

LAFABA Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2007

The meeting started at 2110 hours with Marie-Noel Tafah leading the meeting in prayer followed by Emmanuel Njiki reading the April minutes. Quine Sowunmi moved to adopt the minutes and Maurice Talla seconded the motion thus unanimously adopting the minutes into record.

April Meeting Feed Back

The president informed the meeting of the Dalfcam executive elections; he stated one of our Lafaba members, Emmanuel Njiki was elected vice president of Dalfcam.

The summer picnic scheduled to take place in Houston on the Labor Day weekend is official and the following issues were discussed and agreed upon.

Members interested in traveling to Houston for the picnic have two choices of commuting, first; members may drive their personal vehicle, and second; members may get together and rent a sedan or 16 seats van depending on the number of passengers available within a group.

The meeting will not be funding this trip; members are responsible for their transportation, to and from Houston.

Olivier Wanko volunteered to look into the cost of renting a van; interested members should contact the president or the vice president so we can compile a list of prospective passengers.

The meeting was again informed of the vacancy position of general secretary.

Feed Back on the Bawock Crisis

The president stated that he spoke with the Bawock National Cultural Association president, Alex Mbianda and learned that after the displaced villagers were thrown out of the congress hall in Bamenda they returned to the village in Bawock and are currently seeking shelter in the school buildings which was severely damage.

The president appealed to members that though this initiative is voluntary, no amount of money contributed to the cause is too small and encouraged members with contributions to contact him. He added that time is of the essence to do whatever can be done to assist the villagers slowly rebuild their lives.

Maurice Talla's Proposal

The president called on Maurice Talla to elaborate on a proposal he hinted at the April meeting. Maurice Talla upon taking the floor stated the meeting particularly members of the executive should do a better job accommodating new members, by easing their transition into the community.

Maurice Talla added that the new members particularly those who recently arrive in the United States from Cameroon and else where should be counsel on immigration issues, and employment related issues, because he said these are the members who generally go through financial difficulties.

He sited a meeting group he joined in the state of Maryland upon arriving in the United States that had a system in place with immigration lawyers and experts in different career fields who assist new members with immigration and work related issues.

Some members reacted with a consensus view that the meeting can not solve a problem without knowing who the member or members with problems are. Granted there may be members new or old going through problems, but if these issues are not addressed in the meeting then the meeting have no obligation to enquire or ask any member if he/she is going through a tough time.

Some members agreed with Maurice Talla's view of accommodating new members, but acknowledged that those with problems should address whatever issue they may be experiencing in the meeting.

Members were cautioned of this being a privacy issue and as much as some members may feel strongly about this discussion, other members may not want their personal business discussed in the meeting without their consent. Finally members were advised that for something of this magnitude to be enforced, the bylaws have to be amended. Therefore if Maurice Talla who introduced this topic for discussion or any other member wants such action taken in the future then they should propose an amendment to the bylaws for the meeting to vote.

Matters Arising

Emmanuel Njikam informed the meeting that his niece and a member of the meeting, Solange Yongbang had surgery and was recovering well. He also added that he did reserve the jazzercise hall in Arlington for the end of year party.

The president informed the meeting that Francis and Laure Kamgang birthed to a twin baby girl and boy, Lyna and Timo Kamgang.

Marie-Noel Tafah advised the meeting that three members in her hosting group are no longer members, leaving her and Mr. Talla Takusi as the only members available to host the June meeting.

The president after consulting with Florence Tcheck, Nobosse Guillaume, and Henry Simo added their names to host the June meeting with Marie-Noel Tafah and Mr. Talla Takusi, replacing Mrs. Estelle Takusi, Jean-Marie Tuete, and Olive Njobet.

Introduction

Honore Kwame introduced his in-laws from Cameroon, Ms. Charlotte Kemayou, and Tiodjang Sebastien Nelson

Jacques Timma introduced his sister-in-laws also from Cameroon, Adella Lepkuna and Anabel Sema

Alain Pokam introduced his cousin Viviane Sonkeng who wishes to become a member.

Presentation

The president introduced Milton Hibbler who made a presentation on VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) service provider he works for.

Mr. Milton explained that VoIP services convert your voice into a digital signal that travels over the Internet. If you are calling a regular phone number, the signal is converted to a regular telephone signal before it reaches the destination.

He outlined that the benefits include lower long distance rates, receiving calls automatically to your VoIP phone and added that one could travel with any VoIP phone modem.

He demonstrated by making a few calls to Cameroon through the internet using a cell phone for a few members.

Financial Matter

Marie Noel Tafah collected njangi dues while Alain Pokam collected meeting dues.

Meeting Adjourned at 2140 hours

Respectfully submitted by

Emmanuel Njiki