

NAACP Milwaukee Branch Unit 3254

2746 North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 202

Membership Meeting

Milwaukee, WI 53212

March 19, 2016

President Fred Royal called the meeting to order at 11:36 am.

President Royal called for a moment of silence for the 3 victims of a racially motivated gun death on Milwaukee's South Side, followed by prayer offered up by 1st Vice President Clarence Nicholas.

Resolutions were then presented for consideration to be submitted to the Wisconsin State NAACP Conference for consideration to be forwarded to National NAACP for its summer annual convention. The Rebirth of Freedom Commemorative Memorial Marker dedication received unanimous support, subject to research as to President Abraham Lincoln's involvement with the original monument on the Milwaukee grounds of the VA home for old soldiers for accuracy. A second resolution concerning removal of lead water conduction pipes was approved, subject to rewriting of the actual wording.

A presentation followed by Associate Director Heidi Rose of the Wisconsin Anti Violence Effort, an organization dedicated to education the community about gun violence and measures needed to reduce gun injuries and deaths ("WAVE"). Some of the interesting facts from the power point presentation include: 82% of all gun deaths in the world occur in the USA; 1/3 of gun deaths are homicides, 2/3 are suicides; and 80% of all suicide attempts with guns are successful. Evidence-based research indicates that gun death would be reduced by (a) requiring waiting periods for gun permits, (b) requiring background checks for all gun sales, and (c) denying gun permits to anyone with a violence conviction, whether felony or misdemeanor. Research indicates overwhelming support in the population for background checks and waiting periods. Additional evidence shows that (a) prohibiting guns on college and university campuses results in very low rates of suicides and homicides, (b) allowing guns in K-12 schools results in carelessness which endanger pupils and teachers, and (c) contacts with legislators results in measures successful in reducing gun violence. Director Rose also announced the recent release of the documentary film "Guns, Greed and the NRA." Additional information may be obtain from WAVE.

Eugene Barufkin announced that the Community Backyard Barbeque would be held this summer in Washington Park near the Urban Ecology Center.

President Royal reported that the Residents Preference Program administered by the City of Milwaukee apprenticeship programs' effectiveness will be the subject of a Public Policy Forum. In 2014 the Department of Workforce Development conducted an audit of the program and found it ineffective. Information by race and zip code is absent. Ruth Zubrensky reported that only 2 minority persons completed apprenticeships between 2011 and 2014. She said that there is a need to move to race-specific apprenticeships and hiring requirements. To further complicate the training and employment o minority workers I the fact that all trade union offices have moved to Waukesha or Pewaukee, that there is no affordable transportation available to those locations from Milwaukee, and there is no funding for drivers' education training in MPS, making it impossible for young workers to get to those offices.

President Royal submitted a written report of his activities on behalf of the Branch for the past month. Written reports were also submitted by the FFD Committee, and by the Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as 1st VP Nicholas and 3d VP Lititia Minor. 1

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Becker, Assistant Secretary