



**BWI NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA
MINNESOTA CHAPTER
18TH ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND
JUNE 26 – 28, 2009**

The BWINAANA Minnesota Chapter is pleased to submit to the 18th annual convention, its annual report covering the period July 2008 to June 2009. This report comprises of the chapter's achievements, difficulties during the reporting period and goals for the next reporting period and beyond.

LEADERSHIP:

The local chapter is currently led by:

- A. Zaccheus Payne, Sr. ----- President
- Mr. Topee Jackson ----- Vice President
- Mrs. Alice Teamah-Cooper ---- General Secretary
- Mrs. Mae Kollie Ngaifua -----Treasurer
- Mr. James Thompson -----Financial Secretary
- Rev. Fatu Degbeh -----Chaplin
- Mr. Myer Sonkarley -----Parliamentarian
- Mr. Paul Bel George -----Planning & Social Secretary

DIFFICULTY (Decline in members' involvement in the BWINAANA Activities)

The Minnesota Chapter is alive and well following the period of dissatisfaction of majority of the members resulting into decline of active members' participation in the chapter's activities for what they described as **“disrespect and unfair treatment of the chapter by the then national leadership after convention 2007 in the Twin Cities”**.

After an amicable settlement of this issue and a reception of letter of apology from the current leadership on behalf of the national body, the chapter's monthly meeting attendance is growing by the days.

1. Before Convention 2007: 38 – 45 members per meeting (30.4% - 36%) of the total membership.
2. During the crisis: 6-10 members per meeting (4.8% - 8.0%) of the total membership.
3. After the settlement of the issue: 24 – 28 members per meeting (19.2% - 22.4%) of total membership.

The above statistic represents a vivid indication of how members of the Minnesota Chapter and of any other chapter are very sensitive to treatment and activities on the national level. The most important achievement of the current administration are working along with the National Leadership to resolved the longstanding Convention 2007 and the development of policies and methodologies to reunite and bring our members back to the association. The policies and methods are working. Official delegates of 13 persons to Convention 2009 is a good sign of success.

BWINAANAMNC Trust Foundation:

Currently, we have embarked on a project that will be beneficial to members of our chapter and Liberians within our community. Minnesota Chapter Trust Fund is an investment initiative through which 30% of member's annual due is being invested for the member with a matching fund of 10% from the local chapter.

This initiative provides the opportunity for our members to make loan without the tedious credit check as done in the conventional financial markets.

BWI WOMEN in MINNESOTA:

The women of the Minnesota Chapter have organized themselves into women operated supporting arm to the local chapter's current administration. The women auxiliary known as BWI Women in Minnesota (BWI-WIM) was formally established June 14, 2009. The goal of this group is to mobilize all women within the chapter to get involve with the

chapter's activities. **Note:** Women constitute about 41% of the chapter's general roster membership of 70 members (March 2009 membership record) but 37.5% of the current active membership of 32.

CONCLUSION

We in the fountain chapter are looking to the future with great optimism. The goal and commitment of the current leadership is to fully concentrate on the rejuvenation of the local chapter activities and encourage members to get involve again as was pre 2008 Convention. Our focus is to strengthen the relationships within the chapter and with other chapters, develop and improve the local chapter's information dissemination mechanism and institute a new and better methodology by which the chapter's resources (both human and financial) can be best managed and aptly utilized. It is our hope to create a working network with the goal of linking all employable members of the chapter to opportunities of employment.

We want to thank all of the BWINAANA members nationwide who called or sent emails to Margaret Toweh, Jesse Mongrue and Morris Shylongteh during the intense period of their illnesses. Let's continue to pray with Margaret as she recovers from knee surgery, Jesse as he goes through speech therapy and Morris as he gradually recovers from major stroke that changed his life forever. Morris is trying to walk and talk again.