



Salem Keizer Branch NAACP General Membership Meeting Minutes

Chemekata Community College
Building #9, Room 112
Salem, OR 97301

August 5, 2019
6 p.m.

The general membership meeting of the Salem Keizer Branch of the NAACP to order at 6:10 p.m. Invocation was led by Cynthia Richardson. A sign-in sheet was provided for persons in attendance.

Minutes: Shelly Ehenger, Secretary

Minutes of the June 2019 General Membership meeting were reviewed. Kristi Negri moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Cynthia Richardson. The motion carried.

Old Business:

- A briefing on the Juneteenth celebration was led by President Williams. Photos of the event was shared. Marion County Health Department staff was thanked for their participation.

New Business:

- Corporal Chris Baldrige introduced newly appointed Marion County Sheriff Joe Kast. Sheriff Kast gave an overview of the department's philosophy related to community engagement and working with neighborhood representatives to provide the best in public safety service to all citizens. Sheriff Kast began his appointment on July 1.
- Dr. Richardson provided an update and solicited input on the SKNAACP Strategic Plan. Members were reminded that the plan is a living document and their input in carrying out the components is critical to success.
- President Williams spoke about the 2019 NAACP National Conference held in Detroit July - 2019. It is the annual meeting of 2200 branches. The theme for the 110th gathering was "When We Fight, We Win." Workshops and discussions were designed to promote solutions to problems like police brutality, racism, #LivingWhileBlack, voter suppression, partisan gerrymandering and sexual violence and mental health in the Black community.

- Kristi Negri, Legal Redress Chair, introduced Mike Wise as a new member of the committee. He is a Professor of Law Emeritus at Willamette University. Mike was an attorney and advisor for the United States Commission on Civil Rights and a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Civil Rights Division. He served as president of the Board of Directors for the Oregon Legal Services Corporation.

Special Presentation:

- Professor Melissa Buis Michaux, Associate Professor of Politics, Policy, Law and Ethics at Willamette University provided an overview of her discoveries, challenges and thoughts on “Restorative Justice” at the Oregon State Penitentiary. The impactful revelations included interactions with 16 Willamette students and 16 prisoners. A TedEx video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSNESGwdErY>. The students will be attending the next 3 general membership meetings to provide additional insight and lessons learned.

Education Committee Report:

- Cynthia Richardson provided an update on SKSD new Dress Code and school district improvements.

Membership Committee Report:

- Helen Richardson, Membership Chair, encouraged everyone to join, renew and recruit new members. Two new members were acknowledged.

With no other business for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Ehenger, Secretary