



SOBA-AMERICA

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SOBA America 2013 Michigan Convention Minutes

AGENDA

Prayer

Roll Call

Welcome Address by host Chapter President Emmanuel Vekima

Chapter Reports

State of the Union

Matters Arising:

Resolutions

Convention Venue:

Mini Convention Venue:

Elections

Dinner

Prayer:

Georgia's new President of SOBA Georgia Dr Harry Ako Asana led us in prayers

Roll call was done.

(see attachment at the end)

2012 SOBA America meeting minutes was read.

Welcome by hosting President, Mr. Emmanuel Vekima

Good Afternoon fellow Sobans. Welcome to Detroit.

On behalf of SOBA Tristate, I want to thank you for giving us an opportunity to host this convention and it has been an eye opener for us. We started TriState about 1 year 8 months ago. When we put our candidature to host this convention, I was unsure how things were going to happen. Fortunately for me, during this one year, I had the best surprises that as SOBANS, we all are committed. We made this happened in less than 1 1/2 months.

I want to thank the National Executives. During this process, they gave us a lot of advice and special thanks to Mr. Quintus Enow and quite a few other people namely Dr. Alphonse Ekole, Dr. Goddy Chungag, and many other who gave us moral support and advice.

So, on behalf of SOBA TriState, I thank you and hope we will all put our head together so that we can follow the agenda, address our goals and leave here as one.

Thank You.

Chapter Reports:

(Full reports are at the end)

1. TriState Chapter (HOST)
2. Dallas Chapter
3. Montreal Chapter
4. Georgia Chapter
5. Western Region Chapter
6. Minnesota Chapter
7. Washington DC Chapter
8. New England Chapter
9. Delaware Valley Chapter – Vincent Achiambo
10. Houston Chapter

1. Dallas Chapter:

Convention Report to SOBA America

Fiscal Year: June 1st 2012 to May 24th 2013

Chapter Name: **SOBA Dallas**

Officers: *President: Frederick
Itoe*

Phone #: 214-293-5744

Email Address: mafany@yahoo.com

1. *Vice President: Eti Stanley*
Phone #:678-900-5462
Email Address:emah_ati@yahoo.com
2. *Secretary General: Roland Ntoko*
Phone #:817-919-6052
Email Address:njumentoko@yahoo.com
3. *Treasurer: Henry Njie*
Phone #:214-587-6922
Email Address:hennjie4@yahoo.com
4. *Financial Secretary: Augustine Fambon*
Phone #:214-718-9593
Email Address:anfambon@yahoo.com
5. *Publicity Secretary: Collins Ngwashi*
Phone #:214-998-6306
Email Address:nchangcollins@yahoo.com
6. *Chief Whip: Edwin Ndoko*
Phone #:214-250-4104
Email Address:sangody@gmail.com
7. *Senior Advisers: Dr. Francis Njie, Dr. Henry Simo*

Membership Information

- 1- Membership: Based on attendance, we can say there are 16 real active members who attend 95% of our meetings. The rest of the members attend less than 50% of the meetings sporadically.
- 2- Meetings: Regular meetings are held at 5pm on the third Sunday of every month. Participation is on average around 95% of active members.
- 3- National Membership: We currently have 11 members registered with SOBA America.
- 4- We currently have three NEC members. Mr. Frederick Mafany Itoe, Mr. Edwin Ndoko and Dr. Henry Njie. We have three president club members: Mr. Tony Atabang, Dr. Henry Simo and Dr. Henry Njie.

Financial Report

- 5- Generating Funds: We generate funds through social functions, donations from members and solicitation of donations from members of our community.
- 6- Financial status: We working on new strategies to generate funds for our chapter. Different proposals are under review. What I can say is we are not in the red. We however believe that with more work we can do better.
- 7- SJC Gift from SOBA Dallas: We plan on trying to make a modest give to SJC each year as a local chapter. Last financial year, our gift package directly to SJC's athletic program (May 2012) cost

us 2800\$. We intend to do another gift during the 75th anniversary as chapter if SOBA America is not planning any special gift originating from here.

- 8- SOBA National Convention Financial Report 2011: We still have an unresolved issue with a donor who donated his money pledged at our convention via the national treasurer after report was submitted. We hope to have that resolved soon.

B i r t h s i n F a m i l y

- 9- Birth in Family: Three of our members have been blessed with babies since our last convention. Dr. Henry Njie, Mr. Ivo Edimo and Mr. Collins Ngwashi. We have already hosted our “born house” per our bylaws at Mr. Edimo, Dr. Henry and Mr. Ngwashi’s residences. We presented the couples with gifts and donations per our bylaws.

C u r r e n t p r o j e c t s

- 10- Sickbay project fundraiser: We are working with potential donors to secure more funds for this project. The resolution of the last donation towards our convention would go a long way in clearing our outstanding balance.
- 11- SOBA Suits: We finally got our suits with logo done. We will be wearing them tonight. We however are hoping that SOBA America can assign a Soban with experience to lead the charge for uniform suits which can be ready before next convention for the 75th Anniversary.
- 12- Why our chapter is unique: We keep working diligently to find more joint investment ideas for SOBA Dallas member so as to foster our unity in events beyond Soban activities. We feed off each other and always try to share information to improve each member’s life. Our chapter plans on reviewing more activities we can do monthly as a group out of meetings. We currently have family outings or barbecue every four months. Our special guest this April was president Ntopi. We also had our annual end of year family party. Sobans took turns during the gift part of the event to surprise their wives with gifts as they thanked them publicly while addressing the crowd.

Our genuine commitment to help SJC directly is what makes our chapter unique. We don’t plan on waiting for others, but would continue small projects each year to help make SJC a better place. We could not have been blessed with a better set of dedicated Sobans

W h a t W e E x p e c t F r o m N E C

Our expectations from NEC have not changed. As earlier stated: We hope our national executive can use our 501C statues and other available means to generate funds so local chapter don’t have to keep raising money for national project. Not long ago we donated for the IT project during our mini convention in Dallas. Now it is the sickbay project. We must realize that constant request from local chapters is one of the reasons some members don’t join our local associations. They find themselves raising money for funeral which they do with pride but get fed up of added burden from national projects and projects not initiated by SOBA America. Donations for parties,

deaths, membership and other local activities are enough to scare some members. So, let us limit it to that and not add more national projects to local chapters. Local chapters would always willingly assist to get funds from other sources not necessarily local members. NEC should figure out a way of functioning with only annual contributions. Any additional donations should not be mandatory. Generous and successful Sobans should be encouraged to help out. Some members simply can't afford it and stay away due to the financial pressures we put on them.

We also hope to have updates on NEC current projects regularly. For example every three months so we can see the progress we are making and be kept informed on the updated timely. It would be good if we get such information to the general forum every quarter. If we do this, we would be able to evaluate what progress has been made since the last convention and see what areas are problematic and need attention. This would ensure that we get at least 4 reports on each project before each convention. We would be able to evaluate some projects like the Sick Bay, Father Nomi Complex and Scholarship Fund periodically.

Finally, during the mini-convention of November 2012, our chapter requested the honor of hosting the 2013 Mini Convention in Dallas. We still stand by our request.

Proposals and Conclusions after President Ntopi's visit to Dallas

1. *Local liaison officer for 75th anniversary to represent SOBA America.*
2. *Planning of major renovation gift (sports complex) as proposed by president Ntopi. We requested to donation goal of about 20,000\$ towards this project. This would make the renovations significant and befitting of SOBA America's reputation of generous gifts to SJC. We proposed getting more funds by making a bronze plate which will be displayed with names of donors who give above a certain threshold at the facility or appropriate location at SJC. That will help raise funds for complex renovation.*
3. *Arrange for SOBA America's president to visit Cameroon a couple of times at some point to attend a SOBA preparatory meeting, visit complex with architect, and make concrete plans on renovation of complex. We can't run a successful project from here by simply delegating responsibility.*
4. *Soba America suits.*

Thanks,

Frederick Itoe

President SOBA-Dallas

Discussion of Dallas Chapter Report:

National President reported that he has suggested \$10,000 to upgrade the sport complex as a gift to Sasse. He wants GA to approve an amount to Sasse as a gift for its 75th Anniversary.

2. Montreal Report:

CHAPTER REPORT FOR 2013 SOBA MONTREAL

SOBA Canada was recently re-launched in September of 2012 and re-registered as SOBA MONTREAL with the Montreal City Council this year.

This change has been effected to further consolidate our commitment to each other. It has been the hope that by now other Sobans in Canada (Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton and Ottawa) would have come together under one umbrella organisation. But this has not been the case. Hence, the need for a more unifying and vibrant organisation has been necessitated. Moreso, the creation of Soba Montreal will give further impetus to our activities and the much deserved recognition of the immediate community we serve. So far we have supported more than 10 associations in cash or in kind for one activity or another.

NUMERICAL STRENGTH

The chapter boasts of 14 registered members with the local chapter and 3 of which are duly registered with SOBA AMERICA. The numerical strength of SOBA Montreal including families reached a mile stone of 40 this year with the inclusion of three beautiful children. We are proud of having a vibrant chapter of both the old and the young as far back as class of 1971 (Dr Otto Ikome and class of 1975 (Dr. Peter Fossungu and President Paul Ayah- who is present with me here today).

EXECUTIVES

President: Dr. Aloys Ibeagha

Vice President: Mr. Julius Njomo

Secretary General: Mr. Emmanuel Asanji

Treasurer : Mr. Emmanuel Niba

MEETING

Our meeting takes place every third Sunday of the month at 3:00 p.m and each member is assigned a particular month to host during the year. We also have 3 special yearly meetings where we attend with family members and friends, so we have the opportunity for our spouses and children to meet, share and socialise with the Soban family.

LOVE FEAST

At the end of each year we have a December love feast where we meet again with our families for Christmas and there is a compulsory exchange of gift items for the spouses. All Soban children receive their Christmas presents from Santa Claus. Soba Montreal has been beneficiary of Christmas gifts for the past two years from Generation Foundations.

Each meeting we have a compulsory monthly contribution of \$ 15.00 per member, (\$10.00 dollar dues and \$ 5.00 for entertainment).

BENEFITS:

BABY PRESENTATION:

Our bylaws have been crafted to provide certain assistance to members both in joyful times and in difficult circumstances. By this any new child born into the Soban family, members contribute \$25.00 per member of which \$ 250.00 is handed to the family as “baby presentation token”, and the balance goes into the floating fund. We have had two baby presentations so far this year and we look forward to many more.

On the Contrary in times of sadness, death of a parent, each member contributes \$ 50.00 per member support the bereaved. Recently we had two deaths, parents of Soban Dr. Ikome Otto and the Vice President Mr. Njomo Julius.

On a final note we have started a special campaign to convince members of the importance to register with the National (Soba America). Two members have just been registered this year and the drive is still on and very promising.

My chapter is very excited to host the 2015 SOBA AMERICA Annual Convention in Montreal on the 29th May- 1st June, 2015. Come and enjoy the Franco-Anglo serenity of Montreal. ***Soyez la Bienvenue a Montreal.*** As a young chapter we look forward to your unflinching support.

Thank you.

Dr. Aloys Ibeagha/ Mr. Emmanuel Asanji

SOBA MONTREAL.

[Discussion of Montreal chapter report](#)

Montreal chapter paid their sick bay fund of 1200\$

3. Georgia Report:

Convention Report to S O B A America

Fiscal Year: June 1st 2012 to May 24th 2013

Chapter Name: **SOBA Georgia**

Officers: *President Emeritus:*
Ewumbua Kaka Titang

Phone #: 301-455-7604
Email Address: gtitang@yahoo.com

1. *President Elect: Akoh, Asa' na*

Phone #: 678-849-2477
Email Address: rheverend@yahoo.com

Membership Information

- 1- Membership: Based on attendance, we can say there are approximately 20 real active members who attend 95% of our meetings. The rest of the members attend less than 50% of the meetings sporadically.
- 2- Meetings: Regular meetings are once every two months—a total of six meetings a year. Participation is on average around 95% of active members.
- 3- National Membership: We currently have 25 paid members registered with SOBA America and 3 president' s club members
- 4- NEC members.

New Executive:

1. Elections were held on May 18, 2013 and we have four new leaders with two vacancies still to be filled.
2. President: Akoh, Asa' na
3. Vice President: Richard Ebai
4. Sec. General: Benjamin Ntoko
5. Treasurer: Eongkeng Fonkeng
6. Financial Secretary: Vacant
7. PRO: Vacant

F i n a n c i a l R e p o r t

- 5- Generating Funds: We generate funds annually with our December 24 Christmas party, donations from members and solicitation of donations from members of our community.
- 6- Financial status: We working on new strategies to generate funds for our chapter.
- 7- Sick Bay project: Soba Ga. Made a contribution to this project since last year.
- 8- Soba America Insurance: SOBA Ga. Has active participation by some members in the this program.

Deaths in F a m i l y

- 9- Major Fidelis Agbor: Lost his sister and father. A national fund drive is currently being run and I' m accepting donations today, if you have not already done so.
- 10- Henry Ngalame lost his mother and we thank Soba-America for the massive support.
- 11- Quintus and Callistus Enow lost their father and we thank Soba – America for a massive support..
- 12- Bob and Wob Fomunong lost their father and we thank Soba-America for a massive support.

13- Ambrose Ewane lost his mother-in-law.

Current projects

1. St. Joseph's Feast Day: We led the singing in church and participated in the Cameroon Catholic Community of Georgia
2. Transition of power from the outgoing to newly elected team.

Thanks,

Dr Ako Asana

President SOBA-Georgia

4. WR chapter (Ari, WA, Utah, Oregon, and CA). "The Virtual Chapter"

(Curled from audio tape recording of convention)

Good Morning. The Western Region Chapter is comprised of Arizona, Utah, Oregon, and California. Since we are so scattered, we are only able to meet virtually. This year however, has been very challenging because active members like Dr. Nana, Fedelis Nkeze, Dr Foto, and myself have been traveling all over the world so we don't have our regular meeting like we used to do. The challenge of scheduling also has been very difficult. Despite that, one good thing about the chapter is that when we commit ourselves in doing something, we always come on very strong. Those who were in 2012 Arizona Convention are witnesses to that. We hosted the convention successfully and part of my report will be based on that.

We have active 10 members, 4 President club members. My treasurer is Dr Nana, advisors are Dr Foto and Dr Augustine. My Vice President is John Asombang.

We have been able to take over the responsibility of the Teacher's Award. Students in Sasse College have been able to do well because of the teachers are doing a great work as well. It is a collective effort. Last year we gave out 350000 cfa to support the teachers. This year we plan to do the same. Actually, when I visited Sasse, some of the teachers told me that the award has become a competitive effort amongst the teachers because each teacher wants their students to do the best. Although the award is not that much, it is a bragging rights amongst the teachers.

With regards to the 2012 Convention, I will start by making some recommendations. I want to appreciate the President and the executives and the chapter presidents as well. Our collective efforts what pulled us through. We had a lot of conference calls to make sure things were tied up well. We did not only had fun but raised some money although not as much as other conventions. Total pledge collected was \$15,950 and we have 4 new President Club members who have paid from that convention. For the convention pledges we only have \$3500 left to be collected which is about 80% of the pledges.

I thank you very much and thank all the SOBANS who came and the local people who came in with all their generosity. I hope that generosity will continue here in Michigan and the Tristate.

The only thing which we still have to talk about is that the President and President Frederick should make sure that our interests are very represented in the 75th Anniversary of Sasse College. Our expectation that we continue to be part of the decision making and only just receive what ever was decided and we give money. As well as the sick bay project which my chapter has already accepted that we will be giving our own contribution to support the sick bay project.

Thank You.

-end of scribe-

5. Minnesota Chapter

(curled from audio recording)

A thank you from Mola Steve Ndely.

Soban, I sent an email to the Soba family way back when I had a response to the Soba family that when I was sick and I told you guys that with God willing, if I could walk, I will come to this convention and say than you to the Sobans in person. I am here to tell you that I can walk but I didn't drive because one of our younger Sobans won't let me. They drove me here and I am going to be driving back.

You guys don't know how proud I am and how grateful I am for all the Sobans for all the support and contributions you guys gave me.

Sometimes people wonder why do we have a group like this. Why do we meet?

We have a situation where Sobans from every background, generations and states come together. To me I think this one of the reason. Yes talk about thinks that are important to Sasse but if you guys go back and look at the things that made you who you are, are the times that you spent in Sasse College.

Another update on my condition: I have a beauty mark here, and that is because of my operation. I had a brain tumor and they took it out and I am very happy about it. Two months ago, I also had a heart attack and my artery was 99% blocked and I spent 2 days in the hospital. On the day of my discharged I went to SOBA meeting and the National President was there. Thanks to the grace of GOD, I am standing here talking to you.

We will be happy to welcome you next year in Minnesota for our 75th anniversary kick off celebration of St Joseph's College Sasse.

My Dad was the first batch who graduated from upper six and to me this celebration has a special meaning. We are planning a full 4 day convention event next year. Please mark your calendar. We want you guys to come on Thursday. We will have welcoming activities on Thursday. Activities are planned for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We plan to take you for a boat ride and take you to the Mall of America.

During this convention, we want have an event that will be talked about for a long time. This convention will be totally different from any other that we have had before. We will have a forum to discuss very important things for Sasse College. It could be something to do with health or investment.

We want to work with other chapters to be able to put an event like no other.

Thank You.

Chapter Report to SOBA America

Fiscal Year: June 1st 2013 to May 31st 2014

Chapter Name: SOBA MINNESOTA

Officers: *(who are your executives? what are their contact information (phone #, email))*

- *President: Kinsley Ayangim*
Phone #: 651-278-9560
Email Address: daddyking2003@yahoo.com
- *Vice President: Raymond Fru*
Phone #: 651-278-0392
Email Address: raymondfu@yahoo.fr
- *Secretary General: Sullivan Ade*
Phone #: 763-898-7918
Email Address: sullidad4me@gmail.com
- *Treasurer: Moki Ndobedi*
Phone #: 651-587-5639
Email Address: ngime@yahoo.com
- *Financial Secretary: Njila Francis*
Phone #: 773-961-4935
Email Address: njilafrancis@yahoo.com
- *Publicity Secretary: To be announced*
Phone #:
Email Address:
- *Organizing secretary: To be announced*
Phone #:
Email Address:

Meetings:

Chapter meeting times: *(please indicate when chapter meetings are held and the frequency of it)*

Chapter meetings are held on the second Saturdays of every month. Deliberation starts at 7pm prompt.

Membership Analysis:

5. *Who are your members? (total # active and inactive)*
Ayangim Kinsley, Amadeus Dzekedze, Michael Fondungallah, Raymond Fru, Njila Francis, Sullivan Ade, Moki Ndobedi, Enongene Rodrique, Ngemto Emmanuel, Gerald

Fru, Divine Tange, Elad Ntang, Edmond Nkeng, Sima Epie, Glen Timti, Steve Ndely, Matike Lifaka, Celestain Fonge, Alfred Kange, Charles Efon, Ernest Gwellem, Valentine Gwellem, Evans Nkowa, Nelson Assick, Paul Ateh, Tyrolt Ngole, William Aminkeng, Raymond Ekobena, Gideon Njinyam


6. *Average meeting attendance:
15/20 members*
7. *Percentage (%) change each month:
20%*
8. *How many have paid their dues:
20 members have paid their yearly local registration dues*
9. *Welcome new members (including births):
SOBA Minnesota was privilege to have about 2 new members since the beginning of 2013.*
10. *Discuss latest news (marriages, births, death etc):
The SobaMinnesota family has been increasing each year. Since the beginning of 2013, we have been blessed with a baby boy Jayden Lifaka, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matike Lifaka. We also have a few graduates Nsima Epie, Ngemto Emmanuel and Matike Lifaka who have made us proud by achieving academic excellence. We were saddened to have lost our brother and friend Enongene Ebola Honore, the brother of our soban member Enongene Rodrigue. Mola Steve Ndely, Valentine Gwellem and Ntang Elad were hospitalized but we are thrilled that they are back on their feet.*
11. *How many of your members have served or are serving SOBA America (NEC):
Three members (Kinsley Ayangim, Amadeus Dzekedze and Michael Fondungallah) are currently serving NEC but a couple has been in the past.*

Financials:

1. *Annual Dues paid:
22 SobaMinnesota members paid their annual dues last year. Our goal is to have more this year. The drive is still ongoing and we will have a number by the end of the week*
2. *President's Club members:
Michael Fondungallah.*
3. *How do you generate funds:
We generate funds through membership in the form of registration, special levy. We also generate funds through social/fundraising events as well as donations.*
4. *Provide update of chapter contributions to SOBA projects (e.g. Sick Bay)
Soba Minnesota has contributed the sum of \$1500.00 towards the sickbay project.*
5. *Attach Treasurer's report:
See attached document.*

Achievements:

3. *What are your major achievements:*
 - *Successfully organized a fundraising party to support our cause.*
 - *Increased number of SobaMinnesota involvement in SobaAmerica affairs.*
1. *To honor St Joseph and his works of life, we successfully offered and sang a mass on St Joseph feast day. Reception followed there after*

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2. *Have made a commitment to contribute \$1500.00 to support the Cameroonian community center project in Minnesota. We will also be contributing to the SASF initiative to assist orphan kids attend Sasse.*
 4. *What is it that makes your chapter unique (what are chapter programs)?*
 - *Socialisation after meeting deliberation is very important. Exploration and exchange of business ideas, discussion on latest sociopolitical and economic development.*
 - *SobaMinnesota also serves as a network of opportunities. Members share ideas on job availability, referrals, etc.*
 - *Generational differences play a very important role in our union. It brings diversity of opinions and a large pool of ideas and experience. Our association can draw from that pool to meet the needs of its members and the Soba cause at large.*
 5. *What programs are successful?*
 1. *Fundraising/Thanksgiving Party (November)*
 2. *End of year party (to acknowledge Sobanese and Kids).*
 6. *Discuss the problems of your chapter **RIGHT NOW**:*
 1. *One of the most difficult problems is to assimilate all Minnesota members into the national chapter. Either members are inconsistent in due payments or they vehemently deny to be part of the national branch.*
 2. *Fund drive deadline. It is very difficult for members to fulfill pledges made in a fund drive in a timely manner. We have recently amended our Bylaws to reflect a two week time frame for all mandatory fund drives. Penalty will be enforced.*
 7. *Discuss how NEC can help your chapter (if any):*
 - *Get things done, turn projects into fruition. Update our chapter quarterly through chapter president of the development of projects. NEC will help us see reasons why local members need to contribute to future projects. Show us where and how the money is invested and we will contribute more*
 - *NEC will serve as a listening and advisory tool to our chapter when it goes rogue.*

What are your plans for next year?

1. *Discuss what you can do to be a better chapter.*
 - *Cooperation, commitment and sacrifice of every SobaMinnesota member to supporting our cause and that of SobaAmerica as well to better our lives and that of Sasse.*
 - *The 75th Anniversary of Sasse is in 2014 and Minnesota will be honored to welcome sobans from all over the world to this extraordinary event. With ground work already in place, and with the formation of various committees to handle*

various elements of this event, Soba MN is committed to working tirelessly starting now to make sure that this event is a success.

2. *Share your ideas (discuss ways) that SOBA America can improve & grow:*
 - *SOBA America needs to be creative in increasing its size of membership. The younger generations of sobans in the United States are not involved in soba affairs. Methods like reaching out, reduced fees, post of responsibility, redesigning our website to portray all classes from 1939-present, etc. can help increase or attract sobans from all over the States.*

Prepared by: Kinsley Ayangim

Date: 5/23/13

6. Washington DC Chapter

(Curled from audio recording)

Presented by Akeng Tiku

I want to share with you today what we have been able to achieve this year.

We started the year with a Pah Ngando Life Time Achievement Award. We did not only want to recognize Pah Ngando but we want to create a SOBAN atmosphere where we could reach the younger generations. We had a huge representation of those various generations in Pah's event.

The second was that we partnered with senior Sobans or member Catholic community back home so when ever they in the DC area for fundraising efforts, we are there to support and represent them. We had the Cardinal Tumi event. We book some of his books,

Last week we had Archbishop Cornelius Esua visit to the area and we made sure we showed up and represented SOBA America. These events are very common in the DC chapter. And we continue to push that because by us coming out to these events, we able to meet with each other and connect especially with the senior sobans with the main long-term goal of getting these folks to attend our regular monthly meetings,

In terms of membership, the Pah Ngoando's event increased our contact list so we can reach out to more members. We have folks of the 64 class, 52 class, and i think the event increased our membership. We have about 20 active members who not only contribute to our local events, they also contribute to our national events. We brought some monies from those who couldn't make it here today.

In terms of partnership, we initiated something called collaboration between SOBANS and OPSANS. The whole idea is that we have a lot of OPSANS who are married to SOBANS and when we have events, those SOBANS are not even involved so we try to tap into their wives so they can be able to bring them out.

In conclusion, we have 3 long-term and short term goals.

DC chapter needs to open an account. We are one of the most senior chapters and we have not been able to open an account. As a result of that, there is a lot of believership because when we have fund drives, we have to then put money into personal accounts. So, I have been working with our treasurer, Mr. JJ Tayou so we can create an account for the DC chapter.

The second aspect of this is that, I have appointed senior Soban Elung to form an audit committee so that every quarter we will have an audit to account for the funds of the DC chapter. We have a lot of SOBANS in the DC metro area but a lot don't want to join because there has been a lack of transparency. The task force will comprise Junior and Senior SOBANS to help create that transparency.

Finally, in order to increase membership and participation, we have a lot of successful class meetings which hold regularly, We are reaching out to attend those class meetings and to encourage them to pay local chapter dues. If they do that, they won't have to pay DC chapter dues.

Also I want to get folks to see the bigger picture in Sasse. That although you might have attended Sasse at different times, we all used the refectory, sickbay, and same football court. We can collectively come together to get these item repaired and in good working order, then we have succeeded as SOBANS but if we hold resentment because this person trashed me or that person slapped me, then SOBA will never move forward.

So SOBA DC is alive and we will kick butt next year.

-end of scribe-

7. New England Chapter:

CHAPTER REPORT TO SOBA AMERICA

2013 New England Chapter


Fellow Sobans,

Seasonal greetings from New England Chapter. It's rather unfortunate that I am not present to be part of this very unique event and deliberation. However, we of New England have you in our hearts and prayers.

The State of our chapter like past years is strong, and vibrant despite the malice plaguing the country. Our membership has not changed much, as most of our members are still around, especially our senior Sobans who are propelling the chapter forward. Here below are the names of New England active members;

Julius Enang

President



Terence Ekwi	V. President
Celestine Fondungallah	Treasurer
Jude Mendi	Financial secretary
Norbert Kong	
Elvis Enongene	
Dr. Bill Tita	
Dr. Steve Bate	
Dr. Betrand Forteh	
Dr. Emmanuel Kunju	
Victor Kwo	
Alfred Akoachere	
Martin Abada	
Janarius Nanje	
Walters Takem	
Evarestus Ndum	
Derek Siweh	

MEETINGS:

Our monthly meetings are held every Fourth Sunday of the month to discuss issues concerning our members, as well as those that deal with the interest of Sasse College. In these meetings, annual dues are collected, as well as life insurance premiums that cover members and their families in case of death.

Our chapter witnessed the birth of a baby into the Siweh's family early this year, as well as welcomed our recent PhD holder in the house, Dr. Emmanuel Kunju. We thank them for a job well done.

Activity wise, our traditional end of year party was held in December to show our appreciation to family, friends and sympathizers for being there for us at all times. During our end of year party, members of the last executive were awarded with plaques for their meritorious services to the chapter.

FINANCIAL:

Soba New England has been consistent in paying her annual dues, and we promise to uphold that standard. In other projects, New England has paid her Sick Bay contribution to Soba National.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Last year New England Chapter donated to Sasse College a modern projector to up grade, and facilitate the standard of learning of our children and brothers in Sasse.

To conclude, Soba New England is doing well, but for fact that some Sobans are staying away from the group for personal reasons. We are working on that, and hopefully they will join the fold with time. Thank you all for listening, and we wish everyone the best of times. Long live St. Joseph's college Sasse.

Julius Enang

President New England Chapter

Announcement:

(Curled from audio recording of convention)

8. Delaware Valley Chapter

A brand New Chapter is Born: Introducing [Delaware Valley Chapter \(Pennsylvania, NJ and Delaware\)](#)

We welcome our Master Vincent Achiambo.

Thank you Mr. President. It has been hectic with us in Delaware Valley but we have decided to continue with the chapter. We are of the opinion that there is no way that the chapter can exist without being a member of the national body. We started the chapter over a year ago and we intend it to be Pennsylvania, NJ and Delaware but for now only the Delaware members are attending. We have bi monthly meetings. We meet every 3rd Sunday of the month. We have active members like Kenneth and Edwin Eyong of the Majority Rule Class, Ndikum Charles, Nathan Ndiforamang. The driving force has been one of the junior SOBANS, Edi Fru of the class of 90. I thought Biology for 90 to 98. and I see most of those student of the 90s very active in their chapter. Mr. President asked them to stand up to be recognized.

I am happy to be here. I am sorry I am talking with a lot of stress. I am a stroke survivor. One year ago, I suffered a stroke and lost my communication abilities totally and paralyzed on the right side. That is history now.

I thank members of my chapter who helped me to where I am here today.. I lived in Sasse and had three children who are all here. I lived in the former Cocombers, now it is called Monte Fobe.

-end of scribe-

SOBA America President, will call on the Advisors to try and get in touch with them. I have also been in touch with them to encourage them to be part of the national body.. They will only benefit if they join the national body.

The Delaware Valley Chapter was officially recognized as a chapter of SOBA America.

9. Houston Chapter:

(report was sent in but not read)

Chapter Report to SOBA America

Fiscal Year: June 1st __2012__ to May 31st __2013

Chapter Name: SOBA HOUSTON

Officers: *(who are your executives? what are their contact information (phone #, email))*

1. *President: Ayuk Etta*

Phone # : (832) 338-5251

Email Address:

2. *Secretary General: Tabu Bendrix*

3. *Vice President: Enow Mbei*

4. *Treasurer: Awungjia Fidelis*

5. *Publicity & Organizing secretary: Dr. Koge E. Koge*

Phone # : (757) 348-5215

Email Address:

Meetings:

Chapter meeting times: *(First Saturday of the month from 8pm until 10:00pm)*

Membership Analysis:

1. *Who are your members? (total # active 15local, 10paid National and 32 inactive)*
2. *Average meeting attendance: 15*
3. *Percentage (%) change each month: 50%*
4. *How many have paid their dues: 75%*
5. *Welcome new members (including births):*

Houston is proud to have the youngest registered SOBAN Brain Fibefo (age 12) who migrated to the US from Sasse.

6. *Discuss latest news (marriages, births, death etc):*
7. *How many of your members have served or are serving SOBA America (NEC):*

Past NEC member(s):

- Kimeng Victor (former Pub Sec.)

Current NEC serving members;

- Dr. Nick Enow
- Ayuk Etta
- Elvis Mukete
- Dan Mofor
- Enow Mbei

Financials:

1. *Annual Dues paid:*
2. *President's Club members: Dr. Nick Enow*
3. *How do you generate funds:*
 - *SOBA Houston generates its funds through membership fees. Our previous efforts to raise funds through parties were unsuccessful. This year we will organize a fund raiser within select group of guests and ourselves.*

Chapter Problems

SOBA Houston continues to suffer financially. We have not been able to host our annual fund raiser parties due to lack of funding and poor attendance from the Houston community.

Regarding the registration dilemma for the 2012-2013 year, we would like to ascertain what the status our members will be categorized under, since NEC endures responsibility for not communicating to the general assembly chapter registration status until April 2013. Although we also accept responsibility for not being able to provide our records, we ask the GA to support the extension of full benefits to all Houston members in question, who will pay their due before the cut of date for the year 2013-2014.

Prepared by: Ayuk E. Etta

Date: 05/25/2013

Financial Report:

Report prepared by Alain Taku, Treasurer and Amadeus Dzekeze, Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary gave a report of our financial status.

(This presentation will be on a separate sheet due to the confidentiality of the report)

Highlights:

The financial Secretary joined the President Club.

\$1200 was sent to Sasse for the Scholarship Award.

\$10,000 was paid for our share of the sick bay project.

Discussion:

There is a lot of money in our balance sheet of the President Funds and as I can see we have a return of just 52 cents. We can do better.. A financial committee needs to look at where we put our money. We need to get better return than the 52 cents we are getting. There are money market accounts especially if we are not using the money regularly we can put it somewhere we can get a better return.

Presentation:

[SAJOSCOL Investment Club:](#)

Presenter: Mike Fondungallah

Dr. Enow had come up with this idea when I was President in the 90s and early 2000. We decided to through with this idea in Minnesota. For 2 to 3 years we ran an investment club and the idea is to take this to national. The concept is to go away from the traditional njangi that we have been doing. In njangi we contribute 100 and when your turn is due they give you 1000. It is like putting your money under the mattress. So we decided to borrow from the njangi idea.

Each month we collect 100 every month but we don't disburse it. We put it in a Savings Account, grow it to about \$10,000 to \$200000. We then go into a mutual fund or some other some investment and take that 20000 into it. Every month, as we continue to collect one \$100, we keep buying into the mutual funds.. The returns continue to be plowed back into the investment. Then say about 5 years, we sick back and decide what we want to do with it. We could distribute the dividend for Christmas money. Before you know it, after 5 years, your investment would have grown to say \$6000 in savings. We all know how difficult it is to say money in this country. You put money in your saving account and if somebody dies in Cameroon, you go there and take it. So this investment club is a good way for SOBANS to invest. You put money in the investment and grow it.

My proposal is that we invest for 5 years and then were evaluate. Do we want to continue or do we want to disburse some dividends.

The way we did it in Minnesota for 3 years is exactly what I have described to you. We decided to distribute the money. Everybody received about 3 to 4 years, got about 3 to 4000. You can take a trip to Cameroon. You can do a lot with 4000 in Cameroon.

Although SAJOSCOL has ended in Minnesota, I kept the account open. So, SOJOSCOL is registered, it has an ID from the state and federal government. At the end of the year we receive a K1 form (a profit/loss statement) that we use to file our taxes. We will elect a board which will comprise a president, a treasurer and a Secretary General to record our meeting). We will have monthly meetings via conference call. We will have a bank account where you can deposit money every month. We already have an eGroup (SAJOSCOL investment group) so when you join, you will be added to this group.

Twice a year we will meet with our financial advisor to see how we are doing and if we need to shake the pot and move things around to see if we can get more from other investments.

It is a wonderful concept. If we had started this thing since Dr Enow proposed this idea, we would have got a lot more back.

The State of Soba America

Presented by National President Mr. Beltus Ntopi

Mr. Vice President, Members of the National Executive Committee,

Fellow Sobans:

Let me first of all take this opportunity to officially welcome you all to the great lakes state of Michigan, for our 2013 annual convention hosted by the Tri State Chapter. This is the very first time in the long history of conventions that the Detroit area is hosting this occasion and I feel very delighted about this. Allow me to seize this opportunity to very sincerely salute President Emmanuel Vekima and all the members of the Tri State Region for their tireless efforts in putting this august occasion together. Folks, let's give them a thunderous round of applause.

Twenty three years ago, in 1990 to be exact, some striving Cameroonians sat in an apartment in Maryland discussing the state of Cameroonians in America, and the issues they faced with the different traditional groups that existed then. After a very contentious debate, the Sobans present there realized that they could be more productive in their zeal to help the community as Sobans instead of getting involved with issues that will hardly be resolved by people who had nothing in common with them. They had one thing in common: SASSE COLLEGE . Not too long after that, Messrs Quintus Enow, Larry Ekane, Daniel Morfaw, Nicholas Enow, Evaristus Enongene and some few others decided to start what is known today as the most admired Association of Cameroonians in the world. And thus Soba America was formed to ensure that the current students in Sasse will always have a better welfare than what their predecessors had and Sobans all over the world will be united to help each other as Sasse Old Boys.

Today, due to our symbiotic relationship, that vision is still alive, and thanks to the indomitable spirit and determination of all Sobans in America, the state of our association is stronger and there is much progress to report.

Let me also seize this opportunity to congratulate our newly elected chapter Presidents and members of the National Executive Committee, Dr Harry Akoh Asana from Soba Georgia and Mr Julius Enang from Soba New England. These two gentlemen are outstanding leaders who will do great work in serving our association. A round of applause for them please.....

Before I report to you our state of affairs, please join me in observing a minute of silence in honor of all the Sobans and Soban family members who have left us for the world beyond in the course of the last fiscal year.

As we gather in Detroit this weekend in continuation of what has become a beautiful tradition of fellowship and brotherhood, We are also paying homage to our great alma mater, St Joseph's College Sasse, where academic excellence, intellectual development, philanthropy, community service, leadership development and lasting friendships were formed.

As I mentioned last year in Phoenix, the primary objective of this reunion is to re-dedicate ourselves to creating an enduring fraternity which encourages the sharing of traditions and values, respect for oneself and others, and responsibility towards Sasse College and the larger community.

So far, we have made giant strides and over the last 2 years we have worked extremely hard, and can say with renewed confidence that the state of Soba America is stronger than ever before.

One of the most important accomplishments of the past two years is the excellent cooperation that now exists between chapter presidents and the National Executive Committee. We must never minimize the importance of our chapters because Soba America will not reach its heights without them. The Presidents have run their chapters with exceptional leadership, and I am very proud of all of them. It is not abnormal for chapters to have its challenges, but the presidents have skillfully handled them with great resolve. Thank you to all chapter presidents.

Our goal to launch new chapters took me all the way to Montreal to re-launch Soba Canada in general and Soba Montreal in particular. It was a grand ceremony presided over by their able president Dr Aloys Ibeagha who is here with us today.

In collaboration with the Executive of Soba Canada, We recently decided that it will be much easier for provinces in Canada to create chapters under Soba America since we are one body, so: effective immediately the name Soba Canada will not be used. Just like other states here in the USA, we will be forming new chapters and our goal is to get Soba Toronto and North Carolina launched by next convention.

After years of talking about it, we are finally proud to announce that we now have our own life insurance coverage. If you are not aware of how to enroll, please contact your chapter president or the National president for all the information you need to get started. Special thanks to Mr Quintus Enow for his leadership in bringing this to fruition.

Our financial house is in perfect order. We are proud of a balance of \$47k in both of our accounts to date. The financial Secretary will give you more details in his presentation. Due to the current demands of our non profit status, we have revamped our reporting standards to meet the guidelines of the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. We thank Pierre Kamga, Elvis Mukete & Akeing Tiku for their contribution in making this come true.

In order to motivate the current students of St Joseph's College Sasse, and maintain the highest scores in the GCE Ordinary and Advanced levels, we disbursed our yearly scholarship award of about 700,000 FCFA to recognize outstanding students this May during the annual prize giving ceremony.

Soba America has launched a scholarship fund to help sponsor orphan kids through our prestigious alma mater. The members of the SASF committee have worked relentlessly to put all the relevant structures in place in order to make this fund a success. This fund relies on the support and generosity of corporate, individual and Soban donors. I should emphasize that this fund has a non-profit status hence all donations made to it are tax-deductible. I am proud to announce that the first beneficiaries of the SASF will attend Sasse College beginning September 2013. Please visit the SASF web page at www.Sasfund.org to learn more about the marvelous job that Soba America is doing to assist our orphan kids back home. You may also "like" the fund on Facebook.

Members of Soba America have continuously benefitted from the largesse of other Sobans especially in moments of hardship, sickness and bereavement through fund drives. As has been mentioned multiple times on our forum, it is a Soban way or spirit to rally around one of ours whenever the need arises. Let us continue to be our brother's keeper.

One of the goals set at the beginning of my administration was to work on bringing new members to our organization. This has been a very challenging task but we have made enormous progress and this is evidenced by the fact that Soba America's membership has witnessed significant growth especially of younger Sobans. There is still much work to be done.

Worthy of note is the fact that we now have our contribution in place for the sick bay completion. We shall be sending out the funds as soon as our contingencies are met. Once notified that all the requirements have been met, we will immediately send the monies to the Bishop's office.

We have also seen a significant increase in the President's club membership with 8 new members in this fiscal year. I would like to recognize the new members and thank them for their support and trust in our vision. Please a round of applause to Messrs Aldrin Ngwa, Michael Fondungallah, Larry Ekane, Alphonse Ekole, Tony Atabong, Evaristus Enongene, Frank Abange and Beltus Ntopi

Finally, for those who wondered what the roles of some executive positions are and who suggested we make it clear what we do in our respective positions to smoothly run this organization, your questions have been answered. We have now prepared a detailed job description for all executive members and these will take effect immediately and you will have the opportunity to evaluate our performance.

Proposals

As you all know, Sasse College will be turning 75 next year and plans for a very big celebration are ongoing. Due to our intervention, the event has been moved from March 2014 to December 2014

since it is the most convenient time of the year. The question that lingers is what should Soba America present to Sasse College as a significant gift. I am proposing the already approved multi purpose sports complex as our anniversary gift. When approved, we shall get it ready sometime in November 2014 and cut the ribbon during the celebrations.

My next proposal is in regards to our website. Mr Martin Abada has devoted a lot of his personal time to this website and we are extremely grateful for the work he has done so far. I want to propose that we spend at least \$500 to pay a professional web builder to revamp the site with the current content and more upon request. I hereby ask the general assembly to approve this onetime expense.

CHALLENGES

One of the biggest challenges facing Soba America is the slow growth in its membership. This is unfortunate especially given what obtains with individual class groups. The rise in class group membership has not been commensurate with that of Soba America. There are many Sobans out there who have pledged a stronger allegiance to the class groups than they will ever do to Soba America. Our objective in this regard is to seek for ways to bring these folks to our larger Soba family. President Akeing Tiku of the DC chapter has already highlighted one of the solutions to this challenge in his chapter report. A Soba America that truly reflects the numerical presence of Sasse Old Boys in America will bring many advantages to both the association and its members.

CONCLUSION

My dear Soban brothers, as you enjoy the sights and sounds of the great state of Michigan, please stay safe and respect all local laws. As has been our tradition, I urge you to continue to demonstrate that sense of unity, brotherhood and progress that Sobans the world over are noted to do. Let us continue to be our brother's keeper. In the words of Martin Luther King "we may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now".

Being an election convention, I also want to encourage each and every convention attendee to vote their conscience while placing the general well-being of our association above that of individual candidates, for the votes we cast today will affect our association for years to come.

I leave you with the words of Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

Long Live Sasse College

Long live Soba

Long live Soba America

Thank You, thank you thank you very much.....

Matters Arising:

Question and Answer:

Q: Can you clarify SOBA Canada and SOBA Montreal?

Ans:

SOBA Canada was created was formed in 1994. At that time we were a separate organization. There was also SOBA USA, another separate entity. Later on at a convention you all agreed to form one organization to incorporate Canada and thus SOBA America was born. SOBA Canada is a member of SOBA America.

The idea of SOBA Canada is to group other groups in Calgary, Toronto, and Edmonton. It limited us in what we can achieve in Montreal. We can be incorporate, finance certain aspects, and be recognized by the government of Canada. We could get tax clearance, donations from other organizations. So because we can't get these other areas to join us, we decided we should just organize ourselves as SOBA Montreal.

What I am doing right now as the President is to start a drive so we can have SOBA Calgary, SOBA Toronto, SOBA Ottawa, SOBA Edmonton. If we have things like this then we can have a greater SOBA family.

An observation by Mr. Paul Ayah:

There a lack of professionalism in the way we run our convention. When people come from all over to attend a convention, we want to project something that show some professionalism. The way we have run the convention today has been characterized by improvisation. I think that we should SOBA America convention the weight that it deserves. First we started about 2 hours late, then we find ourselves rushing. When we meet we must try to start on time so that we have enough time for deliberations so that when we go back home, we are fully confident that our time was well spent.

Secondly, the handouts especially the agenda give the impression that it was done this morning. I look to a pamphlet that will have all the agenda, deliberation, and reports so when you take it home, those who were no able to attend can have a keepsake.

I believe that in the background the executives are doing an excellent job, I just want that when we come for convention we project a more professional image both in our handouts and in the way we conduct ourselves.

Another member seconded Mr. Ayah. He remembered that when he was in Sasse, Pah Ngando used to bring convention booklet from SOBA USA and habit out to them. The students were excited to receive it.

Response by the President

We had handouts when we go to Arizona, we had a booklet. Sometimes some chapters like to do things a little different. Some don't want national interfering too much.

We will take your concerns into consideration and do better. Now that we will be going to Minnesota, that is a well established chapter, you will definitely see improvements.

Observations: Dr. Enow

Last year I brought this issue that we provide a camera for the Secretary. I see him here today with the same camera that he had last year. What is the story?

Response by Mr. President

Mr. President said he had authorized that the treasurer buy a camera for the association.

Resolutions:

None

Next Convention Venue:

Our next convention will take place in **Minnesota**

Mini Convention Venue:

National Executive meeting will hold in Dallas in November 2013.

Elections:

Mr. President stated that he want the GA to give his team 2 more years to finish what they have started. In other to have continuity, the President will be talking to chapter president and future leaders after the convention to prepare them for taking over the association so they can continue to keep us strong.

The Organizing Secretary and Publicity Secretary are not here today, so we will need to fill does positions.

The electoral committee members were elected and seated to conduct the election.

The results were as follow:

President: Beltus Ntopi (ran unopposed)

Vice President: Dr. Kevin Nana (ran unopposed)

Financial Secretary: Amadeus Dzikedze (ran unopposed)

Treasurer: Alain Taku (ran unopposed)

Secretary General: Martin Abada (ran unopposed)

Organizing Secretary: Devine Tange

Publicity Secretary: Fidelis Chibili Nkeze

Dinner

Attendance 2013 Michigan Convention

Sat May 25th 2013

	Name	Email or Phone #
①	Martini Abada	617 290 8417
②	ALOYS Ibeagha	514-577-7810 - aloykor@yahoo.com
③	Paul Ayah	514-573-9876 paulayah@hotmail.com
④	Vincent Achiambo	902-230-6769 vachianb@hotmail.com
⑤	Felix Ngassa	517-648-2775 ngassaf@gvsu.edu
⑥	Emile Epanfy	301 523-7098 emile21_2000@yahoo.com
⑦	William Mpafe	443 416 6081 williammpafe@hotmail.com
⑧	Sullivan Ade	732 898 7918 sullidad4me@yahoo.com
9	Amadeus Dzekedze	612 382 1101 dadamih@yahoo.com
⑩	Thom Mamba	289 240 4274 thom.mamba@rogers.com
11	Larry ElCaney	301 442 7176 - Lmetuge@gmail.com
12	Quintus Enow	678-777-3574 kekuk13@yahoo.com
13	Steve Ndely	612-387-7817 ndely.mola.steve@gmail.com
14	DAN MOFOR	(713) 983-8367 dmoforescomcast.net
15	Kevin Nana Njabe	310-405-3390 Kynjenko@hotmail.com
16	Alain A. Taku	(520) 982-6455 alaintaku@msn.com
17	Rothman Foncham	248 974 5372 RothmanF91@gmail.com
18	Fritz Mlaone	773-727-3765 fritz0mm2@yahoo.com
19	Evaristus Sengene	840 353 8449: etabange@yahoo.fr
20	Henry Nile	248 587 6922 henryie4@yahoo.com
21	Koge Ejedepang-Koge	757-348-5215 Kkoge32@msn.com
22	Vekima, Emmanuel	(734) 507 9191
23	Nicholas Enow	713-922-9220 n_enowe@yahoo.com
24	Michael Fondungaki	651 235 9451 mfondungaki@fordlu.com
25	Frank Abange	215 804 7246 fabange75@yahoo.com
26	TONY ATABONG	816 304 1858 tatabongtikoboy1@yahoo.com
27	Justus BETAH	361 379 2561 ttabetangu@yahoo.com
28	Roland Fonjong	240 498 0186 rolfon2001@yahoo.com

(2)

	Name	Phone # or Email	Comments
29	Fidelis Chibili Nkeze	206-353-7617 FNKEZE@	comcast.net
30	Divine Tang	240-277-9660 divato1@	epix.com
31	Akoko, Asana	678-849-2477 revasana@hotmail	
32	Aldrin Ngwa	(301) 890 2718 aldrinf@yahoo.com	
33	Jean Jacques Tayou	703 946 7898 lajjacques@yahoo.com	
34	Henry Simo	405-812-1227 Halband68@	yahoo.com
36	Aking Tiku	301-455-8171 Akinghau@	epix.com
37	Ernest Lawellem	612 322 6604 eguellem@hotmail.com	
38	Wacka Louis	202-705-4418 Louis_Wacka@	yahoo.com
39	Geddy Chongag	313-414-3666 gchongag@	yahoo.com
40	Alphonse Ekole Mb	848 377 2674 alphonse@	epix.com
41	Kinsley Ayangim	651 278 9560 daddyking2013@	yahoo.com
42	Georges Louis BIKAI	248 462 2138 BIKAIL@	yahoo.com
43	STEPHEN EME	330 990 4663	
44	Christian Tufon	770 617 8329	
45	Pikari Nnoko	220-678-719-1325	
46	Cletus Ayuk	240-438-0769	

End of scribe

Compiled by Martin Abada
 Secretary General
 SOBA America
 Lynn, Mass
 6/28/13

- End of scribe-