**Krio Descendants Union of Texas, Dallas Chapter**

**Member of KDU Global Inc.**

**Minutes of General Monthly Meeting on November 16th, 2024**

**Members Present**: Ms. Eileen, Ms. Kathleen, Dr. Deen, Francis, Brian, Cordelia N., Yomi, Ms. Marjorie, Leona, Edleen, Roki, Daphne, Ms. Yomi, Edmunda, Erica, Darlene, Ms. Winifred, Ms. Esther, Minerva, Dwight.

**Excuses**: Sylvia, Doctor and Mrs. John, Rosaline

**Introduction**: President welcomed and thanked members for joining in to the zoom meeting

**Opening Prayers**: Edleen said the opening prayers

**Minutes acceptance**: There were no corrections to the minutes. Edleen moved the motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Eileen

**Finance Committee**

Ms. Marjorie stated that the financial spreadsheet was sent out to members via email and there is a tab for donations paid through Zelle that she had access to. The spreadsheet is updated with the most recent payments and members should reach out to her with any discrepancies. She urged members to pay their dues as the year is coming to an end.

Brian stated that he had sent an updated spreadsheet of the bank accounts via email to members. The first account has $37302.71, and the other account has $10268.22. The expenses for the scholarship, approximately $6000, will be deducted from the second account in December. He encouraged members to pay their outstanding dues and reach out to patrons for outstanding pledges.

**KDU Global Update**

The president reported that the by-laws committee is still working on the by-laws, and a draft has been sent out to all members to review. The chairman invited the hosts of Yad Rod to elucidate on the media/talk show. Yad Rod is a podcast family show that promotes mainly Krio culture and heritage. They are nonpolitical forum who utilizes the you tube media handle to promote other Sierra Leonean organizations as well. Two years ago, the hosts of Yad Rod requested to establish a relationship with KDU Global, but it was not addressed. During this meeting they presented another request and after a series of questions and answers, a memorandum of understanding with guidelines will be set up for the two bodies to work in the alliance. Yad Rod will be able to assist with archiving relics of Krio culture in their forum. The chairman of Global showed gratitude and congratulated all chapters that had events between October and November. The representative from KDU Maryland gave an update about the reunion and the information is on the website. Members are encouraged to buy tickets online as they will not be available at the gate. Yearly dues of $800 are to be paid to Global ($500 Annual dues and $300 for the health fair). Global still have an outstanding payment to be made to the attorney in England for litigation and the decision to be made on how to move forward. All other payments should be made through KDU Global. Information for Black History month that is scheduled to take place in February has been posted on the forum. The young adults will be involved, and chapters are encouraged to contribute $50-$100 to take care of the organizing expenses. The social committee is expected to come up with strategies to make this a fundraising event. The land committee is working on securing the land with a fence and a sign to be erected. The estimate for the securing of the land will be sent to KDU Global. KDU Global will be partnering with KDY for the annual health outreach and the banner has been drafted with the dates (December 14th at Wellington and January 4th at Songo). A letter of grievance was received from KDU Northeast citing the way they were treated during the last KDU Global Reunion in Florida. The complaint is about their choice of music being duplicated and the short time they were given to dance their way into the hall. They have accepted the verbal apology but will be satisfied if the glitch in the YouTube presentation is rectified.

**Thanksgiving Committee**

Ms. Eileen thanked the members that contributed to the success of the Thanksgiving service. The budget for the event was $3210 and the total expenses were $2878.41 (spent $602 less than the budgeted amount). KDU members donated $847.01, $2046 came from church offering, $2736 from Zelle payments making a total of $5629.01. The net amount after expenses is deducted is $2750.60. A $100 cleaning deposit is expected to be refunded by the church. She expressed her disappointment with the turnout of members and guests at the event. Brian asked Ms. Eileen to review the spreadsheet for the Thanksgiving event to see if any entry was omitted.

**Wan-Pot**

Darlene informed the group that she does not have any ideas at this time. However, she suggested that members that have outstanding dues should be asked to pay up and that it will contribute to the funds we need. President asked the group to come up with suggestions for the upcoming Wan-pot or cultural show.

**Education Committee**

Yomi informed the group that the committee is working on getting the academic results from the sponsored students. Daphne Olu-Williams will not be present at this year’s scholarship event as she is currently visiting the USA. The event will take place in the first or second week of January at Technical Drive. Ned Yaskey will help with getting the academic results from students at the medical school. President and Brian asked members to consider sponsoring students in honor/ in memory of a loved one. ($200 for high school and $500 for university).

**Philanthropic Committee**

Cordelia informed the group that she was looking into donations to be made to Boys and Girls club and Angel Tree. She promised to reach out to Angel Tree again to see if we should donate individual gifts or give a check to the organization. An update will be given this week after reaching out to them. Brian gave an update on the rice packages from “Feed My Starving Children” that were supposed to be shipped to Freetown. The budget was approved, and payment will be made via Zelle to the shipper, Mr. Remmie. The rice packages will be picked up this Friday. An extra transportation cost was omitted from the budget and will be added for the U-Haul truck rental.

**Health Committee**

President reminded members that KDU Texas used to spearhead the annual health project before handing over the project to KDU Global. Mr. Deveneaux will reach out to the former volunteers at Wesley church to encourage their involvement in the upcoming health fair. Members that are vacationing in Freetown should reach out to Rosaline or Mr. Deveneaux if they want to participate in the health fair.

**Website**

President suggested to the group that we should make use of Flip- cause to enhance our website in comparison to the KDU Maryland website.

**EMG**

The president asks members to review the KDU Global bylaws and make suggestions to our by-laws which is work in progress. Suggestions can be sent to members of the EMG committee.

**Christmas Party**

The president informed the group that the date for the Christmas Party will be December 15th, 2024, and a $1600 payment in **Christmas Party**

The president informed the group that the date for the Christmas Party will be December 15th, 2024, and a $1600 payment in full has been made for the hall. Esther is working on collecting donations for the extra charge of ($300) for sound logistics. Cecil will be the DJ and we are anticipating hosting 180 guests. Members discussed the cost of food preparation versus members donating food for the Christmas party. Members decided that food and drinks will be donated. Ms. Esther volunteered to be responsible for the serving plates, and silverware. She informed the group that she has reached the $300 goal for sound logistics. Ms. Winifred and Brian suggested she continues to collect the $10 to meet other costs. Ms. Esther suggested that the invitations go out on time so that our guests can rsvp in a timely manner. This will give us a head count that will assist in setting up the hall accordingly. President reminded the group that invitees are normally taken from the general list. There was a miscommunication between the president and Ms. Esther regarding the invitations that caused a disagreement. Ms. Kathleen suggested that Mr. Peter and Ms. Esther should come together to work on the invitations for the guests. Brian suggested that the Vice President, Ms. Winifred mediate between the president and Ms. Esther to resolve the situation. Ms. Winifred responded that she would have a discussion with Ms. Esther.

**Any Other Business**

The president stated that Ms. Esther has mentioned previously that we are not being supported during our events by members of the community because we do not support other organizations when they have events. The president informed the group that she shared KDU Texas invitation for the Thanksgiving event addressed to the presidents with other forums of organizations that she is a member of, and she was not happy about the reception. The president encouraged members to continue to patronize other organizations in the community. Yomi informed the group that she has copies of the group picture taken during the Thanksgiving event that she intends to give out to members. The issue of dues and membership was discussed. The president responded that a decision would have to be taken on how to address members with outstanding dues during the next monthly meeting.

**Shuku Blye**

Ms. Kathleen introduced the following adage to the group***. “Ef peppeh swit, rub am na u sow*** ***fut”***. It means what is good for one should be good for the other. Another related saying could be, “what is good for the goose should be good for the gander.”

**Motion to close**: The motion to adjourn the meeting to January 18th, 2025, was moved by Darlene, seconded by Ms. Winifred.

**Closing Prayer**: Dr. Deen said the closing prayer.

**Faithfull submitted by**

Cordelia Lashite-Dixon

**Secretary KDU of Texas Dallas Chapter**

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