

General Membership Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2026

The MV NAACP general meeting was held virtually on Zoom due to a concurrent event.

Attendance: David Allen, Marie Araujo, Bill Bridwell, Betsey Young Buck, Rita Brown, Andrea Cisco, Tracy Dawson, Marquetta Drakes, Carole Early, Martha Hudson, Toni Kauffman, Susan Kelly, Mark Lovewell, Shawn Ramoutar, Carlos Trindade, Gretchen Underwood

Quick Recap

The meeting began with the mission statement and an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved, and correspondence was shared, including a \$750 donation from Real Never Fades and a thank you from the HBCU College Fair team.

The treasurer, Tracy, reported on finances, including the acceptance of a \$5,000 donation from Amazon and a positive balance from the Juneteenth event.

The group discussed upcoming elections, setting the date for November 21st, and the need for a nominating committee.

Updates were given on various committees, including health initiatives and the upcoming road race. A request for a donation to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center was discussed, with suggestions to formalize support for community partners. The conversation ended with a reminder about the ASALH brunch.

Reminder to forego the use of a racial slur.

Summary: Next steps

1. Draft a letter in response to the correspondence about the tall ships with Confederate names.
2. Members requested verification of correct email address in the chat for the membership system.
3. Follow up to clarify and ensure consistent branding for the road race name.
4. Reach out to last year's volunteers and new volunteers for the road race.
5. Coordinate with the communication committee for race publicity on Facebook, Instagram, and website.
6. Send election information and consent forms to the general membership via MailChimp.
7. Investigate and individually respond to Carol, Susan, Betsy, Bill, and Mark regarding their membership status.
8. Reach out to Island Source for water for the road race.
9. Take a picture of attendees for attendance record in the meeting minutes.
10. Develop a process and draft document for organizations requesting financial support or co-sponsorship.

11. Request feedback from general membership via email regarding the amount of donation to the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center.

Summary

Zoom Format Transition Meeting

The meeting participants discussed switching to a Zoom-only format for their gathering due to the ASALH Brunch conflicting with attendance.

NAACP Martha's Vineyard Branch Meeting

The meeting began with president, Shawn Ramoutar calling it to order and providing the mission statement and land acknowledgment for the NAACP Martha's Vineyard Branch. West led a prayer and discussed the agenda items, including taking attendance and approving the July 18th meeting minutes. The meeting was kept short due to a function later that morning, and participants were asked to review the minutes that were sent via email.

Meeting Updates and Donations Review

The meeting focused on reviewing correspondence and updates. Shawn led a vote on an unspecified matter, which passed with approval from most members. Toni reported receiving a \$750 donation from Real Never Fades for the scholarship fund and a thank-you note from the Martha's Vineyard HBCU College Fair team. The group also discussed a donation request from the Martha's Vineyard Hebrew Center, but no final decision was made on that matter.

EC Meeting Updates and Planning

The meeting covered several topics from the EC meeting, including correspondence about HBCU web development, a discussion about Confederate-named tall ships where Ms. Andrea will draft a response, and legal redress business involving a complaint. The group discussed the success of the Island Visions event and plans to recruit panelists while focusing on youth initiatives, including potentially establishing a youth committee and getting AXO involved at the high school. A major discussion point was the upcoming election, with November 21st proposed as the general meeting date for officer elections, though this requires general membership approval. The meeting also addressed the need for a physical office space to celebrate the branch's 60th anniversary in 2027, and current membership stood at 176 with several renewals pending.

Election Planning and Membership Updates

The meeting focused on election planning and membership status inquiries. Toni discussed upcoming election dates and the need to form a nominating committee, emphasizing that consent forms would be required for anyone considering executive committee or officer positions. Several members, including Carol, Betsy, and Mark, raised concerns about their membership status and email communications from the national organization. The conversation ended with a motion to vote on **November 21st as the NAACPMV unit election date, immediately following the regularly scheduled General Membership meeting**, which was seconded and approved by the attendees.

Financial and Program Updates Meeting

The meeting covered several key updates and decisions. The treasurer reported that all financials reconciled with bank statements, including approval of a \$5,000 Amazon donation despite some

concerns, which will be used for social justice initiatives supporting persons of color.

The Health Committee requested additional funding for various programs including cancer support, American Red Cross, and the Mama Joe Project. The group discussed developing a formal process for evaluating external organization requests for support, with suggestions to include time and talent contributions alongside financial support.

Upcoming Road Race Update: included insurance approval and vendor coordination, while noting some branding inconsistencies that need resolution between different organizational references to the "Freedom Fund."

Usage of the N-word was addressed, even in reporting an incident where a racial slur has been employed, was requested not to be used.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Kauffman

Assistant Secretary