

THE AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB
General Meeting
September 2, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by Prentiss Gates, Vice-President. He called for a moment of silence for the sick and bereaved.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION - Denise Archibald

WELCOME - Ellie Graham, President welcomed everyone and acknowledged August and September birthdays, anniversaries and other special events. Visitors were asked to introduce themselves.

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS - Ellie reminded the audience about the upcoming event *Boots on the Ground* and *Anniversary/Holiday Gala*.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made to approve the June minutes by Akila Mashariki and seconded by Vivian Batts.

REPORTS -

- **Treasurer** - Sheila Samuel gave the financial report. Opening balance - \$10,086.55 Total revenue - \$1,120 plus reimbursement - \$560. Total Balance is \$11,766.55
- **Correspondence Secretary** - Margaret Graham requested prayers for the the sick and shut-in and bereaved members. (List was displayed with two corrections). The list will appear on the website. She requested that members notify the club of anyone needing prayers.
- **Program** - Marva Williams gave updates. *Boots on the Ground dance* is sold out. There will be a contest for best dressed cowboy/girl attires and attendees will have an opportunity to sign up at the door to enter the contest. The *Anniversary/Holiday Gala* tickets will go on sale on October 7. Prices are not yet available.
- **Membership** - Sheila Haire. Membership is still at 258 paid members. Three new members joined today. Dues for 2026 will be collected beginning next month. Orientation for new members is scheduled for October 24. Invitations will be sent soon.
- **Outreach** - Denise Johnson showed a slide show of the 2025 activities and thanked the participants. She thanked Sharon, who will continue to coordinate the Sistahs who Bake, and the Men of AHCC for providing the coffee. She is looking for volunteers to work with her committee and is focusing on the *Great American Teacher Day (Career Day)*. Speakers from various professions are needed for this event and especially educators who can assist with preparation for the event. She is also seeking donations for the Eastside School, between November 4-11 to stock the school store so the students can shop for Christmas gifts on December 7. Volunteers are also welcome for that day to help the students choose and wrap gifts. The Renaissance Fair for Palmetto is planned for April 10 next year instead of May.

- **Parliamentarian** - Joan Hogarth noted that the amended bylaws are now on the website. She also noted that Kathy Griffin was nominated for the newly created position of Financial Secretary and needs to be voted in. Having confirmed that there was a quorum (96), Prentiss Gates, VP called for approval through a show of hands. Kathy Griffin was unanimously voted by a majority show of hands, as Financial Secretary. Akilah Mashariki discussed the proposed remote voting process which will allow absentee voting for the club's elections. She explained that only paid members would be allowed to vote using email. She discussed the logistics and requested ten volunteers for a test. She explained that it will be cost-effective (approximately \$50 for the entire organization).
- **Communication** - Greg Crosby encouraged members to continue using the website. Pertinent information and minutes will be posted after each meeting. Members can still utilize the website to update personal information.

- **Club Announcements**

Page Turners - Rosann Carter

The book for October is ***Black Girls Must Die Exhausted*** by Jayne Allen. The book club is open to all AHCC women and meets the 4th Thursday of each month, except November, in the Riviera at 2:00 pm.

- **Historian** - Bobby Vance showed a video depicting the attack on black history. He reiterated that what AHCC represents and what we stand for are under attack, including our culture and our art. Of note is the fact that the Smithsonian Institute has been targeted. One particular exhibition ***Drexciya*** by acclaimed photographer, Ayana Jackson depicting mythical aquatopia of pregnant women jumping or being thrown overboard during the Middle Passage has been criticized by the current administration. He cited other examples of how black history is being stripped away. He presented a resolution to be adopted by the AHCC, read by Carrie Vance. He made a motion to support the resolution and it unanimously passed by an overwhelming majority. Carrie will be taking names of members who would like to serve on an ad hoc committee chaired by Bobby.

MEETING ADJOURNED - Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Keith Eaton and seconded by Akila Mashariki. Meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Marion Hogarth

Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 7, 2025 - 10:30 AM STARLITE BALLROOM

WEBSITE: ahcc-Solivita.org

Username: ahcc2014

Password: weareahcc

Facebook African Heritage Cultural Club - AHCC