



College of West Africa Global Alumni Association

"Connected across the globe by our common goal - assisting and uplifting CWA, our beloved alma mater!"

CWA Global AA Annual Business Meeting –Saturday June 7, 2025

Location: Virtual, via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by the Chair of the Board, Mrs. Verlyn Chesson Porte, at 12:05 p.m. EST. The following Board of Directors and Managing Officers were in attendance:

Board of Directors:

Chair – Verlyn Chesson Porte
Vice Chair - Jurudoe Harris Martin
Secretary – Audrey Perry
Chief Financial Officer – Henri Wilson
President – James Weeks

Board Members

Elijah Wreh
Albertine Kemoh
Michael Padmore
Wante Clarke
Kparteh Jackson

Managing officers

Barbara Darby, Vice President
Sayngee Weeks, Secretary
Penny Koffa Clarke, Parliamentarian
Lord Tuan Seyon, Treasurer
Rev. Sara J. Fitzjohn, Chaplain

Meeting Minutes

Opening Prayer: Rev. Fitzjohn

Sec. Audrey Perry conducted roll call of the Board of Directors and Managing Officers. A motion to accept minute was made and seconded.



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1. Report and Updates

A) President Report:

CWA Projects and Fund Updates

- President Weeks highlighted the completion of the 3,000-gallon water tank project and the installation of water and sewer lines at CWA.
- He thanked Eugene and Rosa Bull for their generous contributions toward these initiatives.
- He reported that the Southeast Pack had selected the kitchen renovation as its designated project.
- He provided an update on the establishment of the College of West Africa Global Endowment Fund, noting that it was launched with an initial deposit of \$60,000 and has a goal of raising \$2 million over the next 10 years.
- He expressed appreciation to Isatu Cheeks and Milton Weeks for their dedication and contributions.

Pack Fundraising and Project Updates

- Mr. Weeks reported that the Northeast Pack held three fundraising events and raised approximately \$10,700.
- He noted that the Southeast Pack raised \$6,600 through one fundraising event.
- He further reported that the Midwest Pack raised \$2,100 in April 2024.
- He stated that the Liberia Pack remains in the planning stages.
- He commended the Media Committee for its efforts in coordinating global communications and thanked members for their commitment and dedication.
- Mr. Pelenah raised concerns regarding the water tower project and suggested exploring alternative technologies to provide the school with a more reliable and cost-effective water supply.

B) Financial Report:

- Lord Tuan Seyon, Treasurer, presented the 2024 and 2025 financial reports, outlining cash balances, expenditures, and budget projections for 2026.
- He highlighted proposed initiatives, including the launch of a global online store, library renovations, computer upgrades, and professional development opportunities for faculty.



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Auditorium and School Facility Updates

- Mr. Weeks informed the Board that the Class of 1977 donated \$10,000 toward a project at Hardy Matthews School, with the instruments expected to be delivered within 60 days.
- Fianu Gbedema sought clarification regarding the \$3,000 allocation for solar maintenance, and President Weeks explained that it formed part of the school's general maintenance expenses.
- The Board discussed the importance of conducting periodic assessments of school facilities.
- President Weeks and Chair Mrs. Porte confirmed that facility assessments are conducted regularly.
- Christopher Tukupah raised concerns that the presentation of revenue less expenses in the financial report could be misleading.
- Treasurer Seyon, agreed to revise the financial report to provide greater clarity on the figures presented.

CWA Financial and Operational Challenges

- President Weeks explained that CWA continues to face financial constraints due to a tuition deficit and limited resources.
- He noted that the school's financial situation limits its ability to influence operating budgets and emphasized the importance of maintaining infrastructure and supporting the endowment fund.
- Mona Elliott inquired about income generated by the United Methodist University operating on the CWA campus.
- Mr. Weeks clarified that CWA receives no revenue from the university and stated that efforts are ongoing through the United Methodist Church (UMC) structure to regain full control of the property.
- Mr. Felix Gbee and other Board members expressed concerns regarding CWA's financial management and the need for Global's involvement in budget planning and educational functions.
- Chair Mrs. Porte noted that these concerns would be considered in the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Global and CWA.
- President Weeks confirmed that Global has representation on CWA's Board of Trustees and assured members of ongoing efforts to improve the school's operations and infrastructure.
- The Board approved the financial statements and proposed budget, subject to the Treasurer revising certain figures for improved clarity and accuracy.



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C) Other Update:

CWAGA Board Member Resignation

- Chair Ms. Porte announced her resignation from the Board while affirming her continued commitment to the CWAGAA.
- She expressed appreciation to Board members and Managing Officers for their collaboration and support over the years.

2025 Convention and Membership Updates

- Member Committee Chair, Mr. Samuel Cole presented a membership report indicating a decline in participation across packs, with only 286 active members currently engaged in CWAGA activities.
- Mr. Weeks clarified that the Social Committee, established to promote member cohesion, is not a new committee and has existed since the formation of the Northeast Pack.
- The meeting confirmed that the Social Committee was established in 2022.
- The Constitutional Committee reported updates to the constitution and bylaws, including removal of outdated language and incorporation of recent Board decisions.
- Members were reminded that annual dues of \$25 are due effective January 1, 2025.
- The Board recommended maintaining the \$25 membership dues for 2026.
- Mr. Weeks reminded members of the upcoming convention in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, scheduled for June 27–29 2025.

Future Convention Scheduling Plan

- The Board discussed implementing a biennial in-person convention schedule beginning in 2025, alternating with virtual conventions in off years.
- The selection of the 2027 convention venue was tabled until the next meeting to allow additional preparation time for all packs.

CWAGA Annual Elections and Leadership Updates

- CWAGA held its annual elections, with all candidates running unopposed.
- The newly elected Board of Directors and Managing Officers were announced.
- Ms. Jurudoe Harris Martin was confirmed as Chair.
- Mr. James Milton Weeks Jr. was confirmed as President.
- The outgoing Treasurer agreed to serve in an interim capacity until a new Treasurer is elected; however, the position remains vacant.
- The Association discussed constitutional provisions related to the Treasurer role and agreed to formalize the interim appointment process.



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- Members were encouraged to continue supporting the organization, including those unable to attend in person.

72 participants attended the meeting

Rev. Fitzjohn closed the meeting in prayer. The Chair thanked the membership and adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m. EST