

THE AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB
General Meeting
May 6, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 10:40 am by Ellie Graham, President in the absence of Prentiss Gates, Vice-President.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION - Kelvin Lee

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

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS - Ellie said that the board has been together for five months and that sometimes we hit the mark and at other times we haven't but we're still working hard at it. She acknowledged Yvonne and her committee for the hard work in executing the White Dance and announced that Dr. Gaston and Dr. Porter have left a list of therapists, available for anyone who needs it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made to approve the April minutes by Barbara Glover and seconded by Robin Wilson.

REPORTS -

- **Treasurer** - Sheila Samuel gave the financial report. Opening balance - \$5,406.37, Total revenue - \$5,013.36, Total Expenses - \$1,978.28. Storage fee of \$1,287.00 was paid for the year so we could receive a discount. Ellie announced that an audit of our books will be done today at 12:30 pm. Report will be given next month.
- **Correspondence Secretary** - Margaret Graham requested prayers for the following members. Medical - Donald Duncan, Stanley Dillard, Chris Storey, Alice Rucker, Reuben Cowart, Maureen Williams, Nathan Stewart, Eugenia Young, Rochelle Young, Roderma Beadley's mother, Debra Gates' mother. Death in family - Carol Rose (husband), Donna Gilmer (husband), Laquita Lee (father). She also asked members to inform her of any special needs for prayers.
- **Membership** - The new member orientation which was scheduled for April 24 was cancelled. The orientation for October 24 is still on schedule.
- **Program** - Yvonne Loney gave updates. Mardi Gras netted \$1,091.00. She thanked all who attended the White Dance and acknowledged those who helped to make it a success. Our next event is Juneteenth and she asked for volunteers to sign up. There's also a sign up sheet for members to express their preference for the 20TH Anniversary celebration. She needs everyone's input, especially members who have been with the club for a long time. Ellie gave a brief history of how AHCC was formed.
- **Outreach** - Denise Johnson acknowledged the Men of AHCC and Sistahs who Bake for the coffee set up. She requested volunteers for Palmetto High School's

Renaissance Fair scheduled for May 23. They are seeking volunteers for 2 hour commitments to help with various stations at the fair. The committee is also working on a holiday program.

- **Parliamentarian** - Joan Hogarth explained that there were changes to the roles of the Financial Secretary and the Membership Coordinator. The marked up changes are available on the website and the amendments will be voted on at the June meeting.
- **Communication** - Greg Crosby announced that the website is accessible by scanning the QR code on the screen. It has been updated and will be regularly. It is a good tool for information and members will be able to update their information, view upcoming events and send emails.

- **Club Announcements**

SAHCC - Lois Duncan announced that contributors to the scholarship fund should have received invitations to the annual luncheon. She thanked them for their ongoing support. Members can still contribute and receive an invitation. Next year will be the fund's 20th anniversary.

T-shirts - Kwanzaa Frazier asked members who had ordered shirts to stop by the table to ensure that orders were accurate to avoid returns and exchanges. She also encouraged members who had not yet ordered to order today. A special surprise is in store for members who wear t-shirts to meetings.

White Dance - Ellie asked that if anyone had taken pictures at the White Dance to please forward them to Greg for Reflections submission.

Page Turners - Rosann Carter

The book for May is ***Never Saw Me Coming*** by Tanya Smith. 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 - Yvonne invited members to attend the Caramvita concert on June 22, at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$25.00. She handed out special awards to her committee members for their assistance with the White Dance.

- **Historian** - Bobby Vance introduced guest speaker, Dorothy Schwartz. He described her as 'the speaker who doesn't want to be spoken about' and 'an ordinary person who does extraordinary things'. He recalled how his Nextdoor Post inspired a group of individuals who would meet weekly to discuss issues and Dorothy was an integral part of the group. She will share some of the work that she does here in the US and Africa.

SHOWCASE AHCC MEMBER - Dorothy Schwartz

Dorothy thanked Bobby for his introduction and Ellie and the board for allowing her to talk about her work in Nairobi. She then delivered a presentation on the different programs which she works with in various countries in Africa, including testimonials from students and teachers. She talked about the sponsorship program for higher education which included donors from AHCC as well as other community members. Bobby and Carrie Vance will be joining her on one of her trips later this year.

MEETING ADJOURNED - Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Marion Hogarth

Recording Secretary

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