



Sierra Leone Association of Alberta (SLAA)

Community Multi-purpose Centre
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SLAA General Meeting – December 16, 2023

Minutes

Attendees: 17 Accounts

	Agenda	Description	Action Items/Decisions
1	Welcome & Call to Order	Dr. Abu Conteh called the meeting to order, welcomed, and thanked all members in attendance for their time, and efforts to attend and participate in the meeting.	Requested: Consent of members to record the meeting. Decision: Request approved.
2	Opening Prayers	Mr. Osman Bangura (Osboy) led the meeting attendees in prayer. (Muslim Prayer)	
	Presidential Annual Report	<p>Dr. Abu Conteh expressed that this section of the Annual General Meeting is to give update on what he and his executive have achieved in the year. To do the evaluation, He would like to tag his report to the 14 points platform that he promised the SLAA community when he took over leadership of the community.</p> <p>Census: Census was completed. Dr. Conteh added that we do have new members in the community and new members will keep joining the community. Therefore, this list needs to be updated. Hopefully, by next year the next executive will conduct a census and do so.</p> <p>Hall Acquisition: This hall was acquired. Now, the community has a multi-purpose hall that it can call its own.</p>	<p>Requested: Dr. Conteh requested if there were any more questions or comments after Alimamy. No one spoke so the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.</p> <p>.</p>

		<p>Consular Service: Dr. Conteh expressed that he promised that he and the team would reach out to government and relevant authority so we can have the recognition and consular service close to the community. He had reached out to the diaspora coordinator to follow up on this promise, and he has been informed that there is a consular service, and a letter of recognition has been sent to us.</p> <p>Social Cultural and Religious Projects: Community Christmas celebration has been established. Community members receive gifts, and we celebrate.</p> <p>Independence anniversary is celebrated. Dignitaries from the municipal and provincial governments are invited to join us. Other dignitaries are also invited.</p> <p>Community picnic is being organized yearly with multiple events for community members, and it has been successful.</p> <p>SLAA Annual Ramadan Iftar: This is organized yearly for the muslim community.</p> <p>Skilled Worker Project: Plan is to get sponsorship holder agreement. The committee handling this has not been able to complete this. There are still some work remaining. Dr. Conteh added that this is one of the platforms point he will focus on before the end of his term.</p> <p>Networking with Sierra Leoneans in other Provinces: Dr. Conteh has been networking with sister organizations in Winnipeg and other provinces.</p>	
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	<p>Linking (New) Sierra Leoneans to available resources: Dr. Conteh pointed out that this platform point was quite important especially during the COVID pandemic. He and his executive acquired funds that he was able to support the community with goodies, sanitary products, and helping community members with employment readiness.</p> <p>Networking with Various Levels of Government: This was achieved, and Dr. Conteh and his team have been linking up with municipal, provincial and federal governments to know the ropes and to acquire grants. Which has been very successful.</p> <p>Values Project: This project is to sensitize and demonstrate best practices in a community. Community panel discussion on topical issues was introduced. This has happened two times and Dr. Conteh's expectation is that the committee will continue and build up on what has been started.</p> <p>Awards: This is to recognize the effort of community members. We have been receiving various awards as a community. To name a few, from Afro Canadian Magazine, Edmonton Multicultural Coalition. Dr. Conteh and his executive will be planning an award event so volunteer and hardworking members in our community will be recognized.</p> <p>Newsletter and Website: The consultant has been presenting to the community as he develops the website. The website will be ready to launch soon. As for the newsletter, the committee has been working diligently, and it will launch soon.</p> <p>Education Foundation: Dr. Conteh and his team have been promoting various levels of education. One way this has been achieved it by motivating the youth in our community.</p>	
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	<p>Programs like Brain of SLAA was introduced, and this was very successful. In addition to this. A mentorship program was established, computers were given to children in the community (that attend the program), and they were able to go to field trips. A project was coordinated where elders in the community teach our children about our cultures and traditions, and this has been successful.</p> <p>Support for Seniors: A successful seniors' program has been established. Initially lead by Mr. John Elliot and now Mrs. Theresa. Seniors were supplied with computers; computer literacy program was done for the seniors. With the NHSP grant, gift card distribution was done. Social activities like bingo, going out to eat and celebrate holidays are all being done. Grand Parents Day being celebrated.</p> <p>Vehicle Acquisition: Vehicle was acquired. 50 percent of the grant was acquired from the Alberta government, and the other 50 percent was acquired from the Federal government. Vice President running this project. There are still some logistics to cover, but the vehicle is there, and it is the property of SLAA.</p> <p>In conclusion, the only project that will need some more work to complete will be the skilled worker project. All other projects have been covered with some being ongoing projects. In addition, the awards ceremony will be done soon and community member will be recognized.</p> <p>Alimamy Conteh commended Dr. Conteh and his executive for their hard work. He asked how many Sierra Leoneans we have in our community based on the census result. He added that Dr. Conteh mentioned linking SLAA with other Sierra Leoneans out</p>	
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		<p>of Alberta, but he did not mention New Brunswick, where Alimamy migrated from. Alimamy encouraged Dr. Conteh not to forget about New Brunswick.</p> <p>Dr. Conteh replied that the Census is not a true reflection of the total numbers of Sierra Leoneans during the time it was conducted as there were community members that refused to participate. Dr. Conteh added that he will encourage his successor to conduct another one. He also added that he has been networking with Sierra Leoneans in New Brunswick.</p>	
3	<p>Annual Financial Report</p> <p>Presentation and Adoption</p>	<p>Mr. Elliot presented the financial statement He added that the board has reviewed the statement, and it was for the community to approve and adopt after his presentation, then SLAA will file tax. Mr. Elliot read the auditor's confirmation to the community and then proceeded to read the rest of the report.</p> <p>Revenue Total for year 2021: 142,175.00 Total expenses for year 2021: 117,226.47 Surplus for year 2021: 24,948.53</p> <p>During Mr. Elliot's report, he mentioned the grant fund for Anti Racism. He expressed that the remaining of the amount was returned to the funders. Dr. Conteh elaborated on the Anti Racism fund that was returned to the funders. He expressed that SLAA was the fiscal agent and collaborated with other organizations. He inherited this program from his predecessor. The organizations could not complete the program due to the COVID pandemic. As a result, the remaining fund had to be returned the funders.</p>	<p>Annual Financial report adopted by motion:</p> <p>Moved: Mr. Josclyn Hector Seconded: Mr. Alfred John</p> <p>All in favor and carried.</p>

		<p>Alimamy asked if the fund could not have been diverted to another project. Dr. Conteh replied that in this case, no.</p>	
4	<p>Annual Community Christmas Celebration</p>	<p>Dr. Conteh called on the committee members to present Mariama Turay reported that the Christmas celebration this year will planned for all to attend. From the seniors to children. She encouraged community members to register if they plan to attend. The 16th of December was the deadline for registration. Mariama along with Dr. Conteh added that there will be distribution of gifts, food and dance and nine lessons and carol,</p> <p>Mrs. Theresa John added that they will be in charge for Nine lessons and carol and the seniors were encouraged to register with her</p>	
5	<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>Mrs. Theresa John encouraged people that will be seniors (turning 60 years) next year to register now.</p> <p>Particia asked if someone does not register if they would be able to attend.</p> <p>Dr. Conteh replied that the committee encourage people to register to be able to receive their gifts.</p> <p>Alimamy asked if meeting dates can be published on other WhatsApp forums before the meeting to get more meeting attendees.</p> <p>Osboy added that he would do his best to do so. However, most of the members on these forums know about the meeting they just do not attend.</p> <p>Mr. Allan commended the executive and asked if there were ways that we could communicate with community members that were in Sierra Leone for vacation (due to the problem that was</p>	

		<p>going on back home). He asked that we have a system that we can communicate and check on them.</p> <p>Dr. Conteh replied that he would ask his PROs to see how this can be facilitated.</p>	
	<p>Closing</p> <p>A) Next General Meeting</p> <p>B) Adjournment</p> <p>C) Closing Prayer (Christian)</p>	<p>Dr. Conteh announced the date for the next meeting.</p> <p>Asked meeting attendees to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Mrs. Diane Hector led in closing prayer</p>	<p>Meeting Adjournment:</p> <p>Moved: Mr. Osman (Osboy) Bangura</p> <p>Seconded: Mr. Alimamy Conteh</p>