SMH Candidate Worksheet

Name: Le'Trice Donaldson

Present position and affiliation: Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University. President and Founder of the Society for Black Military Studies

Education: B.A., M.A. – University of Tennessee-Knoxville;Ph.D- University of Memphis

Area(s) of historical specialization: African American History, Black Military Studies, Masculinity Studies, U.S. History, and Latin American History

Relevant special appointments: Treasurer, Association of Black Women Historians, 2019-2022

Membership Director, 2022- 24, Association of Black Women Historians

President,2022-Present, Society for Black Military Studies

Organization of American Historians, 3-Year Conference Programming Committee, 2025-present

SMH conference attendance, participation, and committee service:
SMH Meeting 2022 Conference presenter

Significant publications:

*Duty Beyond the Battlefield: African American Soldiers Fight for Racial Uplift, Citizenship, and Manhoo*d,1870-1920. SIUP: 2020.

Personal statement:

I am honored to stand for election as a Trustee of the Society for Military History. My career as a scholar, editor, educator, and organization builder has been devoted to expanding our understanding of military history and strengthening the scholarly communities that make such work possible.

I am an Assistant Professor of History at Auburn University, where my research and teaching focus on African American military history, race, citizenship, gender, and the relationship between military institutions and American society from the Civil War through the twentieth century. My first monograph, *Duty Beyond the Battlefield: African American Soldiers Fight for Racial Uplift, Citizenship, and Manhood, 1870–1920*, examined Black military service as a critical arena in the struggle over citizenship and belonging. My current research continues to explore the experiences of Black soldiers, military institutions, leadership, and the broader social and political consequences of military service. Equally important to me is the work of building the field.

I am the founder and President of the *Society for Black Military Studies* (SBMS), Co-Editor of the University of Virginia Press book series: *The Black Soldier in War and Society: New Narratives and Critical Perspectives*. I serve in an editorial leadership role with the *Journal for Black Military Studies*. I have also participated extensively in conference planning and professional service, including work with the *Organization of American Historian*s (OAH: 3-Year Conference Program Committee), *the Association for the Study of African American Life and History* (ASALH), and the *Association of Black Women Historians* (ABWH: Treasurer). These experiences have given me practical experience in organizational leadership, collaborative governance, scholarly programming, mentorship, and developing partnerships across institutions.

I am seeking election as an SMH Trustee because I believe deeply in the Society's role as a home for rigorous, expansive, and intellectually ambitious military history. The field is strongest when we bring traditional operational and institutional military history into sustained conversation with scholarship on race, gender, citizenship, empire, diplomacy, politics, culture, and society. Military history should also encompass the experiences of the many people and communities whose encounters with military institutions have historically remained at the margins of our narratives.

As a Trustee, I would work to strengthen SMH's intellectual community, support emerging scholars, encourage collaboration across subfields and institutions, and help broaden the Society's engagement with scholars working on the military experiences of

historically underrepresented populations in the US and throughout the world. I would bring to the Board both the perspective of an active scholar and the experience of someone who has built scholarly organizations, publications, conferences, and professional networks from the ground up.

I would be honored to help steward the *Society for Military History* and to contribute my experience, energy, and commitment to ensuring that SMH continues to serve as the leading professional organization for a military history field that is rigorous, dynamic, inclusive, and global.