

## NAACP Berkshire County Branch Meeting September 2024

**6:05 - 6:11 pm:** participants sign on (12 participants)

**6:11 pm Dennis Powell** welcomed everyone, and explained that he has to leave around 6:30 pm for a NEACC meeting. Daryl is planning to sign on to explain how the elections will work, which will happen on election buddy.

**6:18 pm Rebecca:** Explained how we are starting our 5th year this cycle of our White Learning Circle. (Darcie sent email about 2 weeks ago with overview of programs. Rebecca shared screen. White Learning Programs are listed under resources).

Explained that they experimented with the white learning partners program for people who couldn't participate for the whole 8 months and it wasn't as effective of a program. Deadline for registration is September 23rd.

**Rebecca:** The other thing I wanted to say is that the learning never ends. Every time the group is different. Everyone in it is both a learner and a teacher. It doesn't matter what place you are in with the learning. One of the things I do as the facilitator is to try to stay up with new material. It's really fabulous challenging stuff with lenses that as white people we don't think about. I want to share four titles of books that I'm just finished:

- *The Intersectional Environmentalist* by Leon Thomas
- *Anti-Racism as Daily Practice* by Jennifer Harvey (more effective than Robin D'Angelo's book in Rebecca's opinion)
- *Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society* by Arlene Geronimus
- *We Refuse: a Forceful History of Black Resistance* by Kellie Carter Jackson

(Rebecca encouraged everyone to please keep doing the important reading).

**6:30 pm**

**Marisa:**

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and synthesizing. How many people have signed up? How are we looking for numbers?

**Rebecca:**

I sent 30 emails out to various organizations in the community. We have some sign ups but not many. I am hoping people are just waiting for the last minute to sign up/

**Marisa:** So if there was an ask for those of us present, it would be to send the link and invite our circle of connections to invite them?

**Rebecca:** Yes, thank you.

**DP:** I see that Kelan is on, would you like to share?

**6:30 pm Kelan:** Sure, Later this fall, I am moving to Austria and will be starting a new job north of Vienna. I will finally also now be in the same time zone as my partner.

**DP:** You're clearly going to be missed in this community. I've always admired you for your truth of spirit and tell it like it is attitude. And your understanding of humanity and your kindness. You've done so much for this organization. We're all very excited and happy for you. Please keep in touch.

**6:34 pm Shirley:** Not much to share. We just completed the Ghana presentation and very grateful to the NAACP for supporting these incredible opportunities to travel and learn and appreciate culture and diversity.

**6:35 pm Marjorie** expressed how impressed she was and that it was a well deserved thank you for Shirley as the program spoke so loudly to so many people.

**Shirley:** If anyone one else wants to support a student at the academy in Ghana, please reach out to me. School is in need of physical repair.

*Marj asked if we could put video of presentation on website. Shirley said yes in about a week or so.*

**DP:** We have no committee chair reports given that we were off for the month of July and August. I was trying to get Duval Patrick to present at the October meeting to talk about Project 225 but he's traveling.

**6:44 pm**

**AI:** Just finished primary elections. Anything we're getting involved in for Plttsfield people?

**DP:** Congrats on Leigh Davis. 18 towns plus Dalton now included. The largest district in the state right now. Maybe have a get out the vote rally?I have a feeling that this election is not going to be free of violence. Tuesday is the debate.

**AI:** Leigh will be running against a woman in Lenox whose on an unenrolled ticket, Marybeth Mitts.

**Darcie:** We could consider having Marybetth speak since Leigh did and we're nonpartisan.

**AI:** Maybe a forum with both?

**6:52 pm Daryl:** Welcome back. We're beginning our election cycle. The election happens in November. The process begins now. We'll be getting the election manual sent out to all members via email by the end of the week. Please email me if you don't receive it (Daryl put [daryl.shreeve@hotmail.com](mailto:daryl.shreeve@hotmail.com) in chat) We have to use election buddy. We'll have a four hour window in November which we can extend it to 6 hours if we want. You need an email address in order to vote.

**AI:** What positions are available?

**Daryl:** All officers positions are available for being elected (secretary, treasure, president,, vp and at large board members). Committee chairs are chosen, not elected. The chapter needs at least 10 officer positions. If you want to run, 5 wet signatures are needed (not electronic). There will be a nomination committee. In our October meeting we'll select them. Candidate consent form, which can be found in the election manual, needs to be completed before our October meeting. The manual can also be found on the website.

In our november meeting if we have more than one candidate vying for the same position, we will be able to hear candidate speeches. And at the October meeting we'll determine the length of those speeches. Also if you want to help with the election process but not run, please reach out.

**Darcie:** Do we have to do promotion to let people run? How do we want to do outreach.

**Daryl:** Yea we're gonna have to connect about that, I was hoping to see more people on this call.. .the requirement is that you have to be a member in good standing since May 1st.

*Daryl will reach out to Rebecca and Darcie about connecting to figure out how we share this information with branch members.*

**7:10 pm**

Meeting adjourned

\*as recorded by Marisa Massery