

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup> Climate Strike from 12 – 1pm a protest in Pittsfield – over 800 participated
  - b. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> POC hike at MA Audubon
  - c. Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> to Oct 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - 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 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 19<sup>th</sup>**

**17. Foster Care Program fill in the blanks**

**18. Thank you from Mayor Bernard**

**ADJOURNMENT 7:40pm**