



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA

LOS ANGELES CHARTER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

The president, Benjamin Chinwuko, called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM with an opening prayer led by Azuka Anene (Abodi).

2) President's Remark:

The president thanked members present for attending and being on time and implored everyone to continue in like manner. He reminded everyone about the bereavement benefit payout facing us and encouraged all to pay the \$30.00 levy imposed by the body.

3) Attendants- The meeting was not as well attended as the last one. Eleven members were in attendance including; Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Godwin Ibe, Ben Chinwuko, Azuka Anene, Emeka Ezenwa, Lawrence Okoye, Pat Ndigwe, Reginald Ajekwe, Ify Nwankwo and Herbert Udeozo.

4) Excused Absences- One excused absence; Emeka Osakwe.

5) Reading of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting was read and adopted with minor corrections. The corrections were; the minute noted that we were updated on the Christening of Goddy Ibe's daughter. The christening was for his son. The minute also identified 9 people as paying the \$30.00 bereavement levy, but 13 people in fact paid. The insurance premium for the \$100,000.00 policy is \$240.00/num rather than \$250.00/num recorded in the minutes. Amauche Ibe moved to adopt the minutes as corrected and Emeka Ezenwa seconded.

6) Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Wake-Keeping of Mrs. Margaret Okoye; The Union Secretary, Lawrence Okoye (ogbeuevfi Chibuogwu) announced that the date for the wake-keeping of his mother Mrs. Margaret Okoye is scheduled for Saturday November 08, 2014 and requested that members join him in honoring her.
- b) Update on tax exemption efforts; The president, Ben Chinwuko (ogbeuevfi Umunnanwezuoaku) and the treasurer, Emeka Ezenwa (ogbeuenyi Nnwa Jesus), updated us on the progress in our pursuit of our tax exempt status. Emeka explained that we have an update from Sylvester Adigwe (Iteshikwulnaobu aka Sly). So far they have had dialogues about which way to go; should we go with Atlanta (Okwy Onwumbiko) or go with Sly. Sly had initially required that for him to do it, one person in the organization would have to be responsible for the entity by providing his/her SSN for the tax exempt status and the cost will be \$400.00. On the other end of the cost spectrum, Awka Union USA&CA Treasurer General, Okwy Onwumbiko would require no SSN from anybody, but it would cost us \$2,500.00. If we only need him to assist us in preparing the documents, which means we would have to do the typing, documentation and everything and all he has to do is guide us. It would cost us \$1,500.00. In view of the exorbitance of Okwy's services, Emeka decided to speak to Sly again. Prior to the last meeting which Sly attended, he had told us that he would do everything for \$400.00. The caveat as was mentioned earlier is that he will need a member's SSN. However, as of last week, he emailed Emeka informing him of a new form that has no provision for a SSN, only contact information. Emeka decided that this is a better way to go, since it doesn't place a burden on anybody (SSN) and costs only \$400.00. He gave Emeka a list of information he needs to. Emeka and the

President discussed this yesterday (10/17/14) and decided to use the President as the contact person. The president is OK with this. Obguefvi Chinedu (Kanayo Ibe) inquired about the company we used as a stand-in last time to remove the burden of using a member's SSN. Emeka explained that their service was for the procurement of our EIN which we have now. The President augmented Emeka's report by supplying the list of information Sly asked for which include; name of the organization, address of record, EIN, contact phone number and name, names and addresses of officials, date of incorporation, state of incorporation and a \$400.00 voided check. Under the new form, no SSN required. The \$400.00 is the IRS's fee. Sly will not charge us any fees for his services (a true Awka man). The meeting mandated Emeka to proceed with Sly. Abodi implored him to send all the information ASAP because the process takes a very long time.

- c) Awka Day (End of Year Party)- The president and Emeka updated us on the hall/venue. The price of the hall is \$600.00 and they paid a \$500.00 deposit. Ben explained that the remaining \$100.00 is the cleaning deposit. If we can clean the place, there's no need to spend the \$100.00. We decided to pay the \$100.00 because by experience (our inauguration party) there would not be enough people by the end of the event to clean the place properly.

Ben reminded us that some items on the list still need takers and suggested we remind people to pledge for them. In the event that some of the items are not taken (pledged), he suggested we fund them from our purse. Abodi reminded us we still have about three cases of Guinness and suggested that whoever pledged them take on another item. Ben suggested that we keep them to be used in our meetings when needed. Ekwunife Ibe wanted to know if any one called a DJ. He was informed that we have a pledge for the DJ but that no one has made any calls about it. Ekwunife said he would call DJ Ike but he does not know the date for the function. He was informed that the date was November 22, 2014 at Holy Trinity Church; 12563 Crenshaw Boulevard, Hawthorn, just south of the Hawthorn Airport. The President asked the End of Year Committee if they have been thinking of our children in their planning. It was decided that pizza will not be ordered. The kids will eat rice and other food items and drink soda and caprisun. There's also water but it was decided that more is needed. It was suggested that people bring more water. Abacha was added to the list and Adora Ibe was volunteered in absentia for that item.

- d) Finance- Kanayo Ibe redeemed his pledge for the occasion in the amount of \$200.00. Abodi redeemed his pledge, also \$200.00 and suggested that an updated list be provided so everybody will know what they owe.

7) General

a) The president briefed us on the teleconference meeting of the national executives held on 10/16/2014. Among the issues they discussed were;

1) The sanctioning of the Dallas Chapter of Awka Union USA&CA. The proceeding of the sanctioning was discussed. The issue is also posted on our website. The PG travelled to Awka to present the sanctioning letter to Ezeuzu, Nduozo and PG ADU. Also the same letter was given to the Lagos chapter of ADU by a member. Then Ezeuzu and the PG ADU acknowledged our message and said they would like for the opposing parties to come home to Awka so they could mediate or we could pay for them to come to America for the mediation. They only request that the two parties abide by whatever their ruling is. The NE considered this and informed them that we are independent of ADU and that our decision (sanction) on the case is final. We were not looking for mediators or arbitrators. We only wanted to notify them that we have taken an action against a chapter of our organization. They do not need to come to the US for that issue.

2) Another issue discussed was the discussion we had earlier about congratulating the Governor Obiano and Mr. Ekwuatu, the chairman of the board appointed by the governor. Ben said his in-law called him from Lagos one day and told him he was reading a newspaper and came across his name where we were congratulating the governor, Mr. Ekwuatu and one other person. Apparently the other members of the board were asking why we only mentioned Ekwuatu's name, that we should have mentioned the names of all the board members. He said

he told them we only started with one person, that as they make progress and do good things for Awka we will congratulate all the board members by names.

3) The Baltimore Chapter will host the national convention on the last Saturday in June 2015. They requested a loan from the national body. This was the chapter that had a big fall-out a while back with their women's chapter. The court ruled for the women and awarded the chapter's purse to the women's chapter. They asked for a \$4000.00 loan to be paid back after the convention. This was approved. Ben said he is a member of the convention planning committee.

4) They discussed the regional meeting. They want to hold a regional meeting by February 2015. Ben said he has never been in support of the regional meeting, but the move to have it is strong. The essence of the regional meeting is to support the agenda of the national body because the once-in-a-while teleconference call is not enough. A lot of issues go unhandled between these teleconference meetings.

5) Lastly, the Dallas Chapter has an issue. Ben Nwankwo a member of that chapter has a clique that is causing big trouble in the chapter. This issue is all over our website. The Chapter had to ostracize that clique. The chapter then claimed that the national body is in concurrence with their action, but they did not in fact contact the national body at all on the matter. They were warned never to do such a thing ever. The national body of the union would not be railroaded into issues they were not aware of. This does not mean that we disagree with the chapter's action. It's just that we were dragged into it without our knowledge. Anyhow the good news is that they are working on reconciliation. They were also warned against posting all these fights on the web because it paints a bad picture of us and make it look like all we do is fight. Every chapter is supposed to handle their disputes and keep it off the web.

A lively discussion about the regional meeting ensued. Some members wanted to know if it's just for the executives. Some wanted to know if it's only teleconference calls or whether physical meetings are contemplated. Some wanted to know what the regions are. Abodi read out aloud the various regions. People wondered how feasible such meetings will be. Ben informed us that 8 of 10 people were in support and 2 including him objected to having the regional meetings.

b) Abodi implored people to redeem their pledges since we do not have another meeting before the occasion. A question was raised; how do we organize the bringing of the food to the party? The best thing to do will be for everybody to bring the food (their pledge) to the place. Ben suggested that the treasurer send each member the union's account number so everybody could pay the money for their pledge into the account. The planning committee will then withdraw the funds and prepare/order what is pledged. The planning committee said that it was initially planned as a potluck and members made pledges for that. They (the committee) will call every pledge to remind them to bring their pledge and on time.

Some members expressed preference for catering the event and avoid any disappointment by members who may not show up on time or not show up at all. It was decided to keep to the initial arrangement, that is, let members bring their pledge to the place. Ben estimated the number of attendees to be at about 100. Ogbuevfi Chinedu suggested that people bring any other thing they could organize. Oba volunteered to make suya and received a good applause on that.

c) Dr. Ajakwe brought up a suggestion by a member at the last meeting about moving the meeting around. It was decided that there was not enough people present to discuss that. It will be handled at a future meeting.

d) Decoration; Emeka Ezenwa volunteered Oby in absentia to decorate the hall.

e) The President pledge to bring a bunch of educational products as presidential gifts/presents to be raffle off to our kids. This was applauded.

8) Closing- The meeting came to a close at 8:15 pm with a motion for adjournment raised by Abodi aka Azuka Anene and seconded by Emeka Ezenwa aka Nnwa Jesus. The closing prayer was said by Ify Nwankwo.