



St. Petersburg Metropolitan Section National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

Executive Committee Meeting

Teleconference #: 978/990-5316

Pin#: 1842119

Meeting Minutes for June 4, 2020

Call to Order by President Bruce at 6:03 p.m.

Attendees: President Thelma Bruce, Beverly Campbell, Deshay Collier, Dr. Dennard, Gwendolyn Fields, Sandra Gibson, Tamara Felton-Howard, Apostle Pennington, Ethel Robinson, Angela Rouson, Althea Hudson, and Valerie Williams

Excused: Timeka Walker; Sharion Thurman-Reeves

Opening Prayer led by Apostle Pennington

Mission Statement read aloud by President Bruce

Code of Ethics and Confidentiality: President Bruce stated as a reminder that all information discussed in the E-Committee meeting should be kept confidential.

Discussion Topics:

1. **President's Announcements**

- Partnership with League of Women Voters: Soliciting volunteers' support for three major election events
 1. **Mailing Postal Card reminders to voters encouraging them to request Mail-in Ballots:** President Bruce stated that it is very important that everybody, who is eligible to vote, get out and vote. The League of Women Voters are asking for our support in getting the word out to registered voters to request Mail-in Ballots. In the event the polls are closed due to covid-19 resurgence, voters need to be prepared. Volunteers are needed to assist with addressing and mailing the postal cards out to targeted voters who live in zip codes 33705, 33711, and 33712.
 2. **Viral Judicial Forum in July:** This event will be via Zoom. Volunteers are need to publicize the upcoming event through their social media platforms as well as our St. Pete. Metropolitan Section
 3. **Viral Forum for County Commissioner Candidates in September.** SPMS needed to assist with publicizing this event also.

Motion to accept the request to support the League of Women three events was made by Dr. Dennard and 2nd by Angela Rouson. All agreed. Motion approved.

- Partnership with ASALH—Tentative
 1. Registration of ex-felons- we will be receiving more information.
- Farewell to Sandra Gibson: President Bruce shared that Sandra Gibson, a long standing and dedicated member will be relocating to Buffalo, NY to be with her family. Sandra stated she will leave after the June Black Pearls meeting for closure and good byes. After Sandra left the E-Committee call, President Bruce recommended that we present Sandra with a nice plaque for her years of committed service and leadership to the Section and the Black Pearls. We all agreed on the recommendation. President Bruce agreed to purchase the plaque and have it presented to Sandra Gibson at the Black Pearls June meeting.

2. **May Minutes: President Bruce**

President Bruce asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes. Correction requested by Gwendolyn Fields to include that the March MLK breakfast report was sent to the E-Committee for review during the May meeting . There was a motion to accept the minutes with the correction by Valerie William; 2nd by Apostle Pennington. All in favor, none opposed.

3. **May Financial Reports: Gwendolyn Fields.** Reviewed all accounts in their entirety.

- Operating account beginning balance \$19,101.15, ending balance \$18,593.32.
- MLK Breakfast account beginning \$27,206.76, ending balance \$25,206.76. \$2,000.00 was deducted from the beginning balance for the 2021 MLK Breakfast security deposit for the Coliseum.

President Bruce handled the Coliseum contract with the venue liaison. Instead of an addendum to the contract to clarify the question of a “non-refundable deposit” in view of potential need to cancel due to covid-19, President Bruce crossed out that wording and both she and Mrs. Kleinfeld of the City initialed the line. Attorney Tamara Felton-Howard was consulted and agreed that agreement was appropriate.

- Scholarship_account beginning and ending balance \$72,831.25.

Motion to accept May financial reports as written by Angela Rouson; 2nd by Ethel Robinson. All in favor, none opposed.

- MLK Leadership Awards Breakfast final Report—President Bruce questioned amount paid for the MLK souvenir coin being \$4,900 instead of the “over \$6,000 as told to her by Gwen Fields. Ms. Fields stated the cost was decreased when the order was changed from gold to silver coins.

Motion to accept the MLK Breakfast report by Angela Rouson with 2nd by Valerie Williams. All in favor. Motion approved.

- 4 **Dues/Membership update: Ethel Robinson.** March assessments are still coming in. One new member, Sandra Gipson, who is relocating to St. Petersburg. Currently, we have 9 legacy members; 16 life; 95 regular; 14 associates for a total membership of 134 members.
- 5 **Black Pearls update: Sandra Gibson.** The election of new officers will be announced at the June meeting.

6 **Old/New Business: Rose Mack’s Letter**

1. ***President Bruce asked if we had a chance to read the letter of concerns from Rose Mack and asked if there was any discussion. She stated that the community views of our Section is positive and yet some members are trying to spread negativity. Dr. Dennard shared that she did not agree with Rose’s concerns and that it should not be addressed at all because the nomination committee followed protocol.***

Angela Rouson stated the election process did follow the guidelines but that Rose’s letter is worthy of a response from the E-Committee. Tamara Felton- Howard did have some concerns as well that needed clarification. President Bruce clarified Tamara’s concerns and pointed out that the Nomination Committee process was voted upon and approved by a vote of 56 to 3. She added that moving forward under the new leadership possible amendments to the bylaws can be addressed. Althea Hudson stated that the letter should not be notated as an item for discussion on the June agenda, but suggested that President Bruce make a brief statement that the 2020 election did follow National protocol to support unity among the body. Per President Bruce, a response letter will be done by Beverly Campbell, Parliamentarian, and Clarice Pennington, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Rose Mack will be asked to forward the response to Mae Welch and all other persons that she blind copied on her letter. After discussion President Bruce asked for a motion regarding disposition of Ms. Mack’s letter. Motion was made by Beverly Campbell not to make discussion of the letter an agenda item for the June membership meeting, A 2nd was made by Dr. Marva Dennard. 11 members were present for the vote; 9 agreed and 2 opposed. The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned: **7:18 pm**

Closing prayer: Apostle Pennington

Althea Hudson, acting Recording Secretary

Thelma Bruce, President