

NAACP Howard County  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes

Date: April 8, 2019

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Horizon Foundation, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Suite 200, Columbia, MD

**Attendees:**

Willie Flowers  
Lynda Earle  
Camryn Harris  
Elexis Lawson  
Mark Brooks  
Becca Niburg  
Mike Butera  
Alan Hyde  
Colleen Hughes  
Bessie Bordenave  
April Harrison  
Stephanie Wall  
Charles Franklin  
Christina Bostick  
Laura Johnson  
Tiffany Sion

**Prayer-**

**Executive Report**

**Motion: Mike Butera moved to accept the agenda. Mark Brooks seconded the motion**

**President's Report**

- President and Executive Committee Welcomed Camryn Harris to the meeting as New President of the Youth Council.
- Camryn shares she is interested in Issues concerning mental health and advocacy.
- We attended CRATI and two State Conferences; but as far as legal redress and some other issues we are creating a format for it. Nothing has prepared us for the things we encounter.
- President is looking forward to intermediate membership at the middle school level and having High Schools as Hosts for NAACP involvement.
- President wants to bring everything to the local level and asks what is our responsibility? What can we facilitate at local levels and how do we hold our own elected officials accountable?
- Regarding the shooting in Harpers Choice, we worked with the police to understand the facts before jumping in. We attended the Harper's Choice village board meeting to stay abreast and informed.
- The victim, Ronald Carolina Jr. was a Howard County resident who finished high school and was working on getting his life off the ground after entering a plumbing apprenticeship. He still got killed. Need available resources because he slipped through the cracks.

- President spoke with officials about doing an event at the Baines Center. This is a moment to amplify what the challenges are in the community. Maybe have an open house on who we are and what we are doing.
  - President Flowers spoke with family members and attended the funeral of Ronald Carolina Jr.. The President Created a resolution, which was the only one that was presented.
  - The Carolina family is willing to work with the NAACP. President would like to get all agencies that are operating in Silos to get together to try to save other lives.
  - There was a suggestion that we do a focus group.
  - Ms. Bordenave shared a story about a depressed girl with mental health issues who felt she was screaming and no one, including the school system paid attention so it may be good to do something broader.
  - President suggests it would be good to have all stakeholders at the table. We could share the history of the branch and what the NAACP means.
  - Question was asked, what do we uniquely bring to the table?
  - There was discussion about mental health help
  - A Member shared that Hope Works provides a lot of suicide prevention and mental health but needs to reach more varying people.
- **Freedom Fund**
    - 40<sup>th</sup> annual Freedom Fund event on May 11, 2019. Will be a mother's day salute because it is the Saturday before Mother's Day.
    - Beautiful venue at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve.
    - Dr. Hrabowski,, UMBC President is keynote and Dr. Calvin Ball, county Executive will speak.
    - There is room for seven vendors in the lobby area.
    - Hammond High School Jazz ensemble will play for us
    - We are asking Executive Committee members to be responsible for getting at least one table. This is our annual Fundraiser that enables us to help fund ACT-SO and other youth initiatives.
  - **Youth Council**
    - Executive Board meeting was held at Ridgely Run Community Center yesterday April 7, 2019
    - Discussed moving meetings from Mondays to Wednesdays at 6:30pm at the Barn.
    - Concerns were expressed about members being able to make the Monday meetings.
    - We can no longer do meal packing at the Laurel Church of Christ because it is located in Prince George's County and could present a liability issue.
    - Ms., Bessie discussed executive board member roles.
    - Camryn will make committee appointments for criminal justice, health, education, voting rights. Co- advisers will be included.
    - Second Annual Hoopin for health day will be April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 4<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>
    - Received \$166 from harp program.
    - Event will be at Wilde Lake High School
    - Thank you for the contributions for the NESBE conference.
    - Camryn shared that her Junior and senior team won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the nation for the math competition and Isaac's team of freshman and sophomores received 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

- **Technology**
- Would like to connect with the contact at the Library to follow up and work with getting the County Executive to assist in some of the details for the forum.
- Planning to have a survey; but need to discuss logistics. A number survey or Survey monkey could be used.
- Future Forum event will take place in the Fall.
- **EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**
- College signing day is May 4, 2019, in partnership with the HCPSS, Black Student Achievement Program. This is an extension of Michelle Obama's initiative and a chance to rally around students who have commitment to higher education.
- Volunteers are needed.
- Next education committee meeting is April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Oakland Mills High School.
- A teacher of color recruitment event is being held on May 1, 2019.
- April 15-18 HCPSS is offering free meals to ages 18 and under at the Baines Center, Howard County Library East Columbia Branch and the North Laurel community Center.
- Attended the Board of Education Coffee and Conversation event on March 19.
- Hosted a discussion at the March 28<sup>th</sup> general meeting on HCPSS superintendent Martirano's strategic call to Action plan, which was presented by Dr. Monifa McKnight, Chief of School Management and Instructional Leadership along with her colleagues.
- On April 3, 2019, at Wilde Lake High School, HCPSS in partnership with the NAACP, Council of Elders and the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee hosted a community Forum on Education Discipline practices.
- Laura Served as a Judge for the Howard County Library's battle of the books on April 5. John Wheatlan and Natalie Ziegler of the education committee have volunteered to be judges for the Simulated Congressional Hearings at local schools.
- April 24, 2019, is the County Executive budget presentation to the County Council at 7:00pm
- April 25, 2019, is the County Council Public Hearing on the board of Education's requested Budget.
- April 29, 2019, at 9:30am is the Board of Education Public Hearing on the Requested Budget,
- NAACP is represented on several important HCPSS policy or work groups: Laura Johnson sits on the Mental Health advisory Council tasked with developing and understanding the current state of mental health service in HC and offering recommendations to enhance services offered to students and families. There is a Partnership with HCPSS and the Horizon Foundation
- Lynda Earle is on the HCPSS Educational Equity Policy Development Committee
- Laura Johnson sits on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
- The Effective Discipline Work Group will continue working with HCPSS to address discipline and disparities. A plan will be submitted to the Maryland State Department of Education for review.
- **Veteran's Affairs:**
- Will be scheduling a meeting
- **ACT-SO**
- Meeting was held on April 3, 2019.
- We reviewed applications received and will make confirmation phone calls.
- Each category requires 3 judges. Could use volunteers.
- Dr. Rhonda Jones along with committee members will be obtaining judges for the competition. Willie Flowers will be obtaining the medals and certifications to be given out. Becky McKirahan will be making buttons for the volunteers and committee members.
- Kori Jones and Bessie Bordenave visited Wilde Lake Middle School and acquired the floor plans in order to identify the rooms for each competition.
- Becky, Mel and Willie will get the food for the event

- We have at least 20 contestants in 10 different categories.
- There will be at least two more meeting before the competition.
- **Legal Redress**
- There are 3 active cases
- One gained momentum quickly and may turn into a lawsuit.
- One involves school personnel. The school system's Office of Equity reviews all such complaints.
- Issue revolves around read across America day and the reading of Dr. Seuss being deemed racist by some.
- Motion: Christina Bostick moved to file a complaint pursuant to HCPSS 1060 to prevent Dr. Seuss from being the primary focus point of read across America day.
- This motion was not seconded. Discussion included finding out what other schools are doing on that day. Former employee of read across America said that they have worked a long time to be more inclusive.. We are better served by promoting diversity of literature. There was a suggestion to contact the National Education Association.
- Christina indicated the push back to read across America got to the point of being a hostile environment for one worker and that a particular school wanted to assign the diverse books to a fraternity to read.
- The Teacher who complained was demoted.
- A list of attorneys has been acquired. Christina plans to solicit them for membership and help with all the cases coming in. Hope to create a legal defense fund to accomplish the plan.
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- **Marketing**
- Marketing and Membership is doing well combined.
- New email [web@howardcountynaacp.com](mailto:web@howardcountynaacp.com)
- Expanding facebook and social media presence
- Exploring summer event wikipedia, which has bias content. Want to pull diverse group together for updates.
- Looking to do a survey of why people are members.
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- **Elder Empowerment**
- September 28, 2019, at the North Laurel Community Center in partnership with the Office of the Aging we will host our elder Empowerment summit from 10:00am-2:00m in the Chesapeake room.
- There will be 20 vendors
- We are focusing on Mental and Physical health.
- Officer Lingham will be invited back
- Theme is self care, loving you, loving others
- Two doctors will be speaking on issues including exercise that effects brain function
- We meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Friday.
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- **Youth Works**
- Want to invite students out to participate and paint at a Ledos Pizza where 33% is received if they spend money on pizza
- This is a May event and we are meeting on Thursday to discuss it.
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- **Health Committee**
- Wanted to do a presentation on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July however Mark realized he has to be away and it is the week of the Detroit Conference.
- Mark Will look for another date that works.

- **Motion: Motion was made by Mike Butera to adopt executive committee minutes for January 14, 2019 and February 11, 2019, Mark Brooks seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted.**
- **Motion: Becca Niburg made a motion to give ACT-SO \$550 for the competition. The motion was seconded.**
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- President indicated we received a request to purchase a table at the Democratic unity Dinner.
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- **Motion: a motion was made to place a \$100 ad in the Democratic Unity program. The motion was seconded.**
- Golf tournament
- The Golf Tournament will be held on August 26, 2019. The Police Foundation and NAACP and HCPD will work together towards a sponsorship goal of \$20,000. Proceeds will be split.
- Location for the event is Turf Valley.
- There are golfing workshops and packages available.
- Volunteers will be needed for the event.
- **New Business**
- There is a new organization in town called Encore that provides resources for the newly retired who are not ready to retire.
- Elexis Lawson Chair of the Elder Empowerment Committee will be serving as a panel member for an Encore event on April 25, 2019 from 6:30-8:30pm at Belmont Manor.
- On May 27, 2019, Memorial Day, there will be the second raising of the flag ceremony to celebrate and support veterans.
- Friday April 19, 2019, there will be a Fish Fry at the Ridgley Run Community Center 8400 Mission Road.
- **MOTION: Mike Butera made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stephanie Wall and Mark Brooks seconded the motion.**