



The Sierra Leone Grammar School  
 Alumni Association of North America – Washington, DC Metro Chapter  
 Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, July 11, 2009.  
 7:30p.m – 9:20p.m.

**Members Present:** Radcliffe Thomas, Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Billy Jones, Desmond Campbell, Emile Duke Allen, Chrispin O’conner, Ralph Taylor-Smith, George Nicol, Bob Thomas, Alex Williams, Prince McCormack, Robert Metzger, Cyrus Macfoy, St. Claire Sillah, Cyril French, and Roderick Taylor-Smith (Sierra Leone).

- Opening prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.
- The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas welcomed Mr. Roderick Taylor-Smith who was visiting from Freetown, Sierra Leone.
- Minutes of the last meeting (June, 2009) was distributed, read, corrected and accepted.

***Matters Arising***

- Mr. Desmond Campbell informed members that he has drafted the ‘thank you’ letter to be sent to Dr. Alex Lewis.
- The President suggested that irrespective of the duties of the historian which have not been performed in the past, all historical documents should be kept by a reliable active member, preferably the sitting president. After much discussion, it was agreed that the historical documents will be in the possession of the President. Selected members, including the current historian, Mr. Gerald Cline-Cole, will assist in cataloguing the documents.

***Website***

- The President told members that the association’s website designer, Mr. Emile Faux, has given him and Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith the access code to make the necessary corrections on the website.
- The President suggested that the website committee meets once a month at dates to be established by the committee by e-mail. The committee members include Mr. George Nicol, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas, Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, and Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith.
- After the suggestion made by Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith, it was agreed that the association’s booklet which included the school’s prospectus, prepared under the leadership of Dr. Bob Thomas, be posted on the website.

***Jamaican Ambassador to the U.S.A Twinning Program***

- The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas and the General Secretary, Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier updated members present about the brief meeting they had with the Jamaican ambassador to the U.S.A, Mr. Anthony S. Johnson, on Wednesday, June 24 at the Jamaican embassy in Washington, D.C. in which

the ambassador was presented with copies of association's booklet and a brief history of the Sierra Leone Grammar School.

- They informed members that the Jamaican ambassador was interested in having a twinning program between the Kingston College (a secondary school in Jamaica) and the Sierra Leone Grammar School, mainly because of the common historical religious backgrounds of the two schools. Both schools are Anglican schools founded by European church missionaries and currently under the directorships of the Anglican bishops in the respective countries.
- The Jamaican ambassador suggested to do a presentation with some members of the King's College Alumni association at one of our monthly meetings, to acquaint members of his ideas so that a decision can be made, after which the bishops of the two schools will be involved in further communications.
- Members agreed to have the Jamaican ambassador do the presentation at our general meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2009.
- The Vice President, Mr. Cyril French volunteered to contact and remind members (especially dormant members) to attend this very important meeting.

### ***Other Matters***

- Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith volunteered to set up an -800 number to be used for any teleconference by the association.
- Copies of an executive summary of Ms. Agatha Johnson's projects were distributed to members present for review. Updating members about his communication with Ms. Agatha Johnson, the President told members that on Ms. Johnson's arrival in Freetown, she will pursue the following:
  - i.* Have talks with Mr. Lasite about the projects.
  - ii.* Check the status of the solar project at the Prince of Wales school.
  - iii.* On her return, submit a detailed proposal of the projects.
- It was also decided that a teleconference call should be arranged with Mr. Atere Roberts, President of the Prince of Wales School Alumni Association in Atlanta and pioneer of the solar project at the P.O.W school in Freetown. This will enable members to get a better insight of the project.
- A central location was requested for all the textbooks collected so that they can be picked up and shipped to Freetown by the end of August, 2009.
- The President reminded members that the scholarship money for the 15 students will be sent by the end of July, but he was still trying to contact Mr. Lasite to give us the exact number of Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary school students being awarded the scholarships.
- It was decided that as a way of keeping communication open with school authorities that Mr. Lasite visited in the U.S.A., individual members (Mr. Desmond Campbell, Dr. Bob Thomas, Dr. Cyrus Macfoy and Rev. Canon Dr. William Lewis) who initiated the contacts, will resume communication with the respective school authorities. It was also decided that these school authorities will be invited to our annual dance and Thanksgiving service.
- Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith passionately appealed for the association to revive the Regentonian magazine/newsletter and volunteered to be the editor. Members agreed to revive the magazine/newsletter initially with one publication a year starting at our annual dance in November. The following members volunteered to be in the magazine/newsletter committee: Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith (editor), Dr. Radcliffe Thomas, Mr. Chrispin O'connor, Dr. Cyrus Macfoy, and Dr. Bob Thomas.
- The President was commended on the stance he took about the non-participation of the association on the funeral of Mr. Ina Taylor, adhering to the bereavement criteria of members in the

association's constitution. Members agreed that we should continue to abide by the current bereavement criteria which ensures our solidarity.

- Mr. Desmond Campbell and Mr. Cyril French agreed to call members reminding them of their commitments for the five-year pledge made on the 'Paying Back the Gift'.
- The June financial statement showed an actual cash balance of \$65,351.04 The treasurer, Mr. Alex Williams was authorized to put another \$15,000 in CD.
  
- Closing prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.

Faithfully submitted,  
Eben 'Solo' Collier