



**Fairfax County NAACP  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2018**

**Location: Kings Park Library, Burke, VA**  
**Meeting Facilitator: Evelyn Spain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Attendees: 20**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

The first order of business was to ask for new members or visitors to introduce themselves. Two new members provided a quick introduction and their reasons for joining at this time.

Vice President Spain invited Secretary Mike O'Brien to discuss the upcoming branch elections and to solicit volunteers to serve on the **Nominating Committee**—the first step in the elections process. O'Brien opened the floor for volunteers: **Michelle Leete, Michael Davis, Sean Perryman, Donald Craig and Francine Edwards** agreed to serve. This group of five (the minimum required) were ratified by the members present at the meeting.

Vice President Spain discussed the October meeting at which the Nominating Committee would announce their slate of candidates for the leadership positions on the Executive Committee. At the time of the September meeting, a location for the October meeting (10/13) had not yet been secured. Ms. Spain was looking for a number of places in the Gum Springs area. [One week later, Spain would obtain the Harvest Assembly Baptist Church.] The meeting will coincide with the branch's annual Fish Fry Fundraiser later that day.

Next, Secretary O'Brien discussed the upcoming annual **NAACP Virginia State Conference** to be held from Thursday, October 25 through Sunday, October 28 in Portsmouth, Virginia. O'Brien noted that a full slate of delegates may not be able to be compiled from Executive Committee Members, so it is likely that several of the general membership may be able to participate. O'Brien asked if anyone was interested to see him after the meeting. (One member, Tiffany Garner, expressed interest.)

Reports from Various Committees made up the bulk of the remainder of the meeting.

**Freedom Fund Committee**

Vice President Spain, co-chair of the Freedom Fund Committee, announced fundraising several events on the horizon:

Fish Fry – 10/13 @ Gum Springs Community Center  
Brunch – 11/4 @ Hilton Garden Inn-Fairfax  
New Year's Eve Gala – 12/31

**Education Committee**

Committee Chair Sean Perryman noted two upcoming initiatives:

Promoting the appeals process to get placed into advanced placement classes. It appears that people of color are not aware of the process if their child is not accepted into AP classes on the first round. The NAACP will

make a concerted effort to make parents aware during back-to-school nights and other programs that they can petition to have their child added to the AP Program.

Additionally, the Education Committee is planning to work with students from the Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, Virginia, to change the name of the school to one more representative of the community.

Perryman also noted that at the prior evening's celebration of the name change of another local high school (formerly J.E.B. Stuart High School, now Justice High School in Falls Church, VA), many of the folks who had been opposed to or only mildly supportive of the name change were on stage taking credit while those who worked the hardest received no recognition and were sitting in the audience. He suggested the branch pen an article for our own records and for distribution over social media detailing our involvement in the historic and heroic effort to face down the opposition, garner support for the name change, and successfully move forward to get it down.

#### **Women in the NAACP (WIN) Committee**

Sabrina Pinnix, co-chair of the recently revived WIN Committee, noted that she and Mattie Palmore (co-chair) were pulling together a WIN brochure and were actively soliciting members to become a part of their team. There is a ten-dollar (\$10) fee to participate in WIN.

#### **Economic Development Committee**

It was announced that the Economic Development Committee would be holding a Veteran and Minority-Owned Business Expo on December 15 @ Thomas Jefferson High School.

#### **Youth Council**

It was noted that the branch is working to revive its Youth Council. Angela Trammel is now the Adult Coordinator for the group. They plan the following events:

General Meeting – September 9

Fund Raiser – September 20

Juvenile Justice Forum – September 29

#### **Communications Committee**

Naveed Shah, Chair of the Communications Committee, briefly spoke about the Committee's responsibilities and solicited support and help from the membership in writing press releases, posting on social media, maintaining the branch's website, contacting the media and all the many and varied duties of this important committee.

#### **Justice High School Rededication**

Vice President Spain invited George Alber to summarize the 3-year project of changing the name of the high school from J.E.B. Stuart to Justice High School. Alber served as the branch's liaison to the Change the Name initiative and did extraordinary work in working with and convincing the Fairfax County School Board to change the name of the high school. Alber spoke about the various people and initiatives involved in the process, then called upon Ken Longmeyer to speak. Longmeyer took over for Alber after the School Board had decided to change the name, but still had not yet determined the new name. Longmeyer also participated in many school board meetings and rallies to ensure a suitable name would be chosen. The idea was re-iterated that a full accounting of the change the name initiative should be written so that those who were most responsible for the change might be appropriately recognized.

The meeting was adjourned—an appropriate motion and second being made and all in agreement—at 11:35 a.m.