

**Booker Washington Institute National Alumni Association of North America
(BWINAANA)
Guest House Hotel & Suites
159 Palham Street
Methuen, Massachusetts
June 30 – July 1, 2006**

**2006 Convention Business Summary
July 1, 2006**

Participants:

Chapters

California
Carolinas
Connecticut
Delaware Valley
Great Lakes
Massachusetts
Maryland
Minnesota
New Jersey
Southwest
Washington, D.C.
New York
Rhode Island
Absent – Georgia

National Officers

Mr. Ralph Henri, National President
Ms. Ada Hage, National Vice President
Ms. Sando Yancy, National Treasury
Mr. Amos K. Gray, National Financial Secretary
Mr. Arthur Jallah, National Social Secretary
Mrs. Foudiya Henri, National Secretary
Dr. Joe T. Isaac, National Historian
Ms. Romel L. Whyte, National Chaplain
Mrs. Eleanor Badio, National Queen

**2006 Theme: “BWIAANA Proudly Celebrating 15 years of
Growth with a Brighter Future Ahead.”**

Meeting call to order

Mr. Ralph Henri, National President called the Convention to order.

Adoption of Agenda

The Southwest chapter moved that the 2006 agenda be adopted.

Invocation

Ms. Romel L Whyte, National Chaplain open up with the song “*When we all get to heaven*” and read from the book of Psalms # 54. The Carolinas Chapter Chaplain provided the opening prayer.

Roll Call: Mr. Amos K. Gray, National Financial Secretary

Paid Chapters

California
Carolinas
Connecticut
Delaware Valley
Great Lakes
Massachusetts
Maryland
Minnesota
New Jersey
Southwest
Washington, D.C.
New York
Rhode Island

Unpaid Chapters

Georgia

National Officers

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Mr. Arthur Jallah, National Social Secretary
Mrs. Foudiya Henri, National Secretary
Dr. Joe T. Isaac, National Historian
Ms. Romel L. Whyte, National Chaplain

Former National Presidents

Mr. Arthur K. Watson

Welcome

Mr. Anthony Selli, Massachusetts Chapter President and National Convention Co-Chair welcomed everyone to the 15th Anniversary National Convention.

Mr. Ralph Henri, National President welcomed everyone to the 15th Anniversary National Convention, thanked the MA Chapter and recognized all special guests in attendance to include Mr. Sam Kollie, former Liberian Ambassador to South Africa.

Minutes of 2005 National Convention

Motion for discussion of minutes should include: opening discussion and acceptance of minutes;

2005 National Convention Minutes was submitted by Mrs. Foudiya Henri, National Secretary. The New York Chapter motioned that the minutes be open for discussion on the floor. Corrections to the minutes were: page 1 change New Jersey chapter to Paid, Page 3 under BWI Principal's Report change BWIAANA Endowment fund to BWI Endowment fund, page 4 add under Connecticut/Massachusetts and Southwest Chapter group report "Institute of Technology" and add National Secretary's name at bottom of minutes.

Rhode Island Chapter moved that the 2005 minutes be adopted with corrections.

National Financial Report

Mr. Amos K. Gray provided copies of the National Financial Report to All Chapter Presidents for review.

RVR Trust Fund	\$37,537.58 (Certificate of Deposit (CD) & Savings Account)
Operating Account	\$ 7,670.15
Total	<u>\$47,207.73</u>

The Executive Council approved a new budget of \$55,000 for 2006-2007 operating year. All fees are to be included in the convention package.

National Committee Reports

Mr. Steve Kpou, Delaware Valley Chapter President provided the National Scholarship Committee report. The committee sent raffle booklets to each local chapter to benefit the 2006 National Scholarship fund. The committee spent \$300.00 on raffle ticket prizes. David Sirleaf, Southwest Chapter President mentioned he had not received his tickets.

Ms. Romel L. Whyte, National Chaplain provided copies of the Annual Report of the National Chaplain to all chapters. Chapter members bereaved were:

Mr. Henry Charyoe – NY

Mr. & Mrs. James Miller – Delaware Valley

Mr. David Ballah – RI

Mrs. Mona Smith – Washington D.C.

Mr. Henry Harmon – Southwest

Mr. & Mrs. Fiawoo- (former National President), Washington, D.C.

Rev. & Mrs. Harris

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Young – Rhode Island

Mr. & Mrs. Carter

Family of the late Romeo Horton, Former National Historian BWIAANA

Family of the late Edgar Railey, Former National Financial Secretary

Family of the late Sophia Cassell, Rhode Island Chapter member

The National Chaplain's report recommended that contributions generated during the National Worship services at the conventions be set aside to send cards of condolences and floral arrangements to members bereaved and experiencing a season of illness or hardship.

Ms. Josephine Davis of the Rhode Island Chapter offered a special "Thank you" to the National Chaplain.

National Membership Database – The National Secretary provided a report on the BWIAANA National database. The Excel database can be easily updated with current addresses, emails, telephone numbers and new members. A hardcopy of the Excel database was provided to all local chapter presidents for review and corrections. The database will be password protected.

National Committee Reports

An update of Donated City Buses to BWIAANA was provided.

Comments provided included, New Jersey Chapter President stated he did not own a shipping company; Mr. Arthur Watson, former National President mentioned that the Ministry of Education in Liberia and the City of Monrovia are interested in the donated city buses and BWI should coordinate with the Ministry of Education. Mr. Emmanuel Lawrence, former National President stated that the maintenance of the donated city buses would cost too much money.

Local Chapter Reports submitted (Chapters distributed copies of their official annual reports on the floor of the convention to all local chapter presidents)

- 1 Rhode Island – submitted
- 2 Carolinas – pending
- 3 Delaware Valley – submitted
- 4 Great Lakes – submitted
- 5 New Jersey – submitted
- 6 Washington, D.C. – Hardcopy not submitted during convention
- 7 Connecticut – submitted
- 8 California - submitted
- 9 New York – submitted
- 10 Southwest – Hardcopy not submitted during convention
- 11 Minnesota – submitted
- 12 Maryland – submitted
- 13 Massachusetts – submitted
- 14 Georgia – not present

All submitted reports will form the archives of the National Association.

Dr. Joe T. Isaac, National Historian was the MC for the Chapter Awards Luncheon

In honor of the 15th Anniversary National Convention the lunch hour was dedicated to the Local Chapters to celebrate and share the wonderful work of their members. The awards were presented to members by their Chapter Presidents. Several Chapters also presented awards to their Chapter Presidents. Dr. Isaac gave the closing comments and thanked the chapters. The MA Chapter Chaplain gave the benediction for the awards luncheon.

BWIAANA Update

Mr. Ralph Henri, National President gave the State of the Association report. He highlighted three areas: (Professional attitude, Chapter development and Integrity) **Professional attitude** – he encouraged the membership to work for the association with a professional attitude. To prepare reports professionally and give the example of the National Financial Secretary's reports, **Chapter development** – he said we are all responsible for helping to develop our chapters at the local level. Members should participate in local chapter meetings and give their opinions at the local chapter meetings where is matter the most. He stress on members that attend the National Convention annually but never attend a local chapter meeting to keep current with the association. He stressed that their questions at the convention can be handled through their Local Chapter Presidents if they attended the local meetings and participated fully. **Integrity** – reminded the convention that whatever we do we should always do it on the platform of Integrity. BWIAANA is a leading association in the U.S. and Liberia and remains so because of Integrity. BWIAANA is one of the very few Liberian organizations that have lasted for more than 15th years. He contributed the longevity to Integrity, Professional attitude and the strength of the local chapters. He thanked the Local Chapter Presidents, the membership, National Officers and Former National Presidents for all their support and encouraged them to continue serving BWIAANA in her quest to support BWI. **Accomplishments** included **improved communications** with the Local Chapter Presidents and membership through the use of the email, web site and teleconference calls. **The MN EC meeting held in November 2005.** A re-establishment and renewed relationship with the Phelp Stokes Foundation, communications with Pirie View and Tuskegee Universities, advocacy and three containers shipped containing **direct donations to the BWI campus from BWIAANA.** However the most notable was the **association's 501 © non profit status was re-stored by the State of Georgia and the Internal Revenue Service** after lapsing in previous years. He thanked Mr. Amos Gray, National Financial Secretary and Ms. Sando Yancy, National Treasurer for their hard work and many hours dedicated to restoring the association needed 501 © status. He employed the membership to maintain their 501© status as a non-profit organization. He concluded by recounting his experience of how he came to attend and graduate from BWI. The convention laughed.

BWI Update

Mr. Mulbah Jackolie, Principal of BWI shared with the convention that the 77th Founder's Day Celebrations were going well. He shared greetings from the BWI campus and the BWI Board of Directors and stated BWIAANA is a well respected organization in Liberia. He said the convention would be proud of BWI for the following reasons: Since 1999 BWI has managed to keep its doors open in the gap of education. BWI graduated over 400 students and took the lead in assisting with the re-habilitation of former child soldiers. BWI provided the use of the campus, logistics and training for the former child soldiers. Many of the ex-combats are working towards restoring their lives and learning a skill in post-war Liberia. This is extremely difficulty given the limited resources and number of ex-combats child soldiers. There is five Chinese expert staff working on the campus assisting in technical and agricultural areas. He told the convention that a donor conference on the BWI campus was critical to explore "what to do with BWI" From 1999 – 22 students (non- ex- combats); to date 2006 956 students (non-ex- combats); There are grave developmental needs required for the BWI campus, several buildings need detailed renovations (plumbing, roofing, painting, flooring) decorated water systems that require relocation to the Du River and construction of a hydro plant. Some future goals include the construction of a new building holding 20 classrooms, science labs, continued working with donor nations on agriculture needs and cash-crops, vigorous update of staff development and training needs; acquisition of the "Auto CAT" software and elevating BWI to a college to meet the demands of current and developing post-war Liberia. He said they are looking forward to a day when they don't have to come and present problems. H will return to the campus the first week of August 2006. He left the question to the convention "please tell me what the BWI colors are?"

"Members Speak"

This session was dedicated to members for a Q&A session with Principal Jakolie. Rhode Island chapter thanked the Principal for his report and asked if they had received the mattresses donated by John Carroll University to BWIAANA and shipped to BWI campus by BWIAANA? He replied yes and thanked the association. Over 116 mattresses were used for students on campus, distribution to the BWI staff and some given to the local health clinics in need.

The New Jersey chapter asked about the Chinese government involvement on the BWI campus. The Principal answered that they were providing technical and agricultural support and assisting with cash-crop production. He stated other NGOs (Non-governmental organizations) such as USAID and CKAT were also assisting on the BWI campus.

“Members Speak”

When asked what was the campus greatest need? The Principal answered the “water system” and the campus will need two tanks. Water is a critical need and without it instructing and training students is very difficult.

MN chapter asked how security on the campus was being handled, The Principal answered that there was still a presence of UN Troops providing security.

MA chapter asked if the training in Hospitality will be added. The Principal answered yes and it’s a growing area that will need a labor source in the post-war Liberia.

The National President asked the Principal how soon they needed the water pumps. The Principal answered urgently. The convention voted to purchase the water pumps, estimated at \$5,000 each for use on the BWI campus. The convention voted to fund \$5,000 from the RVR Trust fund for the one water pump and \$3,000 for the annual scholarship allocation to the BWI campus. The convention made a total of \$8,000 in donations to BWI to conclude the “Members Speak” session.

2007 Fall EC meeting venue / 2008 Convention venue – the convention voted:

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|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. DC =42. RI=123. CT=6 |
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2007 November EC meeting will be hosted by the Rhode Island Chapter.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Liberia = 02. NY=153. CT=8 |
|---|

2008 17th National Convention will be hosted by the New York Chapter.

Old Business –

New Business – The Elections Committee prepared for the 2006 National Elections. Candidates for National President and National Vice President were allowed to share their platform. The Elections Committee conducted the elections.

Mr. Charles P. Youn – Chair
Danlette F.J. Norris – Secretary
Wellington H. Hall – Member
William Johnson – Member
Konah Yancy – Member
E. Henry Harmon – Member

2006 Candidates for National office

National President

Mr. Ralph Henri
Mr. Stephen Kpou

National Vice President

Ms. Ada Hage
Mr. Zig Collins

National Secretary

Mrs. Foudiya Henri
Ms. Evelyn Korma

National Treasurer

Ms. Sando Yancy

National Social Secretary

Mr. Moses Y. Boakai
Mr. Arthur Jallah

National Chaplain

Ms. Romel L. Whyte

National Financial Secretary

Mr. Amos Gray

Benediction

The closing prayer was provided by Ms. Romel L. Whyte, National Chaplain.

The convention business session closed out with the BWI School Ode and the Liberian National Anthem.