

## **SobaAmerica Convention Washington DC May 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **Friday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

Welcome dinner at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Takusi. Evening activities included Sobans socializing with each other, barbecue and dinner.

### **Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

#### **Greencastle Community Center**

- **Roll Call and Introduction of Delegates:**

Celestain Fonge  
Dr. Bertrand Fote  
Mr. Allen Gang  
Mr. Norbert Kong  
Mr. Quintus Enow  
Mr. Larry Ekaney  
Mr. Asanji Emmanuel  
Mr. Michael Fondungallah  
Mr. Takang Eric  
Dr. Enongene Evaristus  
Mr. Sangbong Pius  
Mr. Akoachere Alfred  
Dr. Felix Ngassa  
Mr. Bate Agbor-Baiyee  
Mr. Kevin Nana  
Mr. Eric Igwacho  
Mr. Robert Takusi  
Mr. Brendan Simo  
Mr. J.N. Fomenky  
Mr. Chris N. Lambi  
Mr. Derek Chindia  
Mr. Kenneth Eyong  
Mr. Francis Elung  
Mr. Kenneth Ndelle  
Mr. Dotele Oben  
Mr. Agbor Nkongho  
Mr. Joseph Wolete  
Mr. Roland Fonjong  
Mr. John Monangai  
Mr. Ivo Tasong  
Mr. Ernest Chindia  
Mr. Lawrence Billy-Eko  
Mr. Pierre Kamga  
Mr. Raymond Fonmbolt  
Mr. Aldrin Ngwa  
Mr. William Mpafe

Mr. Gabriel Takusi  
Mr. Leo Eyombo  
Mr. Tyrolt Ngole  
Mr. Cletus Ayuk  
Mr. Lawrence Eseh  
Mr. Sylvester Maduforo

- **Opening Prayer:** Session led by Mr. Brenda Simo
- **Welcome address:** Mr. Bob Takusi- thanked members for traveling to D.C. and wish them well during their stay in Washington D.C.
- **Last Conventions minutes** read by Celestain Fonge and adopted by Dr. Bertrand Fote and Mr.Simo Brenda.

**Open Issues** – Mr. Mpafe William requested clarification on the \$100.00 national annual dues payment process. A brief explanation was provided by the National President Mr. Mike Fondungallah.

Mr. Larry Ekaney proposed reducing annual dues for fulltime students as an incentive to encourage and increase student participation in SobaAmerica activities. All members present agreed to vote on the following proposal:

*Any soban who is a fulltime undergraduate student may be eligible for a 50% discount on his annual dues payment. To qualify for this discount, student would need to provide a letter from school of attendance confirming academic status.*

*This new proposal will be for a two-year trial period.*

*Vote was yes-22 No-7*

- **IT Committee:** Copies of reports distributed to all members, followed by a brief status report from Dr. Enongene. Mr. Elung Francis and Eric Igwacho joined the IT Committee and will work on exploring fund raising options that can be used to fund the IT Project.
- **Financial Report:** Report by Mr. Allen Gang. A detailed financial statement will be available to all members who have paid their dues as soon as possible.
- **Website report and issues:** Issues with content management- Site has not be updated of late. Celestain Fonge is working on relieving current webmaster and will assume webmaster role on an interim basis.
- **Endowment fund report** by Dr. Fote.  
Sticking issue has been how to generate finances for this fund. Dr. Fote emphasized the impact of an up to date website on fund raising in the USA. He also suggested having each member forward email addresses and addresses of potential donors to him. He will gather data and generate letters to be mailed to potential donors.
- **Chapter reports:**
  1. California- None
  2. Canada- None
  3. Chicago- Report by Mr. Chris Lambi. Working on creating a chapter, possibly for the Tri State area- Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois.

4. Georgia- Reports provided by Mr. Quintus Enow. Local Chapter President Mr. Pikwo Nnoko is doing his best leading this chapter. Last chapter meeting was successful. Chapter is doing great both financially and in terms of membership.
5. Houston- Report sent via email by Mr. Dan Mofor. Will be distributed to all members via email. Chapter is doing well.
6. Minnesota- Report by Mr. Ngole Alobwede. Chapter has approximately 35 members, with 17 being active in local chapter affairs. Chapter is doing great and has instituted membership benefits in order to encourage participation.
7. New England- Reports by Mr. Nana Kevin. New chapter executives have assumed the reins this year and there are 15 active members who have paid their annual dues. Proposed seeing a yearly budget from NEC with itemized CAPEX. Would like quarterly financial statements from NEC mailed to all chapters. Would forward funds from last convention to the National Treasurer as soon as possible.
8. Washington DC- Reports by Mr. Robert Takusi. Washington D.C. has 25 members with 21 paid (annual) dues and chapter is doing great.
9. Michigan- Report by Mr. Bate Agbor Baiyee. Working to coordinate with others to get a chapter rolling.

**Open Issues** - Dr. Fote suggested members attend Saturday's meetings on time. Members unanimously voted to move barbecue and soccer game to Sundays each year effective Minnesota Convention.

- **Presidents Remarks-** Mr. Fondungallah spoke of his passion for Sasse College. Encouraged member participation into Soba activities. He also congratulated local chapters for their support of SobaAmerica. A special to Dr. Enongene for his work on the IT project. Thanks you to all NEC members for serving during his term in office. Mr. Fondungallah also emphasized that SobaAmerica has to take a leadership role in the creation of a Board of Trustees for Sasse College. Mr. Fondungallah also thanked all members for attending this year's convention, and wished all a safe travel back to your destination.
- **By-laws-** Adopted by Mr. Norbert Kong, Dr. Bertrand Fote and Mr. Kevin Nana. Hardcopy and electronic copies will be distributed to all members.

- **Election of new SobaAmerica National Executives.**

1. President- Mr. Mike Fondungallah 17 votes and Mr. Tasong Ivo 14 votes
2. Vice- Dr. Fote Bertrand elected by unanimous decision
3. Sec. Gen- .Celestain Fonge elected by unanimous decision
4. Treasurer- Mr. Allen Gang elected by unanimous decision
5. Financial Sec.- Mr. Aldrin Ngwa elected by unanimous decision
6. Pub. Sec.- Mr. Eric Takang elected by unanimous decision

- **Meeting Adjourned @ 3:30PM**

- **Soccer:**

SobaAmerica vs Spartan F.C.

- **Gala:**

Saturday's events ended with a Gala.

- **Barbacue:**

Members attended a cookout/barbecue at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Takusi on Sunday.

- **National Convention Venue**

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