not the details of the situation.
    d. City of Pittsfield has a Green Commission
13. Akilah Edgerton & Sarah Trudgeon - YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT Co-Chairs 7:24pm
   a. Iris will compile pictures from the DC trip.
   b. Young people from the trip will be at the Freedom Fund Dinner.
   c. Concern what is happening in the Schools
      i. Impacting how students learn.
      ii. Working on an existing program to empower
         1. to have confidence in themselves
         2. positive about each other
         3. positive about learning

14. BUSINESS:
15. Berkshire Pride Event 7:28pm
   a. June 15th 12pm
   b. NAACP, Berkshire County Branch will be tabling.
   c. We are partner in the event.
16. Legal Redress Committee 7:35pm
   a. Christina Daignault and Doug Mishkin to co-chair
   b. Need a mission statement
   c. Do not conflict with the work of the Social Justice Action Committee
17. Quarterly Meeting Rutland VT – June 8th 7:38pm
   a. Request for people to attend
   b. Race Amity (BRIDGE)
18. Oral History Project Chair Announcement 7:39pm
   a. Wes Gadson to be the new chair
   b. Exhibit til May 5th
19. 4th of July Parade 7:39pm
   a. Hope it still happening
   b. If it is, we will be in it.
   c. General call for people to join.
   d. Invite someone from the Parade Committee to come to
20. Race Taskforce Meeting May 6th 7:40pm
   a. Shirley Edgerton is the NAACP, Berkshire County Branch representative
   b. General meeting is open to public at 12:30pm
21. 2019 Gather-In Committee 7:43pm
   a. Call for members of the Committee
   b. We need at least 10 people
22. Brochure/Marketing Tools NAACP 7:44pm
   a. Taconic backed out
   b. Call for someone to design the new Brochure
23. NEW BUSINESS: 7:45pm
24. Community Vigil for Poway Shooting May 2, 5:30pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel
25. Third Thursday Volunteers 7:45pm
   a. May 16
   b. Theme is Youth
26. Updates from Multicultural BRIDGE 7:47pm
   a. Town Meeting May 6th to rename school for Dubois
   b. DOJ is coming May 6th will roll out SPIRIT for local schools
c. Book study for Central Berkshire School District – ‘Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?’
d. Gwendolyn VanSant is the first woman of color to be honored at the Women of Achievement Awards Dinner May 6th
e. Grasping Whiteness May 19th offers transracial training

27. Gerrymandering next week Tuesday the 7th Athenaeum 7:55pm
28. According to a Federal Judge City of Charlottesville cannot remove Confederate statues on the grounds they are war memorials 7:55pm
29. Welcome to Jason Velazquez from Greylock Glass 7:56pm
   a. Want the press to do a better job about covering social justice issues
   b. Want to be a presence so we can let him know.
   c. Can be a resources for the Chapter
30. Meeting Adjournment 7:59pm
   a. Chad made a motion to end the meeting
   b. Tommie seconded
   c. Adjourned.