



The Sierra Leone Grammar School
 Alumni Association of North America – Washington, DC Metro Chapter
 Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday, September 12, 2009.
 7:05p.m – 9:15p.m.

Members Present: Radcliffe Thomas, Eben ‘Solo’ Collier, Billy Jones, Desmond Campbell, Chrispin O’conner, George Nicol, Bob Thomas, Alex Williams, Prince McCormack, Robert Metzger, Cyrus Macfoy, St. Claire Sillah, Cyril French, Mohamed Fadika, Winston Allen, Frederick Coker, John Davies-Cole, Endy Faulkner, Frederick Noah, Winston Carew, Norman Smith, Herbert Morsha-Taylor, Gerald Cline-Cole, Pelu Thomas, Claude Taylor, Rev. William Lewis, Mohamed Sesay, Stoker Olu-Williams, and Warren Max-Browne.

Guest Presenter: His Excellency, Mr. Anthony Johnson – Jamaican ambassador to the US

- Opening prayer was said by Dr. John Oliver Davies-Cole.
- Minutes of the last meeting (July, 2009) was distributed, read, corrected and accepted.
- The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas informed members that there was no formal meeting for the month of August as the building was closed and the meeting quorum was not met till late. However, an informal meeting was held in which it was agreed that the price of tickets for the dance in November should be \$35.00

Matters Arising

- The President informed members about the following:
 - a) The treasurer, Mr. Alexander Williams has suggested that the association place a hold on investing the \$15, 000 on CD as interest rates were very low with insignificant returns.
 - b) The tuition scholarship of \$4,500 for 15 students (\$300 per student) was sent through Mr. Clifford Roberts to Mr. Lasite. Any remaining balance tuition will be sent when the breakdown information of how many junior secondary and senior secondary students is received. Mr. Lasite had told the President that the same students receive the scholarships until the end of their secondary education in the school except if they perform poorly academically.
 - c) Copies of the academic progress reports of students who receive tuition scholarships from individual Regentonians were sent to the sponsors.
 - d) Dr. Ralph Taylor-Smith, the editor of the Regentonian newsletter/magazine was sent an e-mail to initiate the publication.
 - e) The website committee should meet one hour before the monthly general meetings.
- Mr. Endy Faulkner volunteered to research the possibility of using turbine energy as an alternative form of energy at the school.

Annual Fund-Raising Dance

- Mr. George Nicol presented the 700 tickets he printed for the dance which were distributed to members to be sold.
- The President told members that the hall has been secured with an insurance of \$90 and a refundable deposit of \$600. The total cost of renting the hall from 9:00p.m. to 3:00a.m. is \$2,325.00
- A dance committee was appointed consisting of the following members:

Mr. Claude Taylor (Organizing Secretary) – Chair, Mr. St. Claire Sillah (Assistant Organizing Secretary), Mr. Alexander Williams, Mr. George Nicol, Mr. Endy Faulkner, and Mr. Gerald Cline-Cole.

- The dance committee was mandated to deliberate about preparation for the dance, including food and drinks; then make recommendations within the next two weeks by e-mail to members.
- Dr. Bob Thomas emphasized the importance of effective communication among members for a successful preparation.
- Mr. Trexson Davies and Mrs. Jacqueline Jones-Dove were voted as the DJ and MC respectively for the dance.
- It was decided that the dance will be publicized on Radio WPPW and Cockorioko newspaper.

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

- The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas introduced the ambassador, Mr. Anthony Johnson and informed members about the purpose of the presentation – To acquaint members about the twinning educational program that the ambassador wants to establish between the Sierra Leone Grammar School and Kingston College, a secondary school in Jamaica with similar religious and historical backgrounds.
- The ambassador, Mr. Anthony Johnson, first commended the association for the great turnout of its members at the meeting in which 30 members were present. In his briefing about the initial idea of the twinning educational program, he told members that at a seminar celebrating the 75th anniversary of Kingston College in Jamaica in 2008, an eminent old boy suggested establishing an educational link between Jamaica and a West African country. After this seminar, a Sierra Leonean diplomat in Kingston who was also present suggested to him about twinning Kingston College and a school in Sierra Leone. After Mr. Anthony Johnson was appointed ambassador to the US in March 2008, he attended a seminar on African tourism in which he proposed the idea of a twinning educational program between Kingston College and a secondary school in Sierra Leone. Present at this seminar was Mrs. Ibiduni Jones (a Sierra Leonean and wife of a prominent Regentonian – Mr. Billy Jones) who suggested the Sierra Leone Grammar School indicating that it was one of the top schools in the country which has similar religious and historical background as Kingston College. The ambassador said he embraced the idea of the Sierra Leone Grammar School after meeting the President and General Secretary of the alumni association in Washington, DC who gave him a short history of the Sierra Leone Grammar School similar to Kingston College.
- The ambassador also enlightened members about the history of Jamaican heroes with close ties with Africa. He also informed members about his teaching experience in Ghana.
- The ambassador indicated that as an initial step to the twinning program, direct communications should be established between the Anglican bishops of both countries who incidentally head the schools. He also suggested a first meeting with alumni from both schools probably at a future social gathering such as the annual dance.
- At the end of the presentation, the ambassador was warmly acclaimed. The President, Dr. Radcliffe Thomas thanked him for his gracious presence, informative presentation and told him that the

Anglican bishop in Freetown, Bishop Lynch has already been apprised of the twinning program proposal.

- The ambassador presented the President with an autographed copy of a book on the history of Kingston College authored by him.

Other Matters

- Dr. Gladius Lewis, Dr. Cyrus Macfoy, Dr. Keddy James, and Mr. Emile Faux were nominated for the Alumnus of the Year award whilst Rev. Gloria Cline-Smythe and Rev. Dr. Julius Grey-Coker were nominated for the Sierra Leonean of the Year award.
- The President informed members that Mr. Clifford Roberts in Freetown is soliciting funds to promote sports in the school.
- Members voted for the next meeting to be held on October 3 instead of October 10 due to the Annie Walsh Old Girls Association's dinner and dance.
- Closing prayer was said by Rev. Dr. Canon William Lewis.

Faithfully submitted,
Eben 'Solo' Collier