



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA

LOS ANGELES CHARTER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2014

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

The president, Benjamin Chinwuko, called the meeting to order at 5.35 pm and said the opening prayer

2) President Remark:

The president thanked members for attending the meeting and noted that though the agenda for the meeting is long, effort will be made to hasten the proceeding because of other events going on. He also pointed out that the secretary, Lawrence Okoye, was unavoidably absent for the meeting and that the Publicity Secretary, Azuka Anene was asked by the secretary to take minutes in his place. The president however decried the action, noting that it is the meeting that appoints a replacement for any officer who is absent from the meeting, not the absentee officer.

3) Attendants- 15 members attended the meeting with 3 excused absence- In attendance are Benjamin Chinwuko (President), Azuka Anene (Publicity Secretary), Eunice Chine (Financial Secretary), Emeka Ezenwa(Treasurer), Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Godwin Ibe, Ifeyinwa Nwankwo, Pat Ndigwe (new member), Herbert Udeoba, Chiagoziem Chinwuko (new member), Godwin Ezenwa, Dubem Anumba, Chukwudi Onuzulike, Ogoamaka Onwubuya (observer).

4) Excused Absence- Lawrence Okoye, (secretary) Dr. Reginald Ajekwe, Obiageli Nwafor

5) Reading of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the previous meeting was read by the acting secretary. The following corrections were made before adoption.

- a) Secretary General did not attend the inauguration ceremony as recorded but the Treasurer General.
- b) Names of members to be written in full when they are mentioned in our minutes since we have many sound-alike names.
- c) Minutes should be a summary of what was agreed on any issue and not word for word of what every member said.

The minutes were adopted by a motion moved by Kanayo Ibe and seconded by Eunice Chine.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Forwarding of electronic stationary to the secretary- The Treasurer, Kenneth Ezenwa informed the meeting that he has forwarded the electronic letter-head to the secretary as agreed in the previous meeting.
- b) Abodi's designed electronic letter-head- The publicity secretary noted that Union has already paid for and received it's official letter-head and that his (Abodi's) own version it is no longer necessary.
- c) Folders for Financial secretary, Publicity secretary and Provost- The treasurer presented two folders; one for the financial secretary and one for the publicity secretary. He was directed to purchase one more folder for the provost.
- d) Update on incorporation efforts- The treasurer noted that so far the Union is fully incorporated as non-profit organization by Legal Zoom. He however reiterated that the union still needs an EIN number for the procurement of tax-exempt status from IRS. Since EIN number is attached to somebody's social security number and to avoid the problem that may arise in future, he suggested that we use a company to procure the number for the Union at the cost of \$300.00. He also said he spoke to Okwuchukwu (CPA) who charged him \$2,500.00 to procure the tax-exempt status from IRS.

He went further to say that if Okwuchukwu was to guide him through the process, it will cost \$1,500.00 but may take longer time. It was agreed to source quotation from Sylvester Adigwe who is also a CPA and from Awka, and any other person that will do a great job at a good price.

- e) Reconciliation of accounts- The treasurer stated that account was already reconciled but because Obiageli's account was not ready, they were asked to go back and reconcile. He observed that he received the sum of \$300.00 from Obiageli but recorded the amount as redemption of \$200.00 pledge by Nkoli and \$110.00 from Raphael Nwokike, when in fact Nkoli had not redeemed her pledge at that time and Mr. Nwokike's check was returned to him. At this juncture, the president presented a check of \$250.00- a donation from Raphael Nwokike which was earlier mailed to the treasure but which was returned to him (Mr. Nwokike).
- f) Letter of Appreciation- The acting secretary briefly narrated his discussion with the secretary concerning the letter of appreciation which was supposed to be distributed at the meeting but which was not available. The President raised concern about the lateness of the letter and said he was of the opinion that we do not send the letters anymore. It was however agreed that we should still send the letters to show our donors our appreciation. The secretary was mandated to email the letters to members so they can print and send them to those who donated money through them.
- g) Group life insurance- Dubem Anumba, who was charged with the responsibility, reported that the insurance company she contacted requested names and ages of members before they are able to give a quote. Because of the sensitive nature of the information requested by the insurance company, members were asked to text their names and ages directly to the publicity secretary who will then compile and forward the information to Dubem.
- h) Hard copy of the inauguration pictures- This was deferred as Obiageli was not present to talk on the issue.
- i) Election- the President called on election to fill the positions of vice president, assistant secretary and provost- the office that became vacant following the resignation of Obiageli Nwafor. It was agreed to fill in only the position of provost and to defer the offices of vice president and assistant secretary to another meeting. Mr. Herbert Udeoba was elected unopposed for the office of the provost.
- j) Schedule for hosting meeting- The publicity presented a draft schedule for hosting the Union's meetings and was overwhelmingly approved by the meeting.
- k) Proposed constitutional amendments- The constitutional amendments proposed by the Constitution Drafting Committee was adopted with the following amendments:
 - l)
 - ✓ Item 2 in section 4 was deleted as members felt that it was redundant
 - ✓ Item 4 of the same section was amended to read "Such person, if admitted, is entitled to all the benefits listed in Article 5 based on class of membership (i.e. active, financial, inactive member)."
 - ✓ It was also agreed to have a youth wing as a third wing of the union and to include a section titled "Formation of youth wing in the constitution. The constitution Drafting Committee was asked to work out the details of the work of the youth wing and to report to the next meeting. Chiagoziem Chinwuko was appointed to organize this very important arm of the Union via Face Book. Members were asked to submit names of their children who are of age to him for possible contact.
- m) New members- The president noted that he wanted to invite one of our nwadianas from Enugu state to this meeting but was discouraged by low attendance at the last meeting. He promised to invite him to the next meeting. The following persons registered as new members 1) Chiagoziem Chinwuko from Umuonaga (student), and 2) Pat Ndigwe from Umuayom. Ogoamaka Onwubuya from Umuonaga introduced herself and promised to join the meeting.
- n) Finance- There was no financial report. However, the sum of \$560.00 was raised from registration and membership dues. Details include:

- 1) Chiagoziem Chinwuko- \$50.00 for registration
- 2) Pat Ndigwe \$90.00-(which represents registration fee \$50 and annual due for 2014 \$40)
- 3) Amuche Ibe \$60 for 2014 annual due
- 4) Chucks Onuzulike- \$160 (representing 2013 and 2014 annual dues, and 2014 national dues)
- 5) Herbert Udeoba- \$40 (part payment for 2014 annual due)
- 6) Azuka Anene paid \$60. Annual dues and
- 7) Benjamin Chinwuko paid \$100 for brochure.

5) General-

- a) The president narrated their efforts to get more members. He stated that he spoke to most of our members who have been absent from meetings and most promised to attend this meeting. He also said that he spoke to Charles Oforah who explained why he has not been responding to all the text messages but promised to attend the next meeting. He went further to say that our out of state member, Mr. Raphael Nwokike, who incidentally is the Secretary General, also promised to attend the next meeting. Mr. Ibe narrated his effort to get Mr. Sylvester Adigwe to attend but noted that his situation has made it difficult to attend the meeting from San Diego. He however stated that when he raised the idea of having the meeting in his residence in San Diego Mr. Adigwe was all for it and promised to attend this or the next meeting.
- b) The publicity secretary informed the meeting that Eunice Chine presented some snacks to the meeting and that she has been doing this in all the meetings we have had so far. Mr. Godwin Ibe was asked to thank her on behalf of the meeting and the president augmented that with a very powerful prayer.
- c) Godwin Ezenwa inquired about how to get information on what is going on at the national body. The president noted that they have conference calls whenever there are issues to be discussed and that he assumed that the national body expects local presidents to pass on the information to members
- d) Godwin Ibe informed the meeting that he has a new baby boy and presented a bottle of wine and a carton of beer (Heineken) to meeting. Mr. Godwin Ezenwa offered a prayer for the new born and the family.
- e) Kenneth Ezenwa suggested that the meeting organize a picnic or any event that will be called Awka Day

6) Closing- The meeting came to an end at 8 15 pm with a motion for adjournment raised by Herbert Udeoba and seconded by Eunice Chine. Chukwudi Onuzulike said the closing prayer.