

Krio Descendants Union of Texas Member of KDU Global Inc.

General Meeting on Saturday February 15, 2025

Meeting Notes

Members present: Yvonne Deen, Marjorie John, Kathleen Macfoy, Edleen Macfoy, Darlene Mason, Eileen Harding, Brian Davies, Belinda Chapman, Roki Kabba, Priscilla Whenzle, Sylvia Jones, Jeneba Jones, Eric Pratt, Mrs. Roseline Nat-John, Vicky, Onike, Roseline, Minerva, Yomi Emdin, Aunty Mokeh, Ada, Vanessa

Opening Prayer ----- Eric Pratt

Welcome, Excuses--- President welcomed members; the following had asked for an excuse: Esther, Wini, Yomi Emdin.

Minutes: -Correction-Acceptance—Still waiting for December and January minutes. President asked if anyone had seen the minutes of the January meeting, to inform her. When the minutes are ready, she'll share, and we'll read and discuss.

Financial Report--- Brian / Marjorie

Marjorie –had sent out the IRS papers for dues paid for last year; also pleaded for members to pay their dues. President stated that she also reviews the spreadsheet regularly and sends out reminders to members to pay their dues – asked members not to be upset with her about that, but it's something that needs to be done, as the organization was in need of money and that dues are the most important way the organization gets money to fund its activities.

Brian stated that he had also sent his spreadsheet, and asked if members had questions about it. President said she'd reviewed it and didn't see any issue with it; stated that the Finance Team was doing a good job, and that now was the opportunity for members to raise any questions they had, with Brian or Marjorie. Brian explained that he had sent out a new spreadsheet on Thursday that had 3 tabs; 1st one was the account we use, which had about \$9000.00; 2nd was the one used as a cushion/savings with about \$30,000; and the 3rd was the Young Adults (YA) account which members had agreed the organization could open, with \$500. He stated that he had explained to the Young Adults that this was going to be a loan, but because some of the YA had already paid some money into the regular account, he had asked them if he could be given the precise amount that had been paid, so it could be transferred from the regular account to the YA's to offset what's already there.

He wanted the YA themselves to be able to keep tabs on their account. He also stated that members now have access to review the monthly accounts with the 3 tabs, so that they could become au fait with how their money paid is being used.

The President reminded members how the YA are still a part of our group, and we need to know what's going on with them.

Fund request –the President reminded members that they can request funds to be used for organization-related expenses. In relation to this, Marjorie reported that Wini had sent a message about the hall on Bandera Dr. that was going to be used for the Christmas party (something that the group had decided on at the last meeting): she had already reserved it for Dec. 13th. The President reported that Wini had already made the fund request which will go to the finance team for processing, in order for us to secure the hall, as halls are being booked quickly.

KDU Global update ----- Yvonne Deen/Brian/Daphne Rogers-Beckley

Yvonne reported that she was not at the meeting, because she had been a guest on Yad Road – asked one of the other members to report. Brian stated that he was also late for the meeting. Edleen was not there to give her own update. The President stated that members who were interested in finding out what had transpired could always go to the minutes of the meetings that she always shares with the group. She however stated that when she was at the meeting, Melbourne Garber had been invited as a guest to talk about the KDY calendar (focusing on Krio history; long started by Mama Garber in 2008); it had been restarted, and was being sold for \$20, proceeds which will go toward the building of the Krio Ose. She stated that Global members had asked for the calendar to be sold at \$10 instead. She asked if members had messages or feedback for her to take to the Global body. Asking if our financial obligations had been met, Brian reported that that information was not represented on either of the spreadsheets (Texas or Global), so he didn't think it had been paid. The President responded that the fund request for those obligations had long been made, and that it was Brian, being the financial link between our group and the Global, who should ensure that our financial obligations towards Blak Istri, Health Outreach and Global Membership dues were met, and that this was something that should normally have been done by January. She pleaded with Brian to make sure it was done; asked him and Marjorie to inform her if they did not see the fund request. She stated that, she had mistakenly informed Global that we had paid.

She also spoke about the following: projects that KDU Texas had agreed to undertake this year were: our annual scholarship, Feed our Starving Children, York Village (which we

had decided we would adopt); encouraged members to think about ways in which we would move forward with York Village, and stated that we would find time to brainstorm; the Feed our Starving Children program was in the works, and our Scholarship program was ongoing; asked Yomi Emdin to give an update, and hoped that a write-up of the event would be done; Yomi promised to do so.

Yomi's report: In her overview of the event, there was some discrepancy on the date the Scholarship program started – Yomi said it was seven years ago (started in 2018), but was corrected by Yvonne who said it was in 2008, even before KDY was involved. She reminded her of instances where kids' names had been suggested by Mr. Nat-George and Daphne Cummings. After this was clarified (that it was **2008**), Yomi went on – event held at Technical Dr.; this year's recipients: 3 from the College of Medicine; 3 from USL; 5 from secondary schools, one of which will be transferring to FBC; Welcome done by Yomi Emdin; members present – Mrs. Yomi Cole, Mrs. Remi Nicol, Mrs. Sylvia Jones and guests: Mr. Desmond Macfoy who helped with Zoom, photo and Video, Mr. Devenaux from Global/North Carolina who spoke about the Health Outreach, Ms. Waltona Cummings, President KDY, and the KDY Young Adult President who also spoke. KDU Texas President who was on Zoom also spoke to the attendees. Program was well attended by students and their families and friends. She promised to do the write-up that will go on the website. Asked those who had been present (Sylvie, Remi, or Ms. Yomi) if they wanted to add anything; Sylvie was the only one present, and she had nothing to add. The President reminded members that this event was one that we want to continue with, and even if we want to expand the program, it was expensive to do, and so we need money. She stated that to fund such a program, we only had two fundraising programs: the Thanksgiving Service and Wan Pot. Too many other organizations are doing fundraising in the community, so she pleaded to members to be more consistent with our participation in our programs, invite others, and work to make our fundraising programs more successful.

Feed our Starving Children – Brian reported: already posted the info on the group WhatsApp forum; he had rented the truck; before there were two pallets of 13 boxes each; **but now we had 7 pallets** which were already with the shipping folks – no update as yet from them - shipment was either still in transit, or on its way to Freetown. He's working with Yomi Emdin on this, and when the shipment gets to Freetown, they'll have to work with the KDY folks to develop a plan for distribution. The shipment of the 7 pallets cost over \$15,000; he will send the receipt to the President. The President asked members to reach out to Brian and Yomi if they had questions about this.

Sylvia asked what had happened to an earlier decision that had been made to engage KDY about helping with planning the distribution, and an amount of money that we had decided to give to Mrs. Olu Williams to help with transportation for distributing the food. Brian stated that even if we had so decided, we still have to tell them what to do. Yvonne asked when that will happen. Brian stated that since he won't be going to Freetown, it will be mostly Yomi who would be helping with this. Yomi explained that maybe we can ask if any member was going to Freetown, and if so, if they had any input. She only knew the Asst. Head Woman from York, but no-one from Regent, which was why it was necessary to involve KDY, or anyone else interested. She also reported that she had spoken with Mr. Remmie, and asked him to keep the shipment in his storage for us, once the shipment gets to town. She also reiterated that as of right now, things are in the air since no-one was sure when the shipment will get to Freetown.

Yvonne suggested that in the same way we had invited KDY to help with the Scholarship event, we can do likewise with the distribution of this shipment. Sylvia reiterated that all this had already been discussed at the previous meeting. Brian said that was true – we need to wait till the shipment gets to town, then we can start working on this in earnest. Yvonne suggested we have a WhatsApp forum, and not to leave everything just with Daphne Olu-Williams and Waltona; members of the group would include Waltona, Daphne Olu Williams, Sylvia, Roseline, Brian, Yomi, Yvonne; this would be where all the communication about this would take place. Brian suggested that before setting up the group, it would be better if we communicate all this first to the folks in Freetown because as it was now, we don't have much to discuss. Once the shipment is there, we can get KDY involved and ask their opinion in how distribution could happen. Yvonne insisted it is our program, so we need to be the ones directing the process – Yomi agreed.

Yvonne suggested that someone will have to communicate this all to Waltona, since she would have to transmit the info to her members. Sylvia suggested that since we had earlier decided to use churches to distribute the food, Warren being one of them, she can volunteer her family members to help with this. After much discussion, it was decided that it would be best for, maybe, interested parties to convene after the meeting to discuss all this, and get the WhatsApp group going. Roki added that we should not forget to include Fourah Bay (as a village) in the distribution. Yvonne stated that we needed to get a point person for the Fourah Bay group to be involved in the discussion, be a part of the WhatsApp group. Roki suggested reaching out to Waltona to see if she knew someone from Fourah Bay to include. Upon confirmation of members of the group, Brian suggested that the group could be involved in the next shipment that might be going out in December.

York Village – Yvonne reminded the group that this was the village we had decided to adopt. However, she didn't want us to waste time discussing this, since she was waiting for Global for them to inform us how they wanted each chapter to proceed. Once they tell us what to do, we'll go from there.

Update from Committees:

7 – Thanksgiving – Eileen – Update – sent email to save the date for Thanksgiving; went to church to fill out a form that will guarantee we get the date; she'll have to put in a fund request, but will wait, since it was around June that payment was done last year. Once she does the fund request, she will send to Brian and Marjorie. Pleaded with members to come up with a theme, even if they didn't have hymns, for now.

The President pleaded with members to invite people from the community, since other groups were already doing that. We can even reach out to people from other states to serve as patrons. She also asked members to start thinking of members to ask to serve; we can keep those names and send out official letters of invitation to them when we were ready. In addition, Eileen asked members who would be sending in names of potential people to serve, that once those people agree, for members to also submit their email addresses which will make it easier for those people to be contacted. President stated that we're going to be using the same person who's been doing our printing, as she always gives us a discount. The President emphasized that we need to get people in the community to get involved; we want to make a difference, we want to make money, so if anyone had different suggestions to get more people from the community involved, they should send it to the Thanksgiving Committee.

Membership Committee – Daphne had nothing to report. President encouraged members to pay their dues.

Sunshine Committee – Chair role, formerly held by Esther, also doubled as Social Secretary, and was usually involved with Thanksgiving, Christmas Party, and Wan Pot. The President asked members if they felt that we should replace that chairperson at this time. Question was asked if there were not other members of the committee; President said no committee members were selected. She suggested that members think about whether we needed to vote someone new, so we could discuss at the next meeting.

Cultural -----Darlene

WanPot date – August 16; last decision was it was to be indoors; already spoken to the person at African Affairs, and had already agreed to save the date. Asked if members had

other suggestions. President wondered if Dwight was at the meeting, since he had also given his input, agreeing with the idea of the event to be held indoors. He had also promised to help with any play, if we decide to do so. Ada stated that since African Affairs was the cheapest hall around, and the goal of Wanpot was to make money, we should use that venue, if the date was available. The President asked about the cleaning and decoration of the hall; was told that we had to pay \$150 for cleaning, but that the organization does its own decoration. The President asked about other amenities in the hall – was told that there was no kitchen, but there was a backroom where food could be set up. Was told that if water is needed for food warmers, it could be taken from the bathroom; Ada stated that this arrangement had always worked out. The place where food is always set up is separate from the hall. She also suggested that it would be good if the program starts early, so that too many people won't be standing in line waiting to be served, and we have everyone eating all at once (something which usually happens when organizations want to wait for a lot of people to show up before starting a program). A question was asked about whether the available space would be conducive to selling food, since a big part of WanPot is a luncheon sale. The answer was yes, because the lobby was big enough to accommodate this.

The President wanted to know if this year's program was going to follow the format we used in the past, where members go in at 2p to set up, program starts at 4p, food sold, people ate, some entertainment, then have a dance at the end; if we were going to sell tickets and let the ticket include food, etc. Some discussion arose about whether we used to sell tickets to go into the event or not; reminder that if we decide to sell tickets to the event, it would be difficult to attract people, since there was a lot of events around that time; some said patrons paid \$50 for food. To clarify discussions, Darlene suggested we go back to the archives to see what the relevant minutes recorded. Another discussion ensued about members' ability to access archives of our minutes. Some documents were found related to a WanPot sponsorship letter asking for a minimum of \$50. Members were encouraged to go look for other similar documents.

Yvonne asked about other types of entertainment for that event. Music – Darlene reported that Pa Cole had agreed to be the DJ for the event; he didn't ask to be paid, just wanted to know the date and all necessary information. President suggested we give him \$120 that could go towards his dues; that suggestion was not accepted. Yvonne decided he would talk to him on the side about this. Regarding food, Darlene suggested we cut down on the amount of food we had last year; that the local snacks (ginger cake, granat cake, etc.) should be eliminated. Another suggestion was that we not eliminate those snacks, but have it reduced. Yvonne suggested that maybe people could order their food in advance; we could freeze it and take it there.

Priscilla volunteered to cook SawaSawa, but that would be on her, since last year, what she cooked didn't turn out well.

Main dishes like Crain Crain etc. would be cut down from 4 foilpans to 2; oleleh maybe 75 or 50; better we sell them all, rather than trying to give it away later.

Cleaning – members pick up big items. Decoration - we have black table cloths and some African centerpieces.

Hunting – Darlene doesn't think we should do it. Yvonne wanted people to think about other cultural items. Darlene suggested we invite other tribes to come in and do a showcase of their culture. Ada stated that Sisters of Sierra Leone was doing a cultural dress night the week before, so we should be cognizant of that. Other suggestions: get the tribes to cook their own foods; cultural milestones. Something that would be interesting enough to get other people to come.

Yvonne suggested approaching said cultural groups, and let them decide what they want to do.

Belinda stated that we should try patronizing the events of other community groups, since they complain that we don't. Yvonne refuted that complain, stating that members do attend such events. A discussion ensued about this, and Yvonne stated that we should do our best to support other groups.

Darlene stated that since there were no other suggestions for a hall, she would go back to the person at African Affairs to confirm – (he had told her it would cost about \$1600 or so - less than \$2000), and ask about what the down payment would be.

The President stated that since we had all agreed on the hall, Darlene just needs to make a fund request.

Hunting – decision not to include Hunting in this event; no longer just a Krio cultural thing.

Darlene asked for suggestions for wording about the cultural event that would go on the flyer;

suggestions:

- committee go and think of something and then come back to group (not accepted);
- go to the groups and ask them what they want to do, then put it together and call it something...cultural showcase (suggestion accepted).

Website/ Facebook-----Peter (absent)

Linda asked if there were any updates regarding the next Family Reunion in Maryland; Yvonne reported that she has been posting all relevant information on the WhatsApp forum.

Meet & Greet – t.shirt; Thanksgiving – blue Premier print; if going to the museum on Thursday, print top (if you don't have it, no problem); hall – if capacity is reached, too bad for those who didn't purchase dinner ticket early. Dinner hall far from hotel; transport from hotel to events. All information posted on forum.

Daphne stated that from an earlier Global meeting, a request had been made that each chapter have 2 members who would be transmitting information about the reunion back to their chapters.

In response, Yvonne said that she'd already posted that on the forum, but no one volunteered; that this wasn't really for our chapter, because she always brings back relevant information; it was for those chapters whose members don't take back relevant information to their members.

She further stated that when she had posted the information, Mohammed volunteered, but she wasn't sure that he knew what he was volunteering for.

Shuku Bley----- Kathleen/Winston

Aunty Kathleen thanked all those who had wished her a happy birthday. She decided to do a repeat of a parable she had done before because no one had been able to interpret it the first time – “u day look ose befo you gi pikin name” – she said she had applied it to herself for members to better understand the meaning: a lot of things had been going on in the community, so she had kept something to herself – she reported that she had had knee surgery at the beginning of the year, but she only decided to inform the group about it. The parable can be applied in many other situations e.g. you have to weigh a situation before acting.

Any Other Business: ----

The President spoke about some communication that had been sent to members of the community by St. Edwards Alumni Assn. regarding an upcoming awards event, which had been posted on our group's forum. She encouraged members to pay attention to those things, nominate people, and vote for those who had been nominated, so that people don't feel bad if someone they know did not win. She stated that she had nominated KDU and other members she felt were deserving (just like she had done in the previous year). She encouraged members to attend the event.

Brian stated that our organization had received a check for \$150 from an organization – Black **Broad Day** Giving Fund from Charleston, SC; wasn't sure who had contacted the group, but wanted to thank that person; wasn't sure if that can be an annual thing. The President suggested that they might have gone to our website which might have prompted them to send us the fund.

She also stated that she will get in touch with Dwight because he had told her, at our last Christmas party, that his family had something to donate to our group, but she had not seen it, so she will check with him.

Darlene asked if we still had t.shirts, since she needed one blue and one white; the President said she knew that we had some in storage, but she would have to check on what specifically we had.

President reminded members again to pay their dues, and for members to reach out to each other, especially those ailing, and our senior members.

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded by Sylvia Jones and Edleen Macfoy respectively.

Closing prayer said by Mokeh John

Submitted by: Sylvia Jones
Asst. Secretary