



AWKA UNION USA & CANADA

LOS ANGELES CHARTER

Minutes of the Meeting Held September 19, 2015

- 1) **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:55 pm by the President who also said the opening prayers.
- 2) **President's remark:** The President, Ben Chinwuko started by reading aloud, an email from Emeka Ajakwe who could not make it to the meeting today. The email excused Mr. Ajakwe from today's meeting and updated us on a few of the Union's issues he is involved in; 1) Christmas Party: the venue which he was charged with procuring has been secured and a copy of the executed agreement was sent to Awka Union leadership a while back. He and his wife will assist in setting up the place and taking it down. They (he and his wife) are in favor of catering the party and will contribute financially as determined by the body. 2) Elections: They have directed his brother Dr. Ajakwe and his wife to vote for them on all issues. 3) Insurance: they are in favor of the term life insurance and have forwarded all needed information to Dr. Ajakwe. 4) Library: he has been in contact with the library committee and has attended all their teleconference meetings and will continue to contribute to the success of the committee. He ended with a greeting to the body.
- 3) **Attendance:** A total of 23 members were in attendance including, Lawrence Okoye, Benjamin Chinwuko, Azuka Anene, Izuchukwu Anene, Somtochukwu Anene, Chiagoziem Chinwuko, Chioma Chinwuko, Chimdalụ Chinwuko, Reginald Ajekwe, Amaechi Ajekwe, Emeka Ezenwa, Nkoli Ezenwa, Godwin Ezenwa, Obiageli Ezenwa, Kanayo Ibe, Amuche Ibe, Godwin Ibe, Ikechkwu Anagbogu, Ngozi Anagbogu, Eunice Chine, Pat Ndigwe and Ify Nwankwo.

We had a visitor, Soyama Chukwuezugbo who may be joining the meeting in January.

Excused absences include; Emeka Ajakwe, Ijeamaka Ajakwe, Ify Obue and Dubem Anumba.

- 4) **Reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** Minutes of the previous meeting was read and adopted without corrections. The move to adopt was made by Kanayo Ibe and seconded by Azuka Anene.

5) **Matters arising:**

The President, Ben Chinwuko impressed the need to accelerate the proceedings tonight due to our very heavy agenda. The library committee report was postponed to the next meeting.

- A) **National Teleconference Calls (TC):** The President updated us on the national teleconference call. We finally received the brochures from the national convention which they did not send to us after the event. We also received 5 Almanacs of which one is his, because he paid for it. The publicity secretary has the Almanacs and any member who wants one can offer any amount they like for it.

There were two death, one here in the US and another one at Awka. No information yet on the lady that died here in the States.

- B) **Library:** Postponed to next meeting.

- C) **Hall Acquisition:** No update.

D) **501 –C;** The President informed us that he received a message from Sylvester Adegwe (Iteshikwulnobu) who filed the 501-C for us. Our 501-C has been approved. This means we now have tax exempt status. It look like it has been approved for quite some time, but we did not receive it due to some mistake in the address of the Union. The Union address is Emeka Ezenwa’s office. Ben turned it over to Emeka to update us on the address issue. Emeka said there were typographical errors in the application that resulted in the document not getting to us from the IRS. He called the IRS and was instructed to go online and fill out a form 4506. He tried to explain the mistake to them, but they told him the status has been approved and has to stay as approved. We could request an additional copy by calling them with the address we want the copy sent to. Emeka has requested the extra copy which takes about 60 days to arrive and is thinking we could have it before the next meeting.

E) **End of Year Party;** The President mentioned that a list of food items was emailed to everyone and asked Pat Ndigwe to pass out hard copies if she had any. He asked everybody to look through the list and pick any food or non food items they want to provide. He reminded us that the hall is not on the list, but we still have to pay for it. Pat passed out the list and updated us on her efforts. She had called a total of three caterers but was only able to work with one of them, Jerry. She said she sampled Jerry’s food and it is good. Ben attested to that and thanked the committee for the list and asked if there’s any objection to using Jerry. There was none. A healthy argument about the food items on the list and their quantities followed. Ben said we could pick items from the list or pledge money to finance the items. He opened it up bay pledging \$200.00 and wrote a check on the spot. Lawrence Okoye also pledged \$200.00 and wrote the check. Azuka Anene, Goddy Ibe and Emeka Ajakwe pledged \$200.00 each, Dr. and Mrs. Ajakwe pledged \$350.00, Ike Anagbogu pledged \$100.00 and Oba pledged \$50.00. Emeke Ezenwa pledged fried fish and two cases of Heineken and may add more items depending on what’s left. Goddy Ezenwa pledged one case of Stella Rosa. Eunice Chinwe (Nwanyamanari) pledged meat pie and peanuts. We decided to handle DJ and MCing in-house. Oba pledged to bring the sound system. Members will supply the music. A complete list of all pledges is kept by the end of year party committee. We closed the discussion on the food item pledges by noting that the money pledged so far is not enough, so we are expecting that those who are not here today would do their part before the party. Ben reminded us we have one more meeting in November before the end of year party on 12/05/2015.

F) **Election;** The President cited our constitution which requires that we select auditors to audit the books of the outgoing officials (treasurer, financial secretary and provost) and prepare a report to be presented in January before the incoming officials assume office. He read Section 1, Article 10 which cites that no members of the outgoing officials shall be in the auditing committee. We selected three members to serve as the auditing committee; Dr. Ajakwe, Goddy Ezenwa, and Pat Ndigwe were selected. Dr. Ajakwe is to chair the committee. The President also read Article 8 of Section 1 of the Constitution which set the requirements for election of officials. We selected two members (Dr. Ajakwe and Mrs. Nkoli Ezenwa) to serve as the electoral college (election committee) since the constitution is silent on the issue. The election committee officiated the nomination and voting processes. The incoming officials were selected as follows: Mr. Benjamin Chinwuko; President. Dr. Reginald Ajakwe; Vice President. Mr. Lawrence Okoye; Secretary. Mrs. Amaechi Ajakwe; Assistant Secretary. Mr. Azuka Anene; Publicity Secretary. Mr. Emeke Ezenwa; Treasurer. Mr. Ify Nwankwo; Financial Secretary. Mr. Chiagoziem Chinwuko; Provost. The President thanked the election committee for their work.

G) **Group insurance:** The President stated he heard there has been changes in the insurance issue and asked the committee chairman, Dr. Ajakwe to brief us on the latest to enable us to ask informed questions. Dr. Ajakwe reiterated our reason for the insurance; *to lessen the burden, on us, of taking members’ bodies home*. Initially we sought \$25,000.00 worth of insurance, but we found we could actually get much higher coverage. We decided on a \$100,000.00, 20 year term life insurance for \$240.00/year or \$20.00/month. We spent most of last year trying

to figure out the best plan to buy and how to distribute the funds in the event of death. In the two months since our last meeting, he has worked closely with the insurance agent, Mr. Baron to get new estimates. The estimate we have now is much different from the one from a year ago because the cost of life insurance goes up exponentially with age. There are other issues too which Mr. Baron will touch on tonight. Though the numbers we have now is much different than a year ago he and the committee still think it's a better deal for the body than having to do it on our own might. He passed out copies of calculations he made and explained how the premiums are calculated. A group coverage, he explained, leverages the age variation in the group to get reasonable rates for the group. The older members pay less than they otherwise would on their own, but the younger ones pay more. To mitigate this apparent inequity, he suggested we get higher coverage for the young ones in the same policy. He went through his calculations and showed the face values for each age group and the group rates. He passed out calculations showing several coverage options and turned the topic over to Mr. Baron.

Mr. Baron started by telling us that Dr. Ajakwe is very meticulous and has done an excellent job of compiling the data he shared (we could have told him that). It's amazing what can happen in one year in insurance rates, he said. The cost of insurance, he said behaves like the sine waves in mathematics. It cycles up and down. You want to get it when you are young so you lock in the rate. He encouraged us to go for it. It will be a tremendous legacy for our next generation he said. A lengthy discussion on insurance premiums, terms and face values followed. Mr. Baron answered quite a few questions with a lot of input from Dr. Ajakwe. We decided on the \$30.00/month premium with \$25,000.00 face value for people 55 years and older and \$50,000.00 for those 55 and younger. Mr. Baron asked if it's OK to call us at home to set up appointments. We told him it is.

The president commended everybody on our accomplishment tonight. We handled the election, end of year party and insurance. That is a great accomplishment for one night, he said. He implored those who have not come on board the insurance train to do so, because it will not be good to have members not on board when the train leaves the station for many reasons. If anything should happen, it would look like we neglected a member. People who are not privy to our situation will blame Awka people. They would say he/she is an Awka indigene and attends Awka Union's meeting. Why is Awka Union not doing what they are supposed to do? They would not know that, that member did not do what he/she is supposed to have done, which is, join the insurance program. He stressed that the importance of joining the insurance program cannot be over emphasized and urged those who have joined to pay their premium.

To wrap it up, he asked if anyone has any questions, issues or concerns that we could handle tonight or table for the next meeting. A member wanted to know about the cleaning of the hall after the end of year party and was informed that cleaning is included in the payment. He also reminded everybody that the time for the party is from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm. He reiterated that everybody in attendance should endeavor to get those that are not here to join the insurance. Another member brought up the meeting location rotation to the Valley, Orange County and LA. The President intoned that the issue is not a new one. We will have to apportion the meeting rotation at the first meeting next year.

Azuka Anene (Abodi), informed us that the house we are sitting in is the new house he just purchased, a new Obu Awka. The president praised him and prayed that more of us be blessed with houses and asked for a volunteer to pray for the new house. Goddy Ezenaw volunteered to say the prayer to bless the new house.

6) **Financial Report:** No financial report.

7) **General:**

Obu Awka; We have a new Obu Awka at 25415 Bayside Place, Harbor City CA 90710.

8) **Closing:** The meeting ended at 8:45 pm with a motion for adjournment moved by Azuka Anene but was not seconded. The closing prayer along with the blessing of the new Obu Awka was by Goddy Ezenwa.