

TO: Members of BWIAAMC (BWI Alumni Association Massachusetts Chapter)

FROM: Anthony N. Selli/President BWIAAMC

DATE: July 30, 2002

SUBJECT: BWIAANA (BWI Alumni Association of North America) 2002 Convention Report

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### **Friday June 28, 2002**

- The National President, Mr. Joe Flomo Matthew, called the 22nd Executive Council (EC) Meeting of BWIAANA to order at 3:00 PM.
- Invocation by Rev. William B. Harris, National Chaplain
- Welcoming of Delegates by E. Henry Harmon, President, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of BWIAANA. Mr. Harmon welcome the National Officers, Chapter Presidents/Vice Presidents and other officers present.
- The Social Committee Chair Lady Ms Mona Stubblefield-Smith presented the Minutes of the 21st Executive Council Meeting held in Newark, New Jersey on November 3, 2001. The General Secretary Mr. Nathaniel Logan, was absent at the June 28, 2002 EC Meeting, and at the Newark, New Jersey EC Meeting. Because of his negligence of duty, a motion was passed to impeach Mr. Nathaniel Logan. Mr. Logan was impeached at the June 28, 2002 EC Meeting as General Secretary of BWIAANA for lack of commitment to his office, and to BWIAANA. Since his tenure of office, he submitted no Minutes of the 2001 National Convention held in Milford, Connecticut, and he kept no record of the Association's activities.
- National Pledge & Individual Contributions: Mr. Emmanuel Lawrence, the Chairman of the National Pledge & Individual Contributions Committee, collected over due pledges and contributions made at the 21<sup>st</sup> BWIAANA Convention held in Milford, Connecticut in June 2001.
- Fund Raising-Winter /Spring Festivals: Ms Mona Stubblefield-Smith, the National Social Secretary, reported on fund raising activities held by individual Chapters. She mass emailed a letter in December 2001 to all Chapters excluding Massachusetts, requesting for her participation in Chapters fund raising activities. Her participation was predicated upon the National Association equally sharing the proceeds from such fund raising activities with Chapters that invited her. So far only the Great Lakes Chapter invited her to their Queen Contest fundraiser function. Since only one of the Chapters invited the National Social Secretary to their fund raising event, she emailed all Chapter Presidents in April 2002 to request for \$500.00 contribution from each Chapter. The \$500.00 contribution from each Chapter would be deposited into the National Treasury. Massachusetts was exempted from contributing the \$500.00 since the National Social Secretary's December 2001 email letter was not sent to BWIAAMC because our Chapter's officers were not yet installed into office.
- Financial Report: Mr. Edgar Railey, the National Financial Secretary, presented his report to the National President on the financial health of BWIANNNA. Details are contained in his report. So far the National Association is financially solvent.

- State of BWI by Mr. Mulbah Jackollie, Principal of BWI: Because of the ongoing security crisis in Liberia today, Mr. Jackollie was unable to attend this year's convention. He however informed our National President about the security condition of BWI. The Principal said that BWI was closed indefinitely and every student had been sent home because of the continuing security problem in the region. Mr. Jackollie informed the National President that the recent shipment of equipment/materials to BWI had been received in Monrovia. The goods are now stowed in a secured warehouse at the Free Port of Monrovia until BWI reopens.
- Project 2001-2002 Materials/Equipment Committee: Ms. Amanda Davis the Chair Lady for this Committee of which I am a member, reported on the activities of the Committee in securing donations, storage, and shipment to Liberia. She reported on a proposed geographical regional setup of the Committee to foster easy acquisition of donations, storage, and shipment of such to the BWI Campus in Kakata, Liberia. To date several donations have been made to BWIAANA and more are being made by friends of Liberia. These donations are presently being stored in member's basements. The incoming administration has committed to make this issue a top priority to ship these donations to BWI.
- Faculty/Staff Assistance & BWIAANA House: Mr. David Ballah, the Chairman for this Committee, was unprepared to give a written report on the status of the Faculty/Staff Assistance & BWIAANA House during the Executive Council Meeting. His Committee had worked frantically hard to have Dean Kaine attend the Dallas convention but logistical problems with visa and plane fare, prevented Dean Kaine's departure from Liberia on time for the BWIAANA 2002 Convention in Arlington, Texas.
- Constitution Committee: Mr. Arthur K. Watson Sr, the National Historian & Chairman of the Constitution Committee, presented copies of the re-written Constitution of BWIAANA for review and adoption. He and the National President previously emailed copies of the re-written Constitution to each Chapter President in December 2001, and in January 2002 to share with their membership for review, comments, and corrections. The National Historian requested for all comments, corrections, and changes to the re-written Constitution to be emailed or mail to him by the end of February 2002. In April and May 2002, the National Historian and the National President again emailed the final version of the re-written Constitution with changes, and corrections from Chapters that sent in those changes and corrections. Thus, every Chapter had ample time to address all issues pertinent to the re-written Constitution. With various comments made on the re-written Constitution, it was agreed to accept the document in its present form. The re-written Constitution would be presented to the general body the next day on the convention floor.
- Reports from Chapters by Chapter Presidents: A roll call of each Chapter was made for the Chapter Presidents to present their semi-annual report. For the second time in the history of BWIAANA, the Massachusetts Chapter of BWIAANA was represented at the EC Meeting, and presented a copy of our annual report to each National Officer, and to each Chapter President. Mr. Jerry Yekeh the President of the Georgia Chapter, presented that Chapter's report. The Georgia Chapter experienced some internal problems last year that caused her absence at the 2001 Convention in Milford, Connecticut, and at the EC Meeting in Newark, New Jersey. As a result, the Georgia Chapter owed the National Association \$1,000.00 for last year and this year's sitting fees. Mr. Yekeh pleaded with the EC Body to allow for \$500.00 payment for last year's sitting fee, and the balance to be paid before the end of this year for 2002 sitting fee. The body agreed, and the \$500.00 sitting fee for last year was paid to allow the Georgia Chapter to sit at the EC Meeting, and at the Convention floor.

- The Carolinas (North & South Carolina) Chapter was also represented this year as a full fledge participant, and Ms Lomel Whyte presented their report. The rest of the Chapters presented their reports verbally or in written form to the EC Committee. The National President asked for written reports from every Chapter henceforth.
- Board of Advisors: For the first time in BWIAANA history, the Board of Advisors were present at the Executive Council Meeting, and they made few remarks, followed by the National President's remarks.
- Sports Committee: Mr. James F. Williams Chairman, made no report on the Committee's activities.
- Election 2002 Announcements by Mr. Zachariah White Chairman, Election Commission: Mr. White addressed the body on the new election procedures for this year's election of National Officers. Each member was required to purchase a package containing the Convention materials and the election ballot. Members with out the package would not be allowed to vote as the Convention package contained the election ballot.
- Old Business & Convention Manual: No action was taken.
- Announcements by Mr. Henry Harmon President, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter: Mr. Harmon advised the membership about the Convention activities.
- BWI School Ode. The EC Membership sang the BWI School Ode.
- National Anthem: The EC Membership also sang the Liberian National Anthem.
- Benediction: Rev. William B. Harris, National Chaplain, gave Benediction.
- Adjournment.

### **Saturday June 29, 2002**

### **BWIAANA NATIONAL CONVENTION 2002**

#### Session I

9:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

- Call to order and Roll Call by Joe Flomo Matthew, National President
- Invocation by Rev. William B. Harris, National Chaplain
- Welcoming of Delegates by E. Henry Harmon, President of Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter
- Presentation of 2001 Convention Minutes for Adoption. Issue was covered at the EC Meeting on June 28, 2002, and repeated on the Convention floor.
- Fund Raising Activities Winter/Spring Festivals. Issue was covered at EC Meeting on June 28, 2002, and repeated on the convention floor.

- Financial Report by Edgar Railey, National Financial Secretary. This issue was also covered at EC Meeting on June 28, 2002, and repeated on the convention floor.

### Committee Reports

- A. Materials/Equipment by Amanda Davis, National Vice President. Issue was covered at EC Meeting on June 28, 2002, and repeated on the convention floor.
- B. BWI Faculty/Staff Assistance & BWI House, by David Ballah, Chairman. Mr. Ballah presented a written report to the National President detailing activities that the National Association is engaged in to supply bags of rice to the BWI Faculty/Staff. The issue about Dean Kaine's trip to the 2002 Convention was also discussed.
- C. Adoption of the New Constitution by Arthur K. Watson, Sr, National Historian & Chairman of the Constitution Re-writing Committee. This issue was re-discussed on the convention floor for almost an hour because delegates from various Chapters wanted to debate every issue in the Re-written Constitution. Since every Chapter through their Chapter President received copies of the Re-written Constitution prior to the Convention, and each member of every Chapter was asked to comment, make corrections or add changes before coming to the convention, the issue of re-discussing the Re-written Constitution was voted down. The Re-written Constitution was adopted by a unanimous vote.
- Phelps Stokes Fund Liberia Programs presented by Rose Marie Dennis, Esq. Senior Fellow/Executive Director-Liberia Program, and Dr. Julius Wayne Dudley, Vice President, Phelps-Stokes Fund: Dr. Dudley and Counselor Dennis discussed at length about the good work that the Phelps Stokes Liberia Fund is doing to help rebuild BWI, and about the future commitments of the Phelps Stokes Fund to BWI and to Liberia. The Convention Delegates warmly received them.
- Reports from Chapters by Chapter Presidents. This was a repeat from the EC Meeting on June 28, 2002.
- State of the Association Address by Mr. Joe Flomo Matthew, National President:  
The National President spoke about the accomplishments of his administration for the past two years that they were in office. He also spoke about mistakes made and lessons learned. During his administration, two new Chapters, Massachusetts and Maryland were added to the National Association, and key Committees such as the Materials/Equipment and BWI Faculty/Staff Assistance & BWI House were established to help expedite the rebuilding process of the BWI Campus. Shipments of books, lawn mower, mattresses, computers, etc were made, and large consignment of donated materials for BWI have recently been received at the Free Port of Monrovia and they are now held in storage until the school is reopened. The President thanked the delegates for their support, and he looked forward to working well with the incoming administration.

### Session II

1:30 AM – 2:00 PM

- Report from BWIAA-Liberia by Mr. John Youboty, President. Mr. Youboty was not available and the National President filled in for him.

- State of BWI by Mr. Mulbah Jackollie, Principal of BWI: Mr. Mulbah was unable to travel to the United States of America for the Convention due to the prevailing security problems in Liberia. He however sent his greetings and asked for our prayers as our school is closed indefinitely until the security situation in the country improves. The Principal stated that the campus was intact and nothing was looted or destroyed from the campus. Because of security concerns, students were advised to leave for home until the security situation improves. The BWI daily activities are presently being conducted in Monrovia.

### Session III - ELECTIONS

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Election Process by Mr. Zachariah White, Chairman, Election Commission: The Chairman went over the rules and procedures for the National Election, and asked for each National Candidate to give a 5 minutes remark on their platform. The following offices were vacant and contested for. They as follow: National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Chaplain, National Treasurer, National Financial Secretary, National Social Secretary, and National Historian. Each candidate gave a brief remark about his/her reason for running for the respective positions, and the election was held for the above positions. Our new Officers to run the National Association until June 2004 are as follow: Mr. Emmette Faiwoo, National President, Mr. David Ballah, National Vice President, Mrs. Barbara Lavalala, National Secretary General, Ms Sando Yancy, National Treasurer, Mr. Marvin Kromah, National Social Secretary, and Ms Romel Whyte, National Chaplain. The National Financial Secretary Post was left vacant as no one contested for it. The position of National Financial Secretary will be filled through a by-election.

### CONVENTION CONCLUSION

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

- Old Business, adoption of the Convention Manual.
- Announcements by Mr. E. Henry Harmon, President Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter
- BWI School Ode
- Liberian National Anthem
- Benediction by Rev. William B. Harris, National Chaplain
- Adjournment.

### CONVENTION BANQUET / BALL

8:00 PM

Dinner Served

- Welcome: Mr. Henry Chibli President, Liberian Community Association of Dallas/Fort Worth.
- Occasion: Mr. Arthur K. Watson, National Historian.
- Selection: BWI Glee Club lead by Mr. Arthur K. Watson

- Recognition of Honors: Mr. Joe Flomo Matthew, National President: He presented certificates of appreciation for job well don by Chapter Presidents and their elected/appointed officers.
- National Queen Contest: Ms Mona Subblefield-Smith, National Social Secretary, officiated the Occasion. Each Chapter was represented by her Queen. Ms Massachusetts was Mrs. Beatrice C. Siryon. Ms New York (Ms Esther Brown) won the contest.
- Installation of Newly Elected Officers: The newly elected Officers were installed into office at the wee hours of the morning of June 30, 2002.
- SABA with Charles Neal: Liberia’s own singing sensation Ms Saba, supported by Mr. Charles Neal, brought the Convention floor to its feet when she sang several of her beautiful Liberian songs.
- Dr. Sirleaf Scholarship Railey A fund raising rally was held by Mr. Emmanuel Lawrence, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee to help raise funds for Dr. Sirleaf’s Scholarship Fund.
- Vote of Thanks Mrs. Foudiya K. Henri, Chairman/Coordinator 2002 Convention, thanked the delegates for traveling far and near to attend the 2002 BWI National Convention hosted by her Chapter, Dallas/Fort Worth. The Convention was very successful.
- BWI School Ode
- Liberian National Anthem
- Benediction Mr. William B. Harris, National Chaplain
- Grand March Led by Mr. & Mrs. A.T. Max Davis
- BWIAANA 2002 National Convention came to a close at the Sunday worship services on June 30, 2002.

The 2002 BWIAANA Convention hosted by the Dallas/Forth Worth Chapter was a resounding success. We had a very good convention, and we look forward to BWIAANA 2003 National Convention in New Jersey.

