

NAACP-Lincoln Branch: Minutes from November 16, 2017 Membership Meeting

Members Present: Jackie Egan, Paul Olson, Bennie Shobe, Carrie Banks, Amy Miller, Graciela Caneiro-Livingston, Dana Livingston, Jaron Dean, Audassi Foster, John Goldrich, J. Eileen Durgin-Clinchard, Alex and Jeannette Jones-Vazansky, Rebecca Gonzales, Audassi Foster, Amy Birky, Dewayne and Jareldine Mays, Thomas Christie, John and Jean Krejci, and T.J. McDowell, Jr.

Rebecca Gonzales, Lincoln-Branch Vice President, called the Monthly Membership meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Jackie Egan moved to approve the October 19, 2017 Membership Meeting Minutes. Thomas Christie seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Guest Speaker

Rebecca Gonzales introduced Amy Miller, Staff Attorney of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Nebraska. She spoke about ACLU's lawsuit against the State of Nebraska Department of Corrections. Nebraska Department of Correction was at 155.70% of Design Capacity in 2017. The Diagnostic and Evaluation Center was at 305% of Design Capacity in 2017. Nebraska houses 5,228 people in a prison meant for 3,275. Nebraska Department of Corrections is utilizing solitary confinement more to deal with overcrowding. National statistics indicate that 30-40% of incarcerated individuals have a serious mental health diagnosis. The Nebraska State Legislature, Judges, and Prosecutors have contributed to the issue by creating more criminal offenses, giving maximum sentences, and overzealous prosecution.

The Lincoln-Branch NAACP can support legislation in the Nebraska Legislature to eliminate and abolish juvenile solitary confinement; elimination of mandatory minimums; and to abolish charges to female inmates for feminine hygiene products.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting on November 16.

Action Items from Committees

There were no action items from Committees.

Old Business

- No Old Business was discussed.

New Business

- There was no new business brought before the Membership.

Announcements

- **Next Membership meeting is January 18, 2018.** There will be no December meeting.
- President Jones-Vazansky encouraged members to invite their friends and families to Membership meetings.
- Dewayne Mays reported that he and Paul Olson have been meeting with the mayor to advocate for more People of Color appointed to governmental boards and advisory committees (there are 60 boards).

- Let's Talk Alliance is hosting a presentation by Kimberly Goins, new Executive Director at the Clyde Malone Community Center on Monday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Newman United Methodist Church – 2242 R Street.

Adjournment

Thomas Christie moved to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Gonzales seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.