

**MARYLAND CHAPTER ANNUAL REPORT**  
AT THE BWINAANA 18<sup>th</sup> National Convention &  
The 80<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day Celebration of BWI,  
June 26 – 28, 2009  
Hosted by: The Rhode Island Chapter  
Providence, Rhode Island

Mr. Anthony Selli, National President, BWIAANA National Officers, Chapter Presidents, Former National Presidents, Our National Queen and members of the various chapters of our great association, Guests and Friends of BWI, Fellow Liberians, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am extremely pleased and grateful to bring greetings to you from the Vice President, officers and esteemed members of the Maryland Chapter who were unable to attend the meeting this year, due to unavoidable circumstances. However, I can report with great pleasure that our chapter continues to grow, is strong and is alive and well.

Before I present our annual report to the General Assembly for 2008-2009, I want to take a moment to introduce the members who are here with me today as the official delegation from our chapter: Former President, Mr. John F. Buckett; Ms. Marie Johnson, Treasurer and Mr. Edwin Jenkins, member.

I would like to take an additional moment to thank the president, officers and members of the Rhode Island Chapter for hosting the 80<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day Celebration. Your warm reception and hospitality are greatly appreciated and I would like to personally thank you for all your hard work in making this a truly memorable event.

Mr. President, national officers and fellow delegates, I am pleased to make the following report for the 2008-2009 year under review.

The Maryland Chapter is indeed strong and very much alive.

- Since our last convention, we have continued to encourage and strengthen the status of our membership, keeping all informed of the activities of our chapter and the national organization.
- Members are challenged to actively identify and recruit graduates, former students and friends of Booker Washington Institute who reside within our chapter's borders.
- We have conducted several successful chapter meetings and implemented new guidelines to take our chapter to a new level. Our members are encouraged to pay their monthly membership dues to facilitate the Maryland Chapter as well as our financial obligation to the national body.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

Our achievements at the chapter level are many. They include:

1. Retention of our original core membership as well as expansion through active recruitment.
2. Membership cooperation.
3. Spirit of oneness - Unity.
4. Development of an awareness campaign in our community.
5. Design and launch of a brand new chapter website.

Areas that we are working hard to improve include:

1. Recruitment of new members.
2. Ensuring that monthly payments are made in a timely manner.

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AND VARIOUS CHAPTERS:**

Mr. President, National Officers and members of the General Assembly,

Each of us in the Maryland Chapter want to remind everyone here today to never forget the desperate conditions that exist within our homeland and the massive efforts required to find meaningful, lasting solutions to the problems there. We must continually remind ourselves that these conditions cannot be solved without an unwavering commitment on the part of each and every one of us in this noble organization. We have each been blessed in many ways. But we must share our blessing with others – whether it is talent, time, money or resources -- for it to be truly meaningful.

We can do this by together taking the first steps in a very long and difficult journey. As members of BWINAANA we have each committed ourselves to assisting with the massive efforts required. To be successful, and to make substantive, lasting change, we must not falter in this journey. Together, we must support one another in this quest so that we not only help take our national organization to the next level, but change the world our fellow countrymen live in. It is a task that I, and my fellow Maryland Chapter members, accept willingly with a full heart and unwavering support. And we hope that each of you finds it in your own heart to embark on this journey with us. Together, we will indeed do great things, things we can never do alone.

In that spirit, we as delegates must affirm the dignity of our members and our community, motivate them and help them take responsibility for their lives. There is no simple way to achieve this. But we must take as many small steps as required to take us collectively in a new direction.

We must establish a relationship based on total trust, which then enables us to move on to the deeper issues we face. This will allow us to commit to the concept of loving our people and our community members unconditionally.

In light of this, the Maryland Chapter of the BWINAANA recommits itself fully to the national body and the Executive Council that guides it. Our chapter will adhere and fully support its original mission, vision and strategies.

Mr. President, National Officers and members of the General Assembly, during our presentation at last year's convention in New York we informed you that Captain Simeon Smith had just returned from Iraq after a successful tour of duty. He has now been called again to serve in South Korea and we ask that each of you continue to pray for him and his family while he is serving our country there.

### **BWI Honorees for 2009**

As you know, educational pursuits are a key area of focus for our chapter. At our upcoming Annual Liberia Independence Day Celebration program in July, the following students will be honored for their outstanding academic achievements.

#### **High School Graduates**

Geomel Shaffa - graduated from High School this year.

Parents: George & Josephine Shaffa

Vachael J. Mulbah

Arch Bishop Curley High School, Accepted to Central Pennsylvania College

Parents: Vessellee & Eunice Mulbah

Dominic Hooks

Overlea High School, Accepted to Monroe Community College

Parents: Maxwell & Nora Hooks

Reid Wiles

Parkville High School, Accepted to Towson University

Parents: Grace Powell

Samuel Fully

Overlea High School, Accepted to CCBE

Parents: Bendu Zargo

Mamie Cooper

W.E.B. DuBois High School, Accepted to Columbia Union College

Parents: Gorma Jimmy

Janjay Kamara

W.E.B. DuBois High School, Accepted to Coppin State University

Parent: Hawah Kamara

Gborlormeï Buckettt  
W.E.B. DuBois High School  
Parents: John Buckettt, Sr.

Lavie Tomah Smith  
W.E.B. DuBois High School, Accepted at University of Maryland  
Parents: I. Ezax & Madia Smith

### **College/University Graduates**

Elma Garway  
B.A. Psychology, University of Baltimore University College  
Parents: Lemu Thomas

Gradia Junius  
B.Sc. Medicine, Coppin State University  
Parents: Late Nathan Junius

### **DEATH IN OUR CHAPTER**

Mr. President and Fellow Delegates,

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Chapter, I wish to note it is with deep regret that I note the passing of a very prominent member in our community, Dr. Joseph Mamadee Woah-Tee. We ask that members of the National Assembly keep the bereaved family in their prayers, along with Mrs. Cecelia Woah-Tee (wife), Mr. Dempster Woah-Tee and Mr. Daniel Cammue, his brother and cousin who are also members of our chapter, and all his friends and extended family.

Of course, other chapters, national officers, past national presidents and members of our great association also suffered losses during the year in review and we would like to take a moment to remember their loved ones during this general assembly.

Finally, we give Almighty God the glory for sustaining us to celebrate this day. We encourage each of you to continue to work harder to make this association a success. We must support our national leadership in these worthwhile efforts.

Thanks and God bless you all.

Respectfully submitted on this day:

*John Sackie Fahnbutu*  
**President, Maryland Chapter, BWIAANA**