



Branch Newsletter

July 2022

By the Communication, Press & Publicity Committee

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Three cheers! The moment is here! At long last, we plan to gather in-person for the July membership meeting. It will be at the Ricketts Center, 7 p.m., Thursday, July 28. So bring your enthusiasm, your ideas and your willingness to volunteer for some of our important work. (And, yes, a mask if that makes you more comfortable.) For those who can't make it, we'll also have a Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84995648174?pwd=QlAyaHZkWlJXZWk1T3FWcHNFVnJQQT09>

Meeting ID: 849 9564 8174 Passcode: 937480

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AUG. 2

The branch will participate in Pottstown's National Night Out event on Tuesday, Aug. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. The community block party will be at the park at Washington and Chestnut Streets. National Night Out was introduced in the 1980s, an outgrowth of town watches. The idea is to promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie, and THAT will make our neighborhoods safer.

The Pottstown event will include games, music, food and all sorts of info. Look for tables hosted by a few churches, the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, Hobart's Run, Habitat for Humanity, Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities, Pottstown Regional Library, Strive Initiative, the YWCA Tri-County ...and that's just some of them. Our table will have voter registration forms, membership forms and various goodies. Plan to come out and join us at this fun event.

On Saturday, Aug. 6, we'll also have a table at Councilwoman Trinita Lindsay's Ward 4 block party, held from 5 to 8 p.m. in the 900 block of Spruce Street. Expect food vendors, community leaders, activities and more.

SUPPORT FOR HALE STREET EXPLOSION VICTIMS CONTINUES

The branch is donating to a fund set up by the Tri-County Community Network for the victims of the Hale Street explosion. Others may make donations by clicking on this link:

<https://tcnetwork.org/donate-pottstown-explosion-fund/>

JUNETEENTH! WE DID IT!

A huge thank-you to Marlene Hedgepeth, who stepped up to plan our first Juneteenth celebration. It was held Sunday, June 19, at the Ricketts Center. We didn't do a formal count, but at least 200 people came. They heard speakers and watched the Red Royal Diamond youth dancers (in some cases, joining in). A psalmist sang. Praise dancers kept the audience spellbound. And more. They ate fried fish, pulled pork, corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, cornbread, baked beans, coleslaw, cucumber-tomato salad, watermelon, lemon pound cake and sweet potato pie. Our own Bobby Watson emceed the event.

Everything was free. The event was funded by the NAACP and a grant from Genesis Housing Corp.

Here's a link to Evan Brandt's story in the Mercury about our event:

<https://www.pottsmerc.com/2022/06/20/ricketts-center-hosts-uplifting-pottstown-juneteenth-celebration/>

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU...

...To the Pine Forge Drum Line (Allegheny East Drum Corps.). They joined us for the July Fourth parade and were a huge hit.

AND YET ANOTHER...

...thank you to Annette Kobb, who was the driving force behind the branch's sales of Duck Race tickets. The Rotary Club event was July 4, and we'll reap part of the proceeds from the 122 tickets we (mostly Annette) sold.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR OUR BLOOD DRIVES

The branch, in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Ricketts Center, is holding blood drives on Oct. 13 and Dec. 6 at the Center. One of the many reasons we're so keen on them is that we're acutely aware of the need for blood from African American donors to help combat Sickle Cell Disease. Many of those who have the disease need regular blood transfusions throughout their lives. The disease affects mostly African Americans, and they need blood from people who are as closely matched, genetically, to them as possible. That means other African Americans.

To schedule a donation and perhaps save a life, go to www.RedCrossBlood.org.

MONTCO PUBLIC DEFENDER EXPUNGEMENT CLINICS

This is a reminder that the Montgomery County Public Defender's office holds free, virtual expungement clinics the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. The Zoom meeting ID is 491 292 9804. The password is "expunge." Questions? Email PDEXPUNGEMENTS@montcopa.org