



Minutes of the ASALH Business Meeting

October 4, 2019
Business Meeting
4:00p - 6:15p
North Charleston, SC

111 members in attendance

Executive Council members in attendance: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Gilbert Smith, LaNesha DeBardelaben, Barbra Spencer Dunn, Lionel Kimble, Gloria Browne-Marshall, Jeff Banks, Barbara Dunn, Gladys Mack, Annette Palmer, Edna Medford, Cheryl Gooch, Bettye Gardner, Anton House, Gladys Gary Vaughn, Jarvis Givens, Sheila Flemming-Hunter, Moses Massenberg, Anita Shepard, Eric Jackson, Aaisha Haykal, Natanya Duncan, Sundiata Cha-Jua, Sylvia Cyrus

On the dais: Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Gilbert Smith, Sylvia Cyrus, LaNesha DeBardelaben¹, Barbra Spencer Dunn, Lionel Kimble

The meeting was called to order at 4:14pm on October 4, 2019. A welcome and introduction of Executive Council Members was presented by President Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. A meditation was given by Rev. Anita Shepherd.

The Reading and Approval of the October 5, 2018 ASALH Business Meeting Minutes, were presented by LaNesha DeBardelaben. There were two corrections made to the 2018 minutes: On page 3, change the term 'debt' to 'deficit' and change the term 'black' to 'red' regarding the financials. Natanaya Duncan moved to accept the minutes. Yvonne Acey (Memphis, TN) seconded. Motion passed.

President Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham gave her President's Report. She welcomed members to the conference. She noted the hospitality and the food and the conference planning committee. After last year's meeting, there was a meeting at the National Archives. She applauded the individuals who were on that committee. On February 1, 2019 at the National Press Club, a press conference was held, led by Gloria Brown Marshall, and included Spencer Crew (Director of the NMAAHC), Brent Leggs (NTHP), Roger Fairfax (GWU Law School). This year has been dedicated to reflecting and commemorating migration, from the original forced migration and the domestic slave trade. 400 Years of Perseverance idea originated in the Manhattan Branch and she gave

¹ Ms. DeBardaleben will be sitting in as Secretary in place of Dr. Whitehead.

recognition to that branch. There was a website launched to acknowledge branch activities. August 24th, a convening took place in Hampton, VA. She noted that 1565 and 1619 are both very important dates. She emphasized the importance of Virginia as the place where ideas of freedom germinated and was the forerunner for other colonies.

ASALH has been accepted to be a member of the Cooperate Ecosystems Studies Unit as a result of a competitive application process. This enables us to enter into agreement with NPS and other organizations to provide scholarly support and engagement to organizations such as NPS so that we can transform how history is being told.

She acknowledged the *Journal of African American History*. She noted that the journal is in over 70 countries and 700 libraries. She noted that this is the first meeting of the editorship of Dr. Pero Dagbovie.

The Carter G. Woodson Home Committee headed by Bettye Gardner was acknowledged. Woodson Home is now part of NPS. She invited NPS to present. Tara Morrison of NPS gave the report. She is the National Capital Parks East Superintendent. She manages the Woodson Home, which was established in 2003 as a historic site. They preserve the home. She introduced Amy Molegin, a Project Manager who is working with the Woodson Home Committee. Amy presented a visual report. She is helping to lead the restoration of the home and two adjacent properties that the NPS has acquired. Phase One has been completed – restoration of the home that Woodson lived in from 1922 to 1950, and the stabilization of the façade of all three building. The next phase is to rehabilitate the two adjacent properties. They've also been working with Dr. Pero Dagbovie and other professionals. She read a variety of quotes from public forums they've held about the restoration project. She presented visuals of the design of the home. She presented visuals on the library draft, two options of color and text were presented. She presented visuals of the artifacts that are in the home. President Higginbotham noted that the gold medal in the photos is the Spingarn Medal that Woodson received in 1926. The other space will be the legacy exhibition (past, present, and future glimpses)...who inspired Woodson and who did he inspire. She presented a variety of wall graphic options. She reported that ASALH will have an office and there will be classroom space. President Higginbotham thanked Amy for her presentation.

David Acey (Memphis, TN) moved to accept the President's report and Thelma Johnson (Martha's Vineyard, MA) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report was submitted by Gilbert Smith. The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities were presented listing the June 2018 financial data as well as the cash position, unaudited June 2019 and audited June 2018 financials. He noted that ASALH's cash position has improved over time. Total assets accrued at \$341,000 as of June and liabilities are at \$39,000 as of June. He noted that ASALH is looking to raise \$415,000 this year in Charleston, SC. In 2018, \$315,000 was raised in conference revenue in Indianapolis. ASALH's total Revenue was at \$1,078,000 in 2018. The deficient has been reduced and the organization is close to being in the black. He noted that for every \$1 that goes into ASALH ten cent goes into fundraising.

He dissected ASALH's revenue as follows: conference is the largest revenue: 41%; Publications 19%; Luncheon 17%; Grants 12%. The revenue minus expenses trend over five years was presented. ASALH was almost at break even for 2018, and plans to be in the black in 2019.

He presented highlights on cash as follows: December 2018 \$244,000; June 2019 \$311,000; September 2019 \$500,000.

Of a conference budget of \$415,000, the local branch raised over \$100,000 for conference expenses; national office gave \$50,000 toward the expenses; ASALH is expecting a profit from the conference of \$40,000. The profit in 2018 was \$28,000; the profit in 2016 was \$27,000.

Regarding the University of Chicago Press, they guarantee royalties at \$100,000. The actual amount from UCP \$124,030. President Higginbotham noted that UCP has done great with marketing and the quality of journal has increased subscriptions. Guaranteed royalties are expected at: 2019: \$103,350; 2020: \$106,740; 2021: \$110,172; 2022: \$123,647.

The Journal, BHB, books, and other publications was noted that in 2017: Lost \$70K; in 2018: Lost \$30K; 2019: On track to be profitable. Overall, 2019 will be a balanced budget \$1,024,000 for ASALH. Smith acknowledged the Audit/Finance Committee.

Ann Mason (Pittsburgh, PA) moved to accept the Financial Report subject to audit, Zende Clark seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Committee Report was presented by Barbara Spencer Dunn. She noted that members are deputized to grow ASALH. There is a family member activity posted online to help with recruitment. It's a nationwide effort to expand membership, target membership to HBCUs, museums, and churches.

She discussed the partnership between ASALH and the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School through the Carter G. Woodson Black Studies Academy.

ASALH membership is growing. There were 2,650 members last year; there are 2,992 members this year. Branch membership is almost 50% of ASALH's membership. The Membership Committee is targeting campus-based branches and exploring ways to keep the chapters active.

Judge Arthur Burnett (Washington, DC) moved to accept the Membership Report, Omope Carter Daboiku (Dayton, OH) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Lionel Kimble gave a Vice President of Programs report. He highlighted conference successes. He noted that Zebulon Miletsky and Natanya Duncan did a great job ensuring presenters register prior to the conference. Over 900 were registered several weeks in

advance. Early conference sessions were successful – starting sessions a day early. The six panels on pre-conference day were on local history and in those six sessions, 85 people attended. Early conference sessions will be considered for the future. Record number of panels were submitted this year. 187 is typical. 227 panels are featured in this year's conference. He acknowledged the Academic Program Committee. Martin Dulaney was recognized for the youth poster initiative he led.

Over 100 teachers attended the Teachers Luncheon this year (compared to last year in Indianapolis where there was not Teachers Luncheon at all).

Esley Caldwell (Cincinnati, OH) moved to accept the Vice President of Programs report, Marcia Garrison (Cincinnati, OH) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee report was presented by Annette Palmer. She noted that there were 8 nominees for the Executive Council: 2 corporate, 1 student, and 5 general nominees as follows – Corporate: Denise Rolark Barnes; Gladys Mack. Student: Camesha Scruggs (Maurice Gibson elected to fill the current gap). General: Natanya Duncan, Zende Clark, Anton House, Randel Jelks, Zebulon Milesky. She noted that Sundiata Cha Jua will fill the open position for a vacant position until 2021. Just over 300 ballots were submitted. Anita Shepard moved to accept the Nominations Committee report, Zende Clark second. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report was presented by Sylvia Cyrus. She began her report by expressing gratitude surrounding the growth of ASALH. She recognized the staff – Karen May retired in January. Staff is being reorganized. ASALH has hired an Operations Manager, Crystal Boswell. Cyrus noted the organization must grow the staff. She discussed the new Products – a new lapel pin and products that are more youthful (larger lapel pin) and a new logo pin are available. ASALH has also designed a pack of greeting cards – 1) one on this year's theme, 2) next year's theme of blacks and the vote, 3) Woodson image, 4) Crisis in Black Education, 5) ASALH logo. These can be purchased on the ASALH store. ASALH has a table runner that costs \$50. She noted that each branch should purchase one as a branding measure.

This year's conference has 1,414 registrants, including 100 teachers. This sets a new bar to move forward.

She recognized Jeff Banks for his leadership toward conference success. Goal going in was to have 1,200 people. More bags, badges, and printing had to be completed. She encouraged members to register early. In an effort to continue to keep ASALH green, the souvenir journal is online. The Marketing Team was recognized for their hard work in getting material posted. Shelia Flemming-Hunter is leading the awards committee, which will be held tomorrow night as part of the Saturday night gala.

She noted that the next ASALH Conference will be September 23-27, 2020 in Montgomery, AL. She encouraged members to consider proposals. She noted that

Executive Council voted for the 2021 Conference to be September 22-26, 2021 in Jacksonville, FL.

She noted that February 22, 2020 is the Black History Month Luncheon in DC under the leadership of Dr. Gladys Gary Vaughn.

She noted the ASALH members who passed away in 2019. She then gave a report about Montgomery, the site for next year's conference.

Edgar Vann moved to accept the Executive Director's Report, Lorna Andrade (Martha's Vineyard, MA) seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was no new business.

Barbara Spencer Dunn chartered three branches, including the Carter G. Woodson Louisville Branch, and the Cleveland Ohio Branch. The Philadelphia Heritage branch was recognized for celebrating 90 years. She noted that next year is the 75th anniversary of the California branch.

President Higginbotham adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.