



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA

LOS ANGELES CHARTER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, July 18, 2015

1) **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm by the President. The opening prayer was said by Mrs. Ngozi Udeanago.

2) **President's remark:** The President Ben Chinwuko thanked everyone who was on time and stressed that the earlier we start, the earlier we will be done. This is the earliest we've started the meeting. There was more than enough members present to start the meeting. He thanked the Ajakwes for hosting the meeting and welcomed everybody. This marks the second time the meeting has been held outside of Obu Awka. We have some new members and the President welcomed them. He informed them we are here to get to know each other, to be there for each other and to ensure our progress here and at home.

3) **Attendance:** A total of 27 members were in attendance including, Benjamin Chinwuko, Azuka Anene, Izuchukwu Anene, Somtochukwu Anene, Chiagoziem Chinwuko, Reginald Ajekwe, Amaechi Ajekwe, Emeka Ezenwa, Nkoli Ezenwa, Godwin Ezenwa, Obiageli Ezenwa, Ngozi Udeanago, Lawrence Okoye, Dubem Anumba, Ify Obue, Vivian Nwofor, Rose Chukwura, Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Emeka Ajakwe, Ijeamaka Ajakwe, Ikechkwu Anagbogu, Ngozi Anagbogu, Godwin Nnama, Eunice Chine, Pat Ndigwe, Oyeoka Igweze.

Two visitor graced us with their presence. There were Mr. & Mrs. OY Ezenwa

Excused absences include; Chucks Onuzulike, Godwin Ibe, Chioma Chinwuko, Chimdaldu Chinwuko, Chidi Okoyeigwe, Oby Nwafor, Chinweze Chinwuba, Sylvester Adigwe.

4) **Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Minutes of the previous meeting was read and adopted after the following corrections: 1) The new members were not mentioned 2) There was a typo in Azuka Anene's name. Motion for the adoption was moved by Azuka Anene and seconded by Kanayo Ibe.

5) **Matters arising:**

The President, Ben Chinwuko handed a letter to the secretary to read out loud to the body. The letter was from a member who appreciated the letter that was proposed and written by Emeka Ezenwa to encourage people to come to the meeting. This showed that the letter had a very positive impact. Ben encouraged everyone to speakout so people will get involved.

A) **National Teleconference Calls (TC):** Ben informed us they had a series of TCs before the national convention. There was no special issues after the convention. The agenda going forward is to attract more people (members). Since no one attended the event from our chapter, he gave us news he received from the national officials. Everything went very well according to his source. Emmah Nwude (EN) was the chairman and Fred Onwumbiko (FO) stated that the call for members to send pictures was hot headed well. Our chapter send two pictures, one for the brochure and one for the almanac.

Both pictures were placed in the brochure. He passed the brochure around for all to flip through. He said they sent him 5 copies of the brochure with names of members to pass them on to. These five members had subscribed to the brochure by sending their pictures along with payment. He said we did not receive any brochure as a chapter. He asked why and FO and EN said they will send one to us. Ben asked about the almanac and was informed that those present at the convention bought the almanac. He asked them to send one to us and we will pay for it. Emman Nwude promised to send it for this meeting, but did not. The only thing for sure was that the convention was a success. Ezeuzu was in attendance. A group of members cornered him to ask about the issues/complaints at Awka in an attempt to insult him, but it was averted.

OY informed us that PG of ADU was at the convention. He said he was informed that the PG was not allowed to speak. Ben said he was not made aware of that. They allowed Eze Uzu to address them briefly but not Anene, ADU PG. Ben said that the east coast wants the west coast to host the next convention so they will attend.

B) Group insurance: Reginald Ajakwe updated us on the number of people who have opted for the insurance policy, a total of 12 people. The number is below that on which the \$240/year (\$20/m) premium was based. Therefore the quote is invalid because it was based on a slightly younger demographic and a minimum of 18 people. He got new quotes for the 12 people we have, and it was \$42/m for the \$100,000 policy and from \$22/m to \$25/m for a \$50,000 policy. For the \$25,000 policy, the premium is about \$20/m.

This is a doubling of the original quote. He stated that \$50,000 is still a good value for our purpose. He said the numbers could be a little better. He read the names of the 12 members who have paid for insurance. Some members voiced their opinion about the premium being too high. Why should they participate when they could get the same policy for a lower price on their own. The president explained that we are trying to get a group insurance which is a pooling of different age groups for the purpose of getting a lowered average payment. Abodi suggested that we try and have more members participate. The price will go down, the younger ones may not benefit, but the intended use is unbeatable.

Initially the constitution was written on the bases that the national body will help in sending the body of a member home. This turned out not to be the case because not everybody in a chapter is a member of the national body. It was decided that the insurance is a good idea and that everybody should participate. More argument about the premium for the younger members ensued. A member reminded us that the young will grow old too and besides no one knows who will die first. Ben prophesied that he will die at Awka. At this time Regi informed us that we need only 3 more people to meet the minimum of 18 required for the original quote (\$20/m). He said that the \$240/y premium is better than the \$250/death levy. Which are we willing to do? He thinks that with enough members signing on, we might even get a better price than the \$240/y. A member wondered what happens if a member dies who is not a participant in the insurance. Abodi explained that the constitution will be amended to address that issue. Another member suggested that this is a good deal even for those who already have life insurance. It was suggested we get the insurance agent to come back and explain things if we are going forward. A member agreed that it might be a good idea to invite him back. OY Ezenwa said he thought we were well along on this issue. It seems we are sliding back. Ben explained that the insurance agent was here and answered a lot of questions. He said all we need is a minimum of 18 people. Emeka Ajakwe and his oliaku signed on for the insurance. That means we need only one more person to make 18. A member asked about changes in premium. It was explained that the rate is good for 30 years. Ike Anagbogu and Ogoma his oliaku who are attending the meeting for the first time promised they will let us know by tomorrow if they will be on the insurance. Abodi informed us that Ike just transferred to the LA area and was just informed of our meeting recently and he showed

up. That is being civic minded. It is the caliber of members every organization yearns for. OY promised he will join the meeting and insurance. The Insurance Committee will give the final number to Dubem for a final premium quotation.

C) **501 –C** Kanayo Ibe updated us on this issue. He said he asked Sylvester Adigwe if we can use the national body's 501-C and was told we could proceed on the idea that we have applied for our own, but suggested we wait till we have it to proceed with any solicitation. Sylvester also informed him that he applied for his own 501-C at about the same time and has already received it. He suggested that we close our Chase Bank account when we get the 501-C and open an account at either US Bank or Ca Coast Credit Union.

D) **Library:** Lawrence Okoye updated the meeting on the progress of the library committee. Ben clarified that it is the committee's duty to answer all questions concerning their assignment and inform the body of their work. He agreed that it may not be a good idea to use the national body's 501-C. However if ours takes too long to get to us, we may have issue with meeting our target. We need the computers and money to ship and clear them. We need to start early so we could achieve our goal. Emeka mentioned that it may not even matter if we use the national body's document. We would just start using ours when we receive it.

E) **Hall Acquisition:** Emeka Ezenwa updated us on his issue. The committee did not move forward because we do not have the asset backing for such a purchase. Based on the 25% of two year's take, they decided to suspend it for now. Alternatively we could use an individual's or group of individuals' financial credentials. We can use them and raise the downpayment to reimburse them. We will own any equity and we guarantee no negative effect on their credits. A member asked what we need the hall for. Emeka informed us that halls are good business now because the only one left today is the Centinella hall. If halls are such hot cakes today, why are most of them going out of business asked the member. Emeka said disagreements among owners is the major reason, not viability. Ben remarked that halls are always booked all weekends and we can also use it for child care and as offices. This is all a good idea intoned another member but we are too young to embark on that for now. We need to be in a good place financially before undertaking issues like that. We may need to go in with another town or collaborate with other groups. Emeka suggested leasing as another option. A 5000 square feet shopping center available at \$2/sf. Another member wanted to know why we are rushing to acquire a real property at this stage. What is the margin of profit. We need to do research to see if it is viable before taking the plunge. Another member asked why a non profit organization is eagerly looking to make money renting out a hall. A member said their church is having issues with non-profit, profit right now. Another member suggested we shelve the issue for at least 6 months. The committee chair, Emeka Ezenwa suggested they work on it and give us a report in 6 months. Ben asked the committee to keep researching and give us a report next time.

6) **New Members:** We had a few new members. Obiageli Ezenwa -Umubele – Umuonaga, Ngozi Udeanago -Umuonaga, Peter Ikechukwu Anagbogu -Amachala, Ogoma Ngozi Anagbogu -Amachala and Oyeoka Igweze –Umuonaga. Oyeoka is a premed student transferring to CSUN next year.

7) **Financial Report:** The financial secretary had emailed a statement to every member prior to the meeting. Ben asked all present to check the statement to see if any dues they paid is not reflected and also if they are credited with dues they know they have not paid. Finally he implored everyone who owes any dues to pay them. He also encouraged members to belong to the national body and pay that

due. A member objected to what he described as excessive dues. Ben reminded him that our membership due is only \$5/m. Membership is local and national. The national body will only get involved in matters concerning national members. Another member reminded us that the national membership is optional. Do we still need to belong to the feds when we have the insurance? Ben said that in Nigeria they have ADUN. Any chapter that decides not to be a member is on their own. Awka Union is the umbrella that local chapters can be under or not. All activities of a local chapter must be reported to the national body. It is not a must that a chapter belong to the national body. OY Ezenwa offered a picture of the organization of the ADU. There are branches all over the country. Every city has a branch. Then there is the ADUN. There's delegates from branches. The ADUN liaises with the government. There is no levy to ADUN on members. They levy the local branches a lump each.

Abodi commented that the national membership is for representation. Annual dues come as a body. Ben said that the national dues are sent to the national body. When something happens they look into the membership dues to see if the member is in good standing. What happened in Chicago is a typical example. They were not members of the national body so they were not taken care of. If anybody decides not to belong to the national body, its OK. OY asked what happens if we do not have insurance and a person is bereaved. Ben responded that we had believed that the national body will send the body home. We did not know that they only send money to the local chapter based on the number of members in the national body. They do not foot the full bill of sending a body home. Once we have our insurance up and running we will not pay the national levy of \$50.

A member wondered how we can pay what it costs to send a body home when we are having problem paying the \$5 monthly due. Another member suggested that we have the minimum number of national members once our insurance is in force. We decided that when our insurance kicks in, we would pay for 5 delegates by a vote of 17 to 0 to the national body.

8) General:

Election; Next meeting meeting is election day. The new officials will assume office by year end.

Obu Awka; Obu Awka has changed. Azuka Anene will open his house for us that day.

End of Year Party; Emeka Ajakwe presented forms for St Jerome, the hall he proposed. The price is \$500 and the time is 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. People did not like the time but the venue is decent. The date for the party is December 5, 2015. Emeka Ajakwe was given the OK to procure the venue for the party. The budget is good but the time is not. That is good, said a member, we have to learn to be on time. We voted to use the venue.

The end of year party committee was selected; Pat Ndigwe, Emeka Ajakwe, Ijeamaka Ajakwe, Dubem Anumba, Eunice Chine and Ify Nwankwo. Ben informed them we need recommendation from the committee.

9) Closing: The meeting ended at 8:15 pm with a motion for adjournment moved by Azuka Anen and seconded by Amuche Ibe. The closing prayer was said by Rosaline Chukwura.