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

**Member of KDU Global Inc.**

**Minutes of General Monthly Meeting on October 19th, 2024**

**Members Present:** Dr. Deen, M. Kathleen, Ms. Winifred, Mr. Eugene, Brian, Daphne, Ms. Roki, Ms. Eileen, Ms. Esther, Ms. Marjorie, Josephine, Edmunda, Sylvia, Priscilla, Florence R., Ms. Darlene, Belinda, Victoria**.**

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

**Opening Prayers**: Ms. Winifred said the opening prayers.

**Excuses**: Mlawin, Christiana

**New Member**. The president and members present welcomed Josephine During a new member who has joined the chapter. She introduced herself to the group and expressed her enthusiasm about joining the group.

**Minutes Acceptance**: The minutes were not received from the secretary and there are two outstanding minutes that need to be compiled.

**Finance Committee**

Ms. Marjorie informed the group that the spread sheet was sent out earlier today and asked members to examine and report any discrepancy. She encouraged members to pay their monthly dues as the year is coming to an end and the chapter has projects that need to be funded. There is a donation tab that members can locate their donations to the Thanksgiving committee. Brian stated that he will work on the banking financial spreadsheet and send it out via email.

**Global Update Report**

The president reported that KDU Global met today. The minutes of the last meeting and financial report were sent to members via email. The Global year runs from October to September of the following year. The chairman informed the group about the future for this Global year; in November the By-laws committee will focus on working on the by-laws, in December the focus will be on philanthropic engagements, January will be membership drive to help smaller KDU chapters. He will come up with other areas of focus in the other months to follow. KDU Florida made a repayment of $10,000 to Global for a loan that was given to them to fund the 2024 reunion. There was no update on the proceeds of the 2024 reunion and the percentage that will be paid to Global as the president was absent. Regarding the relationship between KDU Global and KDY, KDU Global formed a group that is working on the memorandum of understanding and will be a medium between KDU Global and KDY. There is still more work to be done on the conditions listed and it will be shared with members as soon as it is completed. This will help alleviate concerns that members have about the partnership in building the Krio Museum (krio ose). The health outreach that is scheduled to take place at the end of the year will be done in partnership with KDY at Wellington (before Christmas) and Songo (after New Year’s Day). The health and outreach group reported that everything is in place for the health outreach event. Plans will be finalized after visitation to the health fair sites to make sure they are appropriate for the events. Funding for the medication to be used during the health outreach event has been received by the committee. The treasurer’s report was shared previously with members via email. The public relations officer is doing a good job with the website. There is an area on the website that has been rendered inaccessible and attempts are being made to reach out to the member who made a recent post to unlock it. If the attempts to reach him fail, then a reset on the website will be done.

**Thanksgiving Committee**

Ms. Eileen encouraged members to donate towards the thanksgiving event as the donations will be used to offset expenses and support the education scholarship project in Sierra Leone. Members are also encouraged to share the thanksgiving flyer with family, friends and other organizations. Female members must wear the blue premier print, and the male members must put on black suit with the blue premier print necktie. The menu for the event has been posted on the forum. Members can donate food items for this event and an estimated 150 guests are expected to be present. Brian shared a screen with a display of the budget for the Thanksgiving service event.

**Thanksgiving service Budget November 2024**

Cleaning service fee (Refundable) $100

Kitchen $100

Wesley Hall $250

Sound Guy $100

Custodian $150

Organist $250

Photographer $200

Food and Drinks $1000

Printing $300

Miscellaneous $560

Plates, utensils etc $200

Total $3,210

Ms. Eileen informed the group that $950 of this budget pertaining to the church has been paid to the church. The miscellaneous expenses are purchases made for the plaques/awards to be given during the Thanksgiving event. Darlene moved a motion to accept the budget of $3210 presented by the thanksgiving committee for the KDU Texas Chapter 17th Annual Thanksgiving Service that will take place on November 3rd, 2024. Sylvia seconded the motion as stated above.

**Cultural Committee**

Darlene stated that there are no updates at this time. President responded that she was hoping that the chairlady will give a debriefing on lessons learned from the last event that took place in August 2024. Darlene stated that one thing we should take into consideration is changing the date due to the hot temperature. She also expressed disappointment in the non-commitment by members who had earlier volunteered their involvement. This event would have been a loss if donations had not been made. President suggested that we should brainstorm and discuss the cultural event in detail during next month ‘s meeting.

**Education Committee**

President informed the group that the scholarship award will take place next month in Freetown. Brian suggested that the three tiers of scholarship can be done in memory or honor of someone. Members can donate towards these scholarship tiers instead of the funding from the organization. This will be introduced to the scholarship committee to work on in collaboration with the finance team.

**Website**

Brian suggested that the website should be rearranged or enhanced with recent posts regarding our cause and make it more attractive. Donation sites should be easily accessible so that visitors to the website can make donations. President suggested that one of the young adult members with great ideas can work with Mr. Peter to make changes on the website. Past events should be archived, and upcoming events should be featured on the front page to attract visits. Other chapter websites were displayed to give us ideas to make changes to the website.

**Sunshine Committee**

Esther explained the reason behind her resignation. She expressed her frustration of non-commitment to assist her with the preparation of the Christmas party. She informed members that she will continue to work on the planning of the Christmas party. The owner of the hall will set up, decorate the hall for the event and provide cleaning service at the end of the event. Esther asked members to donate $10 towards the wiring connections for the DJ sound system equipment. Cecil will be the DJ for the event, and he is offering this service free of charge. The quote from Ms. Ayo for 3 pans of jollof rice and stew, brisket and grilled chicken will be approximately $1650. The food items on the menu for the event are Jollof rice and stew, brisket, grilled chicken, jerk chicken, salad, vegetables, rolls, rice sticks. She asked the female members to donate some of the food items and the male members to purchase the drinks as the organization has provided the venue for the event. Eileen stated that there were items listed that we already have in storage. Daphne encouraged Ms. Esther to delegate duties to other members instead of quitting. Members discussed their contributions to cleaning of venues after past events. President expressed her disappointment over the circumstances surrounding the set-up of the sunshine committee and Ms. Esther’s resignation. Esther confirmed that her resignation still holds but she will continue to work on the planning of the Christmas party. The vacant position for the sunshine committee chairman will be discussed in the next monthly meeting.

**Shuku Blye**

Ms. Kathleen explained to the group how the Krios handled the corpse back in the day. They used to keep the corpse just for a day while the coffin is being constructed. During this time members of the deceased family and the coffin builders drank coffee to keep them up. This is the origin of wake keeping. What we know today as wake keeping is nothing compared to the circumstances surrounding staying awake overnight and drinking coffee whilst the coffin is being built. She also suggested that an album should be created with pictures of items that were used in the olden days and a write up depicting their uses She encouraged members to take pictures of herbs when they visit their villages in Sierra Leone. Herbs such as tea bush (scent leaf), Miracle leaf (Never die) and their uses should be featured in the album and presented to Global for a display in the Krio Museum. She also urged the group to come up with a way to preserve the Kings yard in Kent. President responded that these ideas will be taken to the Globa body during the next meeting. Ms. Winifred also responded that Global should look into a replacement for the cotton tree that will signify our heritage. The adage for the day is, ***“Ef brizz nor blo, wata nor go shayke***”. Meaning- There is always a reaction to an action. ***“If los buss pan lem wetin for tek men*** ***kraw-kraw”.*** Meaning a hopeless situation. ***“Ef ol man put ihm trobul nah feench, u go run go tek*** ***u yone***”. Meaning- Everyone has a problem, and it is even worse than what you are going through. This was interactive and as members contributed to the meaning of these adages. Sylvia asked Ms. Kathleen to send the adages to her via email for our historical collection. Members thanked Ms. Kathleen for her submission.

**Any Other Business**

Esther thanked Brian for his $10 contribution towards the Christmas party. President encouraged members to reach out to members that are absent or sick. Brian informed the group that the rice packages (2 pallets- 50 boxes) from Feed My Starving Children will be supposed to be picked up on October 22nd, 2024, to be shipped to Sierra Leone. Hymns and doxology have been posted on the forum for members to rehearse for the upcoming Thanksgiving event. Members should be present at the church at 1:30pm for a group photo prior to the Thanksgiving service.

**Motion to close**: The motion to adjourn the meeting on November 16th, 2024, was moved by Ms. Winifred, seconded by Ms. Kathleen.

**Closing Prayer**: The closing prayer was said by Priscilla

**Faithfull submitted by**

Cordelia Lashite-Dixon

**Secretary KDU of Texas Dallas Chapter**

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