

BWI National Alumni Association of North America
New Jersey Chapter

Annual Report
2008/2009



Saturday, June 27, 2008

Submitted by: Mr. Mulbah F. Dwanah
President

Mr. President, Officers of the National Association, Chapters Presidents, Officers & Members, Friends and Associates of BWI, one and all.

I bring you warm greetings from the Garden State, (New Jersey Chapter). We are grateful to the Lord for allowing us to attend another convention and once more come together as a family putting together ideas and plans for a better BWI. We are very pleased to see so many of you. This life has become too short and we all have different journeys and different paths along the way. For some, the end of life's journey has become quick. We are blessed to be here today.

Our chapter is still struggling with membership. Many of our members have relocated and have change their work schedule making it difficult to hold our monthly meetings. Our meetings have been confined via teleconference.

Our activities since the last convention are a follow:

- Our Annual Family Day Food Sale was held on May 23, 2009 with very successful results. By popular demand, another Family Day Food Sale has been scheduled for August 22, 2009.
- Election was held and the new officers are as follow:

President	Mrs. Kathleen Cole-Thomas
Vice President	Mr. Femon Padmore
General Secretary	Mrs. Roberta Ricks-Gardiner
Treasurer	Mrs. Sylvia Lewis-Padmore
Chaplin	Ms. Marie Bell
Social Secretary	Mrs. Matee Dwanah

During the year 2008/2009, the following accomplishments took place in the lives of our members and our member's children:

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Watson & Family

Bendu Watson daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Watson received her MBA degree in February 2009 from Wilmington University, Delaware.

Arthur Watson, Jr. son of Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Watson Graduated from Roxbury High School in June, 2009

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Harmon & Family

Quinn Harris, son of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Harmon graduated from Orange High School on June 24, 2009.

Mr. & Mrs. Momo Peters & Family

Tamba Peters, son of Mr. & Mrs. Momo Peters graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Business Finance.

Mr. & Mrs. Mulbah Dwanah & Family

Mr. Mulbah Dwanah received a MS in Chemistry, MBA in Business with a concentration in Marketing.

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Jones & Family

Taysiah Varnie, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Jones received a BS in Political Science from Rider University.

Ms. Rosetta Mulbah & Family

Ucee Dedeh Guzeh daughter of Ms. Rosetta Mulbah graduated from Central High School

Our goal for 2009/2010 is to increase membership and revitalize the chapter.

May the good Lord continue to bless and keep everyone.

Thanks.

Respectfully submitted
Mr. Mulbah Dwanah
President

Concerns & Recommendations from NJ Chapter

Concerns:

1. Members are concern with the negative returns on investments for hosting the annual convention by Chapters.
2. BWI National Alumni Association of North America was not represented nor acknowledged by the BWI Principal during the Board Meeting with Liberian President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

Recommendations:

1. Hosting of the convention go back to the chapters instead of the National.
Maybe its time to go back to the old format where each chapter was loaned a fixed amount and the national organization got all profits associated with hosting the convention.
2. The Alumni Association of North America should re-evaluate the disbursement of all liquid funds through the office of the principal of the institution as well as through the Alumni Association in Liberia. We recommend that all further disbursements or distribution of liquid funds be withheld until our position can be clearly defined regarding the Booker Washington Institute.
3. A letter should be written to the Liberian Ambassador to the US, Nathaniel Barnes to schedule an audience with Dr. E-J Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, to formally present our organization, its past contributions and future plans for BWI.