



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA

LOS ANGELES CHARTER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2014

1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer:

The president, Benjamin Chinwuko, called the meeting to order at 5.00 pm and said the opening prayer.

2) President's Remark:

The president asked for a moment of silence for the passing of the Secretary's mother Mrs. Margaret Okoye. He explained that this would be the first instant of bereavement benefit payout to a member. The benefit amount is \$500.00 for the loss of a parent. A discussion followed on how to go about raising the \$500.00 parent bereavement benefit. Some suggested a levy and some suggested contribution. Levy in the amount of \$50.00, \$25.00 and 30.00 were suggested and a vote was taken for the amount and \$30.00 was decided on. A few members paid the levy (see finance below).

The secretary will decide on whether to do a wake keeping and inform the publicity secretary.

3) Attendants- The meeting was well attended. A total of 23 members were in attendance; Benjamin Chinwuko, Azuka Anene, Lawrence Okoye, Eunice Chine, Godwin Ibe, Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Pat Ndigwe, Emeka Osakwe, Chukwudi Onwuzulike, Reginald Ajekwe, Ify Nwankwo, Amaechi Ajekwe, Chiagoziem Chinwuko, Herbert Udeoba, Charles Oforah, Edith Oforah, Sylvester Adigwe, Oby Nwafor, Dubem Anumba, Herbert Udeozo, Sampson Nwangwu, Goddy Ezenwa and Goddy Nnama.

3A) Visitors- Mr. Mrs. OY Ezenwa graced us with their presence.

4) Excused Absences- There was no excused absence this meeting.

5) Reading of Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the previous meeting was read by the secretary. A couple of corrections were noted. First, the collection of Awka maxims by Ben Chinwuko was not intended to be distributed to members and second Item "B" under General was not discussed. The corrections were noted and have been made and the minutes is on file. The motion to adopt the minutes as corrected was moved by Kanayo Ibe and seconded by Godwin Ibe.

6) Matters Arising from the Minutes:

- a) Update on incorporation efforts- Emeka Ezenwa updated us on the status of our entity structuring. As we know already, we are an incorporated entity, but have not yet been granted the non-profit status. It takes anywhere from six to 24 months to get the non-profit status. The cost could range from \$2000.00 to \$2500.00 according to Sylvester Adigwe, but if he directs us, it could be about \$1500.00. Emeka said he hasn't talked to Sylvester since he came back but he had discussed with Kanayo Ibe. Kanayo said he (Sylvester) called him today to inform him he will be here at this meeting today. Charles Oforah will also be here.
- b) Group life insurance- The President, Ben Chinwuko filled us in on the progress of the group term life insurance. The insurance agent came to Ben's house to discuss the policies with him. He said the man quoted him a range of coverage from \$20,000.00 policy for

\$100.00/year to a \$100,000.00 policy for \$250.00/year. The agent will be here at the meeting at 7:00 pm to go over the insurance and answer questions we might have. Members complained that about the time. The President said he considered our seriousness about time before setting up the appointment. He needed to be sure people will be present.

- c) Pictures- Azuka Anene (Abodi) informed us that Ifeoma Obue who was supposed to get the pictures to him did not. Oby presented some pictures to members who sent pictures for the brochure and informed us it took time to get the pictures back. She asked anyone who submitted pictures but did not them back to get with her and she will have the printer produce a copy.
- d) Youth Forum- The president suggested we form a committee to oversee the youth forum. He nominated Kanayo Ibe, a teacher, to lead the forum. Members were asked to nominate candidates for the forum. Eunice Chine nominated Ify Nwankwo and was seconded by Goddy Ibe. Pat Ndigwe was nominated by Azuka Anene, seconded by Kanayo Ibe. The President declared that the Youth Forum Committee is formed.
- e) Awka Day- Pat Ndigwe brought a list of items she made and asked people to sign up for what they would bring to the party. Venue was discussed; Eunice's All Saints Church is available for \$400.00, but its small. Dr Ajakwe's church is not available and Oba was not available to update us on his venue. Goddy Ibe said that HTC is bigger. He will look into availability. The date for the party was discussed. It was decided that the last weekend in November would not be ideal because of Thanksgiving. The party/picnic date will be based on the availability of venue, preferably 11/22, 11/29 or 12/06. Ify Nwankwo informed us that Anambra State Association has their yearend party scheduled for 12/06. Entertainment was discussed and DJ was added to Pat's list. Time for the event was set at 6:00 PM. We decided we need a budget so we dot overspend. As a means of saving money on DJ, it was mentioned that we can get the equipment to play music from among us. Goddy Ezenwa suggested it may be beneficial to have the party at a member's house and volunteered Emeka's house. This was not well received since noise is usually an issue in residential areas. A member suggested we include the hall/venue in the list, another suggested we pay for it from our purse and another suggested we cut down on the number of items on the list since it is just for the members and their families. Dr. Ajakwe offered to take the DJ. Kanajo Ibe and Azuka Anene took the hall/venue. They were applauded.
- f) Finance- Lawrence Okoye paid the \$50.00 National Bereavement levy. Eunice Chine paid \$100.00 for her raffle tickets from the inauguration party. She also paid \$50.00 for the National Bereavement levy and \$60.00 for her 2014 dues. The following members paid the \$30.00 bereavement contribution mentioned earlier; Ben Chinwuko, Emeka Ajakwe, Pat Ndigwe, Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Dubem Anumba and Emeka Osakwe.

7) General

a) The president briefed us on the National Executive (NE) teleconference meeting on August 19, 2014. They discussed the need for regional meetings and agreed that there should be such meetings. This will make it possible to see other chapters' members. The meeting was divided into Regions to enable us to discuss issues before the national meetings and to better know ourselves. They agreed that we should

congratulate the new governor and also Mr. Egwuatu who was appointed to lead the Awka Development Authority. Ifeatu Onejeme (Umuokpu) is Commissioner of Commerce and Industry.

The reason for the meeting was the problem in the Dallas Chapter. Apparently the former president had registered the chapter and opened their account on trust (they trusted him). He told the bank he is the owner of the meeting. He is claiming the chapter's money as his own. The NE went to him to discuss the issue but he refused to listen. The NE agreed to ban the clique in the Dallas Chapter that's with him. Goddy Ezenwa asked if the NE did any investigation to determine if there were personal agenda or at least listened to both sides. The president said he was not sure of the basis of the issue, but that he knows the Executive President travels on his own time and money investigates issues before presenting it for discussion. Abodi said the NB performs proper investigation before taking any actions. That was the case in Maryland. Charles Oforah said if the money is large enough, then it's the money otherwise it could be personal agenda or power grab. Dr. Ajakwe said it's a learning curve for us, we should learn from them. Nwanyamanari will provide Dallas phone number to Ben.

b) Mr. OY Ezenwa (OY) updated us on a hot issue in Awka about a conflict between tradition and the church in the burial of the father of PG Emmah Nwude, an Ozo titled man. The issue received a long debate. The President thanked OY for the update and observed that there's not much we can do about such issues here. Things go by evolution. For example the grieving period has been changed.

c) Godwin (Goddy) Ibe withdrew his suggestion to move the meeting to Sundays.

d) We were updated on the Christening of Goddy's daughter. The President thanked those who were able to attend the event.

e) The insurance agents showed up, a little past 7:00 to discuss insurance. Dubem introduced the speaker and another agent. The speaker went through a few options. The option that most members seem to like is the \$100,000.00 policy with a premium of \$250.00/year (\$20.83/m). The \$20,000.00 policy will cost \$150.00/year. We will decide on which one to use.

8) New Members- Goddy Nnama and Sylvester Adigwe. Sylvester filled out the membership application. Charles and Edith Oforah also attended for the first time, but Charles informed us it is not conducive for him to join at this time. He will join when he could be committed to it. The President implored him to try and join the meeting the soonest he could.

9) Closing- The meeting came to a close at 8:30 pm with a motion for adjournment raised by Goddy Ezenwa and seconded by Emeka Ezenwa. Edith Ezenwa led us in the closing prayer.