

Subject: ASALH Should Respond and Lead

Dear Colleagues:

I pray all is well with you and yours. I was disappointed that we did not have time to pause with our regular business during the EC June meeting to reflect, in a substantive way, about "ALL" that's happening in our country today, the country that our ancestors built, and how we move forward in a strategic way with Woodson's legacy.

As I reflect on COVID 19, protest in the streets about police brutality and racism, Black Lives Matter, the pop-up generosity of private entities for black causes, the "changes" in police policy, etc., I believe we have to move as soon as possible to see where we can lead as well as respond. I propose we have a special session to forget about the busyness of ASALH to develop a platform that would guide us in this new paradigm where racism and the seemingly openness of so many to make change. This change needs to be systemic, not band-aids. **ASALH can lead an effort for systemic change in America.**

This change needs to deal squarely with America's original sin (slavery grounded in White Supremacy/racism) poverty that undermines every sector of Black American life, and reconciliation. I think we should develop a strategic platform that will guide our budgetary, programmatic and marketing activities. Some ideas include:

- America establishes a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, similar to South Africa's led by Bishop Desmond Tutu. ASALH can garner current and appropriate partners to "study" how this can happen from establishment to implementation of the idea.
- We must engage, somehow, the Black Caucus to take leadership of this growing movement for change as it relates to potential legislation that might be needed as a result of current and future activities.
- America must apologize for slavery, Jim Crow, and all the covert/overt racism/discrimination, etc.
- The U.S. Congress must move immediately to pass Bill HR 40 calling for the "study" for reparations for people of African descent in America.

I am concerned that the two major revenue streams of ASALH are based upon congregating large numbers of people. This concern is being dealt with the virtual event this fall and I'm not sure about the luncheon. But what about next year and the years after that? What will we do to ensure a new way forward to get revenue for the long-term for Woodson's legacy? These are the major challenges we as a board must confer about ASAP.

Please feel free to respond to my ideas in a critical way as I do not profess to know all about anything.

Finally, I am sure we (the current EC members) are the ones ASALH has been waiting for to lead America to systemic change as our beloved founder did in 1915.

With gratitude, Sheila