

THE AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB
General Meeting
April 1, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Prentiss Gates, Vice-President at 10:32 am.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION - Prentiss Gates/Earl Jenkins

WELCOME - Ellie Graham, President welcomed everyone with a special recognition for visitors and new members. April birthdays and special events were acknowledged.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made to approve the March minutes by Marcia Nembhard and seconded by Rosann Carter.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Nothing to report

REPORTS -

- **Treasurer** - Sheila Samuel gave the financial report. Opening balance - \$8,069.09;. Total revenue - \$2541 Total Expenses - \$442. There is \$1,087 43 budgeted for the White Dance, a donation of \$4,000 to SAHCC and a donation of \$150 for Juneteenth.

Ellie announced that we will need an approval for an audit by the end of June.

- **Membership** - Sheila Haire - we currently have 245 paid and 442 members on the roster. Members who are not receiving emails can see her after the meeting. She encouraged the membership to invite others to attend the meetings and join the Club. New member orientations are planned for April 24 and October 24. Invitations will go out soon.
- **Program** - Yvonne Loney thanked and acknowledged those who helped to make Mardi Gras the success it was. Total figures will be available at the next meeting. White Dance ticket sales went well this morning, with only 23 tickets left. 20th Anniversary Celebration is still in planning stages. The Golf Outing has been cancelled due to high costs.
- Prentiss gave an update on plans for Juneteenth (June 19) which is a collaboration of clubs. It will be an all day event with a carnival atmosphere including food trucks and games and an entire day of events. He encouraged member to come out to enjoy the day and demonstrate culture. AHCC has the ballroom and will be showing a movie along with other activities.
- **Outreach** - Denise Johnson acknowledged the Men of AHCC and Sistahs who Bake for the coffee set up. She encouraged members to continue bringing goodies and to opt for healthy items. She reported that 37 members attended an Outreach committee meeting on January 27 for a brainstorming session. Several ideas/ activities were discussed from which she can choose and plan for the year.

The focus for Outreach going forward is to identify schools who might have lost funding and need some kind of assistance to provide activities for students. She's heading up the Education task force and has already visited a few schools. Volunteers are needed. Special thanks to Deldra Eaton and the line dancers who will be making a special donation.

- **Parliamentarian** - Joan Hogarth introduced her committee and reported that a draft of the proposed changes to the By-laws will be available on the website and will be discussed at the June meeting when members have the opportunity vote on the amendments.
- **Communication** - Greg Crosby announced that they are currently working on the Club's website to give members access to review upcoming events and update their information.
- **Historian** - Bobby Vance acknowledged the visitor who mentioned that his relative was a buffalo soldier pointing out that AHCC played a role having a memorial erected in Polk county in their memory. He mentioned that Uncle Nearest's Premium whiskey, founded by Fawn Seaver is now a billion dollar sellout. The whiskey was named after Nathan 'Nearest' Green, the enslaved man who taught Jack Daniels how to make whisky. Ground has already been broken for an African American museum in St. Augustine. March 27th (every 4th Thursday in March) is designated Tuskegee Airmen Day.

SAHCC - Ellie presented a check for \$4000 to the board of SAHCC. Lois Duncan thanked the club for donations, pointing out how much of a difference we can make.

Page Turners - Rosann Carter - The book club will celebrate 17 years in April with a luncheon at Bahama Breeze on Thursday, April 24 at 1:00 pm. The book for April is ***The Couple Next Door*** by Shari Lapena. The book club is open to all AHCC women and meets the 4th Thursday of the month except November in the Riviera at 2:00 pm.

Other Information - **Kwanzaa Frazier** encouraged everyone to order club shirts.

Health Information - Dr, Gayle Porter and Dr. Marilyn Gaston gave an informative presentation on ***High Blood Pressure and Dementia*** followed by questions and answers.

MEETING ADJOURNED - Meeting adjourned at 12:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Marion Hogarth

Recording Secretary

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