



**Sierra Leone Grammar School Alumni Association of North America
Washington, DC Metro Area Chapter**

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, April 9, 2011.

7:38p.m – 9:15p.m.

Members Present: Radcliffe Thomas, Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Desmond Campbell, Alexander Williams, Emile Duke Allen, Bob Thomas, Cyril French, Chrispin O’conner, Edward Pratt Jr., Prince McCormack, Reenold Thompson, Edwin Brown, Frederick Ayo Coker, Ralph Taylor-Smith.

- Opening prayer was said by Dr. Radcliffe Thomas
- Minutes of the last meeting (March, 2011) was distributed, read, and accepted.
- Excerpts of the minutes to be posted on the website were selected on agreement by members present.

Matters Arising

- Mr. Chrispin O’conner presented a cost of \$14,186.00 for the purchase of new band instruments he is soliciting for. After several deliberations on this matter, it was decided that the President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas will inquire with Mr. Lasite about the conditions of the current band instruments, the generation of funds from their uses, and whether there is a need for the purchase of new band instruments. It was also suggested that the other alumni associations in North America and UK contribute financially if there is the need to purchase a new set of band instruments.

Annual Thanksgiving Service - Assessment

- It was a general consensus that the Thanksgiving service was well organized, well attended and the food was excellent, although there was a low turnout of young Regentonians.
- A committee to attract young Regentonians was appointed which consists of the following members: Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith (Chair), Mr. Emile Duke Allen, Mr. Edward Ottis Pratt, Jr., Mr. Desmond Campbell, and Mr. Reenold Thompson.
- The President appealed to all to retrieve envelopes sent out to patrons.
- The Vice-President, Mr. Cyril French was assigned the duty of preparing a draft “Thank You” letter to be printed on a card to be approved by members. The approved “Thank You” letter will be mailed to all the patrons of our Thanksgiving service by the Assistant General Secretary, Mr. Desmond Campbell
- Members were informed that the video of the Thanksgiving service was now available to be edited. 20 copies of the edited videos will be ordered from the videographer, Mr. Babs Decker to be sold for \$10.00 a copy. Mr. Desmond Campbell will be in charge of the selling of the videos.
- The President told Mr. Desmond Campbell that in the future, he should have the mandate of the association to make changes to any published documents.

Regentonian Newsletter

- Dr. Bob Thomas, Chair of the Regentonian Newsletter committee briefed members about decisions taken at the teleconference meeting by committee members for the publication of the newsletter. He promised to give information about the final format of the newsletter at the next general meeting in May as the committee was reviewing the draft format.
- It was agreed that the deadline for the submission of all articles for the newsletter will be August 31, 2011.
- Members were requested to solicit people to advertise and make financial donation to defray the cost of the newsletter.

Other Matters

- The Treasurer, Mr. Alex Williams informed members about the beginning of the new financial year and their obligations to pay any outstanding membership dues. He also reminded members to review the “Paying Back the Gift” pledges they made for the 5-year period which will end this financial year and appealed to all to meet their necessary financial commitments.
- The treasurer suggested investing percentage of the actual cash balance. In this regard, an investment committee was formed comprising of these members:
Mr. Alex Williams (Chair), Dr. Bob Thomas, Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith, Mr. Cyril French, Dr. Bob Metzger, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas and Mr. George Nicol.
- The President also reminded donors about their commitments for the group scholarships for the school year 2011/2012.
- Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier promised to draft the amendment to the change in the constitution on membership dues suggested earlier by Rev. Dr. Canon William Lewis.
- It was agreed that in addition to the 20 chairs donated for one of the new classrooms, 10 more desks should be purchased at the price of \$75.00 each.
- Mr. Cyril French suggested a review of the homepage of the association’s website to attract more interest by Regentonians.
- Closing prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.

Faithfully submitted,
Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier