

AAHGS Metro Atlanta – General Meeting

DATE: September 26, 2026 **TIME:** 1:00 PM EST

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Clevlyn Anderson

NUMBER OF ATTENDEES: 42

Welcome and Introduction

President **Clevlyn Anderson**, welcomed members and guests to the September chapter meeting following the summer research break. She announced that the official 2027 membership drive would begin in November 2026. Attendees were reminded that the session was being **recorded**.

Meeting Etiquette and Disclaimer

- **Etiquette:** Participants were instructed to remain on **mute** once the meeting began, use the "raise hand" icon or chat for questions, and disconnect 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 photographed, recorded, screen-captured, or replicated without permission.
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Presentation: Researching African American Archives

Guest Speaker: Mr. Derek Mosley, Archivist and Archives Division Manager at the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History (AARL).

Presentation Highlights:

- **Origins of Auburn Avenue Research Library:** Mr. Mosley traced the library's foundations back to 1921 with the opening of the Auburn branch, the first public library built for Black citizens in Atlanta.
- **Family Papers & Preservation:** Highlighted family manuscript collections including the Pitts family papers, the Portia Allen Hunt family papers (a local nurse from McDonough), and the newly acquired Bowen family papers (a prominent Atlanta family whose records were preserved and returned to Atlanta after moving to Ohio).
- **Church Bulletins & Printed Records:** Emphasized the genealogical value of Black church bulletins and anniversary programs for documenting Black-owned businesses, owners, and dates of operation.
- **Unidentified Photographs:** Showed historical photos from First Congregational Church (including a 1930s children's choir and 1950s Women's Guild), illustrating the ongoing need for community help in identifying unnamed ancestors in archival images.

- **Organizations & Civic Collections:** The archives document over 30 social, political, and professional organizations, including four chapters of The Links, Incorporated, Black sororities and fraternities, the National Conclave of Grady Graduate Nurses (and their uniform collection), the 100% Wrong Club, and the NAACP Atlanta Branch Records (which heavily document MARTA transit lawsuits and public school integration).
 - **Arts & Oral History Collections:** Major arts collections include the Neighborhood Arts Center records (featuring Jim Alexander photographs) and the National Black Arts Festival. Video oral history collections include the General Mills Kroger Oral History Collection from 1995, featuring interviews with Black business owners and civil rights leaders such as C.T. Vivian, Donald Hallowell, and Annie McPheeters.
 - **Digital Access & Projects:** Digitized materials available on the Digital Library of Georgia include the Andrew Young Audiovisual Collection (~840 recordings), over 3,000 African American funeral programs, and the E.R. Carter / Andrew Jackson Lewis collection. The Hollywood Studio Collection project features 120,000 photographs and negatives, with a QR code and website for public assistance in identifying studio portraits.
 - **Q&A Discussion:** Topics covered indexing church bulletins at the year/week level, community indexing initiatives for over 3,500 un-digitized funeral programs, searching oral history finding aids, and guidance for donating family papers.
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Business Meeting

Membership Update

- The chapter has officially grown to **108 financial members**.
- The 2027 membership drive begins in November 2026 (\$50 National / \$20 Chapter), with new memberships extending through December 2027.

Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

- The meeting minutes and treasurer's financial reports are posted in the members-only section of the chapter website. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Projects

- **Active SIGs:** Active groups include Caribbean (Rhonda Barrow), Tennessee (Devra Harney), Georgia (Dawnya Lindsey & Doris Thomas), Military (Johnette Brooks), Alabama (Allison Tyehimba), and the Writing SIG (Mallard Benton & Tamika Strong).
 - **New AI SIG for Genealogy Research:** Announced a new limited-run 4-week SIG coordinated by Stephanie Powers, meeting every Tuesday from October 6 to October 27 at 7:00 PM via Zoom, with findings presented at the November chapter meeting.
 - **Archival & Funeral Program Indexing:** Ongoing work continues on consolidating chapter archives for AARL and compiling a master metadata index for over 3,500 un-digitized funeral programs.
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Announcements

- **Georgia Archives Genealogy Day:** Scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2026, featuring two skill-building tracks; volunteers are needed for the AAHGS information table.
 - **Michael Nolden Henderson Presentation & Exhibit:** "First in Our State: A Revolutionary Achievement" lunch and learn on October 9 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM at the Georgia Archives, with the exhibit on display from September 12 through November 20, 2026.
 - **Out-of-State / Out-of-District Scholarships Data Capture:** Johnette Brooks detailed the project documenting Black educators and students who received state funding (1930s–1970s) for graduate degrees, referencing the finding aid at the Georgia Archives for 4,600 Georgia recipients.
 - **National Leadership Nominations:** Congratulated chapter member Terry Ward on her nomination to the NGS Board of Directors (Director at Large), as well as Andre Kearns for NGS President (voting October 9–14).
 - **AAHGS National Elections (2026 Cycle):** Nominations are open until October 6, 2026, for President, VP Membership & Chapters, Treasurer, and Directors 3 & 4 (terms starting January 1, 2027).
 - **AAHGS Virtual Fall Symposium:** An all-day national virtual event on Saturday, October 24, 2026 (taking the place of the October chapter meeting). Registration is open on AAHGS.org (\$95 members / \$40 students / \$110 non-members).
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Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by President Clevlyn Anderson following closing announcements and new member introductions.