

**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 & Marlana 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.