July 1, 2020
GENERAL MEETING
BERKSHIRE COUNTY BRANCH, NAACP

Zoom

**Attendees**
Attendance recorded with Zoom registration.

**AGENDA:**

1. **Meeting Called to Order  6:05 pm**
2. **Opening Silence**
3. **Review of Treasurer’s Report**
   a. Erica Mielke gave an overview of the current budget.
   b. Merle Ferber made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report.
   c. Chad Robertson seconded.
   d. Approved.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   a. The June Branch meeting minutes are not completed and will be approved at the next Branch meeting.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

1. **Face Book** - Leah Reed
   a. Chair not present.
2. **Website** – Rebecca Thompson
   a. Rebecca Thompson provided an update of improvements made and coming to the website.
3. **Membership & Life Membership** - Chad Robertson
   a. A membership survey will be sent out for people who want to be members of committees.
4. **Health** – Brooke Bridges
   a. Discussion of voter registration and membership drive later in the month.
   b. Discussion of a having an access to ancestral food program with ties to land and farming.
   c. Working on social/emotional learning curriculum for young people of color.
5. **Race Relations** - Shirley Edgerton & Joel Priest
   a. A training on allyship will be given at the August Branch meeting.
   b. Discussion of Op-Ed piece on policing reforms being penned for publication in the Eagle.
6. **Community Coordination** – Dubois Thomas
a. Discussion of the Central Berkshire Leadership Academy.
b. Discussion of the Housing Report Card project.

7. **Environment & Climate Justice** - Al Blake, Raei Bridges
   a. Al Blake gave an overview of legislation.
   b. Information of the Mass Save Program.
   c. Raei Bridges working on a project with Berkshire Botanical Garden.

8. **Economic Development/Justice** - John Lewis
   a. The Commonwealth is providing $50M in relief funding for Black owned businesses.
   b. Working with 1Berkshire on the Covid Phase 3 opening of the economy.
   c. Working with government agencies on set aside programs for minority businesses.
   d. Will create a survey for the business community and how they serve Black and Brown professionals.

9. **Redress Committee** - Christina Daignault & Doug Mishkin
   a. High level update of committee work was given without giving details that would reveal the names of community members.

**PRESENTATION:**
Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier gave an update on legislation that would positively impact marginalized members of our community. HD5166 and the R.A.F.T. program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

10. **Discussion of the rollout of the Strategic Plan adopted by the Executive Committee in June.**
11. **A call for Committee Chairs and members: Education, Finance & Freedom Fund, Political Action, Legal Redress, Communications, PR & Media.**
    a. The Branch Secretary will send out a membership survey.
12. **Gather-In distribution of stipends for higher learning.**
    a. Stipends will be awarded at the July voter registration drive.

**ADJOURNMENT**

13. **Adjournment 8:09 pm**
    a. Chad Robertson made a motion to adjourn.
    b. Kathie Penna seconded.
    c. Adjourned