

# LAFABA Meeting August 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:30pm, followed by Mrs. Quine Sowunmi leading the meeting in prayer and the vice president reading the July minutes.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam made a point of correction with the July minutes about not having the committee's report with him at the July meeting. He clarified that he left the report in his car because he intended to stay briefly at the meeting and added that the report was long and required lengthy discussion.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam further stated the report was presented ones before in the meeting sometime in 2006.

After the correction Mr. Emmanuel Njikam adopted the minutes and the vice president seconded the motion.

## ▪ *Meeting Turn-out*

The vice president expressed concern with the recent downward trend with member turn-out or attendance to monthly meetings. The July meeting to say the least was a disappointing example of attendance by members the vice president added, especially when the group of members hosting for the first time prepared so much food to welcome the Lafaba family but instead only about seven to eight members attended the meeting.

Mr. Fred Wambo complained that the downward trend was due to the meeting not having any positive agenda.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam added the current situation with low turn out with members happens every now and then with most groups, and continued that this same problem happened in the past during his administration for it is not unique with this administration.

## ▪ *Houston Trip*

The vice president informed the meeting that the president in several occasions called Lafaba Houston president concerning the Labor Day picnic we were invited to but received no response for weeks.

The meeting acknowledged the efforts made since accepting the invitation and decided that due to the lack of response received the meeting will not be organizing a trip to Houston for the picnic but advice members willing to travel to Houston for the picnic to do so by choice.

Mrs. Ngamalue added her sister-in-law in Houston informed her that they were expecting the meeting in Houston.

## ▪ *Apology to Ms. Solange Yongbang*

The vice president stated he learned that Ms. Solange Yongbang who had surgery in April was extremely disappointed with the meeting for the lack of calls or visit she received from members while admitted in the hospital. It is a fact that Mr. Emmanuel Njikam announced at the April meeting of her being ill. The vice president ask that Ms. Solange Yongbang not take it personal and apologized on behalf of the meeting for not

maintaining our traditional courtesy of checking on each other and promised the meeting will do a better job in the future.

▪ ***Project Backpack committee's report***

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam thanked the members who participated in the committee and help draft the report.

He outlined the following recommendations proposed by the committee;

- (1) The backpack project should continue based on voluntary contribution.
- (2) The project scale should depend on the available budget and only affordable smaller projects should be carried out.
- (3) Projects introduced by any member of the meeting should be discussed and supported by the meeting.
- (4) Expenses should be limited to project cost and eliminate any indirect cost such as flight ticket, hotel expense, media coverage, invitation of government officials etc.
- (5) A Lafaba member must be present in Cameroon to execute the project.
- (6) Carry out the Lafaba project every two years.
- (7) The member shall present a written report to the meeting including receipts.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam encouraged other members to join the committee especially female members with diverse ideas.

Mrs. Ngamalue asked if the committee had any solutions. The vice president said the committee's assignment was not to come up with solutions but to the meeting with recommendations.

Mr. Nana Richard recommended that the committee review their report and submit the entire draft on the egroup for members to view and also he asked what type of projects the committee was proposing the meeting carry out.

Mr. Fred Wambo said the meeting should decide on what type of project is carried out and the meeting should accept the decision of majority of the members.

The vice president proposed that before this topic is discussed again in the meeting the committee should post it as is or review and post it for members to read, understand and then deliberate it further at upcoming meeting.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam cautioned that when the report is posted in the egroup members should not take any part or section of the recommendations personal.

▪ ***Hosting***

The vice president stated he called the following members, Mr. Tchounbia, Mrs. Foma, and Mr. Francis Kamgang two weeks before the August 11, 2007 meeting and reminded them of their responsibility of hosting the meeting. He added that when he spoke with Mrs. Foma, Mr. Tchounbia and Mr. Francis Kamgang he informed them that Mrs. Tchounbia is also part of the group but was still in Cameroon, and he advised the members to communicate among them and come up with the venue. After several calls to find out what the above mentioned members had decided on the venue for the meeting he stated he received excuses from Mr. Tchounbia of his wife being in Cameroon and from

Mrs. Foma being in Florida for school adding that she only travels to Dallas once in a while. It was discovered that Mr. Francis Kamgang has not paid his dues so far this year therefore he was excluded from the hosting group since he is not registered member. Mrs. Quine Sowunmi asked if any of the members assigned to host the August meeting contributed funds towards the Njikis hosting the meeting and the response was no one contributed.

Mr. Fred Wambo said the members assigned to host the August meeting should be fine as stated in the bylaws, consequences for not fulfilling their responsibilities.

The vice president stated due to the lack of venue and call back he received from the above mentioned members he managed to convince his wife to host the meeting.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam said members are not obliged to cook and provide alcoholic beverage for the meeting, and if hosting members decide to provide pizza and water to members then that's their prerogative, but making excuses not to host because the other members in your group did not contribute is totally inexcusable.

Mrs. Shiri Njiki read the section in the bylaws about hosting responsibilities and added that the bylaws applies to everyone, and if others were fined because they did not meet the meeting's obligation then the members mentioned above should be fined as well.

Mr. Tchounbia initially rejected the idea of paying the fine because he was alone and couldn't host by himself and added that Mrs. Foma said she should not be penalized because she is out of town and cannot host the meeting.

The meeting concluded that both Mrs. Foma and Mr. Tchounbia will be fined and an apology from both members issued to the meeting.

#### ▪ *Dalfcam Proposal*

The vice president briefed the meeting of a conference call of cultural group leaders organized by Dalfcam in which he represented Lafaba.

At the Conference call, Dalfcam proposed that in collaboration with every cultural group in the metro area each group should reduce their monthly meeting from eleven or twelve to eight. The reason for this being, Dalfcam is encouraging maximum participation and attendance of the Cameroon community to meet every quarter on the third Saturday of either the first or last month of every quarter.

For example if and when this proposal is agreed upon with every cultural group not meeting on the last month of each quarter then the yearly meeting schedule will be as follows; meet in January, February (skip March) meet in April, May (skip June) meet in July, August, (skip September) meet in October, November and finally (skip December). The vice president emphasized that Dalfcam is not enforcing anything on the meeting because it has no jurisdiction over Lafaba but it is asking for collaboration with every cultural group in town.

The vice president also announced that Dalfcam is organizing a picnic for the Cameroonian committee on Saturday September 15, 2007 and encouraged everyone to come out with the family for there will be activities for the children.

▪ ***Matters Arising***

The vice president announced that Mr. and Mrs. Kwame put to birth a beautiful baby girl and on a sad note Mrs. Kwame was admitted at the hospital due to ill health. He appealed to members to keep the Kwame family in our prayers and for members to endeavor to call Mrs. Kwame or the family for encouragement.

The vice president got a telephone call from the president that he just received a call from the Lafaba Houston president stating they were waiting for us for the Labor Day weekend picnic. The vice president informed the president that the meeting already agreed that Lafaba Dallas will not be organizing a trip to Houston but members can go by choice.

▪ ***Introduction***

Mrs. Clede Nkwein introduced her nephew visiting from out of town.

▪ ***Financial Matter***

Mr. Nana Richard collected meeting dues.

***Meeting Adjourned at 11:35pm***

***Minutes taken by Mr. Fred Wambo and Mrs. Nicoline Mbua***

***And typed by Emmanuel Njiki***