October 2nd, 2019
GENERAL MEETING
BERKSHIRE COUNTY BRANCH, NAACP

THE GREEN 85 MAIN ST. NORTH ADAMS

Attendees
See Addendum

AGENDA:

1. Meeting Called to Order 6:13 pm
   a. Dennis Powell thanked North Adams for hosting the Branch.

2. Opening Silence

3. Review of Treasurer’s Report
   a. Pending approval from the Executive Committee. Will review at November meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   a. Leah Reed made a motion to approve last meeting minutes.
   b. Tommie Hutto-Blake second.
   c. Approved.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

1. Finance & Freedom Fund - Will Singleton
   a. Freedom Fund Berkshire Hills Country Club November 9th, 6 pm.
   b. $75 for members
   c. $100 for nonmembers
   d. $850 table of 10
   e. Dr. Shirley Whitaker, M.D. is the keynote speaker.
   f. Honoring Churchill Cotton and Homer Meade
   g. Online Ticket Sales next week

2. Face Book - Leah Reed
   a. Let Leah know of events.
   b. Will post closer to the date.
   c. Please send in photos.

3. Education Committee – Will Singleton & Hugh Guilderson
   a. Meeting next week to discuss programs in Pittsfield and North Adams Schools.

4. PR Media- Megan Whilden
   a. Not present.

5. Membership & Life Membership - Chad Robertson
   a. Welcome to new members.

6. Race Relations - Shirley Edgerton & Joel Priest
   a. In communication with Simons Rock
b. Working on plan with Provost of Simon’s Rock

7. **Economic & Environmental Justice** - Al Blake, Chad Roberson
   a. Thank everyone for participation Sept 20th Climate Strike from 12 – 1pm a protest in Pittsfield – over 800 participated
   b. Oct 5th POC hike at MA Audubon
   c. Oct 7th Russ Vernon Jones will be speaking at Tyler Street Labs.

8. **Social Justice Action Committee** - Drew Herzig & Rebecca Thomson
   a. Report Submitted

9. **Redress Committee** - Christina Daignault & Doug Mishkin
   a. Woman in North Adams attacked again.
      i. Used tampon was left on her doorstep.
      ii. Christina working with woman and North Adams officials.
   b. Doug Taking on a housing case involving landlord neglect.

**BUSINESS:**

10. **NEAC Annual Conference – Oct 4th to Oct 6th**
    a. The President will be giving a presentation on the Jamestown to Jamestown trip.
    b. Training for new membership management system.

11. **How Racism and Climate Change are Connected**
    a. Encourage everyone to come out to Russ Vernon Jones talk on Oct 7th.

12. **November Meeting**
    a. The November meeting will be held at Simons Rock.

13. **Fall Foliage Parade**
    a. Encourage people to come and participate.
    b. T-shirts are available for sale at cost from Erica.

14. **Drivers for election in November**
    a. We are organizing people to drive on Election Day.
    b. Secretary will send out notice to Branch.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

15. **Berkshire County District Attorney**
    a. Change in staffers and new community outreach program.
    b. Victim Outreach program.
    c. Want an open an honest conversation.
    d. Discussion of Esperanza case and creation of an evaluation scale for how ADAs are evaluated.
    e. Reach out to DA office when we are concerned about a particular case.
    f. Contact the DA’s office through the website.
    g. Discussion of attack at Simon’s Rock.
h. DA is a member of Fair and Just Prosecution, a consortium of progressive District Attorneys
i. Looking to bring program Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, pre arrest diversion program, in Pittsfield.
j. Eliminated cash bail in District and Superior Court.
k. Question and discussion on the legalization of cannabis and dangers of vaping.
l. Goal is to increase access to mental health care across the county.
m. Need to get people with money to care about social justice.
n. Restorative justice
o. Community Book Read

**Announcements:**

16. Bystander Intervention Training Oct 19th
17. Foster Care Program fill in the blanks
18. Thank you from Mayor Bernard

**ADJOURNMENT 7:40pm**