THE AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB
General Meeting
April 7, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 10:36 am by Prentiss Gates, Vice-President.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION - Denise Archibald

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS - Ellie Graham, President acknowledged birthdays, anniversaries and special events. Jerry Demings will be at the Democratic Club meeting tomorrow and she requested that we attend to show support. She acknowledged recognition plaque from Living Water Children's Fund (LWCF).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made to approve the March 2026 minutes by Maurice Jackson and seconded by Ray Ramos.

REPORTS -

- **Treasurer** - Sheila Samuel presented the report with one correction 'beginning balance' should be March not January.

  Opening balance - $9,905.04
  Total revenue - $1,367.83
  Total expenses - $4,033.15
  Ending balance - $7,239.72

- **Financial Secretary** - Kathy Griffin excused.

- **Correspondence Secretary** - Margaret Graham will send a get well card to Myra Birch and Marie Lynch who have been ill.

- **Membership** - Sheila Haire. To date there are 253 renewed and 14 new members for a total of 267. Orientation will be held for new members on April 24 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Invitations will be sent this week and sign up sheets are available. New members who have never been to an orientation should notify her. Deadline for RSVP's is April 15.

- **Program -** Yvonne Loney. Tickets for the White Dance on May 8 are available today. She pointed out that the theme has been changed from ***The Roaring Twenties - Cotton Club*** to ***Stompin' at the Savoy***. Bobby Vance will talk more about it in his presentation. There will be a Members Appreciation Picnic immediately after the June meeting which will include food, games and a history lesson. The club calendar has been updated and is available on the website. Game night has not been doing well and she proposed that we have a combined game day with Caramvita. Suggestions for ideas are also welcome.

- **Outreach -** Denise Johnson thanked Men of AHCC and the Sistahs who Bake. The towel drive for the shelter in Winter Haven is ongoing through May 20. A drop off table will be

available outside the ballroom next month. Cash donations can also be made. Palmetto's Renaissance Fair is scheduled for Friday and volunteers for two-hour shifts are still needed. She is hoping to work with the Boys and Girls Club in Haines City on an end of the year event. Volunteer signup sheets are available at the tables.

- **Parliamentarian** - Joan Hogarth announced that 2026 AHCC elections will be held in October. Volunteers are still needed. Ellie has appointed Lakita Lee as chair for the Nominating Committee and Earl Jennings for the Elections Committee. The positions to be filled include President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Membership Coordinator. Job descriptions are in the bylaws which are on the website. In response to whether snowbirds will be able to vote, Joan said that the system is in place and will be available only to those who cannot come to the ballroom. The volunteers identified at the meeting were asked to speak to Joan or Ellie.

- **Historian** - Bobby Vance gave a brief history and showed a video of the Cotton Club vs. the Savoy in Harlem in the 1920's. The Cotton Club's history was brought to his attention by a member who lived in Harlem. He explained that the Cotton Club was a whites only establishment owned by an Irish gangster, Owney Madden, featuring black musicians and capitalizing on racist entertainment. The Savoy, on the other hand, owned by a Jewish man, Moe Gale was run by Charles Buchanan, a black man and was known for its no discrimination policy and fair pay for the entertainers.

- **Communications -** Greg Crosby announced that at the next meeting, he will conduct a tutorial of how to navigate the website. Members are welcome to bring their devices to the meeting.

- **Club Announcements -**

  Page Turners - Rosann Carter Page
  This year the book club will be celebrating 18 years with a luncheon at Outback Steakhouse on Marigold Avenue on April 23, at 1:00 pm followed by dessert at her house. This month's book is ***The Other Side of the Pillow*** by Zane. The club meets every 4th Thursday at 2:00 pm in the Riviera except for November when they meet on the 3rd Thursday and no meeting in December.

  Dr. Lois Duncan thanked everyone who had signed up for the Kwanzaa candles but unfortunately she was told that only religious events can be recognized. Other ideas were suggested for later discussion. The SAHCC will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with an extravaganza at Lake Eva. Contributions to the fund are always welcomed. Mentors are also needed for scholarship recipients and volunteers can contact her or Victoria Chapman.

  Other
  Shades of Sisterhood event ***Hotter than July - a Tribute to Stevie Wonder*** will be held on May 2. Tickets are $35 and available from Gabby Thomas 917-653-4743
  Caramvita - ***Spring Fling Dance with Comedy*** **-** May 5. Tickets are $35 and will be on sale in the Farmers Market on Friday or from Sheila Haire. Tea party being planned for June 13.
  Sixteen Shooters is hosting a ***Pool School*** on April 16 at 1:00 pm.

DMV club is sponsoring ***You, Me and Tuscany*** at the Theater in Davenport

MEETING ADJOURNED - Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Keith Eaton and seconded by Maurice Jackson. Meeting adjourned at 12:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Marion Hogarth
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING MAY 5, 2026 - 10:30 AM STARLITE BALLROOM

WEBSITE: ahcc-Solivita.org
Username: ahcc2014
Password: weareahcc
Facebook African Heritage Cultural Club - AHCC