

Note: All Reports that were filed with the Secretary are available on the ASALH Membership Page.



ASALH Business Meeting Minutes

September 30, 2021

Business Meeting

6:10p – 8:44p

Webinar

Meeting called to order, President Higginbotham

I. Review of the Logistics, Karsonya Wise Whitehead

a. Procedures: The chat function will be available; members are encouraged to share their questions and comments. They will be fielded by the Secretary and the Executive Director and shared during the meeting.

b. Voting: Once a motion is made the Secretary will ask for a Second. Votes will be tallied using the “Raise Hand” function.

II. Roll Call of the EC Members, Karsonya Wise Whitehead

III. President Higginbotham:

a. Welcome

b. Adoption of the Agenda *Moved* by Lionel Kimble to adopt the Agenda. *Seconded* by Zende Clark. *Motion Passed: Y96; N4*

c. Playing of the anthem, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

IV. Secretary's Report (Review of the Minutes), Karsonya Wise Whitehead

a. Approval of the 2020 Business meeting Minutes

Motion: Moved by Barbara Spencer Dunn to adopt the Minutes with necessary corrections. *Seconded* by Gilbert Smith. *Motion Passed: Y95; Abs5*

II. President's Report, President Higginbotham

III. Treasurer's Report, Gilbert Smith

Report filed with the Secretary.

IV. Membership Report, Barbara Spencer Dunn (see below)

a. Chartered Branches

b. Membership Numbers

c. Remembrance List

Report filed with the Secretary.

Note: All Reports that were filed with the Secretary are available on the ASALH Membership Page.

VI. Programs Report, Lionel Kimble

- a. Update on Virtual Conference
- b. 2022 Theme
- c. NPS programs
- d. Editors
- e. Book Prize
- f. New Partners
- g. Black History Month Festival

Report filed with the Secretary.

VII. Nominating Report, Annette Palmer and Natanya Duncan

VIII. Governance, Susan Sims Marsh and Zende Clark

1. PROCESS FOR AMENDING CONSTITUTION

a. Constitution Article VII Amendments

- i. The Constitution may be amended in either of two ways: (1) A proposed amendment may first originate in, or be submitted to, the Executive Council. It shall then be approved by two-thirds of the members at the Annual Meeting, provided that the membership shall have been appraised of the proposed change(s) at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting. (2) Amendments may be submitted at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Upon approval by majority vote, such amendment(s) will be presented for final approval at the next Annual Meeting of the Association. Adoption of the proposed Amendments shall be effected by two-thirds of the members present

***Motion** Moved by Susan Simms Marsh to approve the amendment to the Constitution Article III Section 2 by adding a new subsection I) that provides for staggered elections of the Association's officers on a rotating basis. Motion passed: Y82; N7; Abs11*

IX. Executive Director's Report, Sylvia Cyrus

- a. Update on the 2022 and 2023 Conferences

X. New Business

1. Hello, this is Barbara Boyd from the Louisville, Kentucky Dr. Carter G. Woodson Branch. In terms of visibility I would like to suggest that ASALH, if we do not have it available, have yard flags that branches can purchase.
2. Pamela Reese Smith: Also postcards

Note: All Reports that were filed with the Secretary are available on the ASALH Membership Page.

3. Toby Saunders-Gomez: Is it possible to revise the theme for Black History month 2022 to include “Financial” Wellness?
4. Pamela Reese Smith: Can ASALH also design a Juneteenth Flag?

Motion: Moved by Natanya Duncan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lionel Kimble. Y100

FYI: National Membership Committee Report
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

(transcription from recording) 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 27th, 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

Note: All Reports that were filed with the Secretary are available on the ASALH Membership Page.

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.