

OGHWOGHWA DESCENDANTS IN AMERICA

General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 03, 2010
Venue: Aso Rock Restaurant located at 138-24 Farmers Boulevard, Springfield Garden, NY 11434.

ATTENDANCE:

1. Lucky Abamwa
2. Godwin Okifo
3. Flora Okifo
4. Peter Etametite
5. Nora Etametite
6. A.P. Etanomare Osio
7. Emmanuel Idogho
8. Oke Okifo
9. Ovokerhaye Abamwa
10. Fejiro Okifo
11. Faith Okifo
12. Kevin Okifo
13. Nefe Abamwa
14. Tobore Abamwa
15. Rukevwe Abamwa

The first 2010 general meeting and President Dinner was hosted by President Emmanuel Idogho at the above mentioned address. The meeting was called to order by the president followed by opening prayer by elder Mr. Austin Osio. The president thanked everyone for coming to the meeting in spite of the bad weather. He went through his planned agenda for ODIA in 2010. (See attached agenda). He also announce the death of the mother of Mrs. Doris Onakpoma who went to be with the Lord on January 31, 2009 after a brief illness. He encouraged every member to extend a hand of condolence the bereaved family of Mr. Mr. Mrs. Jude Onakpoma.

FINANCE:

The following dues were collected:

	Name	Amount Paid
1	Lucky Abamwa	\$10.00
2	Mr. & Mrs. Godwin Okifo	\$40.00
3	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Etametite	\$40.00
4	Mr. A.P. E. Osio (Nov, Dec. 2009 & Jan. 2010)	\$30.00
	Total dues collected on 1/03/2010	\$120.00

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READING OF LAST MINUTES:

The General Secretary, Benedict Emareyo did not attend the meeting consequently, Mr. Lucky Abamwa was drafted to take the minutes for this occasion only. Mr. Abamwa read the minutes of the meeting held on November 1, 2009 as prepared by Mr. Emareyo. Motion to discuss the minutes passed.

Mr. Idogho mentioned that the minutes just read did not mention the other part of Mr. Eyubeh's response to the constitution issue discussed at the residence of Mr. Julius Anighoro. It was suggested that Mr. Eyubeh should go and look through his document at his home and let ODIA know the outcome of his search to which he agreed to. Secondly, Mr. Anighoro was also delegated to follow-up with Mr. Eyubeh and report back to the house. It was also noted that the minutes did not indicate the correct amount paid by Mr. Abamwa. Specifically, Mr. Emareyo in his recorded minutes mentioned Mr. Abamwa paid the sum of \$10.00 instead of the \$20.00 that he had paid on the November 1, 2009 meeting. After these amendments were made, Mr. Godwin Okifo moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Mr. Peter Etametite seconded the motion, all agreed, motion was passed.

OPEN ISSUES:

a.) Mr. Idogho said that the open issue could not be discussed because the parties involved were not present at the meeting.

Mr. Idogho mentioned that at the meeting hosted by Mr. Lucky Emadu, Mr. Benedict Emareyo could not answer some of the questions being addressed to him as the General Secretary who had received the association's documentation from the previous administration on behalf of the new administration. Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) are commonly referred to as charitable organization. Therefore, when ODIA's tax-exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code was being discussed, Mr. Emareyo could not ascertain whether ODIA's tax exempt papers were part of the documentation handed over to him or not. Consequently, Mr. Idogho volunteered and called Mr. Emareyo to go over the document including the financial records handed over to him by Mr. Abamwa. Mr. Emareyo and Mr. Idogho agreed to meet on a scheduled date at the residence of Mr. Emareyo. According to Mr. Idogho, he drove to the residence of Mr. Emareyo, and waited for more than an hour but Mr. Emareyo was no where to be found.

Furthermore, because the lack of a tax ID and other financial records that could not be obtained from Mr. Martin Gbeneki, as of January 03, 2010, ODIA has not been able to open an account or access the accounts opened by the previous administration. Consequently, dues

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collected as cash and checks have not been paid into ODIA's account since the reconstitution of association. Mr. Idogho mentioned that Mr. Martin Gbeneki had promised to attend this meeting but he did not show up.

Mr. Abamwa suggested that the executive should make arrangement to contact Mr. Gbeneki to take an inventory of ODIA's properties with him and sign documentation acknowledging the receipt of those document. After obtaining the required document, to expedite the activation of the checking account and other accounts owned by ODIA, the current administration should prepare a change of signatory letter to HSBC bank listing the names of the old signatories and the new authorized signatories.

Mr. Etametite seconded what Mr. Abamwa had suggested. He also added that the executive should contact Mr. Mareyo find out what he wants to do and report back to the house.

Mr. Okifo is of the opinion that the executive alone cannot handle the general secretary's issue because in the past they have tried to talk to him with no success. He suggested that other members of the association should also contact Mr. Emareyo to see if they can talk to him.

Mr. Osio suggested that the executive should contact both Mr. Emareyo and Mr. Gbeneki to see if they can handover the documents in their possession to them if they are no longer interested in ODIA.

Mr. Idogho said that the executive would contact Mr. Emareyo and Mr. Gbeneki to arrange a meeting to handover the document in their possession. However, Mr. Idogho said that the house should authorize the executive to meet with Mr. Emareyo to determine whether he is still interested in ODIA and continue to be the association's general secretary. If Mr. Emareyo should say that he is no longer interested in ODIA, then he should handover all ODIA's document in his possession.

Mr. Etametite suggested that if Mr. Emareyo is no longer interested in ODIA, Mr. Anighoro, Social Secretary should deputize as the general secretary for the meantime. He suggested that in the future, the association should elect a general secretary and also a deputy general secretary to minimize the workload.

After much deliberation, it was agreed that Mr. Anighoro, Social Secretary would also be the interim General Secretary for ODIA pending when new election are held incase Mr. Emareyo decides to leave the association.

A committee to visit both Mr. Emareyo and Mr. Gbeneki consisting of Mr. Idogho, Mr. Okifo and Mr. Osio was formed.

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Mr. Peter Etametite moved to adjourn the meeting and he was seconded by Mr. Okifo. The meeting was brought to a close so that everybody can concentrate on the president's dinner at hand.

Mr. Idogho ended the meeting with a prayer. The President's dinner followed immediately with the arrival of invited guests. The dinner party was well attended and successful with good music, food and drinks.

Isio!!!

Lucky Abamwa

Our address on the net is <http://oghwoghwa.org>. Pls. visit and make your presence felt.