

## *Lafaba September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Meeting Minutes*

The meeting was called to order at 9:30pm followed by an apology from the president for the late start. Mrs. Marie-Noel Tafah led the meeting in prayer and later read the August minutes.

Mr. Fred Wambo moved to adopt the minutes and Mrs. Quine Sowunmi seconded the motion.

The president expressed concern of the meeting having sixty five registered members yet fewer than fifteen members attend regular monthly meetings. He continued that he as the president may be stuck with certain ways of doing things and needed fresh ideas.

Mr. Jacques Timma proposed the following;

1. If a member stands for something he/she should be committed.
2. The meeting should communicate more through the egroup to let members know about individual problems.
3. The current system of welcoming new members is very casual, the meeting has to attract members by having someone contact potential members and encourage them to join the meeting and brief the meeting with feedback.
4. Celebrate birthdays during the meeting.
5. If the Christmas party is for children then it should be strictly for children, or limit a party for the children during the day and have a gala in the evening for adults. The gala can also be used as a fund raising event whereby individuals in the community are invited.
6. Lastly, there can be a designated member who is responsible for enquiring with new members and give the meeting a feedback.

The president stated he thought combining born houses and other events at the end of the year was a mistake because it makes the meeting uninteresting.

Mr. Fred Wambo stated members may be losing interest because there are no interesting ideas on the agenda to captivate members. He also stated the meeting was a unifying force to him before but that spirit is now dead probably because of the backpack. He continued that the meeting should do stuff for our children here, reward and encourage our own children here in the United States.

Mr. Wambo also stated that the meeting has two factions, those in Arlington and Dallas, adding that those who bare grudges with the meeting or certain members should be able to voice them out.

Mr. Richard Nana cautioned Mr. Wambo against redirecting other member's concerns to the meeting and advised that any registered member with questions, concern should come to meeting and address whatever situation they have.

Mrs. Shiri Njiki proposed that the meeting should address the concerns of dedicated registered members and not members who think belonging to a meeting means sending dues and never attend a meeting. Mrs. Njiki added that the meeting can be better served or function with ten reliable members than with fifty unreliable members.

Mr. Jacques Timma was given the responsibility of calling members to find out how they are doing and what might be the situation with members staying away from meetings and report to the meeting with a feedback.

▪ ***August Hosting Group***

Mrs. Elizabeth Foma thanked the vice president and Mrs. Shiri Njiki for hosting the August meeting. She continued that she could not host the August meeting because she could not get in touch with her hosting partner, Mr. Tchounbia.

Mrs. Foma apologized to the meeting that she was sorry, and appealed to the meeting for being in school out of state and said nobody has ever asked her how she's doing.

Mr. Emmanuel Njikam attested to the fact that Mrs. Foma offered giving her own share of hosting expenses to Mr. Tchounbia and asked the meeting if Mrs. Foma should still be fined or not.

Mr. Wambo proposed paying \$100.00, a portion of Mrs. Foma's fine and she Mrs. Foma will only pay the balance for a very tangible reason. Mr. Wambo continued that there shouldn't be a precedent set by Mrs. Foma because he continued as a responsible member she is suppose to get to the bottom of how and where to host a meeting when assigned, but she made no effort to that effect.

Ms. Alexise Sonkeng proposed fining the hosting group and not the individual. This proposal is contrary to the bylaws.

After a long discussion on this topic it was agreed that all the members who were assigned to host the August meeting will be fined as stipulated in the bylaws.

The president applauded the Njikis' for hosting the August meeting.

▪ ***Chief David Tchoupe's Visit***

The president announced that the current president of the association of West Province Chiefs and Chief of Banja, His Royal Highness David Tchoupe while in the United States for a convention had expressed interest in visiting the Bamileke community in the DFW metro area.

The president proposed that meeting give him a befitting welcome.

The question that followed was where and when could the meeting plan for this occasion;

Mrs. Shiri Njiki proposed forming a planning committee.

It was agreed that since the meeting is working with limited time at the same time depending on the Chief's travel plan, the president will host the event, Mr. Timma and Mrs. Quine Sowunmi will contact and coordinate with members on what members could bring (Ladies-dish, Men-drinks).

The meeting voted on an amount of money to be used as gift to give our guest, the following is the results of the vote conducted, 11 members voted for \$300.00, 3 members voted for \$200.00, and 2 members voted for \$100.00 thus giving majority of the votes for \$300.00 gift.

It was also agreed that leaders of various cultural groups in the DFW metro area will be invited.

- ***Lafaba Website***

The president stated he is building the Lafaba website and needed somebody to write up the introductory page, Mr. Emmanuel Njikam volunteered to collaborate with the president in that endeavor.

Project backpack discussion postponed to October meeting.

- ***Announcement***

Mr. Alain Pokam announced that Virginie Mague gave birth to a baby girl two weeks ago. Viviane Sonkeng a new member has a birthday party for one year old son on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of September at 8:00pm at 1108 COURTSIDE DR ARLINGTON, TX 76002.

The president again apologized for starting the meeting late and advised members to keep their meeting dues current.

Mr. Jean-Louis Tante advised the meeting that getting life insurance through your bank of choice may be helpful to members.

Njangi circle will start next month October.

Minutes Taken by Mrs. Marie-Noel Tafah

Typed by Emmanuel Njiki