

**NAACP Branch Meeting November 2, 2022  
Berkshire County Branch**

**6:07 pm**

**Erica**

The resource packet alone from the WLC is inspiring and incredible. So thanks to anyone who worked on it. And anyone who hasn't joined, I highly recommend it.

**Darcie:** That would be Ms. Rebecca. She put a ton of work into it

**Erica:** It's amazing. So organized. It felt like such a gift to have

**Rebecca:** I had a lot of help and support so it's a work of the branch for sure

**6:10 pm**

**Dennis Powell** (DP henceforth): Well Good Evening Everyone. Welcome to November. And the beginning and start of the weather we all love so much and can't wait for it to get here. (joking). We'll start with a moment of silence. And I invite everyone to think about the election on November 8th. I've been following what's going on and it's pretty scary. The remnants of the event on January 6th hasn't ended. It's continuing so we all want to be mindful of that.

**6:11 pm**

**DP**

Thank you very much. Thasia could you put up the treasurer's report? And just slide it over so we can see the totals. Ask people to look at it.

(Quick review of treasurer's report).

**6:13 pm**

**Erica:** I've been hearing from many local and national type racial justice orgs that have seen a huge decline in money and presence in meetings. And people are distracted. Are you experiencing that?

**DP:** Not really- our funding sources are strong. I think like anything else, things die down. I think the election -the political arena has a lot to do with it. But I also think that during that time we were all locked down in covid as well and people had time to get involved.

Any other questions on financials? Thank you we don't need to vote on these- they were voted on by the executive committee.

The minutes of the last meeting were on our website - if anyone has any discrepancies regarding them please notify us and we'll make corrections. So It's easy to follow so if you have

any questions or concerns, please send us an email and we'll make the corrections. We post them so we don't have to take up the time to read them.

I want to get right into the report from our nominating committee and chair. Mr. Taliaferro Alo to give us an update on driving for the polls

**6:17 pm**

**Kamaar:**

Thank you. The quick update for driving for the polls is that Thursday or Friday we're going to have a meeting to organize. We have about a dozen drivers and 2 call operators. Darcie and the communications team has been distributing information.

You are hearing from me because our branch will be electing candidates to office in about a fortnight's time. Others on the committee are Katarina Penna, Al Blake, Mario Kelsey and Jeffery Turner. As chair I want to thank you for your commitment to the sound governance of the branch.

We are charged with chairing the portion of tonight's meeting to inform general membership of casting ballot dates.

We want to share the following candidates in the 2022 Berkshire County Chapter of the NAACP.

President: we nominate Dennis Powell

VP: we nominate Sabrina Allard

Secretary: we nominate Daryl Shreve

Treasurer: we nominate Amina Wilson

The following 3 candidates for at large members we nominate are:

Shirley Edgerton, Rebecca Thompson and AJ Enchill.

As chair, I hereby move to accept these nominations.

**6:20 pm**

Will anyone second?

Alisa Costa seconded.

Mr. President I believe you have to carry the motion.

**6:21 pm**

**DP:** Motion has been made, carried, all in favor. Unanimous. So carried. Back to you

**Kamaar:** I'm not required to ask for petitions from the floor. (stipulations of those who do so) With that bit of guidance out of the way, the floor is now open for nominations for the office of president. Are there further nominations for the office of president beyond Dennis Powell?

Hearing none, I will continue.

The floor is now open for nominations for the office of vice president. The nomination committee has nominated Sabrina Allard. Are there further nominations for the office of VP?

Hearing none, I will continue.

The floor is now open for nominations for the office of secretary. The nomination committee has nominated Daryl Shreeve. Are there further nominations for the office of secretary?

Hearing none, I will continue.

**6:23 pm**

The floor is now open for nominations for the office of treasure. The nomination committee has nominated Amina Wilson. Are there further nominations for the office of treasurer?

Hearing none, I will continue.

The floor is now open for nominations for the office of at large Executive Committee members. The nomination committee has nominated Shirley Edgerton, Rebecca Thompson and AJ Enchill.

Are there further nominations for the at-large members?

Hearing none, I will continue.

**6:24 pm**

Motion to accept

DP - so moved

Motion has been seconded

Any opposed?

Hearing no opposition, the motion carries unanimously.

**Kamaar:** Voting will take place online. Members in good standing are eligible to vote. You'll receive a link. Election buddy. Those who share emails- only have one ballot. National will be running it. It will occur on Thursday november 17 from 8 am to 8 pm. We will reach out if changes occur. Thank you for entrusting this duty to us. Thank you to the nominating committee.

**6:27 pm**

**DP:** Thank you Kamaar and the committee and for getting us up to date. We controlled election buddy last time but National is controlling it this time. There are a whole lot of members who use one email. Please note that national will only send one ballot per email. If you want to vote, send another email to Daryl and he can supply that email to national. But you have to do it asap. Thanks to Kamaar and the committee for your due diligence

**6:30 pm**

**Kamaar:** it was our honor Dennis

**DP:**

For the President's report I wanted to raise up Dr. Jones Sneed on her receiving the mass humanities award- there was a great contingency supporting her. It was the first time the award was given to anyone in Berkshire County.

Secondly, we sponsored an art show that is opening - we agreed to be a sponsor at a \$500 level. The EC also voted to donate \$5k to Eve Shatz, with the Berkshire Center for justice. They've really supported our racial justice and regress team. These funds came out of our Social Justice bucket

On Monday the 7th I would like to encourage you to come to a stand out for Healy and Driscoll from 4 to 5 pm. It's an important race for Attorney General. Any questions on anything I've said?

**6:34 pm**

Committee reports. Membership- Daryl.

**6:35 pm**

**Daryl:** Hi everyone- nothing of huge significance to report. Just making sure all email addresses are up to date for the upcoming election. Not that we have contested race- this is just a great time to reset and make sure our records are as accurate as possible. So that's the biggest thing. But nothing major to report. October was a normal month for membership

**DP:**

Race relations we won't hear from Shirley because she's in New Mexico. I will say that we continue to have and receive unfortunately, calls on a weekly basis. People having difficulty in the workplace in our community. And unfortunately a lot of it is race related. There's an increase in the use of the N word, within schools. Shirley assured that the administrations got on the incidents and that they are addressing it. But we know that whatever shows up in the schools, first stems from the household.

Ok, next, Political Action, Helen.

**6:38 pm**

**Helen**

Hello- we have slowed down a bit which is a blessing. Like Kamaar mentioned, we are organizing rides. We are now planning for next year.

**DP:** Communications

**6:40 pm**

**Kate-** we don't have any updates. Business as usual and promoting the activities and events for the branch. Just spreading the word

**DP:** Rebecca, Website

**6:40 pm**

**Rebecca:**

Its the same with the website, nothing new to report just keeping up with the regular things to report.

**DP**

I want to echo what was said earlier- I've been hearing some great comments about the white learning circle and the partner portion of it.

**Rebecca:** Well I have to say I'm really heartened. We have 21 people in the partners program which is new. And we have 14 people in the learning circle. Heartened by people who are committed heart and soul.

**DP:** Thank you for that and the group that's assisting you and making this happen. Education committee, Linda.

**6:42 pm**

**Linda:**

The survey is done. Shout out to communications committee for their help. The tutoring program is going strong. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please check our website

**DP:** Is AJ here? Economic Development and Justice

**6:43 pm**

**AJ Enchill:**

Good evening everyone. We have the Pittsfield Lap grant - so more news to come on that. BEC also just got some laptops and desktops for office hours so entrepreneurs can come and utilize the space. We're also calling for Black artists. Driscoll will be in our office this friday.

**DP:**

Thank you. Also- great event at bosquet.

**DP:**

We are partnering with the beacon - they are going to give a private showing of Till. I think its November 30th. The EC voted that we would financially sponsor our high school students to see this movie and Dr. Jones Sneed will conduct a discussion after. Also in south country and North Adams.

That's all I have- anyone have any new business?

**6:48 pm**

**Diane:**

We were gonna show it at the Mahaiwe and it just got canceled. If you want to approach me, I can put you in touch with the right people.

**6:49 pm**

Al Blake: What's on the Pittsfield voting ballot? And to vote on tuesday.

**Rebecca:**

I voted by mail in ballot. And there was nothing specific to Pittsfield.

(lots of back and forth about Pittsfield ballot questions.)

**6:51 pm**

Helen pulled up the appropriate website and read the ballot.

**DP:** Thanks for bringing that up and thanks to Helen for reading that and clearing it up. We'll all give it attention when we go into the booth.

That's all I have -

**6:53 pm**

**Daryl:** I spoke with a student who's interested in environmental justice

**Al-** Suggest she talk to Jane Winn

Another member knew someone in Colorado and asked if it needed to be local.

**DP:** Anything going on that we should put on our radar?

**6:55 pm**

**Erica-** I put it all in chat but there's a film being sponsored by school districts. "Who we are"

**DP:** Shout out to Jerome Edgerton who has been named basketball coach for PHS. So I'm very excited for him and hopeful we will all show our support

**6:57 pm**

**AJ:** We were talking about momentum losing steam for supporting BIPOC communities. But there are grants that are still available. Some are for specifically Black businesses and others are for businesses of color. Please be apprised.

**6:58 pm**

**DP-** is our website linked to your website AJ?

**AJ-** I don't think so. We have the meetings listed on our website

**Rebecca-** Yes they are listed as a resource. I failed- I haven't put the website up. I will do that tomorrow.

**AJ-** You didn't fail, it just didn't happen yet.

**Rebecca-** Thanks for the reminder.

**AJ-** Congrats again Frances, Dr. Frances Jones Sneed. You earned it- the doctor and the award.

**DP-** I'll motion if someone brings it.

**7:01 pm**

**Erica-** I motion to adjourn.

**AJ:** second

All in favor- unopposed. So moved.

**DP:** Let's get out and vote- lets be safe. Reminder of our elections on November 17th. It's not a quorum for the election- it's not based on membership. All we need is one person voting. Thanks all. PEACE.

*[Pertinent links and info included in chat:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/who-we-are-film-screening-discussion-tickets-440666664857>

"Who We Are" Film Screening & Discussion at Lee Middle/High School

<http://files.ocpf.us/pdf/guides/guidemunibq.pdf>

<https://darik.news/massachusetts/advocacy-group-massachusetts-house-wants-transparency-b-allot-questions-in-the-district-of-pittsfield-local-news/557204.html>

If the Branch is interested in showing Till at the Mahaiwe, email me at [dwortis@mahaiwe.org](mailto:dwortis@mahaiwe.org) and I'll pass along the request to the appropriate folks on staff]

\*As recorded by Marisa Massery