

# SASSE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION (SOBA) - USA 1999 CONVENTION MINUTES

*Venue: Minneapolis/St Paul (Army Armory- Maryland Avenue)*  
*Date: May 29th, 1999*

Roll Call:

1	Dr.Evaristus Enongene -Houston/Athens	21	Gerald Pratt - Minneapolis, MN
2	Mike Fondungallah -Min'polis/St Paul	22	Burnley Eyum - Minneapolis, MN
3	Francis Elung -DC/MD	23	Frank Abange - Minneapolis, MN
4	Steve Ndedy -Min'polis/St Paul	24	Joseph Oyebog - Columbus, GA
5	Augustine Atabong -Ypsilanti-Michigan	25	Tony Atabong - Kansas City, MO
6	Quintus Enow - Atlanta, GA	26	Jude Full Nsom - Minneapolis, MN
7	Henry Efamba - Houston, Texas	27	Dr. Nicholas Enow - Lufkin, Texas
8	Godwin Namaya - Atlanta, GA	28	Oscar Tanifum - Detroit, MI
9	Valentine Gwellem - Minneapolis, MN	29	Lawrence Billy-Eko - Adelphi, MD
10	Harry Beseka - Minneapolis, MN	30	Paul Atteh - St Paul, MN
11	Emile Panty - Washington, DC	31	Edward Ekobena - Minneapolis, MN
12	Lawrence Dion - Washington, DC	32	Raymond Ekobena - Minneapolis, MN
13	Lifaka Matike - Minneapolis, MN	33	Dr. Alphonse Ekole - Minneapolis, MN
14	Gerald Nkwantah - Boston, MA	34	Celestine Fonge - Minneapolis, MN
15	Andy Alang - Tampa, Florida	35	Ivo Tasong - MD/DC
16	Ivan Namme - Minneapolis, MN	36	Cornelius Ngwa - Minneapolis, MN
17	Larry Ekaney - Laurel, Maryland	37	John Mukum - Dallas, Texas
18	Martin Abada - Boston, MA		
19	Micheal Linonge - Atlanta, GA		
20	Paul Eben - Atlanta, GA		<b>** others</b>

**\*\* Note: If your name was not listed above it may imply that you did not sign the roll or you were not present at the general assembly business meeting.**

**Welcome:** By Minnesota chapter president, Mr Celestine Fonge.

Call to order with a brief prayer led by Dr Enongene and general introduction of Sobans present

- 1) **National President Welcome Speech:** - The national President, Mr Larry Ekaney
- Introduction of executive members present
  - Outlined the agenda for the day (see items 2 to 12 below).
  - Outlined last years events and accomplishments
    - Welcome new members, new born sobans/sobress, thanked the national executive, sympathized with members who lost loved ones.
    - Has been in contacts with sobans in Detroit (Atabong Augustine) and Chicago (Gervase Ndoko) to set up a local chapter, respectively.

- Thanked New Jersey chapter for re-organizing and for hosting the Mini-Convention, 98.
- Announced that the water project has been finalized to jump start in June 1999, and the book drive is still on.
- Cautioned that Sasse is facing a serious infra structural problem as a result of the recent earthquake that struck Buea. Total estimated damage is about 380 million CFA
- Thanked Dr Kum at Bowie state University for donating computers, Monangai for the Soban web site, encouraged members to send articles to the news letter editor Mr Andy Alang, and update their Net Worker information through the secretary Dr Enongene.

2) **Sasse News:**

- Current GCE results were given to members and chapter presidents by the secretary. In comparison with other schools, Sasse was again amongst the top five best in both O& A levels performance.
- Earthquake that struck Buea recently, caused considerable damages to Sasse college new library & main building science labs. (Eye witness News)- Damage ~ 380 million CFA.

3) **Newsletter:**

No edition this time. Members were encouraged to send articles and advertisement to the editor Mr Andy Alang of Tampa, Florida. Articles are welcome from sobans, patrons and matrons.

4) **NetWorker:**

Difficulties in upgrading due to continuous changes in members addresses and phone numbers. However, all contacts should be addressed to the secretary, Dr Enongene at either P.O Box 541911 Houston, Texas, 77254 or 130 Phidias Ave # 4, Athens, GA 30605. Tel: (706) 208 0379, (706) 202 8061 or (713) 349 0301. E-mail: enongene@ars.usda.gov. In collaboration with Willie Monangai of New Jersey all information will be on the website before Y2K. and on hard copy for non Internet users. This will be sent to chapter presidents.

5) **SOBA WebSite:**

*WWW.SOBAN.COM* Contact person Willie Monangai for suggestions or the president Mr. Ekaney.

6) **Chapter Reports:**

- a) *Dallas-Texas*. Representative: John Mukum (president-Ndimba Cornelius)  
No news. Plan to brief members on the issue discussed in Minneapolis on his return.
- b) *Atlanta-Georgia*. President: Godwin Namaya.  
Georgia pledge to support the water project but worried about delay in initial jump start of the project. He noted that Georgia has contributed twice this year for the project. The chapter is in good standing and hopefully, his treasurer, Mr Paul Eben, who is on the way will be on time to brief the assembly on their financial situation. Georgia organized a teleconference on 4/18/99, a happy hour on 5/18/99 and plans to hold Soban-Kids day this summer. "We are changing things .....???"

- c) *Houston-Texas*. Representative: Henry Efamba (president-Dibuto Mofa)  
Houston is alive and well and on track with regular meetings (last one- 4/10/99). Just celebrated the birth of a Sobress- Niche Kaba.
- d) *Minneapolis- Minnesota*. President: Celestine Fonge.  
Working on donation for the water project and for the earthquake.
- e) *Boston-Massachusetts*. Representative: Abada Martin (president-Alfred Akoachere)  
Chapter has made positive changes including regular meetings. Suggested SOBA-USA should begin the implementation phase of the water project, while trying to raise the rest of the money, 2) encourage new chapters such as Detroit and Chicago to jump start and 3) restoration of the North America directory/Networker. Boston donated \$ 1030 as yearly dues and \$700 to the water project. Boston is Y2K ready so they are officially filling to host SOBA-USA convention 2000.
- f) *New Jersey* - No information
- g) *DC/Maryland* - On their way

#### 7) **Convention 98 Minutes:**

After reading the Dallas 98 convention minutes the general assembly moved that the secretary should send out copies of a previous convention to members in advance. Matters arising from the Dallas meeting such as date line for pledges and dues were briefly discussed. Information from the treasury acknowledged that with few exceptions most people who pledged have met their commitments. The minutes was moved for adoption by Sobans John Mukum, Henry Efamba, Matike Lifaka, and Gerald Nkwantah.

#### 8) **Financial Report:**

Gerald Nkwantah handed out a detailed report - see your chapter presidents for copies. SOBA-USA has over \$ 10,000 in savings and over 3,600 in checking = \$ 13,600 before the convention. Appreciation certificates were given to big time water project donors namely: Dr. Evaristus Enongene = \$501; Quintus Enow = \$502; Larry Ekaney = \$504; IvoTasong = \$505; Atabong Augustine = \$ 510; Andy Alang = \$510; Ewang Etuge = \$1000; and Dr. Nicholas Enow = \$1000. He expressed his frustration in not reaching others who could not meet their pledges and advised members not to be influenced by girls or for mere pride in making erroneous pledges. "If you pledge you must pay or do not do it....."

#### 9) **Water Project:**

##### a) *Fund Raising Committee Report:*

Members: Dr Nick Enow (chair), Henry Efamba, Quintus Enow, & Mike Fondungallah.  
No word yet due to his problem of changing jobs. He hopes for an improvement this time.

##### b) *The Project Itself:*

Henry Efamba of Houston, the assigned project engineer addressed the assembly on the design, implementation, cost, duration of work, money transfer and legal ramifications of the whole project. He distributed a nine page memorandum- see your chapter presidents

for copies. Attorney Tamin Lambert of New Jersey will serve as legal consultant and will draw up the contract between SOBA-USA and the affiliated engineering firm in Cameroon. The assembly unanimously approved (30 to zero), to jump start the project. Proposed commencement date schedule for 9/3/99 and to end 5/1/2000.

c) *Water project pledges:*

John Mukum = \$200; Quintus Enow = \$200 (on behalf of his dad in Cameroon);  
Mr John Ndely (guest speaker) = \$50.

10) **Other Matters:**

a) *Guest Speaker:* Mr John Ndely encouraged SOBA-USA to buy **LIFE INSURANCE**. "It is a new concept to cover social, cultural groups and non profit groups.....". He has successfully sold contracts in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Eligible groups have to be non profit with a constitution and must have active membership. The cost is 32 cent/1000 and each applicant must be an active member of the group. No resolution was taken by SOBA-USA following brother Ndely's presentation, although most members showed individual excitement and interest.

b) *Steve Fonkem:*

Mr Celestine Fonge updated the group on the health situation of Dr Steve Fonkem who is down with a malignant form of liver cancer. "He needs help....." No resolution was taken by SOBA-USA.

c) *Youth Tennis Club:*

Mr Joseph Oyebog addressed the group and pleaded for support to the young tennis club in Cameroon. He has 120 kids currently enrolled. No resolution was taken by SOBA-USA.

d) *Micheal Linonge comments:*

His concerns were the general feelings from Georgia which were centered on issue of accountability. The treasurer rebottled that the books are wide open for review any time.

e) *Paul Eben Motion:*

Chapter hosting meetings should submit all receipts of expenditures and relevant documents to the national treasurer within 30 days from the date of each event.

Motion Passed : yes = 30 votes; No = 0; Abs = 0.

f) *Namaya's Motion:* As attachment to Eben's motion. The treasurer should intend submit a financial report within 30 days of receiving all receipts and relevant documents following an event. Motion passed: Yes = 25; No = 0; Abs = 0.

g) *Steve Ndely Motion:*

Proposed the formation of an ad hoc committee to explore how we can come up with a block fee to cover registration, and gate fee at the gala and other supplies. The proposal never made it to the voting floor.

h) *Celestine Fonge Motion:*

Proposed that local chapter members be represented at the gate during a convention gala. This was generally accepted with no voting. Mr Steve Ndely was at the gate with NEC members.