

KDU Texas General Monthly Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held on March 21, 2020

Members Present: Yvonne Deen, Brian Davies, Sylvia Jones, Kathleen Macfoy, Majorie & Peter John, Eric Pratt, Wini Osunbor, Joe Nicol, Minerva Hollist, Roseline Sesay, Winston & Moke John, Eileen Harding, Dwight Short, Francis Deen, Archimedes & Josephine Faulkner, Florence Reffell, Yvonne Taylor,

Opening Prayer:

The meeting started at 6:15pm with the opening prayer said by Winston.

Welcome, Excuses:

The President thanked and welcomed everyone for attending. Excuse was sent in by Daphne Onike Clarke

Minutes: -Correction- Acceptance-Matters Arising

The President stated that the minutes of the previous meeting had been sent via email, with members asked to send any corrections/revisions forward; no corrections had been sent, so she asked for the minutes to be approved and seconded as is. The motion to accept the minutes as presented was moved and seconded by Winston and Peter respectively. With regards to matters arising from the minutes, the President stated that all the issues were already listed on the agenda.

Financial Report

Brian stated that there wasn't much to report: he is awaiting a check for \$100 to be returned renting the hall we use for meetings, and \$750 from Eileen, Josephine, Roseline, and Rosemarie (who had donated \$100 towards WanPot). He stated that as of 3/21/2020 we had \$3586.62 in one of our accounts, and \$11,351.80 in the 2nd account bringing the total to \$14938.42. He reminded members who had pledged monies at the last thanksgiving, to make good on their pledges. There was discussion between him and Winifred regarding the check that had been sent to the management of the hall we sometimes reserved for our meetings. Winifred stated that she had informed the secretary to the management that we were not having a meeting there this month, and had asked for the check to be returned; she had been told that they would shred the check and cancel the reservation. Brian responded that the check had been cashed, so Winifred would have to be the one to refund that money to KDU. Brian reported that Marjorie had informed him that the \$40 he had earlier reported on, which he hadn't been sure what the source was, had been part of Rosemarie's subscription.

Regarding money for benevolence, the President reported that visitation would have to be made to Daphne, and that money would have to be given to the late Franklin Coomber family. She stated that members who had donations for Daphne should send it immediately, rather than wait for the visitation, since we were unsure when that would happen. The President informed members who were not at the last meeting about the new requisition form that has been created.

KDU Global Update: Jonathan reported that the Canadian Chapter was monitoring the COVID-19 situation with regards the family reunion, and that they were continuing with "soft plans". The chapter was still asking for congratulatory greetings to be printed in their program, and so was asking members

to reach out to their various alumni associations to buy ads in the program. He reported on the various updates that were given to the different chapters. He stated that the main issue discussed revolved around the land tenure issue -- a letter that had been received by the Global Chair, which had been sent by the President of KDY Fritong (Mrs. Cassandra Garber). The letter was asking for various chapters and other Krio groups to contribute to the amount of \$50,000, presented as cost of taking the land tenure matter to the ECOWAS Court. This engendered a lot of discussion and questions: why was the amount increased from the original \$25,000 to \$50,000? Why was the letter addressed to other Krio groups? Did KDY Fritong still consider itself a part of KDU Global? etc.

The President and Texas Global Reps tried to explain what the situation was, to members. Global thinks that we needed clarification about KDY Fritong's relationship to Global; that Global should try to handle the land tenure issue first at the country level before thinking of taking it to the ECOWAS Court. If KDY Fritong wants to take the lead in the land tenure matter, they should contribute the lion's share. Other issues brought up related to this issue included: KDY Fritong's lack of financial transparency; Global's status as a US corporate body, so its caution with regards to being seen as being too involved politically; why Global can't register in Sierra Leone as a non-profit if we're a corporate body; the need for Global to get affiliated with another Krio group in Freetown in case KDY Fritong decides it does not want to be part of Global, etc. The President reported that the Global Chair had thus written a letter to KDY Fritong, asking for clarification on all these matters, and was awaiting a response. If no response is received, then Global will decide on what to do next. The Global Chair is trying to unify all the various groups, meeting with their heads, trying to shore up support so that we can all work in unity to deal with the government in Freetown with regards this land tenure issue.

The reps also reported on letters that Global had sent to other chapters (Georgia, Florida, Ohio, Houston) in response to various questions that they had asked. Other issues discussed: the Print fabric issue -- each chapter should send about \$1000 each to receive its share of the blue print (uniform). The President asked members to give the ok for the chapter to send its own money (\$1000). She stated that Global has decided that once the fabric is received, each chapter should sell the fabric at the same price. The President will complete and sign the check request form and send it to the financial secretary, Marjorie who will write the check, and send it to Brian KDU Texas treasurer to deposit into KDU Global account. Ace moved the motion for the money to be sent, and Rudolph seconded it.

Brian asked who the local reps to the Global Committees were -- the President responded that Rudolph (Health Committee), Ace (Policy) and Winifred. There was some initial confusion about what committee Ace and Winifred were a part of, but it was clarified that Winifred had asked to be put on the Projects committee. Linda volunteered to be on a committee. The president informed the house that Linda's request will be submitted to the Global body because presently KDU Texas had already sent in the consent forms of the three non-chapter representatives who have volunteered to fulfil the Global body's request of three volunteers per chapter.

Thanksgiving: Eileen stated that she didn't have much to report. The committee was watching the situation regarding COVID-19, to know what to do.

Cultural Evening: Dwight reported that he was also watching the current situation to see how things evolve. He reported that he had already sent the skit and tunes, was looking for another male to cast, just in case. He said that he still was looking for drummers, that the tickets were ready although he still had to pick them up, needed the names of patrons, and stated that we still have to find a time to organize, despite the current lock down. The President and Rudy asked what would happen to our

deposit if the situation does not improve; he promised to enquire and get back to them. Linda reported that she knew of someone who had cancelled an event in face of COVID-19 and had received her money back; the government had said that such monies would be refunded. Dwight promised to get in touch with her for the evidence.

Website: -Peter had nothing to report. The President thanked him for the work he's been doing, and urged him and Brian to work together to get the website set up for credit card payment. He stated that he was still waiting to get the credit card code for credit card companies from the bank. The President hoped that they would both work on this before the next meeting. Francis apologized to Peter for having promised at the last meeting to write something about the Boston Family Reunion for the website, but not having been able to do so yet. He stated that he needed the program from the event to do the writing, and appealed to anyone who had the program to pass it on to him.

Scholarship: - Wini stated that we were still hoping to give out the three scholarships. She stated that the scholarship committee was hoping to do a stationery drive for the kids in Freetown, where they would ask either people or groups to donate money or supplies. Nothing much had been done about this, but she hoped that this would be done around the tax-free weekend before the opening of schools in Texas. The President urged anyone who could get in touch with the Office Depot to do so, and ask for such supplies. In response to Eileen's question about how members could donate, Brian stated that the money could be deposited in the organization's account with a statement that it is to be used for the school drive.

Community Affairs: Eric reported that there would be a DFW fundraiser for those who had been bereaved in the community (Sunday, Feb. 16). The President raised a question asking members to think about what KDU should do, since there've been times when ASLOT has announced some fundraiser that the chapter had already contributed to.

Report on Fritong Health Care: Rudolph stated that he had been sick at the beginning of the year that was why he had been unable to give an updated account of the event. He stated that two people who had been very instrumental in the project had lost loved ones, and one had even passed away (the husband of Rev. Sarian John, and one of the CHOs). He said that he's already started collecting drugs for the next event. He had not yet drawn up a budget, but he will work with Brian on it. He stated that he was positive that the event will be held in December, and that he will need a lot of help, because they're anticipating more people. He said that there might be need for more doctors, nurses and volunteers. He further appealed to members to ask others who will be in Freetown at that time to consider volunteering. He will wait till June to jumpstart planning. Brian stated that he had budgeted \$3000 for the program.

Eric reported that to help with this venture, he already had two drums of medical supplies to donate. Rudolph stated that he will need to verify what the contents of the drums were and arrange for the items to be picked up from his (Eric's) place.

The President asked if it wasn't a good idea to limit the number of patients, since he (Rudolph) had reported that the event was growing too big. She also suggested that since Global would be doing its own health outreach, this suggestion might make a lot of sense. Brian stated that Global also had its own budget, so maybe both groups can organize a joint medical health outreach. Since these were two differing views, the President asked members what they thought about KDU Texas organizing its own event or collaborating with Global to do this. Rudolph stated that since he was now a part of the Global

Health Committee, he would like to see what working with the others would be like, before making such a decision. He suggested that in the meantime, we should go ahead with our planning. Wini urged members to work with Rudolph so that the event would continue to be successful.

The President asked members what they thought about helping the people on the Fritong Health Care group who had been bereaved. Since there was no immediate response, the President asked members to think about it and be ready with a response at the next meeting.

The President asked the members on the Bye-Laws Committee to think about changes to be made to the byelaws, considering that the group is growing.

Community Report: Eric reported that because of the Coronavirus, all community events have been cancelled. ASLOT was reminding us to send our \$100 subscription, which is money that is used to promote the group in the community. The President will send the requisition form for this to Brian to fill out.

Mailbox: Winifred reported that she had already paid the rental cost for the whole year. She hadn't yet checked the mail; when she does, she'll send any mail to the President.

Any Other Business: – Rudolph suggested that since we will be hosting the family reunion in 2022, he and Brian had discussed the need for the group to organize another 20k fundraiser, which they hope, this time, would be more of a group effort. They wouldn't want to wait till 2022 to start; they were prepared to have a script to give to members who were either unwilling or not brave enough to call potential donors. Some members responded that this was a good idea; the President thanked them and stated that it was indeed time for us to start thinking of other ways to raise funds.

Joe – Joe stated that we need to start thinking of venues for the 2022 Thanksgiving. The President and others reminded him that the venue we use for our regular thanksgiving services would be adequate.

The President – she needs to order aprons that we would use to protect our uniforms when we are serving food at our/community events. Winifred asked if the aprons could be customized with KDU logo or some other identifying marks; the President promised to work on it.

Eric – reminded members that we need to start working on having the website ready for Texas Giving Day; he stated that this would make it very easy for others to give.

Ace – asked the Global Reps to ask Global to investigate what had happened to the money collected at the Boston Thanksgiving. He asked the reps to ask Global to make it an agenda item at one of their meetings. A lot of discussion about this ensued: Brian and the President tried to explain why the current executive could not pursue the matter, since this was an issue that was supposed to have been dealt with by the former executive; that the former Boston President had given an explanation as to what had happened to the money (it had been used to offset some shortage they had had in their budget). Ace stated that this was a legal problem and had to be investigated. The discussion revealed that no formal hand over report had been given to the new executive by the outgoing one. The President reassured Ace that they will bring it up as a matter of concern with Global.

Rudy – we should make sure that the members we support when they are bereaved, are members who are paid up members in good standing.

Winifred – wanted to clarify that the Global committee she had signed up for was the Project Committee, and not the Scholarship Committee, as Sylvia had earlier stated.

Linda – the lady for the hall that we had reserved for the WanPot event says that deposits are non-refundable; we can only switch dates.

Brian – asked for any updates on the availability of t-shirts; Linda responded that she already has some orders, but she did not have the larger and smaller sizes that had been requested.

Linda – she also has some medical supplies that she would like to add to Eric's supplies for the healthcare event.

Pres – please read email, keep in touch with others.

Closing Prayer was said by Winston.

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded by Winifred and Marjorie, respectively.

Submitted by Sylvia Jones
Co-Secretary
KDU of Texas Dallas Chapter