

ASWAD Treasurer Statement

I am honored to stand for election for the position of treasurer ASWAD. In this role, I would work tirelessly to maintain the integrity of our organization's financial health ensured under the stewardship of previous treasurers. I would build upon this monetary base by collaborating with other Board and general body members to identify avenues to enhance our income streams. I endeavor to expand the range of giving opportunities linked to different donation levels, especially during non-conference years. I equally aspire to cultivate financial partnerships with academic units, community partners, and other organizations who share ASWAD's mission of the serious and multidisciplinary study of African descended people throughout the globe. Finally, I would strive to increase the number of endowments available to support our members who experience frequent economic variability.

Before joining the faculty of Beloit College in 2016, my work as a project manager and lead graduate research assistant during post-doctoral and doctoral training sensitized me on how to attend to every detail of a project, from conceptualization to implementation. Managing budgets and being focused on delivering high-quality work within financial constraints honed my skills to be highly innovative while simultaneously remaining financially pragmatic. Relying on these skills, I volunteered to complete the research on which software platform would offer ASWAD the fullest range of flexibility and meet our expanding organizational needs. As part of this research, I kept a keen eye on which software program would offer the highest degree of accessibility to multiple generations of users. Through this process, we were able to select MemberClicks as the system that would help ASWAD continue to enhance our global connections.

I expanded my service to ASWAD as co-chair for the 2017 conference Program Committee (PC) in Seville, Spain. Part of my responsibilities as PC co-chair was to work closely with Executive Board members and ASWAD graduate assistant to transition into MemberClicks to facilitate proposal submission, membership payment, conference registration, and payment of additional programming fees. For this service I received the inaugural President's Award. Since then I have chaired ASWAD's new Technology Taskforce "working behind the scenes" to continue ensuring that we were able to remain connected throughout our worldwide network and complete abstract submissions for our much-anticipated conference in Williamsburg, VA.

The next treasurer of our organization will need to be experienced with all features of MemberClicks. They must accomplish this while simultaneously looking forward to generating new ways to increase and sustain our revenue streams. This work will take a level of deep commitment while being innovative in recruiting small and large opportunities alike to keep our organization evergreen.

I have been a committed member of ASWAD since 2007, attending all conferences and later serving as the PC co-chair for Seville. I now request the opportunity and honor to serve as your treasurer to ensure our work continues to thrive for generations to come.

En la lucha buena,

Sonya Maria Johnson, Ph.D.
Socio-cultural Anthropology
African American & African Studies
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
ACM-Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellow
Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies

Beloit College