**KDU of Texas**

**Minutes of Virtual Meeting held on January 15, 2022**

The meeting was declared open by the President with an opening prayer.

**Members Present**: Ms. Omotayo, Winifred, Dwight, Marjorie, Darlene, Yvonne D., Florence C, Linda P, Eugene, Minerva, Sylvia, Ada, Eric, Cordelia, Jeneba, Peter, Josephine, Esther, Yvonne, and Randolf T.

**Excused**: Eileen, Brian, Yomi, Ms. Kathleen

A motion of acceptance of the minutes was moved and seconded by Peter and Florence C. respectively.

**Financial Report- Updated** Financial statement will be presented at the next meeting. Marjorie thanked all members for keeping up with the payment of their monthly dues and encouraged those who are behind to try to stay abreast. She promised members that they will receive their information for tax purposes if they need it to file their tax return. She also informed the house that when members pay their dues it is always credited to the past due amount and if they have questions about their dues, she is always available to answer questions.

**Global Report-** President reported on the following: all Chapters represented at the last Global meeting; group discussed existing problem between KDU of Ireland and KDU UK. President gave recap of the existing problem. Ireland attended its first meeting as a member of Global; the rumor that KDU Ireland had linked with KDY was brought up, but this was denied by the Ireland Chapter.

-Chair of Global informed members of a letter she had received from a lawyer, on behalf of KDU UK, asking Global to answer to a number of charges, or else Global would be taken to court. Because of this, members decided that KDU UK should be suspended, until the matter was resolved. A committee was formed to gather information, and advise Global about the issue, before the deadline that was given. According to the President, the issue had to do with KDU’s Trademark.

-Global Social Secretary was trying to put together an event for Black History Month, on Feb 24th.

*-Capital Projects* – backpacks with solar power to give to kids to enable them to do school work during power outages.

-Still working with Hope for Youths

-1st part of Krio Ose project completed: land acquired; Brian was in Freetown, went to check to ensure that there had been no encroachment on the property.

Following the Global Report, the following question was asked of the President – did Global engage with KDU UK about the letter from the lawyer? The President said no, since there had been much discussions about the issue in the past, and Global had plans to resolve the issue with the two parties involved using the expertise of the KDU Global peace committee. According to her, Global doesn’t want to go to court – it prefers to have peace amongst all chapters.

**Thanksgiving Committee**- President gave excuse from the committee Chair. November 6th – thanksgiving service date; committee wants suggestions for theme. Ms. Kathleen, currently in Freetown, will enquire about a pastor. Emile not present to give update on choir.

**Cultural Event** - Dwight: Save the Date has been sent; date for WanPot – August 6th (1st Saturday). Hope to take fundraising advice from Global Social Committee, regarding a “Drive-by for Food” – people order & pick up food. Hope this will be a money maker. Apart from that, there were no more details at this time. He’ll reach out to California, and any other Chapters doing similar fundraising; hopes to get support from members. He had talked about the possibility of the event being virtual with the President.

Talking about the possibility of hosting Global next year, if Covid still persists, he said the following: he’s not sure about the event being held in-person. Reported that Maryland will not be hosting the reunion this year, but they’ll only be organizing a dinner & dance event, nothing else. In light of the ongoing pandemic, he suggested that we should plan as normal, but with conditions in place. In other words, go ahead with plans, but put security in all the planning with regards to payment for food, deposit for hall, etc. According to him, establish a plan, then have a plan B or C, in the case of any eventuality.

Reacting to Dwight’s ideas regarding planning for our hosting of the reunion, Florence said both agreed.

The President also liked the ideas, but asked whether a planning committee would be formed; Dwight responded yes. Florence promised that more information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

No jokes were proffered, as Ms. Kathleen was absent.

EMG – Wini reminded members of what the EMG was (Emergency Management Group; members - Wini, Winston and Joe). Set up to review our Bylaws, and to advise on anything that could be done more efficiently. Group hasn’t met in a while, but if/when they meet, a report will be given.

President added: the EMG also is charged with looking into other policies like Community Benevolence. Global has almost completed its Bylaws revision, so she’s hoping that that can help with the revision of ours. She could bring Global’s almost-completed Bylaws to EMG to review.

President also thought that the EMG had to revise the Chapter’s Community Benevolence policy since members had discussed it in the past – she was reminded that a final decision about that had been made in a past meeting, and that the EMG didn’t have to deal with that.

Scholarship Committee: Brian and Yomi absent, so Wini gave a brief update (more details to be given when Brian and Yomi are present) – scholarship event was successfully held in December; there was radio and newspaper coverage of the event. Committee is looking forward to continuing awarding scholarships this year.

Peter asked about a reference that Wini had made regarding grades being reviewed in order for scholarships to continue being awarded – he wanted to know who did the reviewing. The President responded that the Chapter’s liaison in Freetown, Mrs. Daphne Olu-Williams, was the person who did. She gave an example of a person who had been dropped because of a failing grade.

Wini added that even the medical students’ results were reviewed; one person had failed, but since a decision had been made that one failure didn’t automatically disqualify a student, that person’s scholarship was continued.

Related to our Chapter’s programs and events, the President asked members to think about what the chapter might do if, like the Health Fair that was started by Texas (now being run by Global), Global wanted to take this scholarship program over. Several members responded that that would be a great idea, in the interest of the kids, especially if Global wanted to expand it, bringing in more resources from other chapters. If that were to happen, the President stated that our chapter would then have to come up with another initiative/project to undertake.

The President then brought up KDU Texas’ clinic in York as an example of a project that had fallen through the cracks. In response to a question by Sylvia about why that had happened, she responded that because of problems with Waltona and others, the project had been dropped. She asked if members can reach out to Yomi and others to get some more information about this. Wini responded that Yomi and others might definitely have some answers about this – as far as she was concerned, some arrangements had been made where a doctor was supposed to be going there to treat patients, but that she didn’t know if that was still going on.

Sylvia then stated that she had heard that Global was talking about building a hospital down the line, and that as far as she was concerned, it would be better off if Global could build on that clinic first, rather than thinking about building a hospital, which was a much larger and involved undertaking. President promised to bring this up to Global.

Website- Peter stated that he had published some data regarding the Chapter on the website, and had added a Scholarship, Events, and Awards page, and asked if anyone had reviewed it and had feedback. The President responded that at that day’s earlier Global meeting, a member had stated that s/he had visited our site, was impressed, and encouraged Global to have a similar page (for events/programs). She thanked Peter for his work.

Sylvia suggested that maybe, Peter could, at a future meeting, do a screen share and show the website, so that people who had never visited the website could see it, and maybe offer some valuable feedback. Peter stated that members can visit the website on their own.

Asking about feedback regarding the traffic stats to the website, he also stated that members could encourage others to visit the website, and that could possibly be one way whereby the public can donate money to the organization. Members could do some social media marketing of the website to their friends. Cordelia stated that with the AFCON games ongoing, the organization can send well wishes to the Sierra Leonean team in Cameron through the website, and that might bring traffic to the site. Responding that that was a great idea, the President urged her to link up with Peter after the meeting to further discuss.

Peter also stated that we need to have the organization’s complete mission statement on the site, as what is currently there was incomplete – some paragraphs had been left out during the transition.

Wini also suggested that we could have our events recorded and put on YouTube, with links to our website; that might also be a way to make money. Sylvia stated that issues of copyright should be taken into consideration when such decisions are made.

**Community Update:** Eric had no update on the fundraising venture that he had earlier recommended - according to him, the Texas Giving event was difficult to get into. He reported that his family had endured two deaths in his family in a span of 3 weeks – his nephew, murdered on Dec. 23, and the nephew’s father dying later.

-Mrs. Rosemarie Percy died on December 10th, memorial service to be held on January 8th, and the corpse to be sent to Freetown after.

-Life Patron Mr. Mohammed died – was buried the previous week.

-ASLOT – Community Interfaith service on February 19th.

President thanked Eric; glad that ASLOT had been doing more, in response to some questions that had earlier been asked about it. She stated that she had found out that the hall that had been used for the funeral for Mrs. Rosemarie Percy was owned by the Igbo community in the DFW metroplex; wondered if the Sierra Leonean community, maybe ASLOT, could undertake a similar project like that. Eric promised to take that suggestion back to ASLOT.

T.Shirt Update: Linda put contact information to order t-shirts on the forum; those who needed some should contact her soon.

**Any Other Business:** Thanks to Wini for checking mail regularly and giving feedback to the President.

Uniform – what final decision should the group take? There were 12 people with the yellow Print. Several suggestions made: Esther reported that when she enquired about this when she was in Freetown, she was told that Print had a season, usually around Easter (which was now passed); we can wait till the season returns to see if we can have enough of what we need. Wini said we have had so many different uniforms for Texas over the years; maybe we need to see where Global got its uniform from, for us to try to order from there; if we get a color that we all agree on, we could use money from our funds to order for everyone, including extra for future members; maybe not have Texas uniform, just Global, etc. After much discussion and many suggestions, the President stated that she will continue communicating with the lady who orders the Print, and we can make a final decision later.

President encouraged members to reach out to each other, especially in this time of Covid.

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded by Wini and Eric respectively.

Closing prayer was said by Eric.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia Jones*

Co-Secretary

Krio Descendants Union of Texas