

Abington HRC: March 2021

Present: Shelley, Joanne, Rosemary, Kristin, Jeffrey Guest: Kate Canazzi

Updates:

Presentation to North Wales HRC: Rosemary and Joanne spoke with this new HRC about how Abington got started and shared our basic presentation and our work on Implicit Bias.

Tri State HRC: Shelley, who attends the Tri State meetings, updated us on their work. They have almost finished a teaching module (Power Point) that is an introduction to implicit bias and are getting ready to work on a follow-up (what to do about it). They are working on PR and distribution. A second project involves setting up a program of guest speakers. The PR for both programs might be piggy-backed.

A suggestion was made to see if Tri State might be willing to try a “Lunch & Learn” time slot or vary the times, since the current morning schedule is difficult for people who work. Shelley will suggest this.

Discussion about Film Showing for Walking While Black:

We had about 25 people attend, less than registered but still a good showing. We’re pleased with how it went and are going to work to meet the challenge grant for the garden. We actually have enough money in our account, but agreed that we’d like to get the community involved and work to raise the money for the Garden.

We had an extension discussion and agreed to reach out to several people for help: Commissioner Spiegelman, Cakky Evans (the Environmental project), Dr. Kristopher Brown (Diversity officer for the Abington School District), Penn State Abington and Meadowbrook Farms (both might be able to help with the actual gardening).

The summary of the program will be place on the HRC page, on Facebook, and on paid Facebook. We might also extract a quote or two that we can highlight, which will give readers a sense of the program.

There is an updated toolkit for the program that we will look at. There is also a book about the program. Joanne will purchase books and have copies mailed to each HRC members.

Next steps in order to increase the frequency of conversations about race: Kristin will talk to Kelley Warner about the APD’s further interest in additional programs. We’ll also see who else wants to show the movie. We’ll see whether Commissioner Thompson wants to show it again (Jeffrey will contact him). We want to see if we can set up different cohorts of people moving through different activities in our efforts to further dialogue about race.

Guest: Kate Canazzi asked questions about how she can get more involved with the HRC. We mentioned several actions, including continuing to attend meetings and applying to be an Ambassador.