

**National Membership Committee**  
**September 30, 2021**

**National Membership Committee Members:** **Barbara Spencer Dunn**, Vice President for Members and Co-Chair, NMC and Acting Region Three (3) Contact; **Ida Jones**, Co-Chair, NMC and Region One (1) Contact; **Dorothy F. Bailey**, Vice Chair, NMC and Region Four (4) Contact; Members: **Gloria Browne-Marshall**, Chair, International Subcommittee; **Janet Sims-Wood**, Compliance Committee Member and Region Two (2) Contact; **Anita Shepherd**, Region Five (5) Contact; Ex-Officio Members: **Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham** and **Sylvia Y. Cyrus**

Good evening I am Barbara Spencer Dunn, Vice President for Membership for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Inc. (ASALH)

Hello ASALH Members, our family,

I'd like to first say what an honor it has been to serve the members of ASALH in the role of Vice President for Membership. It has been a joy beyond words to serve you with a special recognition to our branches across the United States of America. Dr. Higginbotham, I personally want to thank you as our leader for all you have done to lift ASALH to higher heights over the past six years. A special thanks to Dr. Bettye Gardner who entrusted me to serve alongside her as Co-Chair of both the Woodson Home Committee and the National Heritage Sites Research Committee. Also, to Dr. Janet Sims-Wood who stayed connected to the National Membership Committee in support of my term in this role. Thanks to all the members of the National Membership Committee for all you did to help our membership grow to the numbers I report today.

We are showing a comparison from 2019 to September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Our strategy was to expand to more states in the United States and to reach our family globally—both those goals were accomplished and the National Membership Committee continues in that vein. Our International Subcommittee of the National Membership Committee connected this year with South Africa, Canada, London, Scotland and Paris and recruited institutional membership in Ireland. Our international family joined us in presenting programs in February in their locations, even though some of their Black History Month Programs are celebrated in other months. This year in Honor of our 2021 Theme: The Black Family: Representative, Identity and Diversity all of them did programs in February along with their programming in their specified months. If you missed their session on last Thursday, September 23, 2021, at 12:30 p.m., be sure to tune in to view this program before October 31 when recordings of this year's conference sessions will no longer be available. This subcommittee is aggressively following the footsteps of our founder, Dr. Woodson, throughout

the globe. The CIAA made a commitment this year that each year when they kick off the tournaments in February to begin March Madness, they will announce the Annual Black History Theme established by ASALH at their opening ceremonies—this connects us more closely to our HBCUs and scholar athletes.

As you heard from our president, at the present time branches are located in 22 states and also in the District of Columbia—23 locations.

We currently have 47 branches (one was dissolved this year) and plan to charter three additional branches by the end of this year. (Tulsa, Ok; Greensboro, NC; and Rochester, NY) We also reorganized the National Membership Committee (NMC) into five regions with Regional Contacts to serve our branches more efficiently.

Currently we have 3,399 members of which 1,542 are branch members. As part of branch compliance, each branch must have at least one institutional member. To date we have 110 Institutional Members of which 79 of the Institutional Members were recruited by our branches.

I'd like you to take a look at the number of Senior members which has been overwhelmingly the largest of our membership numbers to date. In fact, when I joined ASALH in 2000, our Senior members (those 65 and older) represented  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the membership. You will note that our Seniors have been bringing in younger members, to include family members, and much of this is through the succession planning that is taking place throughout ASALH, to include our branches. Our present Senior Membership is 800 (65 and over) and our General Membership (64 and below) is 703, only a difference of 97. That is very encouraging to the legacy of our founder Dr. Woodson. It says without doubt ASALH will live another 100 years. Of our total membership, our branches represent 1,542 of the 3,399 total. We continue to challenge all of you to continue recruiting members to ASALH. ASALH is needed more than ever.

And last but certainly not least, the National Membership Committee has an evaluation process to honor our branches each year with awards. Many of you attended the awards ceremony and learned that the Martha's Vineyard Branch of ASALH was awarded the 2021 Outstanding Branch Programming Award with their programming in honor of the 2020 theme—African Americans and the Vote. But we are announcing for the first time at this meeting Honorable Mention to three additional branches who came so close to this honor we must mention their names: Greater Kansas City Black Study Group, Kansas City, Missouri; the Julian Branch, Baltimore, Maryland; and Memphis Branch in Memphis, Tennessee.

Thank you to all of you for your recruitment efforts and the work you do on behalf of ASALH, in particular membership support. Continue to tell people about ASALH, our founder Dr. Woodson, and the Carter G. Woodson Home Historic Site that is scheduled to open in February 2023. Thank you.