



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA

LOS ANGELES CHARTER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2014

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

The president, Benjamin Chinwuko, called the meeting to order at 5.30 pm with an opening prayer by Godwin Ibe.

2) President's Remark:

The president thanked members present for attending and being on time and implored everyone to continue in like manner. He took time to say a special thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Ajekwe for their persistence in attending the meeting through their pregnancy and said a prayer for the couple.

3) Attendants- 15 members were in attendance; Benjamin Chinwuko, Azuka Anene, Pat Ndigwe, Emeka Osakwe, Lawrence Okoye, Eunice Chine, Godwin Ibe, Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Chukwudi Onuzulike, Reginald Ajekwe, Amaechi Ajekwe, Chiagoziem Chinwuko, Herbert Udeoba, Ifeoma Obue

4) Excused Absences- 4 members had excused absence. They include Kenneth Ezenwa, Nkoli Ezenwa, Goddy Ezenwa and Dubem Anumba

5) Reading of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting was read by the secretary and adopted without corrections. The motion to adopt was moved by Goddy Ibe and seconded by Pat Ndigwe.

6) Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Folder for the Provost- The treasurer sent an email saying he has procured the folder for the provost and will give it to a Mr. H. Udeoba at their church. He could not be here today because he went to his sister's wedding.
- b) Update on incorporation efforts- The president, Ben Chinwuko updated us on the issue. We are fully incorporated as a non-profit entity, but still needs an EIN number to procure tax-exempt status from IRS. He reiterated the risk to any member's SSN should we burden them with this and a case for using the company suggested by the treasurer to procure the number at the cost of \$300.00 to avoid complications later. It was agreed to use the company.
The costs of procuring tax exempt status range from \$1500 to \$ 2500.00. The president had the secretary read a couple of emails on the issue from Sylvester Adigwe, who offered to do it at cost to us. The union decided to go with S Adigwe.
- c) Letter of Appreciation- The Secretary explained that he had sent out the belated letter. He said he emailed two versions of the letter. One was a word document and was created so members could edit it as necessary before sending it to their guests. The other was a generic, non-editable letter in pdf format that members could just print out and send.
- d) Group life insurance- Dubem Anumba, who was charged with the responsibility, could not make it today. She did call the President to brief him on her efforts. The President updated us on their conversation. The premium for a \$20,000.00 insurance would be about \$150.00 to \$200 per year. He suggested it may be a good idea for us to give this serious consideration. The bereavement levy alone he explained is \$250.00 local and \$50.00 national per occurrence. This could add up quickly and, considering our membership now, may not even be enough. If the insurance option receives support, it could be our way out. It works on several fronts; 1) The \$20,000.00 is enough to give members befitting last rights and leave something to their survivors. 2) It will do away with the bereavement

levies (local and national) and 3) It will obviate any need for levying more money on members in cases of severe shortfalls. The President reminded us of three deaths in the national body recently. Although only one of them was in good standing in the national body and hence the levy was \$50.00, the total member payment could easily have been \$150.00. Abodi added that it would make planning easier. It pays out over time. A member asked if we really needed additional insurance. The President said it would be in addition to any personal insurance member may have. The premium could be annually or quarterly. We will decide after we come to a consensus on it. It was unanimously approved.

- e) Pictures- Ifeoma Obue updated us on her effort to get the pictures. She was not able to get them today, but will get them tomorrow 7/19/2014 and will deliver them to Abodi.
- f) Proposed constitutional amendments- Azuka Anene, (Abodi) updated us on the efforts of the Constitutional Drafting Committee. A spirited debate ensued on the age limits for the Youth Forum. Several age ranges were suggested; 16-22, 18-30, 16-24, 14-22. Eventually it was decided that the 16-22 age group would be best suited.
- g) New members- Mr. Emeka Osakwe from Umuokpu attended for the first time and joined. He and Pat Ndigwe filled out the membership forms and each received a copy the constitution.
- h) Elections- The body decided to fill the offices of the Vice President and Assistant Secretary. Mr. Godwin Ibe nominated Kanayo Ibe for VP seconded by L Okoye. Mr. Ibe was elected unopposed against his protests. Mr. Godwin Ibe also nominated Mrs. Amechi Ajakwe for Assistant Secretary, seconded by Mr. Azuka Anene (Abodi). Mrs. Ajakwe was also elected unopposed. The President welcomed Mr. Ibe and Mrs Ajakwe to the executive body.
- i) Awka Day- The name for the event was debated on. Some said Awka Day, some said picnic since it is the end of the year. Picnic won out and it was suggested that it take place on the last meeting of the year to save members travel time. The President and Publicity Secretary will iron out the date for the picnic, but 11/29/2014 (last Sat in November) was tentatively set, till they decide. Possible venues for the event are Holly Trinity Hawthorne (proposed by Oba), All Saints Anglican Church (by Eunice Chine) and St Charles North Hollywood (by Dr. Ajakwe). They will look into availability and inform the financial secretary.
The picnic would be either a potluck or catered. For potluck, it was suggested that we decide on what to bring at the next meeting. If one cannot make it to the next meeting, they should text their dish to the financial secretary (finsec). A committee will look into the picnic. If we decide to cater the picnic, it would be necessary to set a levy. We would need to see what we have in our purse before levying for the event. The President explained our revenues and expenditures and appointed the picnic committee. The picnic committee members are Dr. Ajakwe, Pat Ndigwe and Amauche Ibe.
- j) Finance- The President Ben Chinwuko and his VP Kanayo Ibe each paid the national bereavement levy of \$50.00 for the Houston Chapter member who passed away.

7) General

- a) The president briefed us on the deaths of members out of state. Two members of the Chicago Chapter and one member of the Houston Chapter passed away. The Chicago Chapter has issues with the National body that precludes the bereavement benefit to their members. The Houston Chapter is in good standing therefore their members are entitled to the National bereavement benefit of \$50.00.
- b) A member proposed moving the meeting day to Sundays. This was not well received and it was decided that we not change the meeting day/schedule.
- c) Meeting information is disseminated via email. It was suggested that members read their emails and come to the meeting with questions if they have any. This way we would spend less time reading through material, thereby shortening the meeting time.

d) Mrs. Ajakwe announced that baptism for their daughter would be on 8/10/2014 and invited the meeting with the customary bottle of wine. The President thanked them and implored members to go and be with them on this very special occasion.

e) The President presented a collection of Awka maxims he put together at the request of some members. It will be typed and passed out to members.

6) Closing- The meeting came to a close at 8:35 pm with a motion for adjournment raised by Abodi aka Azuka Anene and seconded by Godwin Ibe. The closing prayer was said by Pat Ndigwe.