THE AFRICAN HERITAGE CULTURAL CLUB
General Meeting
June 2, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 am by Prentiss Gates Vice-President.

WORDS OF INSPIRATION - Sabrina Chandler

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS - Ellie Graham, President introduced Deva Simmons who is running for Congress in District 18. Ms. Simmons spoke briefly about the chaos and confusion that is being caused by the redistricting and encouraged members to call the Elections office to make sure they're registered to vote.
Ellie Graham acknowledged all military personnel and thanked them for their service. She acknowledged May birthdays and anniversaries and requested participants for the Juneteenth parade.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Motion was made to approve the May 2026 minutes by Akila Mashariki and seconded by John Wynn.

REPORTS -

- **Correspondence Secretary** - Margaret Graham announced the passing of Barbara Pasquet and Eugenia Young's sister (Rochelle Young's aunt) and requested prayers for the families. She welcomed back Marie Lynch and Myra Burch.

- **Treasurer** - Sheila Samuel presented a correction to last month's financial report. Closing balance for the month of April is $11,504.15.

  Opening balance - $11,504.15
  Total income - $815.25
  Total expenses - $1,790.38
  Closing balance - $10,529.02

- **Financial Secretary** - No report

- **Membership** - Sheila Haire reported that membership stands at 284 paid members.

- **Program -** Ellie Graham announced that Yvonne Loney is recuperating from surgery. She thanked participants for making the White Dance a success. Smooth Jazz tickets are $25 and will go on sale later this month.

- **Outreach -** Denise Johnson thanked the Men of AHCC and the Sistahs who Bake. Greg Crosby is recruiting new members for the Men of AHCC. All men who wish to be a part of the fellowship should see Greg after the meeting. The towel drive for the shelter in Winter Haven was a huge success with 125 towels collected. The committee is currently exploring opportunities for the Fall.

- **Parliamentarian** - Joan Hogarth introduced the members of the Nominating committee chaired by Keith Eaton and the Election Committee chaired by Kathy Griffin. The lists are also on the website. The elected positions to be voted on include President, Vice-President, Recording and Correspondence Secretaries, Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Membership Coordinator. Everyone is encouraged to nominate someone or themselves. Job descriptions are included in the bylaws on the website.

- **Election Procedure -** Ken Darby explained that in order to continue AHCC's legacy, it is important that we have candidates to fill each position. To nominate a candidate for any of the elected positions, members can complete a form or contact any member of the Nominating Committee. Members can self nominate or submit other names. Candidates will be presented at the September meeting.

- **Juneteenth** - Ben Kizer explained that after several requests by Calvin Mack to Lifestyles, they have agreed to co-sponsor Juneteenth, which is a collaboration of fifteen clubs and scheduled for June 19th. He reviewed the activities for the day and encouraged participation.

- **Historian** - Bobby Vance acknowledged his and Carrie's 26th wedding anniversary. He explained the root of the word ***picnic*** which means coming together with food in an outdoor setting. For the Black Community it had conjured a different meaning of an unsavory event. He pointed out that the word has two meanings and it is in the spirit of the French root that we come together for Juneteenth to pay tribute for the hard work of so many. As a follow up on what Deva Simmons said earlier, he encouraged members to look beyond the new maps and not let them stand in the way of our values.

- **Club Announcements**

Page Turners Book Club - June's book is ***Mrs. Wiggins*** by Mary Monroe. The book club will meet on June 25 at 2:00 pm in the Rivera.
SAHCC - Dr. Lois Duncan thanked the donors for the scholarship fund.
This year, $25,000 scholarships were awarded.

MEETING ADJOURNED - Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sheila Haire and seconded by Sheila Samuel. Meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Marion Hogarth
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 - 10:30 AM STARLITE BALLROOM

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