

AAHGS Metro Atlanta – General Meeting

DATE: January 24, 2026, **TIME:** 1:00 PM EST **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

BY: Clevlyn Anderson **NUMBER OF ATTENDEES:** 30

Welcome and Introduction

The meeting was opened at approximately 1:06 PM by President **Clevlyn Anderson**, who welcomed members to the first chapter meeting of 2026. Attendees were reminded that the session was being **recorded** for documentation and member access.

Meeting Etiquette and Disclaimer

- **Etiquette:** Participants were instructed to remain on **mute**, use the "raise hand" icon or chat for questions, and rejoin if experiencing technical difficulties.
- **Disclaimer:** The **intellectual property and copyright notice** was read, stating that all materials and guest presentations are legally protected and may not be replicated without permission.

Presentation: Historic Bratton Plantation and Enslaved Ancestral Burial Ground

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa Bratton, Associate Professor of History at Tuskegee University.

Presentation Highlights:

- **Ancestral Legacy:** Dr. Bratton is only five generations removed from **Green and Melinda Bratton**, who were enslaved at the Brattonsville plantation in South Carolina.
- **Historical Authenticity:** Brattonsville is a county historic site in York County, SC, portraying life as it was in **1850** using researched tools, clothing, and fences.
- **Forms of Resistance:** The presentation highlighted several ways ancestors resisted oppression:
 - **Land Ownership:** Green and Melinda Bratton were the first freedmen in York County to purchase land from former enslavers, paying it off 13 days early in 1879.
 - **Black Militias:** Jim Williams, a friend of Green Bratton, formed a black militia to combat KKK activity in York County.
 - **Civic Engagement:** Records confirm Green Bratton was a **registered voter** and a potential juror for a murder trial involving a white man.
- **Burial Ground:** In February 2025, a memorial and fence were established at the burial ground to protect the site; **441 graves** have been identified to date.
- **Reconciliation:** Dr. Bratton shared her journey of connecting with white Bratton descendants, discovering **shared DNA**, and working together toward racial reconciliation.

Business Meeting

Membership Update

- The chapter currently has **76 financial members**.
- Members were encouraged to join or renew via the national website (**ogs.org**).

Officer Appointments (2026–2028 Term) The following officers were introduced for the new term:

- **President:** Clevlyn Anderson
- **Vice President of Education & Programs:** Tamika Strong
- **Treasurer:** Dawnya Lindsey
- **Recording Secretary:** Tammy Ozier
- **Corresponding Secretary: Vacant** (Responsibilities include monitoring chapter email and member communication).

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Projects

- **Active SIGs:** Alabama (new), Caribbean, Georgia, Military, and Tennessee.
- **SDUSMP:** A legacy application program for the **Sons and Daughters of the U.S. Middle Passage** begins February 19.
- **Archival Project:** Ongoing effort to consolidate chapter history for the Auburn Avenue Library.

2025 Member Survey Results

- Top interest topics: **Reconstruction, Freedmen’s Bureau**, AI for genealogy, and DNA.
- Members expressed a strong preference for more **in-person or hybrid meetings** and repository visits.

Announcements

- **Georgia Archives African American Symposium:** Scheduled for **February 5–7**. Registration is currently closed/waitlisted.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Help is needed for the information table and reference room tours at the upcoming symposium.
- **Virtual Events:** Weekly virtual events will resume next weekend.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.