



ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY®

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Executive Council Meeting Thursday, 20 November 2025

MINUTES

Call to Order
7:04pm EDT

Kaye Whitehead, President

Roll Call

David M. Walton, Secretary

Attendees: Karsonya Wise Whitehead, David Walton, Sylvia Y. Cyrus, Chadra Pittman, Sundiata K. Cha-Jua, Lopez D. Matthews, Zebulon Miletsky, Crystal Moten, Camesha Scruggs, Carlton E. Wilson, Anthony Cade, Aisha Johnson, Tomiko Meeks, Daryl Michael Scott, Gladys Gary Vaughn, Augustus C. Wood, Kenvi Phillips, Walter Lanier, James Morgan, Denise Rolarke Barnes.

Parliamentarian: Fashika Willis

Guest: Tondra Loder-Jackson

Proxies: Carlton E. Wilson has Anita Shepherd's proxy. Crystal Moten has Crystal Sanders' proxy. Daryl Michael Scott has Karen Cook Bell's proxy. David Walton has Leslie Etienne's proxy.

Approval Of Agenda

Motion 1: Moved by Tomiko Meeks to approve November 20, 2025, Executive Council Meeting Agenda as modified, seconded by Gladys Gary Vaughn. Passed

Approval of September 18 and 24, 2025 Minutes

Motion 1: Moved by James Morgan to adopt September 18, 2025, Executive Council Meeting Minutes with necessary corrections, seconded by Chadra Pittman. Passed

Motion 2: Moved by James Morgan to adopt September 24, 2025, Annual Business Meeting Minutes, seconded by Tomiko Meeks. Passed

I. President's Report - Kaye Whitehead, President

1. National Convenings
 - a. Feb 1st - Sunday
 - b. Juneteenth – June 18th Thursday
 - c. July 4 – July 2nd Thursday
 - d. Centering/Highlighting Freedom Schools
2. Luncheon Feb 28, 2026
 - a. Encourage EC to purchase 3 tix each (one for themselves and two extra)
 - b. 4 Tables -Darryl M. Scott
 - c. 5 Tables (2 or more for students) – John Ashley
 - d. 1 Table -President Whitehead
 - e. EC Meeting Feb 27, 2026, in Washington DC
3. 2027 Annual Conference has not been confirmed. President Whitehead suggests Baltimore. 2028 will be in Florida.
4. 150th Celebration of Woodson's Birthday in Dunbar High School in Washington DC

II. Committee Reports

Chadra Pittman has been appointed as a member of the Marketing and Public Relations Committee.

Colita Fairfax has been appointed as Chair of the 2026 Local Arrangements Committee. She is a member of the Hampton Roads branch. She is a professor at Norfolk State University.

Membership – Carlton E. Wilson (for Anita Shepherd, Vice President for Membership)

Membership Committee Report received and accepted

Audit & Finance (A&F) – Carlton E. Wilson

Motion 1: Moved by James Morgan to receive the Audit and Finance report, seconded by Chadra Pittman. Passed

990 form submitted November 15, 2025.

Development – President Whitehead

Development Committee Report received and accepted

Governance – Walter Lanier

Governance Committee Report received and accepted

Marketing and Public Relations – Zebulon Miletsky

Marketing and Public Relations Committee Report received and accepted

Gavel was temporarily passed to the Secretary – 830 pm EDT

Nominating – Daryl Scott

Nominating Committee Report received and accepted

Gavel was returned to the President – 840 pm EDT

Awards – Camesha Scruggs

Awards Committee moved to notify award recipients in the award letter that Awards Banquet or Black History Month Luncheon attendance is mandatory for acceptance of the award. Passed (5 opposed).

III. Program - Aaisha Haykal, Vice-President for Programs

Black History Month Luncheon – Gladys Gary Vaughn

Committee Report received and accepted

ASALH TV/Virtual Black History Program – Lopez Matthews

Committee Report received and accepted

IV. Freedom School, Sundiata Cha-Jua

- a. Current Mellon Grant of \$150,000 and the new proposal (concept note) for \$285,000.
 - i. We have 9 current Freedom Schools.
 - ii. We hired Bishop Lawton as the Executive Director.

V. Executive Director’s Report – Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director

Update on open balances from EC members for the \$1300 donation/dues that are due by December 31, 2025. Recommended that it is paid by December 20, 2025. We expect you to have interrupted membership.

Conflict of Interest forms and Code of Ethics forms must be signed by all 2026 EC members by December 31, 2025. DocuSign copies will be sent out. Code of Conduct and Anti-Harassment forms.

Any committee requesting additional funds/expense submit to Carlton or Sylvia by Monday.

VI. Announcements

Support for Aaisha Haykal in her time of mourning.

Support for A.J. Cade in his time of mourning.

Support for Zebulon Miletsky on healing from a broken foot.

We received thank you notes from Oliver McNair, the conference photographer and Ty Collins, President of the Charleston Branch. They both are on the mend.

Executive Director Cyrus received the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc “Citizen of the Award”

Consider working with “Blacks in Wax program” for the Black History Month Luncheon.

Tomiko Meeks move to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sundiata Cha-Jua. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 923pm EDT

Approved by Executive Council on December 18, 2025

Submitted by David M. Walton Secretary