



Liberian Community Association of Greater Charlotte

P. O. Box 5031
Charlotte, NC 28299
www.libac.org

TO: General Body: Liberian Community Association of Greater Charlotte
FROM: Executive Leadership Team
RE: Regular Monthly General Assembly Meeting, Sunday, March 29, 2020
Date: March 29, 2020

Our regular General Assembly Meeting along with all other scheduled programs/events are cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we want you to know that the executive leadership is very alert and continues to work behind scenes to ensure that our community is provided with all relevant information and services during this time of social isolation. We remind you to implement all the necessary preventive measures to keep families and love ones safe. Let us continue to check-in on one another especially our elders during these unsafe times with a phone call, text message, video message, etc.

Here are updates on projects/events we have exhausted and some still in progress since our last General Assembly meeting on February 9, 2020.

The North Carolina International Minority Coalition

On Feb. 2, 2020 President Lucien Edwards was invited to the board meeting of The North Carolina International Minority Coalition. This Coalition is geared towards bringing all minority groups under one umbrella, speak with one voice, and obtain the benefits or assistance available. President Edwards was unable to attend the second meeting due to scheduling conflict. Please know that more information concerning this Coalition will be presented to LIBAC as soon as it is forwarded to me.

Interim Leadership Turnover

On February 8, 2020, the Interim Leadership (Mr. Fred Tulay and Mr. Edwin Freeman) turned over all documents in their possession, excluding the 501c3 documents, to our transition team (Ms. Joyce Harris, VP; Diamond Cheeseman, Secretary; Mrs. Veronica George-Edwards, Financial Secretary & Mr. Roger Slawon, Treasurer). When asked why they did not include the 501c3 document with the rest of the documents, both Mr. Tulay and Mr. Freeman stated that they did not have the documents but Mr. Frances Sio had the documents. Also, I was informed that it was Mr. Sio who applied for and obtained the 501c3 status for the community and we do recognize and applaud his efforts. Therefore, I reached out to Mr. Sio for the documents and he stated that he had given the documents to Mr. Edwin Freeman when he was president for the community. Mr. Freeman said that he does not remember. However, we know that the 501c3 is active because taxes are filed yearly to remain its active status. Hence, the 501c3 document is still at-large. However, it is very important that the document is transferred to the current leadership team as soon as possible.

Recap from First General Assembly Meeting

On February 9, 2020 President Edwards presided over his first General Assembly meeting and introduced his new leadership team; in addition, the financial report of his inauguration Program was presented to the body. Because the community turned out to support the Inauguration Program, a net revenue (profit) of **\$23,405.93** was given back to the community. Also, the International House presented information on the new Immigration bill to all Liberians and offered their assistance.

SAMA Documentation

President Edwards was invited to attend a documentary program at UNCC, "For SAMA" on February 21, 2020 at 6:30pm. Due to a previous engagement, he was unable to attend. Therefore, he sent a small delegation to represent LIBAC. Those who represented LIBAC are Ms. Annie Jones, Ms. Leona Williams, and Ms. Grace Kumeh. "For SAMA" is a five-year journey into the female experience/perspective of motherhood, love, war, and surviving the Syrian Conflict.

Immigration Awareness

A second Immigration awareness information session was held at North Davidson United Methodist Church on February 22, 2020 at 4pm. However, it was poorly attended. Mr. Daniel P. Knutson, Community Relations Officer, US Department of Homeland Security, was the facilitator.

Standing Committees Status

On January 30, 2020, President Edwards wrote the Board and included the committee members for the five standing committees, per the constitution, for its approval. However, The Board have not been able to clear them as yet. Therefore, the committee members for the Planning & Program, Membership, Information & Technology and Publicity Committees were asked to begin working until the Board can approve the members. They jumped at the tasks and immediately began to work. All the events/activities on LIBAC's 1st Quarter Calendar, Launching the new Website, creating a database to allow members to pay dues (in progress), and starting a new chatroom, BAND, with a larger capacity to allow all of us to be a part of the conversation and be informed at the same time, are a small portion of the committees' work at this time.

In addition, Mrs. Oretha Manneh was appointed to Chair the July 26th committee and Mrs. Meatta Street Dubar was appointed as Co-Chair. At this time, they have finalized the list of committee members and the first meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19; however, a teleconference meeting will be held as soon as possible. At this time, the Committee is experiencing two major challenges:

- there is not a hall available on Saturday, July 25th for the Ball. We have looked near, far and wide for a hall but all are booked for that date.
- Park & Rec. has closed all soccer fields for repairs from June to August 2020. There are three parks found in Harrisburg and Mint Hill but without shelters. But, the committee is not deterred; they are still searching.

Next, President Edwards and Ms. Joyce Harris, VP, held a teleconference with the Audit Committee, Mrs. Anne Obey, Ms. Taway Reeves and Mr. Patrice Williams, on Thursday, March 19, 2020 and gave them the permission to begin the audit. All the financial documents turned over to the Executive Leadership Team will be provided to them by March 30th, 2020. Once the Audit is completed, the findings will be submitted to the Board.

President Edwards has appointed a three-man AD HOC Committee to serve as our liaison with Local Government, Public Corporations, etc. The members are: Sam Smith, Mabel Forte and Giorgio Gbenyon.

COVID-19 Grant for Community Elders

The Executive Leadership Team has applied for a grant, using the 501c3, for our senior citizens, 65years or older, due to COVID-19. As far as we know, this is the first time it is being used to obtain benefits for the association. Just for clarity, we do have the EIN but not the physical document for record keeping. Therefore, if you or your parent(s) or grandparents meet this age criteria, please submit their name(s), address, age, contact number to Ms. Precious Gibson as soon as you can. Benefits/Assistance will only be provided to those on LIBAC list. Also, membership dues for senior citizen is only \$30.00 for the year.

Financial Snapshot for February

Please visit the website for details: <https://libac.org/meetings-reports/>

Total Income: **\$1,176.20**

Total Expenses: **\$1,176.20**

Total Assets (Checking + Savings): **\$62,285.81**

Important Reminders:

Community Business Directory

All Liberian Business owners, please register your business on libac.org by April 30, 2020 to get the half price deal of **\$50.00**; Nonprofits and Religious organizations is **\$25.00**. Also, in order to submit a bid to the community, you have to be current with your dues and your business has to be registered with LIBAC. All monies go directly to LIBAC's account for a down payment on our Community Center.

Dues Payments

We are reminding all those who have not paid all their dues for 2019 to please complete their payment as soon possible. All monies go directly to LIBAC's account for a down payment on our Community Center.

Community Achievements & Recognition

If you have a child or children graduating from high school or college this summer, please submit their names, date of graduation, and college they will be attending to Ms. Diamond Cheeseman, Secretary. Her email is diamond@libac.org and phone number is (980) 200-7458

Website & Community Collaboration

Our website, libac.org, is active and running well. Please visit the site and become familiar with the different pages and options available to you. Also, take advantage of our chatroom, [BAND](#), and keep abreast of what's happening in our community.

Thanks to all for your support and God bless!

#One LIBAC #A United Effort for a Stronger Com