**ASALH Business Meeting Minutes**

**September 25, 2014**

**The Peabody**

**Memphis, Tennessee,**

The business meeting was called to order by President Scott at 4:03 p.m. Eighty-eight members were in attendance. President Scott brought greetings and shared with the membership a video sent by President Obama last February acknowledging the work of African Americans, ASALH and Black History Month. A prayer was offered by Sheila Flemming Hunter.

**Minutes Zende Clark**

**A written report was submitted.**

***It was moved by Monroe Little and seconded by Dorothy Exum to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2013 ASALH Business meeting****.*

***Vote:*** *Unanimous*

**President Report Daryl Scott**

**A written report was submitted.**

President Scott shared with the members that we are now laying the ground work for the next 100 years. Our obligation is to keep alive the mission of the Association. As we move into the Centennial we will not make it another 100 years unless we recognize that this association started outside of the Academy.

Members were asked to come to the Annual Luncheon and the Annual Convention next year to celebrate with us. Members were asked to bring branch members and friends to these events.

Gilbert Smith was introduced as a new board member, a CPA who has joined the board as a member of the Audit and Finance committee. President Scott shared that the journals will be made available to all members and he has also been working on a website that will host the Black History Bulletin. There is a movement in the Academy that scholarship should be available to the world. Our journals have their origins in our own concerns and not have been produced for the Academy. Free is not sustainable therefore we need a means to support our journals. Membership will be the means to support our journals because “Membership Matters”. We will begin to make our journals accessible to all members.

This year we entered into an agreement with a group called the African American Librarians and Research Archivists because the American Librarians Association stated that they can no longer underwrite the activities of that group. They are coming to us as a group who believe in our mission. Additionally, a branch has rebuilt itself in Detroit. We will charter that branch later today. There is a group in St. Petersburg that is reorganizing that may be chartered in Atlanta. There is also a group in Memphis that is interested in reviving the Memphis Branch.

President Scott shared that he is sorry that he has slept one of the most important issues of our time. African Americans are being killed at the hands of the police at an alarming rate. We have not maintained records as an Association of the mass killings of Americans at the hands of the police. We should see that our dues pay for the basic things that we need. Will the black community at large respond? Knowledge for Empowerment is important so that black leaders and white leaders have the information that our leaders need. This kind of knowledge has to be attained at the county level. Branches should not be clubs; they should be a part of the work that moves us beyond journals.

**Constitution and Bylaws**

**A written report was submitted.**

At this time all members are full members however we also have members that are members of convenience. We carry a lot of people who are coming to the conference who would prefer to pay a fee for the service. We are looking to create the category of Associate member for those who only want to attend the conference.

It is the recommendation of the Association that we establish a new membership category, Associate Member, which will allow presented to attend the conference and present without the expense of providing them with a journal. Dena Robins, President of the Bronx Branch shared that she believes that the motion is divisive and will provide us with less members in the long run.

President Scott shared that we carry the members that would fall into this category at a deficit. As the costs increase for printing, the profit raised by the journal decreases. Sherry Suggs shared that they already have a category at the branch level of Associate Membership. If we adopt this as a category then the Manasota Branch will need to change the name their branch category. Anita Shepherd President of the James Weldon Johnson Branch asked if the Associate fee should be higher than a general membership fee.

Edward Hightower called the question:

***It is the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaw Committee to establish a new membership category, Associate Member, which will entitle said member with the right to participate on the Academic Program at the Annual Meeting. Associate Members will not be entitled to a vote in ASALH or Publications.***

 **Vote:** 87 Yes

1. No

Motion Carried

***It is the recommendation of the Constitution and Bylaw Committee to revise Bylaw 4 to reflect the removal of the membership fee assigned to the Dual Membership and to revise the definition of dual membership to read (General/Senior member and an additional person residing in the resident)*  *and to increase the age limit for the Junior Life Membership class to age 26.***

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Audit and Finance Report Gilbert Smith**

**A written report was submitted.**

The Audit report was reviewed. Audit received a clean opinion for the December 31st audit which is the best result that you can receive from an audit.

The December report compared to the June 2014:

**Cash Balance** $326, 223 $538,284 $350,147

Liabilities $ 50,371 $ 59,748 $ 27,947

Net Assets $275,852 $478,436 $322,200

Looking at the report the Total Revenue shows a decline year after year. This reflects the information offered by Dr. Scott. In December 2013 we had a deficit of $202,000. As of June we had a profit of about $42,000. We want to applaud Sylvia Cyrus and Alfreda Edwards for the hard work that they do on a daily basis to run this organization. It takes a lot of hard work to run an organization of this size.

***It was the recommendation of the audit and Finance committee to accept the financial report.***

 **Vote:** Unanimous

**Nominations Committee Annette Palmer**

This is the first year that we utilized electronic balloting. We received 225 ballots back. We formerly mailed approximately 2000 ballots to the membership and last year 192 ballots were returned. This year we had 25 additional ballots returned. We saved money as we did not have to mail the ballots, we saved trees as there was no paper and we did not have to count paper ballots. We extended the voting and that is why you do not have the results of the voting. We will post the results online.

Several people wrote in nominations however no candidate received more than one vote.

***The nominating committee moved the acceptance of the report.***

***Vote:*** *Unanimous*

**Membership Report Janet Sims Wood**

**A written report was submitted**.

The Detroit Branch will be chartered at the branch meeting.

Our current membership is as follows:

**Total membership**: 2252

261 student members 44 Institutional members

42 dual members 666 general members

1009 people registered for the conference

***It was moved by Yvonne Acey and seconded by Lionel Kimble to adjourn the 99th business meeting.***

**Vote:** Unanimous