

NAACP Howard County General Membership Meeting Draft Minutes

Date: Friday December 27, 2019

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Roots Studio 9140 Guilford Road, Columbia, Maryland, 21046

Prayer and Introductions

Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball and the Howard County Sheriff, Marcus Harris each addressed the audience to share their experiences in office thus far and their visions for the County.

Committee Reports

President- Willie Flowers

Welcomed everyone and acknowledged Happy Kwanzaa

*Shared that in addition to Howard County and Montgomery County, 4 other jurisdictions have a 5k race.

* The plan is to have a 5k race in every NAACP branch that can accommodate. The event will be like the YMCA's Turkey Trot. It will be done across the State.

*Our year will be broken into quarters. The way we did it in Howard County led to success on the State level.

*President spoke about the present climate given the redistricting issues.

Secretaries- Jennifer Jones; Lynda Earle

***MOTION: There was a motion to adopt and accept the minutes for the November 21, 2019, General Membership meeting. The motion was seconded with none opposed.**

* Noted that the membership has remained steady at the Howard County Branch.

*Secretary gets involved not just with taking minutes; but also with Freedom Fund, Elder Empowerment and assists where needed.

*We participate on the Educational Equity Committee along with other interested organizations and Howard County Public Schools. We are working along side them to create a policy that mandates and ensures that there is not just a policy for equity in the School System but a practice of equity in the School System.

Legal Redress- Christina Bostick

*There have been complaints about Howard County Public Schools.

*There is one case pending and another moving through the Office of Human Rights.

Education- Laura Johnson

*The Committee Chair gave a year-end report sharing how they promoted their ultimate goal, which is to ensure that every student receive a quality public education and can flourish as a contributing member of a democracy.

*The Committee advocated improvement in the following strategic pillars: Improving Resource Equity; Ensuring College and Career Readiness; Improving Teaching by growing our own great teachers; Improving Discipline Practices by ending zero tolerance and keeping kids in school.

*Education Chair, Laura Johnson had the honor of serving on the County Executive's sub-committee transition team and helped develop its recommendations for the County's three education anchors: Howard County Public Schools; Howard County Library system and the Howard County Community College.

*At the NAACP National Convention, our branch's national resolution on the inequities of summer learning loss was approved on the national floor.

*NAACP committee members served on several school district work groups and policy committees including, the Operating Budget Review Committee, Educational Equity Policy Committee, Workforce and Discipline Disparities Work Groups, Restorative Justice and others.

*Members also served as judges in Simulated Congressional Hearings at local schools and Battle of the Books, which is Howard County Library's signature event.

*The Education Committee hosted the very first College Signing Day along with the Black Student Achievement Program

*The Education Committee hosted an educational fundraiser, which generated more than \$6,000 for education initiatives and co-hosted its first welcome reception for new teachers of color.

*Howard County Public Schools made national news during the very contentious redistricting process. NAACP members were vocal advocates in support of the Superintendent's proposal through public testimony and news stories.

*The Committee is looking forward to another outstanding year of progress.

Freedom Fund- Stephanie Wall

*The committee chair gave a spirited overview of the Freedom Fund Event and the need to purchase tickets, tables and sponsorships.

*This is our premiere fundraiser.

*The event will be held on May 2, 2020, at the Hotel at Arundel Preserve.

*We are promoting table sales and sponsorships as well as individual ticket sales.

*A table is \$800 before January 21, 2020. Afterwards it will be \$900 for a table.

*Tickets are \$80.00 before January 21, 2020.

*Gloria Mayfield Banks a Mary Kay Cosmetics Executive will be our dynamic guest speaker.

*Award nominations are being requested. You can go online and on the website to get tickets and see more information about getting tables and on nominations.

*We need your support in order to make this another successful yearly event.

ACT-SO and Youth Council- Kori Jones

- *22 high school students across 18 different categories participated in ACT-SO
 - *6 students won gold medals and went on to compete on the National level where they won Bronze medals.
 - *Sign up for the local competition occurs in January /February with the competition in March.
 - *Mentors and Judges are needed.
 - *We will support the winners to go to this year's National Convention in Boston.
 - * We supported the Youth Council to go to Detroit last year.
- We are gearing up for the 2020 youth events and the Health and Wellness basketball tournament.

Technology- Mike Butera

- *We have a survey to distribute in order to get feedback. We are identifying and addressing technical issues.
- *Two elements identified are 1) stem and education 2) policy areas on what happens when people fall behind?
- *All school district budgets are required to set aside certain amount for diversity but how much is devoted to stem and AI?
- *73% of all jobs can be automated in the next few years even for accountants and engineers there is a shift in this area.
- *Machines do artificial programming now.
- *We are partnering with the education Committee to ensure that we are all on the same page
- *The Governor's Office is open to expanding "Girls who Code"
- *We hope to do a technology event this year.

Elder Empowerment

- *We had a successful Elder Empowerment Summit during which Ernestine Sheppard, a senior and a body builder came to do exercises with seniors.
- *We partnered with the Department on Aging and others.
- *We are thinking about doing more frequent smaller events.

Public Safety

- *We met with Sheriff Marcus Harris, Police Chief Lisa Myers and the Office of Corrections. We didn't get to meet with the Fire Chief.
- *We will continue to meet and partner throughout the year to ensure that constituents are being treated fairly.
- *If kids have issues concerning law enforcement in school we need to let the chief know
- *Let us know if any issues come up surrounding the area of law enforcement.

President

- *We have done a good job creating partnerships with Law enforcement.
- *We took the position of creating relationships versus being adversarial.

*Having the relationship has helped us when controversial issues come up.

Membership

- * Encouraged everyone to join the NAACP
- *There is an NAACP life membership story that is in print.
- *Continue to bring others to the meeting and get them to join

Marketing

- *We continue to support all committees and to post information on the web and on facebook
- *Has been very productive and effective.

President

- *Political Action Committee is open and we are looking for someone to lead on the finance team, labor and Industry, Housing and Women in the NAACP.
- *Young Adults is a young professionals group.
- *Next Gen you need to complete applications or be nominated in order to get in
- *Delegate for District 12, Teri Hill, who is present, is on the ballot to fill the seat for the 7th Congressional District, which was vacated by the passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Delegate Terri Hill

- *Delegate Hill graciously shared her visions and concerns and why it was important to her to run for the 7th congressional district seat.

ELECTION 2020

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

President

- *The President introduced the new Mature Active Adults Committee Chair, DeAnna Brathwaite.
- *DeAnna is excited to and looks forward to making a positive difference.

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