

## October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Lafaba Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the president at 9:00pm followed by Mrs. Miranda Kwame leading the meeting in prayer and the vice president later reading the September minutes. With no correction made to the minutes, Mrs. Quine Sowunmi moved to adopt the minutes and Mrs. Eugenie Moualeu seconded the motion.

### ▪ *Agenda*

- I. Chief David Tchoupe's visit
- II. Mr. Jacques Timma's survey report
- III. Project Backpack
- IV. End of year/Christmas party

### ▪ *Chief David Tchoupe's Visit*

The president stated that upon Chief David Tchoupe's arrival in the United States for the Haut-Kam convention scheduled in Washington DC he called and expressed interest in visiting various Bamileke communities in the country. The president added that it was after he spoke with chief Tchoupe while in New York visiting that it dawned on him that the chief was asking to be invited with his transportation paid for. This meant a few members (not identified) took care of both his round trip airfare and his hotel accommodation while he was here visiting. The president continued that he was not asking the meeting to reimburse these members but to make sure the meeting understood what transpired behind the scenes with the Chief's visit.

The president also added that he learned from speaking with someone in Washington DC that when Chief Tchoupe went through a physical check-up while in Washington DC they found he had an irregular heart beat and admitted him for precautionary reasons, and he should be leaving for Cameroon as soon as he is released.

### ▪ *Mr. Jacques Timma's Survey*

The president before handing the floor to Mr. Timma issued a disclaimer, stating no one from the executive suggested or influenced the outcome of Mr. Timma report.

Mr. Timma stated he called every member and those he couldn't reach or speak with he left messages to be called back. He continued that he would summarize the concerns, opinions, and suggestions gathered from speaking with members but needed time to compose a detailed report that will be presented at a later date.

The following are brief concerns mentioned during the survey;

1. Structure format of the meeting
2. Time management during meetings
3. Incorporating new members in the meeting
4. Social aspects of the meeting such as Immediate born house visits, cry die or bereavement attendance, etc.
5. Continue project backpack
6. Social events geared specifically to our children, and us the members, such as picnic

7. Membership responsibility, which includes, meeting attendance, hosting, and other functional activities required of a member

Mr. Timma added that the overall impression he gathered from speaking with members was that everyone wants to belong in the group, and he asked if he could have a few members in a committee to address the issues outlined above. The president, vice president and later the meeting all shared the view that the concerns outlined by Mr. Timma should be discussed in an open session instead of a committee so members with questions, concerns and suggestion can be heard from.

- *Project Backpack*

The president asked if project backpack should or shouldn't be carried out. This prompted a lengthy discussion where members exchanged ideas for and against carrying out project backpack. Mr. Maurice Talla proposed that the meeting concentrate on members and do something for our children before carrying out any project in Cameroon. Mr. Wambo, Mrs. Kwame, Mr. Sammy Nana, Mr. Timma along with several members supported carrying out project backpack. There was a general consensus that the meeting should carry out this project because the Son and Daughters of the West Province have traditionally given back to our brothers/sisters back home who need help.

The president added he is proud of the success project backpack had because not only did we accomplish our goal of helping others; other Bamileke groups in the United States and Europe copied the concept of project backpack and carried out similar projects. Finally a vote for or against carrying out project backpack was conducted with the following results;

Votes for project backpack; 23

Vote against; 0

One member abstained, therefore by majority of the votes; Lafaba DFW will carry out Project backpack. Funding and other logistical issues will be discussed in subsequent meetings.

Mr. Timma asked if a committee could be formed to review the previous recommendation made by the other committee. The president pointed out that the committee presented their report therefore creating another committee to review what already had been recommended by one committee will be redundant, a point shared by the vice president and supported by several members.

- *End of Year/Christmas Party*

The president outlined what the meeting did last year with respect to our traditional gift giving initiative to our children, and asked the parents if they were willing to continue with the system used last year whereby parents bought gifts for their child/children and got reimbursed \$10.00 for each child regardless of what the gift cost.

Members unanimously agreed to maintain the status quo on this issue, that is continue with last year's protocol.

Mr. Maurice Talla suggested that the meeting in addition to our traditional gift giving create a separate competitive prize for our children where the winner is considered for academic achievement (Honors or Principal's roll).

Mrs. Wandj also suggested that at the end of year party the children could do a dance competition where the winner gets a price.

Mr. Njikam supported recognizing our children with outstanding academic achievements.

Mr. Timma proposed that the meeting schedule a separate party for the children during the day and a gala for the parents at night, a point shared by Mr. Njikam.

- *Financing the End of Year/Christmas Party*

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting continue with last year's trend with regards to financing the end of year/Christmas party whereby the men will each contribute \$40.00 and the women provide food. Gentlemen, Mr. Richard Nana is the financial secretary on this matter, so please see him with your \$40 contribution.

- *Introductions*

Ms. Olive Njobet introduced her sister from Holland Mrs. Silvie Njobet Wanda, Mr. Maurice Talla introduced a friend from Kansas City Mr. Pierre Tchabo, Ms. Emilia Nkwanwo introduced her daughter from Cameroon Ms. Raissa Nonqui, Mrs. Moualeu introduced family members from Cameroon Mrs. Anna Njokam and Mr. Joseph Njokam

Mr. Jean-Claude Nzali upon introducing his wife Mrs. Bridgette Nzali stated he has been to the meeting twice and plan on both of them joining the meeting.

- *Matters Arising*

Mr. Henry Simo proposed that some items on the agenda be posted and discussed on the e-group before each meeting session to cut down on unnecessary lengthy meetings.

The president objected to his view because he said such discussions are sometimes taken out of context and become personal as a result creating misunderstanding among members and causing a divide in the meeting.

- *Announcement*

Mrs. Ngamalue announced it was their daughter, Njapi's 7<sup>th</sup> birthday; everyone sang happy birthday to the lovely birthday girl and shared her delicious cake.

- *Financial Matters*

Mr. Alain Pokam collected meeting dues while Mrs. Marie-Noel Tafah collected njangi dues.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05pm, followed by item 11 and socializing.

*Respectfully Submitted by  
Emmanuel Njiki*

