



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

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, March 12, 2011.

7:42p.m – 9:50p.m.

Members Present: Radcliffe Thomas, Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Desmond Campbell, Alexander Williams, Emile Duke Allen, Bob Thomas, Rev. William Lewis, Cyril French, St. Claire Sillah, Gerald Cline-Cole, Chrispin O’conner, John Davies-Cole, Robert Metzger, Edward Pratt Jr., Prince McCormack, Reenold Thompson, George Nicol.

- Opening prayer was said by Mr. Desmond Campbell.
- Minutes of the last meeting (February, 2011) was distributed, read, corrected and accepted.
- Excerpts of the minutes to be posted on the website were selected on agreement by members present.

Matters Arising

- After much deliberation on the slow progress of initiating the partnership between the school and Kings College of Jamaica, the following proposals were made for the President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas to implement:
 - i. Remind Mr. Lasite to ask Bishop Lynch to write the letter to the Bishop of Jamaica about the partnership.
 - ii. Send a follow-up e-mail to Bishop Lynch.
 - iii. Ask Mr. Lasite if he can write the letter with authority from Bishop Lynch.
- It was decided that “Thank You” letters from recipients who were offered scholarships by the association will be posted on the association’s website. Other “Thank You” letters will only be posted by the individual scholarship sponsor’s request.
- The President showed members “Thank You” letters from and pictures of scholarship recipients sent by Mr. Lasite. Members were also shown pictures of the new classroom buildings in progress.

Annual Thanksgiving Service

- Rev. Canon Dr. William Lewis distributed copies of the draft order of service which was approved by members.
- Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith will be the Grand Chief Patron in the absence of Dr. Eugene Terry.
- Mrs. Daphne Thompson will replace Mrs. Dina Dworzak as Chief Receiver.
- Members voted for \$1,400.00 to be used for food catering.
- Members volunteered the following assignments:
 - Food catering – Mr. St. Claire Sillah
 - Purchasing of drinks – Mr. Reenold Thompson
 - Purchasing of food accessories – Mr. Alex Williams and Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier

- Hall set up – Mr. Alex Williams, Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Mr. Emile Allen and Mr. Reenold Thompson.
- Printing of notices about ceremonial uniform policy – Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier
- Distribution of the Regentonian magazine for a donated fee – Mr. Edward Pratt, Jr.
- Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier was requested to verify the cleaning policy of the hall.
- The President appealed to all to be involved in cleaning the hall at the end of the reception.
- Mr. Desmond Campbell requested for the association’s website to be posted on the program.
- A teleconference will be held on the Friday before the Thanksgiving service

Other Matters

- The President appealed to members to pay their membership dues and fulfill their pledges for ‘Paying Back the Gift’ as we approach the 5th and final year. He also told members that because the association can now electronically transmit money directly to the school’s account in Freetown, the deadline for payment of scholarships by the donors has been moved to April instead of the March 27 deadline.
- The President suggested that the association help in furnishing the new classroom block with more furniture (chairs), as 20 chairs were donated to the school by Ms. Vida During. In this regard, the following recommendations were made:
 - a) Enquire about the cost of the chairs and shipment.
 - b) Investigate and compare the economical advantage of purchasing the chairs in Freetown and the U.S.A
- Mr. Chrispin O’conner promised to contact the school authorities in Freetown to present a proposal on providing solar power for the new building.
- Mr. Chrispin O’conner solicited the purchasing of some band instruments for the school band. He was requested to research the cost and viability of purchasing these instruments.
- Dr. Bob Thomas accepted the offer to be the next editor of the Regentonian Magazine/Newsletter. The next edition is expected to be published in November 2011. Other members of the committee are Dr. Radcliffe Thomas, Dr. John Oliver Davies-Cole, Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith and Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier.
- Mr. Chrispin O’conner informed members that Mr. Lasite will be sending the new 10-year strategic plan of the school to the association in the very near future.
- Closing prayer was said by Rev. Canon Dr. William Lewis.

Faithfully submitted,
Dr. Eben ‘Solo’ Collier