

Meeting Minutes of January 14 2006

Meeting was called to order at 2110 hours

Emmanuel Njobet read the last month's minutes

Mr. Njikam moved to adopt minutes and Laura Nana seconded the motion.

➤ **President's Action items for the day**

- Confirmation of the amended bylaws by voting of members
- Financial statement for 2005
- Goal statements for 2006

➤ **Confirmation of the amended bylaws by voting of members**

The bylaws were unanimously voted on and adopted but not without minor reservations that Mr. Njikam and Mr. Richard Nana noted; particularly, Section (X) F and (IX) E respectively. Mr. Richard Nana's question was more of semantics, which was noted for those changes to be made at a later edition. As for Mr. Njikam's reservation it concerned the question of the death of family member in which multiple members of that family are members of the meeting. The President responded that each member of that family would be treated as an individual.

➤ **Financial statement for 2005**

Laura presented the 2005 financial report.

As of Dec. 7 th 2005, Lafaba's current account had	\$13367.00
Savings from members amounted to	\$12975.00
Carried forward to year 2006	\$ 392.00
Lafaba standard savings account = \$7789+\$3000 (in non profit account)=	\$10789.00

➤ **Goal Statement for 2006**

- **Reserve a hall for 2006 end of year party.**

The president confirmed that he went ahead and reserved in January a moderately priced hall the; Jazzercise hall in Arlington, for the end of year party on the second weekend in December 2006.

- **Picnic**

Sammy Nana and Laura Nana advised that members should contribute towards the picnic so that all foodstuffs could be bought in bulk. Mr. Njikam proposed that the meeting should fund the picnic. He continued that the picnic should simply be for fund and entertainment instead of thinking of it as a commercial or profit making activity

- **Project Backpack**

Questions surfaced whether to continue with project backpack. If we were to continue with the project, how to fund it would be the logical progression of the discussions.

The discussions started with Dr. Jean Louis who proposed that a handful of members complained bitterly that their savings were subtracted for pledges that they had voluntarily agreed to pay and confirmed by majority vote in the meeting. In support most members came to the defense of the meeting that it was agreed and voted on in previous meetings. Mr. Njike Emmanuel complained that there wasn't any commitment from some members. A view that Laura Nana also supported. Emman Njike added that before we could actually carry on any other project that the project should be fully discussed on the floor of the meeting. Dr. Jean-Louis again floated his ideas for support that he thought would be most appropriate in a financially restricted atmosphere like ours.

He again proposed that we should look at communities in Cameroon with highly populated Bamilekes that are either represented or not represented here in the meeting. That if those communities have projects going on and approached us then we could support them with the completion of those projects. He continued that since our focus was mainly in education, we could still support elementary schools that needed funding for projects like drinking water for the children, toilets, classrooms, offices etc.

The President gave the last word that Jean Louis' proposal should be tabled at a subsequent meeting. Emman Nana concurred and proposed that we should come to future meetings with an open mind and that these avenues are ways that our group could garner support in Cameroon as well. Emman Njikam concurred that there wasn't any commitment from members but still urged that pledges should be voluntary and not compulsory. He complained that by July 2005, there was not sufficient fund for the project as it stood, and that was an indication that the project should not have been carried out but the group went ahead with it anyway. Nevertheless, our greatest fear has always been the systemic corruption that is pervasive at every level of the Cameroonian society as Emmanuel Njobet pointed out. Emman. Nana interjected that a lot has been learned from the past three years and that we should carefully and cautiously thread our way to the next year.

Emman. Nana further proposed that he would prepare a survey of members to determine if we should carry on a project or not. Emmanuel Njobet complained that voluntary contribution was not part of our culture so we find it really difficult to voluntarily contribute to causes that would benefit others. He continued to ask if any member could come up with a single communal project in Cameroon that result from voluntary contribution and none was cited. He said this was the best way that we could tax ourselves to actually accomplish something for the benefit of a larger population or community other than ourselves. Mr. Njike finally concluded from all the arguments that we were not yet ready for any projects. Mr. Kwame said we would never be ready if nothing was done to spearhead the process. Mr. Richard Nana cited with Mr. Njike that from what he sees we were not ready for a project and continued that we should take this year to discuss some details regarding projects and their funding possibilities. He finally continued in saying that a committee should be created to discuss the project and funding issues before embarking on any future commitments.

➤ **Hosting**

The president promised to make phone calls to coordinate the February hosting. He further asked all those with births from last year that haven't been visited and whose deadline for visitation has expired if there could be a single party for all those with births? There was a long list of about 8 or 9 births left over from last year, which makes it worthwhile to organize a party for them.

➤ **Announcements**

Quine announced Brianna's birthday party for the 21st of January. The President also sought help with a moderator for the web site, which I think Mr. Eric Noue or Emman. Nana would be the right men for the job. The President also presented a letter from the chief of Bandja, which requested that we spearhead the unity of Bamilekes in the United States and also familiarize them with the LAM festival that took place last April 2005.

Meeting Adjourned @ 2330 hours.

Respectfully Submitted
Emmanuel C. Njobet