



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

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Executive Council Meeting Thursday, 18 September 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order Kaye Whitehead, President
7:05pm EST

Roll Call David M. Walton, Secretary

Attendees: KARSONYA WISE WHITEHEAD, REV. ANITA SHEPHERD, AAISHA HAYKAL, DAVID WALTON, JOHN E. ADAMS, SYLVIA Y. CYRUS, FASHIKA WILLIS, John Ashley, Chadra Pittman, Lopez D. Matthews, Zebulon Vance Miletsky, Crystal Moten, Crystal Sanders, Camesha Scruggs, Carlton E. Wilson, Karen Cook Bell, Anthony Cade, Natanya Duncan, Lionel Kimble, Tomiko Meeks, Daryl Michael Scott, Gladys Gary Vaughn, Augustus C. Wood, Deirdre Foreman, Leslie Etienne, Kenvi Phillips, Walter Lanier,

Proxies: Haykal has A. Johnson's proxy. Scott has Cook-Bell's proxy. Duncan has Moten's proxy.

Approval Of Agenda

Moved by Kimble. Second, by Walton. Unanimous passing.

Approval of June 7, 2025, Minutes

Shepherd moved to accept minutes with amendment. Second, by Meeks. Unanimous passing.

Committee Reports

Membership - Anita Shepherd, Vice President for Membership

Membership Report

Discussion of Branch \$600 required donation. In part, there was a discussion of its validity and development of language. Sent back to committee to clarify.

The Membership Committee presents the following action items for approval by the Executive Council at the September 15, 2025, Planning Meeting. The applicants meet the requirements for phase 1 of the organizing requirements in the Branch Procedural Manual. Upon approval by the EC, the Vice President for Membership (VPM) will notify the applicants of the decision, allowing them to proceed with the Phase 2 process.

Motion 1

The Membership Committee moves for the acceptance of the application to organize a branch for the ASALH Northern Virginia Branch.

Out of committee, no second required. Unanimous passing.

Motion 2

The Membership Committee moves for the acceptance of the application to organize a branch for the New Bern-James City Branch of ASALH.

Out of committee, no second required. Unanimous passing.

Motion 3

The Membership and Governance Committees move for the approval of the document defining the probation sanction for the Branch Procedural Manual, under the Corrective Process of Section VII. Branch Compliance; C 8, pg 45.

Out of committee, no second required. Pass with one no vote.

Audit & Finance (A&F) – Carlton Wilson

A&F Report received and accepted.

Development

Donations & Grants

Recognition: Alpha Phi Alpha \$50K donation (thanks to Robert Harris)

AAAM Grant Award: \$25K for conference

Roll-out plan for EC Campaign (to be led by Carlton and John Ashley during the Thursday meeting)

A template letter will be provided to solicit donations from friends as “matching dollars”

EC members needed to serve as hosts for sponsors during meal functions (list to be available in Atlanta)

There will be 2 EC members at the EC Info table at the conference at a time from 9am-4pm

APC Conference - Augustus Wood
Over 1000 registrants as of today

Program - Aaisha Haykal, Vice-President for Programs

Group photos of HBCU, Divine Nine, Masons, Eastern Stars, etc.

Friday Boots on the Ground activities report (David Walton)

Motion

The Programs Committee moves to approve the 2027 Black History Executive Summary

Tabled to the September 24, 2025, EC Meeting

Freedom School – Leslie Etienne

We have concluded our interviews and scored the candidates. As it stands, Bishop Lawton has emerged as the person who received the most support to be hired for the position of national coordinator.

Upcoming EC Meetings

Wednesday In-Person Work session (Atlanta): 9:00 AM

Wednesday In-Person EC Meeting (Atlanta): 1:30 PM

Request for officer/committee items for these meetings

Planning Meeting for Next Conference (Atlanta): 8:30 AM

Upcoming Branch Meeting

In-person only: Saturday, September 27, 9:00 AM

Upcoming Members Business Meeting

In-person only: Saturday, September 27, 4:00 PM (Atlanta)

All EC Members expected to attend and sit up front in support of president and reports

Future Annual Conferences

2026 – 111th Annual Conference | ASALH – Norfolk, VA

2027 – OPEN - Input needed on best location for 2027 Annual Conference

2028 – 113th Annual Conference | ASALH

Discussion: Will 10 breakout rooms work? What is the impact of starting sessions on Wednesday/evenings?

Announcements

Passing of former ASALH President John Fleming (Yellow Springs, OH). No arrangements circulated yet.

Passing of Judge Quander, life member.

Motion to adjourn. Meeks moved Seconded by Haykal. Unanimous passing

Meeting adjourned 9:07pm EST

Approved by Executive Council on November 20, 2025

Submitted by David M. Walton Secretary