

National Tele-conference Board meeting
Wednesday, May 28th, 2008
9pm

The National Chair, Mr. Handel Diggs, opened the meeting with a prayer. He thanked everyone for calling in. He announced that the National Secretary, Mrs. Famatta Zeon give birth to a son. He also extended sympathy to the Georgia President, Ms. Gail Farnvalo.

Board meeting at convention:

The Chair inquired about the time of the board meeting on Friday, July 3, 2008. Daffeh said Bendu is working on it. Bendu advised the body that she would get with the Embassy and get back to the board by Friday May 30th.

Souvenir Program:

The Chair asked Bendu the cost of the program. She stated they do not have the exact amount since they have not received all of the ads. The Chair asked that they come out with an estimate. Ms. Harris said they should give approximation according to the last program. Ms. Hansford told the body 4 to 5 color copies could cost approximately \$100.00 and additional for binding. The chair asked Ms. Y. Hansford how much was spent on printing for last she stated \$700.00 total. The Chair suggested printing 75 copies for registered members. Ms. Harris said she can help by contacting the lady that did their program for an estimate.

Prices for Drinks:

Prior to the meeting, the Metro chapter presented the following prices for the sale of drinks:

Heineken ~ Domestic Beer~ \$3.00
Corona ~ \$4.00
Guinness ~ \$4.00
All Wine ~ \$6.00
Gin ~ \$6.00
Brandy/Scotch ~ \$7.00
Water ~ \$1.00
Sodas ~ \$2.00

The prices of the drinks became a lengthy one since majority of the board expressed their concerns over the high price. C. Kenneh stated that the prices of the drinks should have been presented to the board to make better decisions. Board members detailed several facts to persuade Metro to reduce the prices on drinks and to consider the following if they want to generate more income:

The cost of the ball is \$50.00

If we sell the drinks at bar/club prices, it will direct people to go out and get their own drinks.

To place a high price on hot liquor and mix drinks

To include Brandy and Gin and eliminate Scotch

To consider primary drinks such as, Alize, Baileys, Hypnotic and Martini Rossi Rev. Shannon made the motion to vote on drinks prices. The following prices were voted upon:

Heineken ~ Domestic Beer~ \$3.00

Corona ~ \$3.00

Guinness ~ \$4.00

All Wine ~ \$5.00

Gin ~ \$5.00

Brandy/Scotch ~ \$5.00

Mixed drinks ~ \$7.00

Water ~ \$1.00

Sodas ~ \$1.00

The Chair asked the Metro chapter how they will handle the inventory. D. Hansford stated they will comply with the decision of National. The Chair asked C. Kenneh how it was handled at their convention. She stated the loosed drinks were kept for functions and unopened drinks were sold. G. Harris stated after their G.D. Brown function all of the unopened drinks were sold after the function. W. Wilson stated that the convention committees handle this at convention. The chair asked Y. Hansford and Stephen Taylor and the convention committee to work with Metro in ensuring adequate inventory and disposal of drinks after convention. It was the board's consensus that the drinks are assets of the association.

Spartan Bucks:

Bendu indicated that the bucks will be printed by Metro and funded by National. The board agreed that National will pay and print bucks.

\$5, 000 ~ welcome party

\$5, 000 ~ Embassy

\$5, 000 ~ Ball

\$2, 500 ~ Game

Ms. Harris asked Metro who is responsible for the photos. B. Hansford said they had contacted Foday Kenneth and is waiting for confirmation.

Electing the 1st vice chair:

The Chair informed the body the long term stay of 1st Vice National Chair, Moses Okai in Liberia which created a vacancy. W. Wilson asked what did the constitution states. The Chair informed the body of the succession in the constitution but that D. Wilkins, 2nd Vice National Chair has expressed interest in remaining in his elected position. The Chair also asked the board if they would like to appoint an acting replacement or execute special elections at the convention. The board agreed to take the voting at election with applicable rules. The chair advised the body that the Public Relations Committee team will send out a press release for the position of the 1st Vice Chair.

Convention assessment fees:

The Chair informed the body that the only chapter that has sent in their assessment fee is Tri-State Chapter and asked for updates from chapters present. G. Farngalo

informed the body that Georgia chapter will get back to National the 2nd week in June.

Budget and convention reports:

The Chair told the board that B. Hansford asked why National was operating without a budget. He responded by asking Bendu for last year's precedent and requested a copy of the last budget to avoid duplicates. He stated he did not get the 2007 budget from the last administration. W. Wilson stated a budget was prepared in 2007 and the chair should use 2006 budget. She also stated everything was turnover to Stephen and even if it wasn't a budget still needs to be done. The Chair stated that there is no objection to presenting a budget but only to receive guidance from previous budget which apparently was never executed as no one could provide one or any past minutes reflecting budget discussion or presentation. The Chair also informed the body that Wilhelmina's turnover package did not match contents in turnover letter. She also stated she instructed the Chair to get the budget from Stephen and the Chair haven't. The Chair said he has spoken to Stephen and others and no one has a copy of 2007 budget.

B. Hansford said budget should be established at convention. The Chair said he needs a copy of the prior budget to see what was approved to follow. He said 2007 budget is important to have since it should be close to 2008 budget. C. Kenneh stated regardless of what it is we still need that budget. B. Shannon suggested to the Chair to develop a proposed budget and present it to the board. The Chair told the body he will present a budget at convention. C. Kenneh suggested the board should review the budget prior to convention. G. Harris recommended to the National Chair to have copies of all documents that will be handed to the next administration to avoid these types of inconsistencies. The Chair told the body that is why he has established a committee for the **"Standard Operations Procedures" (SOP) Manual.**

Reports:

The Chair advised the body that he has not received the Minnesota audit report from the audit chair, P. King which should have been presented at 2007 convention. Hence, he instructed Midwest not to turn over documents to the audit committee until after the issuance of Minnesota convention audit report. B. Shannon expressed that the board have not been given audit reports in years and also questioned why the 2005 Georgia convention report was never completed. The Chair said he could not speak on this as it was not on his watch. Wilhelmina and Gail indicated that one receipt was missing to complete the report. The board concurred that the 2005 Georgia convention report be presented and completed by 2008 convention board meeting. B. Shannon advised the Chair to appoint a new audit chair; the Chair indicated that is a top priority at this convention. B. Shannon and C. Kenneh reiterated that it is intolerable to have conventions and not produce reports. The Chair reminded the board that Georgia convention was in 2005 and that the board must be persistent and consistent in its oversight functions.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Rev. Budu Shannon at 11:10 P.M.

Chapter heads and board members present on call:

1. **Handel Diggs** ~ National Chair
2. **Darren Wilkins** ~ 2nd vice chair
3. **Yvonne Hansford** ~ Financial Secretary
4. **Famatta Zeon** ~ Treasurer
5. **Eudora Gardiner** ~ Chaplain
6. **Wilhelmina Wilson** ~ Board member
7. **Rev. Budu Shannon** ~ Board Member
8. **Elyne Padmore** ~ Convention chair
9. **Roseline Sims** ~ President, Metro chapter
10. **Daffeh Hansford** ~ Board member, Metro chapter
11. **Bendu Hansford** ~ Board member, Metro chapter
12. **Gail Fargalo** ~ President, Atlanta chapter
13. **Comfort Kenneh** ~ President, Midwest chapter
14. **Mai Anderson** ~ Board member, Midwest chapter
15. **Comfort Rennie** ~ President, Minnesota chapter
16. **Charles Johnson** ~ President, Rhode Island chapter
17. **Elfreda Thorpe** ~ Board member, Rhode Island chapter
18. **McNeil White** ~ Board member, Rhode Island chapter
19. **Berma Findley** ~ President, Delaware chapter
20. **Gudrun Harris** ~ President, Tri-State chapter

Submitted by: Gudrun Harris, June 2008