



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 First Business Meeting – Sunday February 28, 2021 – Virtual meeting via Zoom

Chair Verlyn Chesson Porte started the Meeting at 2:04 pm with **49 in attendance**

Chaplain Rev. Sara J. Fitzjohn said opening prayers

Self-Introductions by Board of Directors

Chair – Verlyn Chesson Porte

Vice Chair – A. Mambu Freeman

Secretary – Jurudoe Harris Martin

Chief Financial Officer – not present

Board Members

Sam Hare

Lynnette Mends-Cole

Deontee King- Sackee

Daubeny B. Cooper III

Larry Moore

Elijah Wreh

Self-Introductions by Managing Officers

President – James Weeks

Vice President – Barbara Darby

Secretary – Sayngee Weeks

Treasurer – Lord Tuan Sayon

Chaplain - Rev. Sara J. Fitzjohn

Parliamentarian – Penny Koffa Clarke

Chair spoke to how we will be governed and encouraged everyone to be engaged and stressed that Global will be focused on Education, Environment and Expansion of CWA

98 persons in attendance

President spoke about the completed projects by classes

Class of 1971* Smart TV's/Scholarships/Teaching Excellence Award \$5,755.00

Class of 1974* New 13.5 kVA generator with maintenance \$8,100.00

Class of 1975* 33 ceiling fans and electrical wiring \$3,026.10

Class of 1976** 5.0 kVA generator with maintenance \$2,000.00

Class of 1978** Painting/Roof repair \$2,000.00



College of West Africa Global Alumni Association

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

Class of 1979* Generator repair and 125 chairs \$2,525.00

Class of 1980** Roof repair or chairs \$2,000.00

Class of 2005** Renovation of student bathrooms on hold

VP suggested that classes should join together to complete projects.

Treasurer

- Displayed a preview of convention expenses and income (not completed)
- Packages and Raffle – March 15 deadline with raffle drawing on March 18.
- Expenses for February 2 to 27 \$8644

Timeline of Financial Report

- Financial report will be sent out as soon as final reports are given to the CFO
- CFO Tamba Mayah-Introduced himself

Chair deferred to President to discuss next steps

- As of Friday – The 501c3 designation has not been received. The application was submitted on Jan. 2, 2021.
- Team was hopeful that designation would have been received by now.
- Dr. Curtis informed the body that a form 1023 EZ was filed for the 501c3 based on:
Do you project that you will have more than 50k in first 3 months? We had answered No.

However, based on the success of this weekend we have a very good problem. The question was proposed at time of application which was answered truthfully. As of Friday, the IRS is processing December's applications. Anticipate receiving designation by April. Once received we will move to amend.

Per Chair - BOD first meeting will be on or before March 13.

Per President, the Managing Officers have established WhatsApp chat and will meet by March 15.

105 in Attendance

President continued

Per elections survey the number 1 project is the roof.

We currently have 3 estimates and are awaiting the fourth.

Voting rights – Chair read from section 3.2 of the by laws

- Given this is our first meeting as an organization and have not established dues we need to determine what do we consider good financial standing



College of West Africa Global Alumni Association

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

Floor opened for discussion:

Penny Koffa Clarke– We should discuss how much to pay for dues

William Hare – Same thing

Aurelius Weeks– lets discuss what the dues should be, lets start with what the survey says

Sayngee Weeks– per survey majority voted for \$60

Penny – \$100 and \$150 were the other options

Tamba Mayah– We should not be voting on dues

Chair – per by laws we need to decide now

Discussion moved to tax exempt status:

Per Dr. Curtis - We are not tax exempt at this time. Not until we receive the 501c3 designation.

Wedde Dennis - pointed out that not all can afford dues.

Mambu Freeman– 90% of registered voters selected \$60. We should look into going below that amount

Seward Cooper– On voters' eligibility – everyone on the call should be eligible to vote because it's our inaugural meeting. Also suggested that we go with the amount from the survey

Chair – lets discuss eligibility

Penny – per constitution need to vote to establish dues

Aurelia – agreed with Seward that everyone on the call who attended or graduated from CWA should be eligible to vote.

109 on the call

Lynette Mends-Cole– Suggested \$50 dues

Chair - Suggested to focus on eligibility to vote and dues will be determined after.

William Hare – registered should be allowed to vote

Rev. Charles Boayue – we are all saying the same thing. He made a motion

'that all on this inaugural call be eligible to vote'

Angelique Cooper – Seconded

VP suggested that in order to identify everyone, all need to rename their zoom handle to their first name last name and class.

President suggested that if not identifiable should be dropped from call

Chair give everyone 1 minute to rename and suggested that VP can rename for you

Motion was made again by Rev. Boayue and seconded by Audrey Watkins Solomon

Chair asked all opposed to please state name in chat. At 3:36 everyone was given a minute to respond. As of 3:37 there were no names in chat.

Motion passed unanimously!



College of West Africa Global Alumni Association

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

Chair read the excerpt from the by laws about dues.

Regular

Silver – 2 times Regular

Gold – 2 times silver

Diamond - 2 times Gold

Lifetime – Lump sum of 10k

The discussion is to decide on how much to pay for regular dues.

Felix Gbee – moved to adopt \$60

Christine Weeks – we should consider \$50

William Hare – \$60 was the lowest amount on the Survey. We should not make the dues too high

VP – we should take another look at the amounts

Aurelius Weeks – people who bought packages should be considered paid in full for dues this year.

Also suggested that resent graduating classes should have special amounts – lower amounts.

Spencer Moore – Dues should not be the only financial resource for the org. Make dues as low as possible to be more inclusive.

Kaymah Sherman Knuckles – keep the \$60 and work on the tiers

Sam Cole– find a way to have the \$60 paid over 12 months

Chair – asked for any further discussions

Eugene Bull – go lower than \$60 to allow for more inclusivity

Aurelia – Move to amend to \$25 annual dues for this our inaugural year. Be considered a good member in standing (eligible to vote) if you purchased a package

New motion to adapt the \$25 – 2nd by Aurelius Weeks

Chair put the motion to a vote

111 in Attendance

7 opposed; 1 abstained

Motion was carried

\$25 for regular membership dues, all members who purchased packages and or donated are considered members in good standing for this inaugural year.

Daubeny Cooper asked if this was per annum and did not change tier membership. Chair said yes

President – tier membership is different

Regular - \$25

Silver - \$250

Gold - \$500

Diamond - \$1000

Lifetime – 10K



College of West Africa Global Alumni Association

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

Kaymah Sherman Knuckles suggested that we discuss the tiers.

Chair suggested that this will be another topic to bring to the body at another meeting.

Mambu Freeman - asked what the fiscal year is

Dr. Curtis – The calendar year is CWA Global's fiscal year. Donations should be tax deductible because members do not receive benefits

Lauretta Reffel Beard emphasized that tiers are based on current dues

Estrada Bernard noted that CWA global is not yet tax exempt

Chair explained that we had already covered that concern

Ngawa White – Should donations be made AFTER the tax-exempt status is attained?

Dr. Curtis - Contributions are deductible in the year they are made.

CFO will check to see if dues are eligible for tax exemption. Need to get clarity about our institution being in a foreign land.

MP Weeks reiterated same issue about contributions before attainment of tax-exempt status

Aurelius suggested that packages purchased be linked to dues tiers

Yvonne Itoka Hne– Dues are for standard members only. We're under estimating. We need to stop making it hard for people to give.

Per Chair Tiers are not up for discussion

Felix Gbee– On behalf of class of 94 recommendations

1. Recommend that CWAGlobalAA have a seat on the board of CWA
2. Each class have a liaison on the global org. Information flowed to classes during representation on transition team.
3. Class of 94 had announced that they were going to do chairs, but after learning that another class had undertaken that task, they decided on the teacher's lounge.
4. Painting the exterior of the school is a personal but will be done in Class' name
5. Please visit the class website raceofwisdom.org
6. They have established a scholarship fund. Please visit and support

Mildred Cooper Reeves – The defacto president of the CWA Board will let the board know that Global would like a seat on the board

Classes should please liaise with Global, and not do projects alone, lets not duplicate efforts

Audrey Watkins Solomon– The dues are too low

Mambu Freeman– we need a coordinator from BOD or Managing Officers



College of West Africa Global Alumni Association

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

President – Already being done. Encouraging classes to go thru Global. The outstanding projects list is being updated

Monroe Weeks– we have never seen this type of organization before. Classes should go thru global.
Penny Koffa Clarke– please read the documents...it's all there

Rev. Charles Boayue brought greetings from Grosse Point United Methodist Church. They extended thanks and look forward to partnering with Global.

106 persons in attendance

Chair ended the meeting.

Brightly Beams was sung by Monroe Weeks

Chaplain closed in prayer – 'Let CWA be a Beacon of light for Education in Liberia'

4:51 Meeting adjourned

-