

# NAACP Howard County General Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday October 28, 2019

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Wilde Lake High School Media Center, 5460 Trumpeter Road 21044

Prayer and Introductions

## **Committee Reports**

### **President**

\*Requested approval of the minutes

\* Announced that there will be State level opportunities to participate with the NAACP.

\* Discussed Environmental Justice work grant.

\*President appeared on a radio show about the school-redistricting plan.

\*Judge points out that moving free and reduced meal students identifies them and puts them in a difficult emotional space.

\*President points out that due to how housing is set up if nothing is done the situation of inequity will always remain the same.

### **Secretary**

\* Asked for the general membership minutes for September 26, 2019, to be approved.

**MOTION: Motion was made by Mike Butera to approve and adopt the draft minutes dated September 26, 2019. The motion was seconded with none opposed.**

### **Legal Redress**

\*There are issues in the Howard County School System concerning accusations of racist behavior.

\*There was an instance where fired teachers were hired back and given leadership positions.

\*Want to get other lawyers to help support some of the legal claims.

\*Plan to reach out to churches to build a legal network.

### **Education**

\*Sip and Savor event raised \$7,000.

\*November 13-18<sup>th</sup> is American Education Week.

\*On December 6, 2019, we have an opportunity to along with the Counsel of Elders and the African American Round Table to Host a welcome event for newly hired African American Howard County Public School System teachers.

- \*We are invited to support the event with a contribution of \$1,000.
- \*About 50 new teachers are African American.

**MOTION: Mike Butera made a motion to contribute \$1,000 towards hosting a welcome event for newly hired African American educators. The motion was seconded with none opposed.**

### **Membership**

- \* There is a NAACP life membership story that is in print.
- \*Thank you to the Marketing committee.
- \*There is an opportunity for ages 4-19 to participate in a Robotics opportunity First Robotics Team with the Leggo League.

### **Technology**

- \*Continuing to communicate with middle and high schools and meeting with schools. Have been planning for the technology event.

### **Elder Empowerment**

- \*Thank you to everyone we had a great time at the Elder Empowerment Summit.
- \*Ernestine Shepherd did a great job getting everyone involved.
- \*We ended up with quite a few sponsors.

### **Environmental Climate Justice**

- \*NAACP is poised to be a leader in the area of Environmental Justice.
- \*National Headquarters provided a grant to our unit.
- \*We have been speaking with people in the community.
- \*There are other groups that are already involved and they are willing to work with the NAACP.
- \*Webinars and training is needed.
- \*Looking for interested people who can help and get involved.

### **Freedom Fund**

- \*There will be a meeting on October 30, 2019, at the George Howard Building at 4:00pm.
- \*We will have a tribute to Elijah Cummings.
- \*Freedom Fund event will be on May 2, 2019, at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve.

### **Youth Council**

- \*There will be "Know your Rights" training at the Barn.
- \*Sunday November 24, 2019, we will have our fight against hunger from 3-5pm.
- \*Donations of toiletries and other non-perishable items are welcomed from Monday -Friday from 6-8pm drop of donations.

## **President**

- \*MLK 5K will be the Saturday before the MLK Holiday.
- \*Trying to go to Gary D. Arthur Community Center in Cooksville.
- \*Election 2020 will be big.
- \*There will be a special primary election to fill the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District which now has no congressperson due to the death of Congressman Elijah Cummings.
- \*February 4, 2020 is the special primary.
- \*There are only 2 parties because it's a State Primary. Whoever wins will be on the special general on April 28, 2020. That person will be in the election primary.
- \*Nominees can be Republican or Democrat.
- \*\*Election Board will be invited to the next meeting to explain.

## **ACT-SO**

- \*Kori stepped up to work with ACT-SO and Youth Council to build it up and create a pipeline to adult leadership.
- \*Nation wide program from the National Office who runs a 27-category competition
- \*We want the youth to win at a national level.
- \*Scholarships are given to National winners.
- \*Mentors and judges are needed.
- \*Categories include stem, humanities, performing arts, visual arts and engineering.

## **OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Yolanda Sonnier introduced herself as the newly hired Administrator for the Office of Human Rights.
- \*She is interested in making sure people are aware that the office exists and that one of the goals of the office is to strive to eradicate discrimination.
  - \*The office entertains allegations of discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, accommodations and law enforcement.
  - \*The Office is doing outreach and training in the community.
  - \*Goal is to learn more about each other.
  - \*Human Rights Commission is a separate entity that works with them. It is comprised of 11 Commission members appointed by the County Executive.
  - \*Commission meets the third Thursday of the month and holds a public forum.
  - \*Events that are coming up include the Rumi Turkish American celebration on Wednesday October 30, 2019, at 6470 Dobbin Road suite C; A Native American event on November 17, 2019 and a Kwanza event on December 26, 2019.

## **NAACP Programs**

- \*Turkey Bowl is Sunday November 24, 2019 at Centennial High School.
- \*Kwanzaa Planning Meeting is December 27, 2019.

## **ELECTION 2020**

- \*February 4, Special Primary
- \*April 28, Special General/Presidential Primary
- \*November 3, Presidential

### **New Business**

\*The Afro newspaper is doing a special section honoring Elijah Cummings on October 30, 2019. We have an opportunity to take out an ad.

\* On November 13, 2019, from 5:45-8:30pm at Wilde Lake High School, Warring Mitchell sponsors a continuing legacy legal speed event for high school students interested in the law.

\*Judge Shirley Watts, Court of Appeals Judge is the keynote

\* An Annual Fund Raiser will be held on Saturday at Turf Valley; it is a gospel brunch put on by the AKA sorority.

\*Poetry Slam is on Saturday at 4:30pm

\*The membership acknowledged and congratulated President Willie Flowers for his victory in Ocean City and elevation to State President of the NAACP.

**MOTION: Kori Jones made a motion to adjourn. Laura Johnson seconded the motion.**