

LAFABA- DFW NEWSLETTER



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Meeting Minutes of August 12, 2006 Called to order at 2100 hours

The meeting commenced at 2100 hours with an opening prayer by Mrs. Estelle Takusi, and Emmanuel Njiki read the July minutes.

Corrections to July's minutes

Mrs. Shiri Njiki stated the minutes should have reflected that she presented a financial statement at the July meeting. Mr. Njikam also stated that at no time during the July meeting did he say or imply that the amount pledged by members for Julienne funeral cost be reduced.

After the corrections, Mrs. Shiri Njiki move to adopt the minutes and Mrs. Marilyn Simo seconded the motion.

Issues Discussed

The President proposed that the meeting take out the clause in the constitution that states, Lafaba will contribute \$250.00 to the deceased family of a non Lafaba member in the DFW Cameroonian community. The reason for his proposal he stated was based on the poor reaction received from other cultural groups when Ms. Julienne passed away. The President further elaborated that at Julienne's wake keeping no cultural group sent a representative. The President went on and relayed Deus Nanko's plead to be excused from paying the \$150.00 fine for not fulfilling his responsibility in hosting the May meeting. Reasons being Deus is a student with financial limitations. The President also informed the meeting that in supporting the Ex-Saker Students Association Water Project fund raising on August 5, 2006, Lafaba contributed \$100.00.

Pledges Made for Julienne's Funeral cost

The President encouraged those members who made pledges for Julienne's funeral cost to make good on their promise or the money will eventually be deducted from their savings to replace the money taken from the meeting funds.

Mr. Njikam cautioned the meeting not to link voluntary or mandatory contribution as addressed in the constitution with pledges and discouraged the idea of deducting pledges from member savings account for it may result to problems in the future. Emmanuel Njiki reminded the group that a pledge is a promise made, and it is the duty of those members who pledged to honor their pledges. He informed the meeting that no member among those who pledged has contacted the meeting about not paying their pledges but advised them what the consequences might be if it's not paid. Mr. Ngamalue proposed that the meeting revisit or consider the idea of setting a probationary time period for new members to be eligible for "Trouble Funds"

from the group in time of bereavement. The fact being he said, some members in the past joined the group and as soon as they reaped the benefits from the group they left. Mr. Fred Wambo informed the group that it was disheartening to see matters discussed in the meeting based solely on financial issues, and cautioned the group to stick on issues of unity at the same time advising members to fulfill their financial obligations.

Life Insurance

The President reminded members who are delinquent with the life insurance dues to fulfill their obligation. Ms. Emilia Nkwankwo noted that she and other members are owed money for life insurance, because their overpayments were used to pay other delinquent members dues. The President promised to address this issue with Deus Nanko before the September meeting.

Matters Arising

Mr. Fidelis Simo proposed that as one of the first cultural groups established in the United States, Lafaba Dallas should take a leading role in organizing and hosting a Bamileke National Convention. He stated that he had been to numerous cultural conventions in the United States and it was about time members of this organization contact other Bamileke groups around the Country with this idea. There was consensus on Mr. Simo's proposal; however it was advised that in order to motivate others to get involved and interested in a Bamileke convention, a project or talking points has to be established to captivate interest from other chapters. Mr. Fred Wambo informed the meeting that he had been approached by young Bamileke non-Lafaba members in the community who told him they have nothing to gain by joining Lafaba. The primary motive of joining Lafaba to gain something from our young Brothers and Sisters in the community raised some eye brows and the consensus was that these potential members should think of what they can do to enhance the group and not necessarily gaining from it.

Announcement

Mrs. Shiri Njiki on behalf of all the Lafaba members who are Sakerettes thanked the group for supporting the Ex-Saker Students Association during their convention. She also took time to thank Lafaba husbands who are also known as Saker cats (husbands) for their tremendous support during the water project fundraising. The meeting was advised that Nestor a Bamileke Son is running for Mayor in Washington D.C and needs campaign contribution from the community, flyers and bumpers stickers for his mayoral race was made available.

Reception for Our Guest, His Royal Highness Chief Momo, Jean Claude

Members performed a beautiful traditional welcome dance and greeted His Royal Highness, Chief Momo Jean Claude of Foto in Menoua Division, Western Province. Upon His Royal Highness taking a seat reserved for him, Mr. Talla Takusi on behalf of Lafaba Dallas welcomed and expressed the group's appreciation for him taking time from his busy schedule to visit with us. Members individually with accordance to tradition approached His Highness, introduced themselves and stated what part of the Western Province or Cameroon they were from. The President expressed to His Royal Highness how it was the group's honor for him to be the first Royal Chief from the Western Province to visit with us.

The President also gave a brief description of how the meeting is composed of Bmileke Sons and Daughters residing in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area and what our objectives are, which is Community Solidarity, Family unity and Cultural Preservation. His Royal Highness, Chief Momo Jean Claude expressed (through Mr. Talla Takusi interpreting) how pleased he was to see a vibrant Bamileke community in the DFW area carrying and maintaining our culture/tradition. Chief Momo continued

that the last time he traveled to the United States to visit his American friends he came as a tourist and expressed how gratified he was to be among his (Family), Sons, Daughters, and in-laws. His Highness pointed out that being an American or assimilating to the American life style is a state of mind but being Bamileke is who we are and praised the group for creating a family atmosphere which educates our children the importance of community. He advised and shared more words of wisdom with the group and promised to deliver nothing but good news to his fellow Royal Chiefs throughout the Western Province with whom he meets monthly. Members were allowed to ask His Royal Highness questions. Mrs. Marilyn Simo and Mrs. Shiri Njiki both asked His Highness of his visit with the Fon of Nso and the role of women in the Bamileke culture respectively. Chief Momo graciously answered both questions by first noting that, there was an omission in the papers in Cameroon with respect to his visit to Bansa. His Highness clarified that as a personal friend to the Fon of Nso, upon his arrival to the palace in Nso, the Fon of Nso had invited Fons throughout the North West Province including Fon Angwafor of Mankon to celebrate his visit with the people of Bansa. On the question of women's role in the Bamileke culture, Chief Momo stated that women in the Bamileke tradition are held in very esteem, cherish and respected because he continued without women men are powerless not withstanding the fact that men get their strength from women.

Item Eleven and Socializing

Financial Matters

Mr. Richard Nana collected meeting dues while Mrs. Marie-Noel Tafah collected the Njangi funds.

Meeting adjourned at 2330 hours

Respectfully Submitted
Emmanuel Njiki