

SobaAmerica Convention Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota May 25th - 30th

Thursday May 25th, 2006

Welcome dinner at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fondungallah. Evening activities included Sobans socializing with each other and dinner.

Friday May 26th, 2006

Fundraising dinner at Mermaid Entertainment Center.

Saturday May 27th, 2006

Mermaid's Entertainment Center

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

Celestain Fonge

Dr. Bertrand Fote

Mr. Allen Gang

Mr. Norbert Kong

Mr. Quintus Enow

Mr. Michael Fondungallah

Dr. Enongene Evaristus

Dr. Kevin Nana

Mr. William Mpafe

Mr. Celestine Fondungallah

Mr. Matike Lifaka

Dr. Nick Enow

Mr. Dan Mofor

Mr. Augustine Agbor

Dr. Walter Foto

Mr. Paul Ateh

Mr. Abada Martin

Mr. Paul Eben

Mr. Tyrolt Ngole

Mr. Pikwo Nnoko

Mr. Beto Ntopi

Mr. Paul Ayah

Mr. Evans Nkowa

Mr. Edmond Nkeng

Mr. Amadeus

Mr. Enow Ayukosok

Mr. Namaya Godwin

Dr. Awah Mukalah

Mr. Valentine Gwellem

Mr. Ernest Gwellem

- **Opening Prayer:** Session led by Mr. Michael Fondungallah
- **Welcome address:** Welcome address from Minnesota Chapter President Mr. Edmond Nkeng
- **Last conventions minutes** read by Celestain Fonge and adopted by Dr. Bertrand and Mr. Norbert Kong
- **Open Issues** – Dr. Fote emphasized that in order to encourage and increase membership into Soba America, students should be informed of the discounted registration rate of 50% available to students only. Members suggested that the current registration drive strategy is not working and would need some fine tuning.
- **IT Committee:** Presentation by Dr. Enongene Evaristus and copies of reports distributed to members.
- **Open Issues** – Questions from Mr. Kong Norbert on how members arrived at the decision to levy each chapter a fee of \$2000.00 for the IT project. Unanimous resolution was that NEC will look into this issue and decide on what amount to levy each chapter for this project (other considerations include accessories such as computers and software that can be contributed).
- **Financial Report:** Presentation by Mr. Allen Gang and copies were distributed to all members and emailed to all members.
- **Open Issues** – Corrections- Members were informed that a total of \$4700.00 was forwarded to Minnesota to host the convention and not \$3000.00. Questions if our accounts are interest bearing from Dr. Foto. Atlanta chapter will work on adding additional signatures to the national account. Annual report needs to be presented to all members at each convention. Members recommended creating a structure to handle any future project funding.
In response to a proposal from the National President that he be granted discretionary access to Soba America finances, members agreed that “The President of Soba America shall be authorized an annual capex of \$1000.00 for discretionary spending”- Vote was unanimous. Any other spending should be approved by a majority of the NEC by voting within a week of the request. (Vote was 19 to 2. Proposal from Dr. Bertrand Fote for SobaAmerica to sponsor travel trips for any Soba related projects will need to be approved by the NEC- votes 24 yes and no-1. Members also agreed that any NEC member who does not vote within a week, his vote will be considered a YES vote.
- **Website report and issues:** Presentation by Celestain Fonge and copies distributed to all members.
- **Open Issues-** Questions on the look and feel-needs to be improved. Replace the Chapters options with Branches on the website. Questions on restricting emails sent on Soba America email list.
- **Endowment fund report-** Report presented by Dr. Bertrand Fote and copies sent to all members and distributed via CDROM. Dr. Bertrand Fote emphasized that we forward contact information of potential donors to him and he his contact information is bfote@hotmail.com. The President mentioned creating a Board of

Directors to run Soba America and to look into creating an appropriate constitution for our association.

- **Open Issues-** Questions on any timelines to accomplish and realize the dreams of having an endowment fund from Mr. Paul Ayah.
 - **Sick Bay Report-** Report prepared by Dr. Bertrand Fote distributed to all members and sent via email and CDROM.
 - **Open Issues-** In response to Dr. Bertrand's presentation, the National President Mr. Mike Fondungallah mentioned that getting the supplies is not an issue, shipping to Cameroon is more of a roadblock. Suggestions from members that this issue should be addressed by the entire Soba body.
 - **Naming Rights-** Reports distributed to members. Dr. Ebie's issue was brought up and members discussed the possibility of doing an investigation and getting testimonials from ex-students who can verify that the computer lab had the Ebie name engraved at some point in time. NEC was encouraged to work with the authorities in Cameroon to get this issue resolved.
 - **SJC Admissions Reports Report-** Report presented by Dr. Bertrand Fote and was distributed to members present via CDROM.
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- **Chapter reports:**
 1. California- Mr. Agbor talked of the challenges he faces in attempting to create a chapter in California
 2. Canada- Mr. Paul Ayah would work on creating and generating a momentum to recreate a chapter in Canada. Canada has about 8000 books ready to be shipped to Cameroon and collection process is ongoing. Mr. Paul Ayah would like Soba America to help ship these books to Cameroon. Canada needs approximately \$2500.00 to ship these books to Cameroon. Delegates present approved spending \$2500.00 for the shipment of these books.
 3. Chicago- None
 4. Georgia- Mr. Pikwo Nnoko noted that his Chapter is doing great and chapter is growing approximately 30% annually. Plans on working to continually increase membership drive amongst the younger Sobans.
 5. Houston- Mr. Dan Mofor provided greetings from Houston and talked of changes in the Executive ranks in Houston. New President is Mr. Ayuk Fred. Chapter is alive and vibrant with meetings scheduled regularly. Requested a copy of the 501c document and would work on establishing a bank account for their chapter. Software and hardware has been donated by a local chapter member and will be shipped to Sasse. Would like a contact to send software to Cameroon and would also like to thank members for their generous contribution to the Maurice Mofa bereavement fund and to conclude chapter has grown to approximately 15 members.
 6. Minnesota- Mr. Edmond Nkeng welcomed members to Minnesota and talked about a growth in membership, with Minnesota having approximately 24 registered members.
 7. New England- Dr. Nana distributed Chapter report and provided touch points of his reports. He emphasized New England's desire to see SobaAmerica create an annual budget and also would like article 18 of our constitution be revisited.

8. Washington DC- Mr. Mpafe William expressed disappointment with the drop in membership within the DC chapter and reiterated that plans are in place to reinvent the chapter and register their members.
9. Michigan- None
10. Seattle- Dr. Foto mentioned that his region is a one man delegation and there are other Sobans who have promised to form a chapter and hopefully this dream would get realized soon.

Open Issues -.

Suggestions from Dr. Nick Enow that we keep a record of any provision we make to Sasse and make sure our agreement with Sasse is upheld with followed-through.

Members discussed the possibility of creating a group insurance policy that would cover all members in terms of any emergencies or death.

Amendment to the By-Laws- With regards to the death of an active Soba America member in the USA, members voted as follows: Soba America would donate \$2000.00- 6 votes, \$3000.00- 20 votes, \$5000.00- 3 votes to bereaves family. In order for a member to qualify for this benefit, he needs to be active for at least six months and must have paid his dues by December.31st- (21 yes votes) OR In order for members to get this benefit you have to be active for at least six months and must have paid your dues by December.31st -1 year- (2 votes).

- **Presidents Remarks-** Mr. Michael Fondungallah thanked members for attending the convention and talked about this being his last year. Thanked the chapters for supporting Soba America and talked about the challenges facing us before next year's convention.

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

- **Gala:**

Saturday's events ended with a Gala at the Mermaid's Entertainment Center.

- **Soccer:**

SobaAmerica vs Minnesota Cameroonian Community.

- **Barbacue:**

Members attended a cookout/barbecue at the residence of Mr. Jacob Lifaka

- **National Convention Venue**

2007- Houston