



# ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

301 RHODE ISLAND AVENUE, NW | SUITE 1508 | WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
202.238.5910 | ASALH.ORG

## Anita Shepard Class of 2024

### Current Employer:

Retired

### Professional Background:

- Ordained Minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Executive Council member since 2018
- National Membership Committee, 2011 – 2024
- Retired Human Resources Professional from AT&T
- Bank of America/Merrill Lynch, Wealth Mgt., Wealth Management Financial Advisor Wealth Support Associate, 2011-2021
- James Weldon Johnson Branch ASALH (JWJ), Past President (7 years),
- JWJ Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) Chair Annual Conference (2013)
- JWJ LAC Member, Jacksonville Annual Conference 2023
- United Way Loaned Executive



### Major Accomplishments:

Actively serving on the Executive Council (EC) for the past six years; three years as a corporate member representing Bank of America. Presently serving as the chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (A&F), co-chair of the Membership Support and Enhancement Committee, and Regional Coordinator for the Florida and Georgia branches. As a member of the Strategic Planning (SPC), helped to develop the decision-making model to expedite project approvals by the EC. The A&F committee reviewed all financial reports and statements to ensure sound accounting practices, adherence to the annual budgets, and oversight of ASALH's financial picture to minimize risks. Evaluated the need to raise the dues because of the economic environment and the

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increasing cost of running ASALH's business. Collaborated in the development of the A&F section of the EC Handbook and the overview of the Roles of Committee Chairs and Cluster Members. Engaged with the leadership team of the Planning Committee to ensure transparency and organizational constructive interaction. Other committee experiences include Governance and Nominating. Membership on the National Membership Committee (NMC) spans more than 11 years.

## **Previous Service to ASALH:**

Contributed to the review and creation of resources for the development of the Branch Procedural Handbook. Gained operational and relational experiences by serving in distinct roles in the local James Weldon Johnson ASALH Branch; Past President (7 years), Vice President of Membership, Treasurer, and Correspondence Secretary to support the ongoing development of a strong branch. Facilitated the branch's establishment as a 501 3C non-profit organization. Served as the Local Arrangements Committee Chair (LAC) for the 2013 annual conference in Jacksonville, FL, and as a LAC member for the 2023 annual conference held in Jacksonville. Currently serving on the Florida ASALH Coalition of Branches and as the regional coordinator for the ASALH Branches in FL and GA. Kept branches informed on national actions and membership updates, responded to branch concerns, and helped to address issues for the success of the 2023 annual conference. Helped to support the Cincinnati and Charleston branches as needed. Sponsored an oratorical contest which was open to all branches to participate. A youth member in the JWJ Branch won the \$1,000 prize and a member of the Charleston Branch won the \$500.00 prize. Supported local youth members who participated in the Malcolm X Festival hosted by the Atlanta Branch.

## **What I Hope to Accomplish as an Executive Council Officer of ASALH:**

ASALH is a membership organization that needs to have dedicated support, tools, and resources. The attack on the teaching of Black History and Black life in the national climate requires ASALH's members to remain on the front lines and committed to social justice. The network of branches and the national office provide informative programs to increase awareness and educate communities-at-large about broader issues, as well

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as local and family histories. My Executive Council and branch experiences have provided insight into the operational structures, and relational dynamics of members to provide support and address concerns.

The development of the Branch Procedural Handbook was the result of suggestions from the membership to enable strong branches. It provides information in simple one-page topics to address most questions. The Membership Support and Enhancement Committee will continue to make the website easier to navigate. It will also focus on improving the timeliness and flow of communication for better transparency between the membership, national office, EC, and officers for responsiveness and accountability. Lastly, efforts will focus on developing strategies to promote ASALH's growth.

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