



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA



Minutes of the Meeting Held May 16, 2015

1) **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by the President. The opening prayer was said by Mr. Azuka Anene (Abodi).

2) **President's remark:** The president stressed we really need people to attend the meeting and on time. Our goal is to have a 30 minute grace period and start the meeting at 5:00 pm, he reminded us. He thanked the few members who were present at the start of the meeting.

3) **Attendance:** A total of eighteen members were in attendance including, Benjamin Chinwuko, Azuka Anene, Chiagoziem Chinwuko, Emeka Ezenwa, Amuche Ibe, Kanayo Ibe, Reginald Ajakwe, Eunice Chine, Pat Ndigwe, Emeka Ajakwe, Lawrence Okoye, Herbert Odeoba, Samson Nwangwu, Izuchukwu Anene, Somtochukwu Anene; and two new members including Chioma Chinwuko and Chimdalụ Chinwuko for a total of eighteen members. One visitor Mr. OY Ezenwa graced us with his presence and promised to be at the next meeting also. There was one excused absence; Ify Obue who kept her promise and fed us.

4) **Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Minutes of the previous meeting was read and adopted after the following corrections: 1) Amuche Ibe was absent the last meeting 2) Ben Chinwuko paid \$120 for his insurance but it was not recorded correctly. Motion for the adoption was moved by Abodi and seconded by Chiagoziem Chinwuko.

5) **Matters arising:**

A) **Convention:** Nobody from this organization is going to the national convention as of today. Pat Ndigwe and Eunice Chine were asked if they could go, but they were not able to.

The Secretary updated us on his efforts to locate the group photo he was supposed to send for the national convention's brochure. The photo could not be located. Nobody knew where the master photo CD that was delivered to us is. He will call the photographer for a copy of the group picture. The meeting agreed that we should pay the \$100.00 fee for the brochure. The treasurer is to send the money while the secretary locates and sends the picture.

B) **Group insurance:** Dr. Ajakwe updated us on the insurance efforts. He had to open a separate account for the insurance dues. The insurance funds need to be kept separate from the organizations other monies. So he spent about three hours of his time to open the account at Chase Bank and paid in the \$600.00 he had collected to that date. He read the list of members who gave him their insurance dues. Ajakwes \$120.00, Ben Chinwuko \$120.00, Amuche Ibe \$120.00, Abodi \$60.00, Goddy Ibe \$60.00. Emeka Ezenwa said he paid \$60.00 cash. Amuche paid the extra \$120.00 to complete their premium. Abodi paid \$60.00 and Lawrence Okoye paid \$120.00.

It was suggested that the premium be broken up into two or even four payments because some people might have issues paying the yearly premium of \$240.00 at once. The plan has already been decided on. We have decided on the \$100,000.00 plan. We have not decided on the payout options. The company is waiting on us to inform them on that. Ben had informed them we would like to start the coverage in June. We were reminded that the premium was based on a minimum of 18 people. So far

8) **General:** The chairman of the constitution drafting committee Abodi, informed us that according to our constitution, a lot of people are no longer members. He implored members to pay their dues. He also mentioned that it is not good of anyone to not pay the condolence levy. Pat shows that only 13 people have paid the levy.

Emeka Ezenwa suggested that we write to members who have not been coming to the meetings to encourage them to come. There was a discussion on attendance. Abodi who sends out the invites via text messages said he used to call people in addition to the texts. Still they do not come. Ben said he also calls people he thinks may not come and invites them. Still they do not. OY suggested we write the letter to supplement the text invitation from Abodi. Emeka believes a letter will have more impact. He suggested we baby people for now until we are strong enough. He volunteered to write the letter. The next meeting will be held at Dr. Ajkwe's house in the Valley. The election of new members will be in the September meeting. Emeka Ajakwe who spoke eloquently on the issue of solicitation for NPOs was added to the Library Committee.

OY Ezenwa gave us a briefing on the politics and all the goings-on at Awka Development Union (ADU) in Nigeria. The Lagos ADU elected a new president in March 2015. The President is Chukwudi Okoye and the Vice President is Chris Okafor. Awka ADU's president does not want to relinquish his post. He does not want to hold the elction and is bringing people in to keep his post. ADU do not want him. Members are going home for that issue. Even the governor is getting involved.

The president Ben Chniwuko asked Oba to express our thanks to OY for the briefing, but OY objected because Oba came very late to the meeting. The president thanked him on behalf of the organization and implored him to encourage his relatives to be more like him in all things Awka. OY, responding to the presidents greetings, thanked us for our efforts and said he is happy we are increasing. He is a proud Awka man, loves Awka issues and love being in the meeting. He said he will be here till July and plan on coming to the next meeting. He said he may be relocating to the US even. He praised the president and suggested that we not discourage people because we are still starting out.

9) **Closing:** The meeting ended at 7:55 pm with a motion for adjournment moved by Azuka Anen and seconded by Chioma Chinwuko. The closing prayer was said by Mr. OY Ezenwa.