



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001
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Lionel Kimble Class of 2026

Current Employer:

Chicago State University and The Chicago
Urban League

Professional Background:

Associate Professor of History and Africana
Studies. Vice President and Executive Director
of the Research and Policy Center of the
Chicago Urban League.



Major Accomplishments:

Publication Record – ““The only to get what’s coming to us”: African American Coalition Building and Veterans’ Rights in Post-World War II Chicago,” *Journal of Illinois History* (Spring, 2009). *A New Deal for Bronzeville: Housing, Employment, and Civil Rights in Chicago, 1935-1955* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2015). “I Too Serve America: African American Women War Workers in Chicago, 1940-1945,” *Journal of Illinois State Historical Society* (Winter 2000/2001). Professional Service – Lead Historian for the Illinois Freedom Project funded by the National Park Service Advisory Council for the Franklin Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum Exhibit on the Roosevelt’s and Race. Vice-president in the Black Chicago History Forum. Advisory Board of the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porters Museum. Faculty Advisory Council of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA), Executive Board (2009-2012).

Previous Service to ASALH:

Executive Council (2012-2015, 2017); Vice President for Programs (2017-2020); Academic Program Committee member (2010-present); Academic Program Committee co-chair/vice-chair (2014, 2015, 2016, 2012, 2021, 2022, 2023); National Centennial Celebration

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To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.



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Steering Committee; Chicago Centennial Celebration co-chair; Membership Committee; Nominating Committee; National Historic Sites Committee.

What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Member of ASALH:

I joined the Association as a graduate student in 1998. One of the things that piqued my interest and motivated me to join was my discovery of a copy of the Journal of African History in the university library. At that stage in my career, the Journal exposed me to a dynamic community of African American scholars, that I really did not see in Iowa, provided me with the inspiration to complete my own research and helped me to become an active participant in the field. In retrospect, I believe my experience may not be all that different from other ASALH members. For the past several years, I have had the great opportunity to participate in a number of discussions regarding the direction of ASALH and how the organization has and will change to meet the changing economic and programmatic landscape. One way to do this is to make our annual meeting a venue where existing and emerging black studies groups to convene their meetings and encourage their members to participate in ASALH. We were successful when we did this in Indianapolis, we have been successful when we did this with the Association of Black Women Historians, and I am confident we can do the same with other groups. Over the years we have noticed a trend that young scholars have increasingly expressed that there is no space for them in the Association. It's critical that we make concerted efforts to provide the space, resources, and opportunities to build their careers, find mentors, and learn the organization well enough so that one day they can take leadership roles. Our conversations and understanding of voices of young scholars have to change. as a result, the way by which we put on our programs must reflect these new scholarly trends. The economic and racial realities that confront ASALH present a number of challenges. One way to address is to return to the "big tent" rhetoric of our centennial and build stronger connections to organization with similar missions. Looking back, I think that we largely accomplished this. Our previous conventions have been some of the largest in recent history. But, as new organizations are founded and look to convene their own conferences and universities are

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increasingly cutting back on travel funding for our members in academic institutions, instead of a big tent we may find ourselves in a stiff competition for attendees. If elected to the Executive Council, I would like to continue to reach out to these new academic groups and continue to strengthen our existing relationships. During my service to ASALH, I worked hard to help make sure ASALH can continue to be a place where dynamic intellectual discussions are occurring. My work with ASALH TV, the Social Justice Consortium, and PBS Books have all helped ASALH create a space in a new intellectual space. If elected, I will work to make sure that we continue grow and remain the premier Black History organization.

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