

Labafa March 10, Meeting Minutes

The meeting started at 2045 hours with Quine Sowunmi leading the group in prayer followed by Emmanuel Njiki reading the February minutes.

With no correction to the minutes reported, Quine moved to adopt the minutes and Maggie Njobet seconded the motion thus unanimously adopting the minutes.

▪ *Feed Back from February's Meeting*

The president stated that soon after the February minutes was posted he received a telephone call from Evelyn Motue informing him that she was not a registered member in 2006 and should not have been included in the 2007 Lafaba hosting roster.

After a brief discussion, members unanimously agreed that Evelyn Motue should not have been scheduled to host the January meeting and the fine of \$150.00 discussed in the February meeting should be nullified.

▪ *Proposal to Amend the Bylaws*

The president proposed that the meeting adopt a quorum, which is the number of registered members required to be present before the meeting can officially start or be called to order. The president added that in the past this particular issue had been discussed in the meeting with no clear resolution.

Emmanuel Njikam reiterated the president's point of this same issue being discussed during his administration and added that the discussion was base on a percentage of members required present before calling the meeting to order. He discouraged limiting the discussion to a percentage of members required present and proposed starting the meeting with at least seven registered members.

Mrs. Foma proposed starting the meeting with at least ten registered members.

A vote for the two proposals was conducted with Emmanuel Njikam's proposal for seven members getting 7 votes and Mrs. Elizabeth Foma's proposal for ten members getting 3 votes. Therefore upon updating our bylaws, it will reflect that the minimum number of registered members required to start a meeting shall be seven.

▪ *Summer Picnic*

Quine Sowunmi who proposed that the meeting should continue with the summer picnic tradition this year was called upon to make a case why she thinks it's a good idea. She stated that the feed back the meeting received from members and friends who attended the summer picnics in 2004 and 2005 was overwhelmingly positive and added that our children had a great time at both events.

The president informed the meeting that he had been contacted by members of Lafaba Houston expressing interest of being part of our summer picnic whenever that takes place. He added that during the conversation there was suggestion of an organized soccer match between the Dallas and Houston Lafaba chapters.

There was a lengthy discussion of how the summer picnic should be funded, and the following proposals developed;

* Quine Sowunmi proposed two points, first, she proposed that the picnic should be funded entirely by members, whereby the Women provide food and the Men provide drinks.

* Her second proposal which Emmanuel Njikam also shared was that the meeting should fund half the cost of the picnic and members fund the other half.

* Emmanuel Njiki proposed that members fund the picnic with no funds taken from the meeting's account. In this case the budget for the picnic will be established to cover all items needed and members who want to participate will equally share the cost.

The idea of members volunteering to bring food items or drinks was quickly rejected due to the fact that we had a not so pleasant experience in 2004 where members brought items to the picnic late.

With the bulk of the discussion centered on how to finance the picnic, members were constantly reminded to be mindful of the fact that the meeting has been carrying over negative balances for the past consecutive years.

Finally, it was unanimously agreed that a budget for the summer picnic will be established with a list of items needed compiled, and also the president will contact the Houston chapter representative to gauge how serious they are about participating in the event and if they would consider assisting with the funding.

▪ ***End of Year Party***

Upon introducing this topic for discussion, the president stated that Miranda Kwame who proposed that Lafaba continue with the hosting of an End of year party this year was not present to make a case for her proposal, but the president asked members if an End of year party was an attainable goal for Lafaba.

Emmanuel Njikam stated that the meeting should look for an alternative means of cutting cost when it comes to renting a hall for the End of year party and proposed asking Lafaba members who live in apartment complexes or residential communities with community hall big enough to facilitate an occasion such as an End of year party.

Some members had concerns about such an event taking place in a residential environment where usually the curfew is limited to 2am.

The president proposed that we should reserve the same hall used last year for the Christmas party since the price is affordable.

Celestin Mcfongim proposed that the meeting should look into Joe Mahop's hall in Arlington which is slightly bigger than the hall we used last year for the Christmas party and that it may be available with an affordable price.

The president asked Emmanuel Njikam to find out the cost of Joe Mahop's hall, and if the hall is cheaper than the hall Lafaba used last year to go ahead and reserve it.

▪ ***Project Backpack***

Upon introducing this topic for discussion, no one offered any views or opinion.

▪ ***Matters Arising***

The president clarified a statement he made during the February meeting with respect to

making sure that former members pay their debts before registering with the meeting. He added that the statement is outlined in our bylaws and advised members that his observation was a matter of policy guided by the bylaws and not something he made up. Emmanuel Njikam reminded the meeting of Mrs. Maureen Ngamaleu who has been ill and currently recovering from surgery that she has been out of work for some time and appealed to members for some sort of support for the Ngamaleu family. He continued that members should know what it feels like for someone in this country to miss work for a month or more.

The president stated that this particular issue had been on his mind also and added that though the bylaws doesn't mention the meeting assisting a member in time of illness, but continued that a precedent had been set on two or more occasions where the meeting took actions and assisted a member and the child of a member in time of illness.

The discussion that developed to assist the Ngamaleu family was unanimous and members agreed to assist the Ngamaleu family with the sum of \$500.00 and agreed that members will visit the Ngamaleu family on March 24th at 7:00pm with the Women bringing a dish and Men bringing drinks.

Members were reminded that njangi was still open to anyone interested in joining.

▪ ***Introductions***

Mr. and Mrs. Wanji introduced their son to the meeting, Bryan Kouayin Wanji

▪ ***Financial Matters***

Richard Nana filled in for Alain Pokam and collected the meeting's dues while Celestine Wanji collected the njangi dues.

Meeting Adjourned at 2210 hours

Respectfully Submitted by Emmanuel Njiki