**ASALH Conference Call Minutes**

**September 19, 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President Scott. Words of meditation were offered by Janet Sims Wood. The following Executive Council members were on the call:

Daryl Scott, Sheila Flemming-Hunter, Bettye Gardner, Janet Sims Wood, Gladys Gary Vaughn, Edna Green Medford, Carlton Wilson, Troy Thornton, Dorothy Bailey, Kenya King, Derrick Aldridge, Shukree Tilghman, Lionel Kimble, Gina Paige, Annette Palmer, Zende Clark, Sylvia Cyrus.

**Minutes Zende Clark**

The minutes were not approved since the minutes from the June Executive Council Meeting were not available. All minutes will be approved on the next call.

**President’s Remarks Daryl Scott**

President Scott opened the meeting with an update on the Jacksonville conference. We have more than exceeded our hotel block for the conference and we have 183 panels. We have staved off the boycott. Approximately 700 people have registered to date with approximately 215 presenters who have not registered.

**Treasurers Report Troy Thornton**

**Written reports were submitted.**

At July 31, 2013 the association’s total assets were $492,159 compared to $558,950 at July 31, 2012. The assets consisted of cash, accounts receivable, investments and prepaid expenses. The total cash available at July 31, 2013 is $291,527. Approximately $269,000 of the total cash balance is obligated to future grant expenditures and $32,000 is available for general operations. The accounts receivable balance at July 31, 2013 is approximately $93,000 and is expected to be collected in the normal course of business. The total investment balance at July 31, 2013 was $100,879. The investment balance is not impacted by the market.

The top four revenue items listed below represents about $75% of our revenue:

Black History Luncheon $101,975

Contributions and Grants $123,327

Membership Dues $$74,715

The Conference $70,727

An analysis of the 2012 Conference showed income of $247,000 on the conference with expenses of about $166,000 so our revenue was about $80,000. From April 30, 2013 to July 31, 2013 we have increased our revenue by $131,000. However our total expense line as of July 31st is $653,437 and at April 30, 2013 our expenses were at $387,379 so we have increased our expenses by about $300,000 therefore we are operating in a net deficit.

**Membership Report Janet Sims Wood**

**A written report was submitted.**

Membership will bring an action item to the body at the Jacksonville meeting. The membership committee will work with the Centennial Committee and the Marketing Committee in an effort to increase membership. The topic of electronic membership cards was discussed as a means for lowering costs. The committee has discussed the following as cost saving measures: working with nominations to implement electronic balloting, working with publications to reduce the number of print copies required to be sent to members, providing students with electronic access to the journal only and requiring an additional fee of $10 dollars to be added to the dues for those members wanting print copies of the journal.

Sheila Flemming-Hunter shared that the Centennial Committee did not have in its plans a membership campaign. Carlton Wilson stated that the Development Committee had discussed garnering more institutional members as a means for raising funds. President Scott suggested that the Development Committee pursue large money from the Institutions/departments for the Centennial. The Development Committee should ask institutions for more than a $250.00 contribution of membership for our Centennial. The Membership Committee should secure institutional members not the Development Committee. The Centennial Committee has developed the 1915 Club for presidents which overlaps the Development Committee's role.

It was moved by Janet Sims Wood that the membership report be accepted.

Kenya King yes

Edna Green Medford yes

Troy Thornton yes

Lionel Kimble yes

Gina Paige yes

Gladys Gary Vaughn yes

Carlton Wilson yes

Sheila Flemming-Hunter yes

Bettye Gardner yes

Derrick Alridge yes

Dorothy Bailey yes

Shukree Tilghman yes

Annette Palmer yes

**The Woodson House Committee Bettye Gardner**

**A written report was submitted.**

Several members of the committee were present at a meeting with the new Acting Superintendent for Capital Parks East and the lead on the Woodson House project, Gopaul Noojibail. He spoke briefly about the American Express National Historic Trust Grant and its use. He was not able to confirm attendance at the conference in Jacksonville. There is still a National Park Service forum scheduled during the conference. A meeting was held with Lorraine Miller of the NAACP to discuss her interest in developing a friends group to raise funds for the Woodson House.

It was moved by Bettye Gardner to move forward with the fund raising idea offered by Lorraine Miller for the Woodson House. No action was taken on the motion.

Sheila Flemming-Hunter reminded the committee chair that there must be an agreement with the National Park Service in order to raise funds for the house and until then the Woodson House name cannot be utilized in the fundraising effort. Sheila Flemming-Hunter also.stated that as council members our first obligation is to raise funds for ASALH. She also asked if we would be competing with ourselves if we took the lead on a fundraising initiative for a government owned property. She reminded the council that we had a discussion about this Friends group before and the possibility of it being a conflict with what we are currently doing.

The Executive Council members discussed the issues and the concerns about fund raising for the Woodson House in addition to raising funds for the organization’s budget. President Scott asked if we could raise funds for the African Experience Fund that would be earmarked for the Woodson House. Bettye Gardner shared some information from a letter in her possession from the African Experience Fund. He suggested that the friends committee would not need to have the appearance of an ASALH committee. Sheila Flemming-Hunter further expressed her concerned about energies being utilized to support a government project as opposed to funding for ASALH. Bettye Gardner shared that the Woodson House is an important part of the Centennial. We need to make a good faith statement relative to the Woodson House. She also shared that the house will be open in 2015 however there will be no furnishings in the house.

President Scott surmised that the Council is not willing to raise funds for the Woodson House. President Scott shared that we have always planned to give in-kind to the Woodson House. He stated that we planned to give them what is left of the Woodson library, the Associated Publishers Papers, the sign, and additional gifts that could amount to approximately $225,000.

Bettye Gardner reiterated that she thought that the Woodson House was a critical part of the Centennial. She stated that she hopes that we have some real good faith effort towards that Woodson House that can be shared with the Park Service.

President Scott asked that the Woodson Committee reformulate their recommendation to clarify what the friends committee will do and bring it back to the Executive Council at either the next conference call or to the meeting in Jacksonville. Sheila Flemming-Hunter stated that the motion would need to be clear about what our role is relative to the friends group. It was also suggested that a discussion take place with Lorraine Miller to make clear what ASALH will do as it relates to fundraising for the Woodson House. President Scott shared that any motion with fund raising then it must be routed through the development committee. Bettye Gardner stated that she would prefer to bring the recommendation to Jacksonville so that she has time to speak with Ms. Miller and reformat the motion. President Scott asked that the motion be a clean action item to be voted up or down.

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.