

**NAACP Howard County
General Meeting
Minutes**

Date: January 25, 2018

Time: 7pm

Place: Medical Pavilion at Howard County, 10710 Charter Drive, Columbia 21044

President's Report

- There was a motion by Don Cash to approve the minutes from the January general meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael Butera. All voted in favor of motion.
- MLK Unity 5K Race
 - The race was a success. We raised approx. \$7K.
 - There were 150 runners.

Secretary's Report

- There was a motion by Becca Niburg to approve the minutes from the January general meeting. The motion was seconded by Don Cash. All voted in favor of motion.

ACT- SO

- Year long program where students compete in different categories
- Local kickoff was in October

Bylaws

- The committee is currently working on the bylaws for the branch.
- The committee has completed 5 out of 14 bylaws.
- Members of the committee will submit their designated sections to Leslie Turner by Jan 28th.

Economic Development

- Mission: To increase economic opportunity and access for minority entrepreneurs and business owners in Howard County.
- First committee meeting in early January.

Education

- Jan 4th – hosted first meeting of the new year
- It was a conference call with Educators of Color and Vicky Cutroneo
 - Discussed priorities and collaboration opportunities
- Attended community events – BSAP Awards, BOE budget meeting, Council of Elders

Older Adult

- Next meeting is Feb 3rd at 10am at Ridgely's Run.
- The committee will plan for the seminar in Sept.

Housing

- Planning the State of Housing seminar
 - Will focus on current and future state of housing, downtown Columbia, village center redevelopment, housing discrimination

Public Safety

- The committee will keep the community informed on social justice issues
- Conversations on Racial Profiling – Jan 28th at 6:30pm

Freedom Fund

- Freedom Fund will be on May 5th, 6:30-8:30pm at Martin's West
- The next meeting is Feb 5th

Legal Redress

- The committee has taken on a couple of cases
- The committee also connects people with other lawyers if necessary

Labor & Industry

- Lewis Saunders and Don Cash chair committee
- Seek ways to improve economic status of minority groups

Health

- Mark Brooks - new committee chair

High School Advocacy

- The Branch is partnering with principals to support 3 high schools – WL, OM and LR.
 - Would like to help put support and resources in schools

Nikki Highsmith Vernick, Horizon Foundation – President & CEO

- The Horizon Foundation has an endowment of \$95 million to improve community health and wellness in Howard County
 - Largest independent health foundation in the state of MD
- The Foundation operates around four pillars: community programs, public policy and advocacy, media and evaluation
- Focus: supporting healthy kids, promoting health aging, ensuring a more equitable community
- Current programs: Let's Rethink Lunch, HoCo Unsweetened, Bikeshare, Pay to play sports system, RFPs