**ASALH Executive Council Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC**

**February 21, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by President Scott at 11:03 a.m. The invocation was delivered by Janet Sims – Wood.

The following Executive Council members were in attendance: Daryl Scott, Janet Sims Wood, Zende Clark, Annette Palmer, Gina Page, Paula Seniors, Jim Harper, Carlton Wilson, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, Greer Stanford-Randle, Monroe Little, Edna Medford, Dorothy Bailey, Bettye Gardner, Gilbert Smith, Sylvia Cyrus, Bettye Gardner, , Kenya King, Troy Thornton, Roy Betts. General Members: Barbara Dunn, Mordena Moore. Staff: Alfreda Edwards,

**President’s Report Daryl Scott**

**A written report was submitted.**

President Scott welcomed everyone to the meeting. The new Executive Council members were asked to introduce themselves followed by the continuing Executive Council members.

President Scott began his report stating the great news is that we are heading towards our Centennial and we are alive and well. Additional good news is we have an event on Monday at the White House. We will provide a viewing of Veterans of Color, a documentary developed by the Manasota Branch of ASALH. The viewing will be followed by a panel discussion. We will do everything that we can to make sure that the event is a success and hope that our efforts will elicit an appearance of the President at one of our Centennial Events next year.

President Scott outlined the work for the future of the organization. He shared that we are an organization in which we have branches throughout the country. We have extremely strong branches and we recognize that ASALH is only as strong as it members and its branches. President Scott provided the council with a history of the financial struggles and successes of the Association. President Scott shared that there are challenges ahead however we can build the organization by focusing on building branches and building strong membership. President Scott proposed that we place on membership the cost of membership. He shared that membership is currently subsidized by the sale of the Journal of African American History. The cost of the journal is approximately $50.00. He suggested that we make the basic option for membership an online journal. President Scott has developed a plan that includes options for attaining the journal.

President Scott shared that corporate sponsorship has diminished. ASALH will not get corporate funding if the organization looks like a professional organization. We need to build a regional powerbase through the development of new branches then spread out across the country. Our luncheon has been promoted to the general public. His preference is to promote our luncheon to our members. He shared that we need to build branches that are viable so that our annual luncheon will be filled with 1200 ASALH members.

President Scott will be working with the audit and finance committee to bring the budget in line. A part of the work will be looking at our journals. It was suggested that we bring in money, corporate money in amounts of $10,000 or more. We are looking for sponsors that will support the organization.

President Scott shared further that the conference is an Academic Program. The Academics must pay the cost of the conference. We need to tighten the academic part of the conference by being shrewd and better manage the how we address presenters who do not pay once they have presented.

The most important committee as we move forward is going to be the membership committee. A part of the learning curve is how to support the development of new vibrant branches.

Carlton Wilson stated that we also have to take a look at the academic side also. The academic side must pay for itself and maybe the answer is not having 180 sessions but having 65 sessions. President Scott reminded the Council that academics cannot attend conferences unless they are presenting. Without the ability to offer academics the opportunity to present the conference will fail financially.

For ASALH to become more viable with African Americans we can look to academic panels for conferences, individual papers will be pushed out, make professionals pay for what they receive. Bettye Gardner shared that we need to return the bulletin to what it used to be, a focus on “Life”. President Scott shared that we stay alive because we are not a professional association.

President Scott shared with the Council the background for the Black Classic Press proposal. The boiler plate contract submitted by Paul Coates was shared with the Council. He would like to publish Centennial Copies of all of Carter G. Woodson books. Monroe Little shared that he wants to make sure that there is quality control over the reprint.

***It was moved by the committee that ASALH on a title-by-title basis, partner with the Black Classic Press to republish the works of the Associated Publishers on the terms that provide the Association royalties***

***Vote: Unanimous***

**Woodson House Report Bettye Gardner, Gopaul Noojibail, Nicola Staples**

**A written report was completed.**

Gopaul Noojibail has applied for the position of Superintendent of National Capitol Park East. Bettye Gardner shared that Mr. Noojibail was scheduled to come to the October meeting however due to the government shutdown was not able to attend. The Woodson House Committee wanted him to share with the Council an update of where we are and what the expectations are moving forward.

Mr. Noojibail shared with the Council a brief description of his background. He is considered a closer. He defined the project as follows; the project has been broken in three phases. **Phase 1** restoring the house, a 3.2 million dollar project. The President has placed the money in the budget and the budget has passed so the National Park Service (NPS) is moving forward. The NPS will work to have the house ready for 2015. Approximately 1.1 million dollars has been spent on the site to date to stabilize the building. Everyone understands the timeline for this and the goal is to have the house open in 2015 with limited capacity for tours. **Phase 2** is not funded at this point. The cost is about 3.2 million dollars. Reggie and Nicola have some ideas about how to raise fund through LISC – Local Initiative Support Coalition. Community development and community support is the mission of the coalition. Their funding mostly comes from banks who have been penalized for their practices. They stated that they have enough contacts and political savvy to get the funding needed to complete phase 2. The National Park Service has started an urban project **Phase 3** is approximately 2.1 million dollars. It’s the planning and services within the building. ASALH, Omega Psi Phi, Shiloh Baptist Church, National Park Foundation, National Park Service are partners in this effort. The NPS is looking to partners to help raise these funds. The NPS is developing an MOU to be used as a unifying document for all the partners. It’s not a document that binds the organization to raising money; it’s a document that outlines the partnership entered into by the group.

A question was raised about the Mary McLeod Bethune House. After an explanation by Mr. Noojibail President Scott shared that it’s time that we start to take responsibility for raising funds for both houses. We will help to bring resources and community support. Bettye Gardener asked that Mr. Noojibail share with the board the PowerPoint presentation from the partner’s meeting. She reiterated that there must be some involvement from the partners for Phase 3 and funds must be raised to support the project. The Woodson Committee has a conference call to share what was discussed at the Partner’s Meeting. Mr. Noojibail asked if President Scott would put in writing something to address the Bethune House issue. President Scott shared that he will reach out to Dr. Bettye Collier Thomas in support of the work of the NPS.

**Minutes Daryl Scott**

***It was moved by Monroe Little and seconded by Jim Harper to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2014 Conference Call.***

***Vote: Yes 19 1 Abstention***

**Treasurer’s Report Troy Thornton**

**A written report was submitted.**

The report has not changed since the January 30th report. The Association had good years in 2011 and 2012. The 2013 year ended with us spending $200,000 more than we raised. Of that $200,000 approximately $50,000 was spent in 2012 and was paid in 2013.

Two of our top three money makers are the luncheon and the conference. The luncheon area was okay but the conference area suffered. From a development perspective and a fundraising perspective we must be careful about what we spend and what we are spending it on. We need to take a hard at our budget. The implementation of Avectra was a large part the expense in 2013. We will still incur expenses from Avectra however it will not be at the level that we have experienced in the past. The cost moving forward will be approximately 50% of the expense that we incurred last year. Avectra costs approximately $1500 per licenses and we have 5 licenses. We need to begin to place a dollar amount on in-kind service because if we had that number as it relates to our database functionality we would have had a better idea of what it would cost to implement a new database program.

We need to get the conference right this year. We need to get a handle on the support for planning and implementing the conference. Carlton Wilson shared that we must take a look at the expenses that we incur also as we develop the budget. Gilbert Smith shared that as of December we had about $253,000.

We will raise the fees for the Memphis Conference. The government sequester is part of the reason for the loss in the revenue for the conference. This is the last year for life membership at $1000.00. We will increased the price of life membership to $1500.00

Monroe Little shared that he would like to see a realistic budget with a pay increase for staff with the inclusion of the cost of Avectra and its support. We will then be able to better plan how to move forward and grow the organization. Troy Thornton shared that the budget is based on the expenditures that were made the year before.

Gilbert Smith shared that we need a budget in front of us so that we can work from an informed point.

**Membership Committee Janet Sims-Wood**

**A written report was submitted.**

The membership numbers were reviewed. The report indicated that the membership numbers are decreasing. An electric report form has been completed and most branches have used the form thereby increasing our ability to report to the IRS. We are attempting to move forward with electronic membership cards and branches completing their history for the Centennial.

Evelyn Brooks-Higginbotham called attention to the trends in membership based upon the report. She noted that the life membership trended up in a year when our overall finances were low. Greer Stanford-Randle shared that how we market membership is extremely important and we must look at how we are selling the organization. People must see themselves in the life part of the organization.

We have a proposed MOU from the Individual Librarians of African American studies Section of the Association of College Research Libraries of ALA. They want to join us as a subsidiary. Jim Harper shared that ASALH holds the largest conference for academic scholars.

**Public Relations Roy Betts**

**A written report was submitted.**

The White House Event is tomorrow and all Council members are asked to register if you are available. The committee is looking at social media as a means to post to Twitter and Facebook simultaneously.

**President’s Report Daryl Scott**

**A written report was submitted.**

President Scott reverted back to the action items in his report.

Action Item 2: Money raised can count against obligation. After the initial $300.00, the money raised on luncheon tables over expenses should be counted towards the council member’s obligation.

This item was discussed at length. Most of the discussion was on the dissenting side. Most Executive Council members were against this motion. The position of the Executive Council members held that all Council members should make the donations agreed upon without a plan to sell their way.

**The motion was withdrawn by President Scott.**

*It was moved by committee that the Association create 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 vote in ASALH.*

***Vote: Unanimous***

*It was moved by committee that the membership dues be established at $65.00.*

***Vote: Unanimous***

*It was moved by committee that beginning in 2015, General Membership dues be raised from $65.00 to $80.00. As benefits, General Members will:*

* 1. *Be eligible to vote in all ASALH elections*
  2. *Receive electronic access to the JAAH and Fire*

***Vote: Yes 16***

***Abstentions 1***

***Motion Carried***

*It was moved by committee that Senior Membership be raised from $45.00 to $55.00 beginning in 2015.*

***Vote: Yes 16***

***Abstentions 1***

***Motion Carried***

*It was moved by committee that Branch members, upon renewing their national membership, be given the option of continuing to receive print copies of the JAAH at no additional cost.*

***Vote: Yes 16***

***Abstentions 1***

***Motion Carried***

*It was moved by committee that full members who do not belong to branches must pay an additional $20.00 a year to receive printed JAAH.*

***Vote: Yes 16***

***Abstentions 1***

***Motion C*arried**

*It was moved by the committee that in 2016, Life Membership dues be raised to $1500.00 and that Interim Life Membership be $500.00 a year for three years.*

***Vote: Yes 16***

***Abstentions 1***

***Motion Carried***

*It was moved by committee that ASALH holds a Special Life Membership Campaign during 2015.*

***Vote: Unanimous***

*It was moved by Monroe Little and seconded by Annette Palmer to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m.*

***Vote: Unanimous***

**ASALH Executive Council Meeting**

**Marriott Wardman Park, Washington, DC**

**February 21, 2014**

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. It was moved by the committee that ASALH on a title-by-title basis, partner with the Black Classic Press to republish the works of the Associated Publishers on the terms that provide the Association royalties  **Vote:** Unanimous
2. It was moved by Monroe Little and seconded by Jim Harper to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2014 Executive Council Conference Call.

**Vote:**  Yes 19

Abstention 1

**Motion Carried**

1. Money raised can count against obligation. After the initial $300.00, the money raised on luncheon tables over expenses should be counted towards the council member’s obligation.

**The Motion was withdrawn due to dissent from Council Members**

1. It was moved by committee that the Association create 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 vote in ASALH.

**Vote: Unanimous**

1. It was moved by the committee that the membership dues be established at $65.00.

**Vote: Unanimous**

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   1. Be eligible to vote in all ASALH elections
   2. Receive electronic access to the JAAH and Fire

**Vote: Yes 16**

**Abstentions 1**

**Motion Carried**

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**Vote: Yes 16**

**Abstentions 1**

**Motion Carried**

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**Vote: Yes 16**

**Abstentions 1**

**Motion Carried**

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**Vote: Yes 16**

**Abstentions 1**

**Motion Carried**

1. It was moved by the committee that in 2016, Life Membership dues be raised to $1500.00 and that Interim Life Membership be $500.00 a year for three years.

**Vote: Yes 16**

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**Motion Carried**

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**Vote: Unanimous**

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**Vote: Unanimous**