



The Sierra Leone Grammar School  
 Alumni Association of North America – Washington, DC Metro Chapter  
 Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, April 11, 2009.  
 7:30p.m – 9:10p.m.

**Members Present:** Cyril French, Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Billy Jones, Bob Thomas, Desmond Campbell, Alex Williams, Stoker Olu-Williams, Reenold Thompson, and Emile Duke Allen.

- In the absence of the President, the Vice-President, Mr. Cyril French chaired the meeting.
- Opening prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.
- Minutes of the last meeting (March, 2009) was distributed, read and accepted.

**Matters Arising**

- Members were informed that the President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas, who is on a visit to Sierra Leone, promised to get the information requested by Mr. Desmond Campbell about how the students’ scholarship money raised by his church was disbursed by the school.

**Thanksgiving Service - Evaluation**

- Mr. Billy Jones sincerely thanked members especially the executive and in particular, Rev. Canon Dr. William Lewis for an outstanding Thanksgiving service also echoed by our patrons/guests.
- Dr. Bob Thomas suggested that special thanks should be given in person to Rev. Canon Dr. William Lewis when he attends the next meeting, for the great effort he exerted before, during and after the successful Thanksgiving service.
- The following suggestions were made on the need to continue having such a successful Thanksgiving service:
  - a) Members should bring all extra envelopes, not sent out to patrons, to the church.
  - b) Due to the increase in attendance, 200 more envelopes should be printed.
  - c) There should be a head count of attendees.
  - d) We should endeavor to have food servers at the reception using the spouses of Regentonians.
  - e) As the number of Regentonians at our annual Thanksgiving service continues to increase, it would be most appropriate and convenient if Regentonians line up from the entrance down the stairs leading to the reception hall to greet our patrons at the end of the church service.

**Website**

- The Secretary General, Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier was asked to e-mail active members the link to the association’s website, for members to peruse and present their comments/suggestions at the next meeting in May.
- Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier also informed members that the following documents/pictures will be initially included on the website:
  - a) The Constitution
  - b) The directory of Regentonians in North America
  - c) Monthly meeting minutes
  - d) Letters to the association from the school’s Principal, Mr. Lasite
  - e) Mr. Lasite’s 2008 Banquet address
  - f) The President’s PowerPoint presentation at the 2007 Dance
  - g) Bishop Lynch’s address to the association in 2007 about the privatization of the school
  - h) Summer 2004 Summit presentations
- It was also suggested that a section on the website should be created for new membership drive.

**Book Drive**

- Members were reminded that more volunteers are needed to pick up textbooks from the book warehouse in Baltimore, Maryland. A request was made to e-mail the address of the warehouse to members.

**Financial Statement**

- The Treasurer, Mr. Alexander Williams, presented a detailed financial statement about the Thanksgiving service which shows a current profit of \$7,951. He also distributed copies of the March financial statement showing an actual cash balance of \$64, 274.98
- Mr. Desmond Campbell commended the treasurer, Mr. Alexander Williams for his outstanding work preparing the detailed monthly statements. Other members also extended praises and appreciation to Mr. Alexander Williams for his untiring effort as the treasurer.
- The treasurer reminded members about the payment of their membership dues and the “Paying Back the Gift’ pledge.

**A.O.B.**

- The Vice-President, Mr. Cyril French, read a letter sent by Dr. Alex Lewis from Oklahoma acknowledging the great work by the association’s executive members. Included with the letter were gifts of seven watches, one for every member of the executive. The face of each watch had the imprint of the school crest.
- Members suggested asking Dr. Alex Lewis to order more of these watches which can be sold to Regentonians as a fund-raising activity especially at our next dance in November.
- Members voted for the association to honor and donate financially towards the Thanksgiving service of the Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW).
- The following members volunteered to represent the association at these respective Thanksgiving services in April:
  - i.* Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier – Prince of Wales School
  - ii.* Mr. Alexander Williams – SLAUW
  - iii.* Mr. Desmond Campbell – Mothers’ Union

- Mr. Stoker Olu-Williams suggested that the association revisits the idea of picnics during the summer time as a token of appreciation to our patrons. The Vice-President recommended for this suggestion to be included in the next meeting's agenda for more discussion.
- Mr. Billy Jones told members that the Jamaican ambassador to the United States of America wants to initiate an educational exchange program between an Anglican school in Jamaica and the Sierra Leone Grammar School. Mr. Billy Jones further stated that the ambassador wants the association to send two representatives to do a presentation about the Sierra Leone Grammar School. It was agreed that Dr. Radcliffe Thomas in his capacity as the president should be one of the association's representatives, and Dr. Eben 'Solo' Collier volunteered to be the second representative. Further discussion was postponed for the next meeting in May.
- Mr. Emile Allen introduced himself as a new member and promised to fulfill his obligations to the association.
- Closing prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.

Faithfully submitted,  
Eben 'Solo' Collier