

Lafaba April 14, Meeting Minutes

The meeting started at 2100 hours with Quine Sowunmi leading the group in prayer followed by Emmanuel Njiki reading the March minutes.

Mrs. Elizabeth Foma moved to adopt the minutes and Emmanuel Njikam seconded the motion thus unanimously adopting the minutes.

▪ *Feed Back on End of Year Party Hall Reservation*

Emmanuel Njikam briefed the meeting on his effort to make reservation on the hall for the end of party as discussed in the March meeting. He stated that upon speaking with Joe Mahop, the proprietor of the hall in Arlington the price quote he received was a thousand dollars. He added that Mr. Mahop suggested to him that he knows of a bigger and nicer hall which he said would be more than a thousand dollars if that was within Lafaba's price range.

The president suggested that Emmanuel Njikam reserve the same Jazzercise hall the meeting used last year for the end of year party, because it is affordable and convenient.

▪ *Dalcam Cultural Day*

Members were informed of the long awaited Dalcam town hall meeting scheduled for April 28th 2007 from 8:00 to 10:00pm at 4008 Inspiration Circle, Carrollton Texas, 75010 to elect members of the executive.

The president encouraged members interested in running for office to attend and participate in the event.

As of date the traditional yearly Dalcam cultural day event which normally takes place in May has not been scheduled due to the various current executive positions vacancies, however things may change depending on the outcome of the town hall meeting.

▪ *Summer Picnic*

The president briefed the meeting on his telephone contact with the Lafaba Houston representatives on efforts discussed in our March meeting to gauge the level of interest they may have with respect to joining us in hosting the summer picnic.

The president added that the Lafaba Houston representatives he spoke with told him they had reserved a park for the Labor Day weekend to organize a summer picnic and extended an invitation to the Lafaba Dallas chapter.

Upon members getting this information, suggestions and concerns were

raised, some members suggested that since an invitation has been given to the meeting, we should accept and travel to Houston for the picnic. Some members were concerned and questioned the idea of members traveling to Houston for a picnic and asked why only Lafaba Dallas makes trips to Houston without Lafaba Houston coming to Dallas whenever there is an event.

The president addressed those concerns by saying that Lafaba Houston chapter has always supported our causes particularly providing medical and school supplies for project back pack.

Others also added that Lafaba Houston members may not have attended any event in Dallas because we probably did not formally invite them to functions organized by Lafaba Dallas.

However, members agreed that we should accept the invitation and travel to Houston for the picnic and put off any plans of hosting our picnic this year but instead plan for one next year and invite the Houston chapter.

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting will discuss this issue further at the next meeting, particularly the best mode of transportation for interested members willing to travel to Houston and lodging arrangements.

- ***General Secretary Position***

The president reminded the meeting of an executive vacancy position of General Secretary and encouraged any member interested to nominate themselves or forward their name for consideration.

- ***Telephone calls made to Fred Wambo from three members***

The president informed the meeting that he was told of several telephone calls allegedly made to Fred Wambo from members concerned with the discussion that took place in the March meeting with respect to financially assisting the Ngamaleu family.

The president called on Fred Wambo to elaborate on the telephone calls he received, Fred Wambo without mentioning any names stated that the complaints he received were based on some members concerned that preferential treatment was being given to some members and not others. He continued that some of the members complained of others being sick and out of work but received no financial aid from the meeting.

Fred Wambo also stated that he and his wife recently lost a relative in Cameroon and upon posting the announcement on the e-group, only one member called to console them and continued that no one showed up for the wake keeping.

The president cautioned members that such allegations of preferential

treatment being directed to some and not others can easily breakup the meeting. He emphasized that he has never conducted a meeting session with the intent to favor or disfavor any member or group of members on the same merit.

The president also encouraged members to participate on issues discussed in the meeting, and if there are members who do not feel comfortable expressing themselves to contact any member of the executive after or during the meeting and their concerns will be addressed accordingly.

Jean Louis Tante stated that the point of members not calling Fred Wambo and his family must have been a misstep and added that he did not think it was something intentional towards him by anyone in the meeting.

The president stated he was out of town when the announcement was posted and apologized to the Wambo family for the misstep.

Members were also asked to update their email addresses and for those that do not receive the group email to subscribe through the president.

- ***The Bawock Crisis***

In early March of this year there was an incident in the Northwest province between the Bawock and Bali Nyonga people who are neighbors and have intermarried for years that resulted in the entire Bawock village being burned down, leaving the people displace.

The Bawock people though settled in the Northwest province, in Mezam division are originally from the Nde division in the Western province and speak the same dialect as those from the Nde division. We also had members in our meeting that come from Bawock, our former general secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Njobet.

The president stated he was contacted by the Bawock Cultural Association in the United States in an effort to raise funds to assist the immediate needs of our displaced brothers and sisters.

When the destruction of the village happened, the villagers made their way to Bamenda and were sheltered at the congress hall and lately it is reported that they have been thrown out and efforts are being made to reunify family members and shelter them.

There were a couple of proposals raised to financially assist the Bawock people through the Bawock national cultural association who are leading this fund raising initiative.

Emmanuel Njikam proposed that the meeting donate an amount to the cause and members make voluntary contribution.

Jean Louis Tante proposed limiting the fund effort to voluntary contribution. The president asked for any objection from anyone concerning both

proposals and Maurice Talla suggested that the meetings should make sure members are comfortable with the idea of the meeting disbursing funds. The president stressed that if there are members who do not feel comfortable expressing themselves on this issue to contact any member of the executive with their concern and added that time is of the essence with this fund raising effort.

A vote for the amount of money Lafaba Dallas should donate was conducted with the following proposed amount from Emmanuel Njikam of \$250.00 and \$100.00 from Jean Louis Tante.

Eight members voted for the meeting to contribute \$250.00 and four members voted for \$100.00.

Therefore the meeting shall contribute \$250.00 to this effort.

▪ ***Feed Back on the Meeting's Visit with the Ngamaleu Family***

Emmanuel Njiki briefed the meeting on the visit with the Ngamaleu family; he thanked the members who took time out of their busy scheduled to cook, bought drinks and visited with Mrs. Ngamaleu who has continued to gain strength during her recovery.

Emmanuel Njiki on behalf of the meeting presented a card and the sum of \$500.00 to the Mrs. Ngamaleu together with voluntary contribution made by members.

Members were urged to continue with this same spirit of togetherness and be each other's keeper in good and in time of distress, for when one of us hurts all should do whatever it takes to support one another.

Mrs. Ngamaleu thanked the meeting for all the thoughtfulness and support to her and the family.

▪ ***Matters Arising***

Fred Wambo echoed the same sentiments mentioned earlier with the visit to the Ngamaleu family being impressive and urged members to continue with that team spirit.

He also appealed to the meeting that a discussion on project back pack should be included in the next meeting's agenda.

Richard Nana asked the meeting to enforce the provision in the bylaws that states when a member skips from paying his/her mandatory monthly dues for three consecutive months they should be notified of not being a registered member. He continued that the reason behind his concern is that in the event these same members are bereaved or need financial assistance they should not be considered as members.

He added that the situation with Evelyn Motue who paid her dues in January 2006 and didn't pay for the rest of year could have easily been regarded as an upstanding due paying member which she wasn't.

The president acknowledged that he is to blame for including her name in the 2007 hosting roster and promise to rectify any discrepancy in the future notifying delinquent members.

The president pleaded with members currently in possession of the meeting's chairs to store them indoors because he said some chairs had been exposed to rain or water and as a result it got corroded and can easily stain ones clothing when sat on.

▪ ***Announcement***

Alain Pokam introduced a couple of friends visiting Dallas

Meeting Adjourned at 2225 hours

Respectfully Submitted by

Emmanuel Njiki