

NAACP General Meeting 3/16/2017

1. Meeting called to order at 7:09 PM by President M. Hightower, Prayer was offered by guest Minister Mike Womer.

2. Guest Speaker Beth Jensen. Beth discussed her new position as Program Director of the Peoria Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

PILI does pro-bono work for persons who meet the poverty level criteria. They have a help desk in the Peoria County Courthouse Law Library from 10 AM to Noon every 2nd Wednesday and 3rd Thursday. They will provide 30 minutes of free counsel.

Beth shared that there is an inter-active website for do yourself legal guidance. ILLINOISLEGALAID.ORG.

PILI is co-sponsoring Rep Gordon-Booth's Expungment Summit on April 29, 2017 at Living Together Center. Individuals must register on Facebook, clear a background check. Court clerks will be on-site to file papers. Meeting with chief judge to ask the fees be waived.

PILI holds advice clinic 4 times per year dealing with Expungment, bankruptcy, and other legal issues.

PILI can only do civil work not criminal.

They will be starting a pilot program called "Conflict of Interest Panel".

3. Mary Hopson a parent advocate and one of her clients addressed the meeting about the systemic racism in the Peoria States Attorney's Office, Peoria DCFS Office, and Juvenile Courts System.

Mary promised to provide data for NAACP to review by Friday March 24, 2017. Next steps will be decided after that.

Beth Jensen agreed to sit in on that meeting with Mary, parents, and representatives of NAACP.

4. Political Action Committee- Chairwoman Jackie Petty advised general election is April 4th.

NAACP's Forum is March 23, 2017 6:00-8:30 PM at St. Paul Baptist Church.

5. President Hightower discussed PDC meeting. He was able to recommend a young man, who was hired by PDC.

6. NAACP and GPSD are continuing to dialogue around their EEOC Policy. They are in contract negotiations, but will be hiring (1) entry-level person. President Hightower, hopeful he will be able to make a recommendation to fill that position.

7. President Hightower also discussed a successful resolution between a citizen and Illinois American Water, because of NAACP intervention.

8. President Hightower and Don Jackson will be meeting with PHA CEO Paul Bollinger to determine their plan in monitoring minority hiring. Individual previously who did this job, no longer employed by PHA.

9. Val Timmes suggested doing short videos and pictures of the meetings to put on website.

10. Jessica Thomas advised everyone to go to www.congress.gov to signup for alerts on bills Republicans trying to sneak through. Important we call our Senators and Representatives and voice opposition to bad bills.

11. Amr Elsamny spoke about his election problems. He filed a lawsuit against Peoria Election Commission. He talked about voter suppression being a problem.

12. Dave Pittman advised he will be starting garden next month. He will take care of donations, but if he is not given suggestions on what to plant, he will plant what he likes.

13. Dave Pittman is looking for some capital grants to do serious work on building.

14. Dave Pittman asked for names of African-American veterans, who served in WWII that would be interested in Honors Flight.

15. Dave Pittman collaborating with a number of individuals to get more medical jobs for people of color at OSF.

16. President Hightower discussed the police department pilot program on body cams. All 3 shifts will have 1 officer wearing one. Officers must turn on camera immediately once they receive a call, also must leave on up to 30 minutes to capture full content of a call. Pastors Hubbard, Bishop Dawson Jr., Pastor M. Johnson, and Rev Craig Williams were all part of meeting with Chief Mitchell.

17. Denise Moore and Robert Johnson reminded everyone they will be on ballot for 1st District.

18. Denise invited everyone to SCUC next meeting 11:30 am-1:00 pm on March 18, 2017 at Lincoln Branch Library.

Motion to adjourn By Lorene King, 2nd by Karen Wilson, carried unanimously at 8:45 pm