**AFA-AZ BIMONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

Summary minutes of last AFA meeting Held at Glory Nwotite’s residence. Jan 20th. 2018

This is a summary from the time I arrived, after the meeting had begun. I can say I met the meeting after opening prayers were said and the meeting quorum formed. I joined at item # 3 on the concluding end of it. On Item 4, Amechi spoke to clarify the ambiguity on the raffle tickets, why some families were given the ticket pad and some did not. Plans were to have a second sponsor help offset production cost, well that never happened. Now due to time constraints and logistics, the organizing branch with the executive, felt it better not to levy member families on the tickets, all that was expected was, if you were given a booklet, please turn in the monetary equivalent. As at the time he spoke, he mentioned two families were still owing.

On item 5, the critic or improvement ideas for next time, the festival performance was reviewed at the previous meeting, due to inadequate turn out, it was tabled again for discussion. Two critics stood out, The restroom door knob and the cost of the Hall. Vice chairlady, answered the reason as to how we ended up with that hall at the cost. All other sizeable venues were all reserved and chairman forfeited his deposit on the banquet hall initially reserved, all in all the venue was big, good parking and there is no way to know about a loose fixture or fitting beforehand. On that day the hall caretaker was AWOL. Franca Abah, pipped in that, we all agree it was a success and we have learnt lessons from it, let’s move on from it and use the experience to serve us well next time when looking to reserve a hall.

Chuck Megwa, mentioned that the executives and organizing members be applauded for a job well done. Aechi in responding, also spoke highly of Mr Megwa’s unwavering support behind the scenes and he should be recognized and applauded. Done

Item 6 was skipped and returned to later. On item 7, the next executive election. It was agreed that

1. How time flies, it has been 2 years since the present cadre of executives took oath to serve
2. Anyone interested to serve to please file an intent to serve with our duly appointed returning officer, Mr. Chuck Megwa and his assistant.
3. Current chairman had his message read, he will not be able to be returned to serve due to his appointment to serve on the American board of medical exams, a job that will keep him away from us more than we wish.
4. The association needs new cadre of executives to serve, to infuse fresh ideas and perspectives into the helm.
5. The association announce the elections will begin at 8pm prompt on that date.

Also, Chuck megwa accepted to audit the outgoing executive operations and books. Mrs Ify eze will support him in that role.

Ike Okeke, pipped it was okay for past executives that want to serve in different role be allowed to declare their intention, it was agreed okay.

On item 8, the concensus is the picnic for 2018 will be left up to the incoming new cadre of executives to plan, the picnic was agreed in past meeting to be done in September, gives enough time for the executives to organize. Joy Arah, mentioned the plans to do volunteer work at the Women Shelter and St Mary’s food bank, dates will be announced later and she appealed for full member turn out. Mayor Okuagu, advised it be done in late may through July, when the kids are on break, it will allow for maximum participation. The Peoria location is a favorite.

On item 9, representing AFA at formal social events in Ankara uniform. All members are expected to wear the designated uniform, shows unity, solidarity, togetherness, identity, one Anambra family. On this, Amechi, asked: since the uniform we wear to a formal event held by a member, is a benefit accrued to that person for the reasons above. Now what if the member is not financially current in the books, we ignore the uniform aspect, he was bothered by a member to post announcement on an event, though the member owed up to $1000, how do we handle that situation, are they right to demand such benefit knowing they owe or is this not a benefit? In response, Ijeoma Okeke and Anadu, speaking after each other, made the same point that, the member has no benefits accrued, by owing, they forfeit such benefits. Darlington, opined that sometimes, it maybe difficult to meet the financial obligations, and as such, the association should treat financial benefits from non-financial benefits separately.

 Anadu, responding, recalled how, the matter of benefits has been litigated fully in prior meetings, how we all agreed that to make such members aware of the importance of showing support as we all do, from our hearts, we cannot separate benefits, there is only one umbrella to cover all benefits, to enjoy them , you have to be financially current. We had a member owe quite a sum, it was paid of slowly, all other’s should emulate such upstanding and pay down what they owe as well.

Nzekwe, spoke to, he was in solidarity with the constitution provision; i.e no benefits if you owe. Our host, Glory Nwotite, spoke, suggesting it be left to the discretion of the publicity secretary. Joy Arah closed the discussion, with there is only one benefit category title, we as an association will not begin to divvy up the different types to placate anyone or member.

On item 10, Anadu assured all the website was up and running and being monitored, and as well any announcements that go up there falls under benefits too.

Returning to Item 6, Ify Eze detailed how our kids and teens that had done such a good job at the festival with the dance performance were financially rewarded by the association as token of our gratitude from we the adults and parents, names were read out and what they received. Still on about our kids and next generation leaders. Suggestions and thoughts were made on how to involve them and get them to know each other, begin to foster unity, friendship and bonds that will carry on with them. Franca, Anadu, Nzekwe, Okuagu and Darlington spoke, summary of it is we agreed something has to be done, we need to start, Joy Arah placed the project In Franca’s hands.

Under matters arising, Nzekwe gave a talk about how Nigerians are doing exceedingly well, despite comments by the current POTUS.

Meeting ended on a light jokes and comments by floor members, about eating food early while awaiting, thanks to Darlington, the assembly observed a minute of silence for the reposed soul of his mother – in law.

Okuagu moved adjournment, Amechi supported him. Vivian Anadu said closing prayers.

Adjourned till next meeting.

NOTES FOR AMENDMENTS