

**BWHAA Executive Board Meeting**  
**Texas Chapter**  
**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**  
**12noon -3pm**

The meeting was call to order by National Chair Joanna H.F. Richards at 12:17pm.

Prior to the Opening Prayers, the National Chaplain, Wanda Bropleh requested all to sing the song (we gather together).

**Opening Prayer:** The opening prayers were offered by the National Chaplain Wanda Bropleh who offered prayers to God for thanksgiving, safe arrivals, and travels. She also asked God that the meeting be run in unity and peace.

**Opening Remarks:** Opening remarks were made by Joanna H.F. Freeman, National Chair. She expressed thanks and appreciation to the President, officers and member of Texas Chapter for hosting the Board meeting and subsequent 2017 Convention. She also asked for successful meeting and went on to say whatever we do here today is intended for all children at B.W.Harris School; with that she concluded and welcome everyone.

**Welcome Remarks (by Joe Yuku Stewart):** President of Texas Mr. Joe Yuku Stewart welcomed all and hopes everyone will have fun. He requested that everyone can put together, help the Texas Chapter make the upcoming National Convention a success.

**Acceptance of the Agenda:** The agenda was read loud by the National Secretary Charles Coleman. Motion made by President Mona Diggs to accept the agenda as posted, and motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Emerita Gudrun Harris.

**Votes were taken, 17 voted YEA to accept, and 0 vote in favor of NAY**

**Minutes from July 7/2/16 National Convention board meeting:**

The minutes from July 2, 2016 Board Meeting, were read in silence. Corrections to the minutes were noted by Secretary Charles Coleman. The National Secretary let everyone know corrections will be made on a page by page basis for the sake of time.

\*It must be noted that copies of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 Board Meeting were distributed to all board members prior to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Reports**

**Convention Committee-Angeline Bishop-Oshoko Amoah, 1<sup>st</sup> National Vice Chair**  
**The Committee report was not ready and was not available**

**President Mona Diggs-Can the Secretary send the committee report to Board members**

**Emeritus-KC Diggs agreed that committee report when available, be forwarded to the Board.**

## **Capital Campaign**

Cllr. Mohamedu Jones – took the floor and said Capital Campaign is about “Giving” he urged Board members to contribute, if they have not already done so. He said the Capital Campaign now has new members.

**Scholarship Committee Report-Emerita Gudrun Harris -Chair** Gudrun said her committee didn’t have much to report– Committee does have new members and we had four meetings this year prior to November 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting. She further said this year 2016 we had (40) forty scholarships, approval for all will be sent in November 2016. The goal is \$12,000, the new \$15,000. The National Chair expressed thanks and appreciation for the report.

**Membership Committee Report – David Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice Chair for Membership and Public Relations.** David expressed thanks and appreciation to his group for a great job, and those who took up their time this year. David submitted report chapters that are doing well and some Chapters not doing well. The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice Chair spoke of newly created town hall meeting. He noted one meeting was held prior to November 5<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. He also spoke of problems Chapters are facing. The Committee Chair provided additional details on membership starting with **MID-WEST Chapter**. He said he has giving up on Midwest Chapter because the Chapter members continue to tell him, they are trying, but no efforts are being made. The problem is no one to take the lead.

Next on Membership, the Committee Chair David praised MN Chapter for their efforts to organize; he said MN leadership is working. David urged members “if you step down, don’t step out”. Next, The Committee Chair spoke of GA Chapter- He said GA Chapter is facing problems, members are not working together.

David wants to make BWH Alumni 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary a great one. David further said on a serious note his goal is to register 250 members, a Silver Jubilee fund raising drive at \$25 per person. He further said if you can’t come, you must register. The 2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice Chair concluded his report by touching on visits he made at other Alumni Conventions. David said in his assessment of other schools, it appears that other Conventions he visited are

equivalent to BWH chapter's fundraisers. David urged Board members including everyone to work together. David asked everyone to support and ensure 250 people are registered.

Cllr. Mohamedu Jones took the floor – Cllr Jones said prior to Nov 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary jubilee has not had enough responses, and 2017 year will be the 25<sup>th</sup>. He will introduce the silver jubilee, he is asking other members to contribute and raise enough money.

Albertha K. Gillespie – National Treasurer, inquired about contribution to lifetime membership.

Cllr. Mohamedu Jones – responded and clarified that the first 800 dollars dedicated to being used for any expense but \$1200 is for endowment fund.

Emeritus K.C. Dicks – suggested that all board members at least pay 25 dollars, all board members agreed.

President Joe Yuku Stewart – Pledged \$500 dollars. Joanna H Freeman, National chair – pledged \$100 dollars. **Meyartha C. Perry – National Financial Secretary pledged \$500**

Cllr. Mohamedu Jones said the Capital Campaign team will resend out information and carry out massive publicity on the Silver Jubilee

Tri-State Board Member Jerudo Martin – requested for clarification for the Silver Jubilee contribution

Cllr. Mohamedu Jones – clarified that this is not a mandate, it's a request. He further said the contribution has 3 levels: The Silver level is \$25-175, Silver med is \$175 +, Silver jubilee \$200 +. You can pay small down payments. Cllr. Mohamedu Jones also told Board members to consider the use of the PayPal accounts which helps a lot, those who didn't go did pay.

## **Chapters CURFIS REPORT- BY Meyartha C. Perry – National Financial Secretary**

**North Carolina Chapter – its active and well, no report**

**Penndel Chapter – no report**

**Tristate chapter – problems with the report source**

**Texas report -Report**

**Joanna Freeman-Richards – National Chair – said we need these reports for IRS, we need to know what’s going on.**

## **Chapters Report**

**DC Metro Chapter report** – By President Mona Diggs – She said on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 her Chapter presented 11 awards; they gave one award to counselor Jones and father Johnson, and inducted John Vafley into hall of fame.

**Tri-State Chapter report**–the President’s report was to be presented by Board member Jurudoe Martin, however Joanna Freeman-Richards – National Chair had problem with the presentation because the Chapter President had no prior discussion with National Chair, which the National Chair believes is a bridge of protocol. Board Member Jurudo Martin – said the president did not inform her that he was not coming. The Matter was resolved.

**Texas Chapter Report – by Joe Yuku Stewart**, said his Chapter is hosting the convention this year 2017. He had a meeting with National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, and next was a meeting with National Chair Town hall style, Texas was the first. Speaking on Preparation and planning, he said 9 members have paid so far, 5 meeting on conference call, 2 sit down meeting with on the Black- Tie program. President Joe Yuku Stewart expressed concerns about his Chapter’s future, as this was his last term. He promised to support whoever wants to be president. Speaking on the Black-Tie program – President YUKU Stewart said his Chapter will be awarding 5-7 members, those who stepped up and made a difference in the community. President Stewart mentioned that the program was paid for by his VICE President Greeves. He further said Chapter women and men stepped up to the plate. His wife wrote a small Check. He spoke about Ambassador Henry D. Williams being ill.

Still on Texas Chapter, Texas chapter – President Joe Yuku Stewart suggested doing a poolside party for the cookout but there was some confusion about liability issues. Tri-State Board member Jurudoe Martin expressed concerns about the liability issues, in the event of major incident; BHW Alumni Association will be held Liable. President YUKU Stewart suggested we go to park for the Sunday program.

Touching on fundraisers, Emeritus K.C. Dicks – suggested fufu and soup be sold for \$10.

Albertha K. Gillespie – National Treasurer – recommended to look for at least 10-18 patrons; including board members and give them tickets in advance. Ms. Meyartha C. Perry – National Financial Secretary added her voice that she is already one of the patrons.

**North Carolina Chapter Report – President Richard A Wright Sr-** The President said his Chapter is struggling, few committed members, and one meeting was held this quarter. . NC Chapter wanted to re-introduce Father King’s program but Chapter needs money. They want to do food sale but not now. He further said his Chapter is owed \$700 dollars for t-shirt project

**Cllr. Mohamedu Jones** – requested to know which Chapter owes NC? The president mentioned **Tri-State Chapter, PennDel Chapter, RI Chapter has paid, DC Metro Chapter has paid.** NC Chapter President Richard a Wright Sr – expressed concern that this is his last term, and there is vacuum to be filled. Emerita Goodrun Harris suggested David Moore check with Board members and the entire membership to see if elections can be held

**TRI-State Chapter-No Action**

**Georgia chapter –No Action**

**RI Chapter-NO Report**

**MN Chapter Report**– President James E Ledlum, reported all is well, Chapter next meeting is November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Installation program was great, many Chapters did not respond, his Chapter wants to do afterschool program, and also wants to do a program to support a student until graduation. He spoke of outstanding pledging of \$3000 dollars yet to be collected. The Chapter spoke of local food sales on Liberian workers days off.

Emerita Goodrun Harris, Scholarship Committee Chair requested to know name of the school where Scholarship will be funded and funds will be under what name  
Reference to many Chapters not responding to MN Chapter program, National officers – agreed to get patron ticket, at every Chapter Program.

**Joanna Freeman-Richards – National Chair addressed Board members**

- Discussed meeting held with B. W. Harris Principal Hilary Collins August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Convention report and Convention Budget presented to the board
- Audit report Tri-state 2016 to presented at Convention 2017
- Establishment of Town hall meeting with chapters and members to
- Increase honorarium from \$200 to \$250 for National Officers, \$150 to \$200 to be presented at 2017 Convention.

Clarification on Texas Budget-Budget cut from \$15,000 to \$10,000. The amount of \$5,000 will be coming from National, \$15,000 in Bank, Raffle, cook out/ house party.

**Emeritus KC Diggs introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting, as agenda was exhausted**

**Motion Seconded by NC Member Amanda Wright**

- **Closing Prayers offered by National Chaplain Wanda Bropleh**
- **Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm**

Meeting Attendees:

National Board Members:

Joanna Freeman-Richards – National Chair  
David Moore 2<sup>nd</sup> National vice Chair  
Charles Coleman –National Secretary  
Comfort Browne – Asst. National Secretary  
Albertha K. Gillespie – National Treasurer  
Meyartha C. Perry – National Financial Secretary  
Wanda Bropleh – National Chaplain

Emeritus Handel KC Diggs  
Emerita Goodrun Harris

**Tri State Chapter**

Jurudoe Martin  
David Moore  
Goodrun Harris

**DC Metro Chapter**

Mona B Diggs  
Handal KC Diggs  
Mohamedu Jones  
Comfort Brown

**Georgia Chapter**

Ora Scott  
Cassius Sirleaf

**PennDel Chapter**

Charles Coleman

**RI Chapter**

Joanna Freeman-Richards

**NC Chapter**

Wanda Bropleh

Richard A Wright Sr.

Amanda Wright

**Texas Chapter**

Joe Yuku Stewart

Konner Dennis

Marjon Wiles Greaves

Rachel Green Grisgsby

**MN Chapter**

James E Ledlum

**Observers**