
Subject: We Were Lied to by Our Treasuer and It Cannot Stand for the Good of ASALH

From: Daryl Scott (darylmichaelscott@outlook.com)

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Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:25 AM

Dear Branch Presidents,

As some of you know, I have dedicated much of my professional life to rebuilding ASALH, working daily for thirteen years until the end of the centennial just over a year ago. A week later, I learned of a rushed effort to take the Journal of African American History z(JAAH) to a university press. This was the agenda of the newly elected president, though she had neither campaigned on the issue, nor explored the possibility with the board or the membership. Woodson founded our Association to self-publish the journal, not to have a scholarly conference or branches, but to publish the truth ourselves, independently. The journal pays it own way despite misrepresentations to the contrary, and if necessary slight adjustments can keep it that way. Thus, I have been fighting to keep this violation of our core tradition from happening for a year. Most of you know by now, I put a legally binding motion on the floor at the Business Meeting in Richmond to continue self-publishing. Against our constitution, Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham usurped our constitutional authority as the legislative branch, we the members, to make this decision and claimed it belonged solely to the Executive Council.

We do not simply advise or consent, we are the legislative body of ASALH. It is in our constitution and by-laws. The Executive Council must bring the issue back to the members in at the 102nd Annual Meeting in Cincinnati.

I write to let you know that we were lied to in Richmond by those who presented reports, but primarily by our treasurer, Gilbert A. Smith, a certified public accountant. Along with falsely being told that all members would receive free print journals, we were told over and over that the Chicago Proposal would give us \$100,000 in profit. Mind you, the CPA said profit, not revenue. He left an erroneous impression that our journal was only breaking even, but with Chicago we would make \$99,000 plus more than we do.

This was very persuasive to those who did not know two things. The JAAH normally makes \$30,000, and will again this year. And that the \$100,000 is revenue, not profit. There are over \$50,000 in charges that go against it, and this does not count the promise of the not-so-free print journals. Those would cost \$40,000. Publishing ourselves, we make \$30,000 and because of the lie and promises going with Chicago would net us roughly \$10,000. We would be losing roughly \$20,000 a year. I came to Richmond with cash and pledges totaling \$55,000 to show those of us opposed were serious, but we were temporarily shut down. Truth and commitment will win out!

When a deal is this good, you would expect the proposal would be shared with decision makers. Yet transparency has been wholly lacking. The leadership never showed actual proposals to the board

until *after* the Richmond meeting. There was and still is a motion on the floor to continue self-publishing, and going forward with a contract would be a violation of Robert's Rules of Order, which our constitution requires us to follow. Yet, they try to move forward. They have passed unconstitutional confidentially rules that would prevent board members from sharing information required for members to make informed decisions, a violation of the 2002 Sarbanes Oxley Act. Many folks will not honor that nonsense, and so the proposal is attached. I want to bring to your attention the smoking gun, the big lie--that Chicago will profit us \$100,000.

From the University of Chicago Proposal

Guaranteed Income—Fixed

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Editorial Office*	45,000	46,350	47,740	49,172	50,647
Remainder	55,000	57,000	59,000	61,000	63,000
Total to ASALH	100,000	103,350	106,740	110,172	113,647

**\$45,000 has been earmarked as an amount sufficient to support the editorial office as currently configured; however, the total amount paid by UCP to ASALH may be used at the sole discretion of ASALH.*

So the editorial offices must be paid for *from the \$100,000*. That amount is low as it entails the editor and his assistant, and part of the salaries and benefits of two members of headquarters. It also must include postage, shipping, and other overhead expenses. The number is more like between \$55k and \$60k. And what if VP demands that pay raise that he called for in December of 2015? Yet, by calling revenue profits, the proposal was falsely promoted as a boon. By saying a free journal would be put in every mailbox, the deal was supposed to be sealed. (Even though it would chew up the little profit). Lies and misrepresentations notwithstanding, they were afraid of allowing full debate and a vote. The disenfranchised us, claiming, in effect, that they are at once the Executive and the Legislative body of ASALH. Now that's Trumpian!!!

What We Must Do Immediately: We cannot have a treasurer who gives false financial reports. That cannot stand. We certainly cannot have one lying to end a century of our self-publishing the journal founded and published by Woodson and the Association. **The Treasurer must be recalled.** I have written the Executive Board of ASALH and asked that the constitutional provision for recalling the treasurer be pursued. I warned them that if this was not done by our executive branch, I will appeal to the membership, our legislative branch, to launch a recall campaign. I write to apprise you of this development and to solicit your support. Voice your opinion, and learn all you can. Demand numbers and formal reports. If they invoke confidentiality, be sure to tell them that you, as a member, are actually a legislator when you attend the Business Session at the Annual Meetings. The Sarbanes Oxley Act of 2002 insists that you have the financial information to make decisions. You have a decision to make, and you need the real evidence.

Those of you who have been with ASALH some time know that I will not quit on this issue. The members cannot be lied to, period, and certainly we cannot be lied to not about the most important tradition we have. Know that if the Executive Council signs a contract before we meet in Cincinnati to resolve this issue, every effort will be made to block the move.

Anyone wishing to write me or call me about this matter, my home number is 301-574-1476.

I will keep you posted, and you can read more about this matter on www.getrightwithwoodson.com



Get Right with Woodson – Vision, Values, and Ideals

www.getrightwithwoodson.com

Too little attention is given to Carter G. Woodson as a person, an intellectual, and an institution builder. His name is invoked by people who often know no more than ...

I urge you to sign up.

Sincerely,

Daryl Michael Scott
Immediate Past President of ASALH
Life Member

Attachments

- [Income table from Chicago Proposal.jpg \(51.73KB\)](#)