

Booker Washington Institute Alumni Association of North America
Delaware Valley Chapter
June 15, 2009

OVERVIEW

The Delaware Valley Chapter is back and active. Since the death of our late president, Mr. Steve S. Kpou, the chapter has struggled to get back to its usual activities by having regular monthly meetings.

As it is with most chapters, where only a few people participate in the day to day affairs of their chapters, our chapter is no exception to that norm. The faithful few have held on to the association for the past one year.

The Delaware Valley chapter has not experienced any loss since the death of Mr. Kpou. We had some of our members who lost their relatives including Mrs. Marie Baar-Davies, Mrs. Eleanor Suah-Badio, Ms. Rebecca S. Goobsy, and some who were sick but have since recovered and some are still recovering. We want to specially mention Patrick Nywah, who is still trying to recover from the stroke he had last year and Allen Burke who had a successful brain surgery. We are grateful to God for the comfort he bestowed upon his children during their time of bereavements and illnesses.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Some members of our chapter and their children continue to excel the ladder of success.

We want to congratulate Mrs. Tarlow Miller, Acting President of the chapter for her election as president of the Liberian Community Association of Central New Jersey and the Metro Areas. Also elected were Mr. Morris Boakai, Chairman of the Board of Directors; Mr. Boakai was also appointed as Chairman of BWIAANA Audit Committee; Mr. Rudolph Weedor, member of the Board of Directors and board member on the ULAA level representing the Liberian Community Association of Central New Jersey and Metropolitan Areas.

We want to extend to Mr. & Mrs. Morris Boakai, our congratulation on the graduation of their son, Morris Boakai, Jr., from Basic Military Training with the United States Army. This is a dream come true for their family and we celebrate with them on his achievement.

We also want to report that one of our chapter members in person of Mr. S. Ballah Massaquoi, was appointed to the ULAA National Leadership Council as Chairman of the National Social Services Council. We want to congratulate Mr. Massaquoi for his preferment as chairman.

Also, our own brother and friend who is a strong supporter of our chapter, Mr. Robert Karpeh, graduated from Community College of Philadelphia, Pa.

We would also like to recognize the contributions of Mr. & Mrs. James W. Miller, Sir's. children services to this country. Recently, their third son, Cpl. Abraham Y. Miller, returned home from his thirteen months tour of duty in Iraq. Cpl. Miller received the Military Medal of Achievement awards from the Major of Hamilton, New Jersey, upon his arrival.

The Millers also welcomed into their family their two newest grandchildren; Jaden Isaiah McGraw – born September 13, 2008 and Roselyn Tarlow Miller – born April 13, 2009.

Our Chapter would like to thank Mr. Justin Wenneh for his generosity in providing items such as T-shirts, hats, handbags, jackets to riffle so that our chapter could raise funds. The Delaware Chapter has done well financial. Many thanks to Mr. Wenneh and his lovely wife Marie.

We had a cookout blast at the home of Mr. Milton Boyce where everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves. Thanks to Mr. Boyce and his family for hosting BWINAANA Delaware Valley Chapter.

ANNIVERSARIES

April 30, 2009 marked the one year anniversary of the death of the late Steve S. Kpou. On the 9th of May, his wife, Mrs. Ahmed Kpou and family, celebrated his memory with a memorial service but not as the usual memorial service. We reflected on the work of Steve and all his accomplishments not in a sad mood but with such fun and laughter. Even though some of us were moved to share tears, but the atmosphere in the hall was a festal one. Mrs. Ahmed Kpou extended her thanks and appreciation to all her BWI families especially the Delaware Valley Chapter, who has stood by her and the children since the passing of Steve. The evening was climaxed with the singing of the school ode and a grand march.

On June 9, 2009, the Acting President, Mrs. Tarlow L. Miller, celebrated her 50th birth anniversary. The chapter would like to congratulate Mrs. Miller on her diamond jubilee celebration.

PROJECT

Our building project initiated by the late Steve Kpou, which eventually resulted in the purchasing of a property in Philadelphia, had to be abandoned due to financial constraint. The chapter could no longer afford to continue paying the mortgage for the property since it was not generating its own revenue. The chapter had appeal to the National Association for assistance but was rejected. The building has since been sold. We would like to thank all our members who believed in the leadership and were willing to make financial sacrifices by contributing to upkeep the mortgage. We are still in search of a property to achieve the dream of our late leader Mr. Steve Kpou.