



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

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22 February 2024

Dear ASALH Member,

You may well have received an email communication from “concerned ASALH members” requesting that you sign an electronic petition seeking to remove me as President of ASALH. Please note that it is very offensive that these members are sending out such a communication anonymously and are afraid to step up and identify who they are.

I ask you not to sign their petition. Ignore it. I remain greatly concerned about the continued attempts of some members of ASALH to place their personal agendas and grievances above the interests of our organization. I have been contacted by numerous ASALH members who are also just fed-up with the email communication from these “concerned members who are intent on revisiting a matter that most members of ASALH believe is a settled matter. If you do not want to receive further communications from these anonymous “concerned members”, you should send an email to the senders directing that they are not to send you any additional emails about this matter.

I sincerely regret having to bring this matter to your attention yet again, but I am compelled by my responsibilities as President of ASALH, and by my personal commitment to the principles of ASALH, to continue to fight for this organization that I hold dear. I am going to fight against the misinformation that is being circulated by the so-called “concerned members of ASALH.” I want you to have the following information which I believe will lead you to reject the request for you to sign the electronic petition to remove me as President of ASALH:

- I did not violate the ASALH Constitution and Bylaws when I reinstated the name of Dr. Daryl Scott on the slate of Executive Council candidates that had been submitted by the ASALH Nominating Committee. A number of members of the Executive Council decided that Mr. Scott’s name should be removed as a candidate, not because he did not meet the qualifications for office as set out in the ASALH Constitution, but because they had personal grievances against him for comments that some Executive Council members believed were disparaging of other members of the Executive Council.

- I reviewed the ASALH Constitution and Bylaws and determined that the only qualification for election to the Executive Council was to be a member of ASALH in good standing. Dr. Scott was a member in good standing, and the ASALH Constitution and Bylaws did not give the Executive Council the power to remove a candidate from the slate of candidates submitted by the ASALH Nominating Committee unless the candidate was not a member in good standing. I urged Executive Council members who were opposed to the candidacy of Dr. Scott to campaign against his election if they chose to do so, but that I would not allow ASALH to be exposed to possible litigation by accepting the improper removal of Dr. Scott from the slate of candidates for election.
- This issue was fully discussed at the October 30, 2023 ASALH Membership Meeting. Many of the same arguments raised in the electronic petition were raised at that meeting. ASALH members heard those arguments. ASALH members were provided two written legal opinions and a written opinion of a professional parliamentarian. After considering all of the foregoing, ASALH members voted to accept/ratify the election of Dr. Scott to the Executive Council.
- The office of President of ASALH was never vacant, and Dr. Ida Jones is not and has never been President of ASALH.
- On September 13, 2023, I did submit a letter of resignation as President of ASALH to the Secretary of ASALH. I submitted that letter of resignation impulsively, without consulting with others, and out of complete frustration with threats by Executive Council member Jarvis Givens to withhold funds from a funding source for the conference in Jacksonville.
- I immediately regretted sending the letter of resignation and was urged by supporters not to resign. I rescinded the letter of resignation the very next day – September 14, 2023. It is important to note that the ASALH Bylaws provide that ASALH follows Robert’s Rules of Order, and those rules provide that a letter of resignation of an officer of an organization is not effective until it is accepted by the organization, and it may be rescinded before it is accepted. Moreover, District of Columbia law allows a nonprofit organization such as ASALH to provide that ASALH will follow Robert’s Rules of Order in this regard.
- Again, at the October 30, 2023 ASALH Membership meeting, the very same arguments raised in the electronic petition were raised. ASALH members were provided with two written legal opinions and a written opinion from a professional registered parliamentarian. One of the legal opinions and the opinion of the parliamentarian concluded that my letter of resignation had been validly rescinded and that I remained President of ASALH. The other legal opinion concluded that my letter of resignation in and of itself was effective when issued on September 13, 2023 and could not be rescinded. The ASALH membership heard from and asked questions of the authors of the

legal opinions and the professional registered parliamentarian's opinion. Sixty-eight percent (68 %) of ASALH membership voted that my letter of resignation had been validly rescinded and that I remained President of ASALH.

- Notwithstanding the vote of the ASALH membership on October 30, 2023, these so-called concerned members of ASALH continue to refuse to accept the decision of the ASALH membership. They believe that ASALH is not governed by the membership, but by their judgment. That is a view I urge you to reject.
- I did not manipulate or ask others to manipulate the voting during the ASALH membership meetings on September 18, 2023, or October 30, 2023.
- Those two meetings had the largest number of ASALH members to participate in a virtual meeting. The instructions for participating in each of those virtual meetings were provided in advance. The Executive Director and her staff worked a help desk to assist members with technical issues. There simply was no way for our service provider (ZOOM) to know in advance how someone who logged in was going to vote. I gave no instructions to allow certain members to participate or to block certain members from participating in either of these meetings.
- I reported to you in a prior communication that the lawsuit filed against ASALH had been dismissed by the court.
- The electronic petition falsely states that the lawsuit filed against ASALH "... successfully obtained the ability to contact ..." ASALH members. Again, the lawsuit was dismissed after a motion to dismiss the lawsuit was filed on behalf of ASALH because the judge found the lawsuit to be wholly without merit. District of Columbia law, not the lawsuit, requires that ASALH provide the concerned members of ASALH to obtain a current membership list of ASALH upon request. The concerned members had made no such request prior to filing the lawsuit. ASALH agreed to provide a current membership list when the concerned members made that request in open court after their lawsuit had been dismissed. The lawsuit, like the electronic petition, was a colossal waste of time, money, and effort.
- Unfortunately, the so-called concerned members want to re-litigate matters that were resolved by the ASALH membership on October 30, 2023. They want to re-litigate matters that were flatly rejected by the court. They want to substitute their judgment on these matters for the judgment of the ASALH membership. They want to distract us all from the important work of ASALH in an attempt to settle petty grievances.

This is the third attempt by the so-called concerned members to distract ASALH from carrying out its very important work of promoting and defending our history. It is unfortunate that they are pursuing their petty, personal grievances during Black History Month. That in itself is an

indication of their lack concern for ASALH and its mission. If they are successful, what will they achieve? Will any of their efforts address some of ASALH's vital needs: increasing membership, raising more funds to improve its capacity, supporting ASALH's initiative to create Freedom Schools to teach our children our history, or marshalling its resources to carry out its mission? Of course, not.

I urge you to reject their petition. Do not sign the petition. Please show the so-called "concerned members of ASALH" that the energy, time and money that they are expending to divide our organization can be used better to help ASALH grow and carry out its mission.

I will continue to keep you updated with significant developments such as this recent request for you to sign a petition full of misrepresentations and lies. All former communications related to this matter will remain on the website on the member's page along with the names and photos of the plaintiffs of the dismissed lawsuit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "W. Marvin Dulaney", written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney
National President of ASALH