



Branch Newsletter

February 2023

By the
Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Our regular general membership meeting will be 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Ricketts Center, 658 Beech Street.

For those who can't make the meeting, we'll also have a Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWIJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJlOQQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 9564 8174 Passcode: 937480

Police training in the works

President Johnny Corson and Bob and Sandy Bauers met recently with Phoenixville Police Chief Brian Marshall and two of his lieutenants, Bryan MacIntyre and Joseph Nemic. One reason was to get their input about an investigation, which has since concluded. We appreciate their help.

We also wanted to discuss the anti-bias training that the state police offer through their Heritage Affairs Office – the hate crime unit. Several of us went through the training with Pottstown police and were impressed. We have advocated for it in other police departments. The Phoenixville police already knew about it and were receptive. We put all the parties in touch with each other, and we hear it's going forward.

NAACP book club off to a good re-start

Wow! What a great re-start to the branch's book club, which was a big hit before Covid and has now reformed. We met Feb. 13 at the Pottstown Library, 500 E. High Street, to discuss Toni Morrison's *Recitatif*. It is about two women who meet at a shelter when they are eight years old. Their relationship continues over the years. One is white, and one is Black. But which is which? Morrison doesn't say. She wants us to contemplate and consider our biases. Our group – a record high 13 people showed up – had a vigorous, respectful discussion. Interestingly, not a single person was confident they could pick the race of either of the women.

The next meeting will be Monday, March 13, at 6 p.m. at the library. Each month, those who attend vote on what book to read for the next month's discussion. For March, the group chose [Barracoon, The Story of the Last "Black Cargo,"](#) by Zora Neale Hurston. It's described as the true story of one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade – Cudjo Lewis, who was 86 years old when Hurston interviewed him in 1927.

And since this book sounded so good, we went ahead and picked it for April: [Black Man in a White Coat: A Doctor's Reflections on Race and Medicine](#), by Damon Tweedy, M.D.

Kerry Pidcock-Lester is arranging for the library to reserve books for us. If you would like one, just tell the librarian at the desk you'd like one of Kerry's books.

Kudos to Mark Ellison

Branch youth member Mark Ellison, a Pottstown High School senior and 2023 Class President, who spoke so eloquently the branch's Martin Luther King Day celebration (you can watch the full service here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g34n7K9G_zc) spoke recently at an event hosted by Hearts of Humanity. You can see a video on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/all41humanity/videos/1057137049010845>

Welcome, new members

With the addition of a few new members, our roster has now topped 100. Thanks to the membership committee and everyone else who made this happen. And a very warm welcome to the new members. We are eager to have your input and your participation. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pottstownnaacp/> and visit our website, www.pottstownnaacp.org, where you'll find a list of committees, an archive of news stories about the branch, an archive of newsletters, and more.