

**Fairfax County NAACP
General Membership Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2017**

Location: Kings Park Library, Burke, VA

Meeting Facilitator: Kofi Annan, President

Attendees: 40

President Annan called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

The first order of business was to introduce two new officers of the branch’s Executive Committee: Christina Cherry, George Mason University Chapter President; and Natnealy Alazar, newly appointed president of the Fairfax County NAACP Youth Council and President of the Lee High School Youth Chapter of the NAACP. President Annan also asked any additional new members to stand and be recognized.

A motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June membership meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

President Annan then introduced Lindsey Davis Stover, candidate for the 10th Congressional District of Virginia to stand and say a few words about her candidacy. Ms. Davis Stover discussed her reasons for getting into the race, her prior experience as a Hill staffer and a Veterans Affairs officer under President Obama, and her passion for various issues. These included: **Health Care**—“Strengthen the ACA”; **Public Education**, including “making college more affordable”; **Jobs**; and **Veterans Affairs**, particularly their access to affordable and efficient health care. In answer to a member’s question, Candidate Davis Stover said that if elected, she would seek appointment to the Transportation, Education, and Veterans Affairs Committees.

President Annan then provided his monthly President’s Report, focusing on four key initiatives:

1. **Teacher Discrimination follow-up**. President Annan noted that the Washington Post article citing a comprehensive study by George Mason University that provides evidence that Black teachers are less likely to get hired in the county despite a higher level of qualifications. Annan indicated that he is working with Fairfax County officials to address the issue. Details of the report can be found at the Post site as follows:

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/black-teacher-applicants-face-discrimination-in-a-wealthy-school-district-study-finds/2017/05/04/ea192b50-2a90-11e7-a616-d7c8a68c1a66_story.html?utm_term=.5f959586d6ac>

1. **Red Cross Affiliation.** President Annan introduced one of the branch’s newest members who also serves as a Regional Director of the American Red Cross. Annan noted that the branch will be affiliating with the Red Cross and mentioned that minority families are at a disadvantage when it comes to emergency preparedness. The Branch will develop an emergency preparedness seminar in coordination with the Red Cross in the near future.
2. **100 Year Celebration of the NAACP in Fairfax.** The Fairfax County Branch is partnering with the Tinner Hill Foundation (Falls Church) to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the NAACP in Fairfax. Members Michelle Leete and Evelyn Spain will take the lead on behalf of the Branch.
3. **New Affiliations.** Two organizations that the Branch will work with immediately and in the future with regard to voting rights and voting access are VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement - <http://www.voice-iaf.org/about-voice>) and the League of Women Voters (<https://www.lwv-fairfax.org/>)

**Youth Council Assembly**

After the President’s Remarks, the newly formed Fairfax County Youth Council made their way to a separate conference room to have their first membership meeting, to the applause of the Branch’s membership.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Michelle Leete provided a brief treasurer’s report, noting the amount of funds currently available and the expenditures that are pending, including dues payment to the state NAACP.

**Political Action Committee Report**

Committee Chair Karen Campblin report on various activities of the Committee, including:

1. Voter Registration Drive for the upcoming election cycle this fall;
2. State Election Debate. Campblin noted that she was working with various organizations to have our Branch sponsor one of the gubernatorial debates this season.
3. Mid-Point Grade Book. Campblin expects to have this report on how various local politicians have voted on issues crucial to the NAACP members no later than September in order to be able to have it impact the upcoming statewide elections. The report will focus on such issues as Transportation, Criminal Justice, and Education.

**Education Committee Report**

Committee Member George Alber provided the report, noting the following:

1. **Change the Name Initiative.** Alber has served as the Branch’s liaison with this group, which is attempting to get the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School changed so that a Confederate General’s name is not affiliated with the most diverse school in the County. A crucial vote by the School Board is coming up on July 27, which will determine whether or not this initiative goes forward. Alber urged all members to attend this session.
2. **Minority Parent Survey.** President Annan noted that many parents of minority children are less involved as advocates for their children than other racial groupings. This can be a result of many issues, but Annan indicated that the Branch would be sending out a survey to members requesting their input so that the Branch can attempt to help parents get more engaged in the administrative oversight of their children’s educational experience.

**Criminal Justice Committee**

President Annan chairs this committee. He noted that one issue the committee is wrestling with the use of Body Worn Cameras by the police within the County. He noted that he had attended a Public Safety meeting on this topic and is intending to follow up personally with police officials within the County to discuss the matter further and will report back to the Branch his findings.

**Announcements and Closing Remarks**

1. Upcoming Events

President Annan noted three upcoming events:

1. The Radcliff Bailey Art Reception, hosted by the Branch, on July 15 at the Reston Community Center;
2. Cops v. Kids Basketball Game and Cookout on July 29 at the Lee Community Center; and,
3. The National NAACP Convention, to be held in Baltimore, MD, from July 22-26.
4. President Annan also bid farewell to Communications Committee Chair Courtney Brunson, who is leaving the area. [Refreshments were served to honor Brunson’s service after the meeting.]
5. Introduction of George Alber as the new Communications Committee Chair.
6. Several other announcements were made by various community and Branch members, including by a leader of the Reston/Herdon Indivisible Group and by former Branch Secretary Damita Snow inviting Branch members to join the Reston/Dulles branch of the National Council of Negro Women.

At 11:20, President Annan called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn.

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Submitted by M. J. O’Brien, Secretary Approved (Date)