

ICHS Alumnae Association, Washington DC Chapter

Minutes of the March 14, 2009 meeting.

The meeting was held at the home of Asabi Banjoko-Knorr in Bowie, MD.

Members arrived at intervals and mingled and caught up with each other while enjoying some delicious appetizers provided by Asabi. The president welcomed all attendees which included new members and began the meeting with a prayer at 5:10PM.

Minutes of the November 2008 meeting were read and accepted.

Nicola presented the treasurer's report and reviewed our fundraising goals for new members, then led a discussion regarding getting members more engaged in selling raffle tickets. The question was raised as to whether we should lower our fundraising goals and therefore take less raffle tickets next year, but in the end we decided to stick with the 1,000 tickets we collected from the New York chapter. She suggested that in the future we should divvy up the tickets among members and have them distribute to others, thereby taking the burden off one person. Regarding the 5,000 in fundraising dollars that we donate to the school, it was decided that we will send it this year and do a donation reassessment next year. Discussion on possibly reducing the amount to \$3,000 was tabled for further discussion at the November 2009 meeting.

It was agreed that we would discontinue the brunch as a fundraising event and focus instead on an Alumnae & Family summer social event. For such an event, it was suggested that the date be announced early to allow persons to schedule their summer vacation around it.

There was a quick discussion on a comment made by a member that the amount of the dues may be a deterrent to some alumnae joining our chapter. We agreed that the \$60 dues will be maintained and we will continue to donate from dues \$1,000 towards the fundraiser.

Regarding our current participation with the New York chapter in the UJAA raffle, Nicola announced that she will be returning the ticket stubs to New York by March 23, but needed to collect some more. Members offered to assist her in collecting.

Asabi reported on old and new business

OLD BUSINESS

1. The current email contact information for Carol Fong Sam is valid, however, she will also be contacted by telephone.
2. Ideas for new membership - Yolanda provided input on what she gathered regarding us possibly securing a booth at the Washington DC independence celebration: her contact person said they were never approached for something like this before and therefore were not able to give much information. There may be a cost involved and we would have to consider the fact that it would have to be manned by us the members. Further research will be done.

3. More ideas for new membership/flyers to universities – in discussing the contents of the flyer, it was noted that very little information was needed, i.e. logo, contact info and something simple such as “Do You Know There Is An Alumnae Chapter In The Area?” Also, start with an email and an attached flyer to go to the contact person at the Caribbean Student Association (CSA) and/or the International Student Services located in the colleges.
4. Website – Asabi noted that a new member tried to get onto the website but was not able to. She apologized for not having updated it and committed to getting to it by the end of the month. She also requested a backup site administrator.
5. Regarding Sr. Angela – Asabi noted that Sister sent her a beautiful email which will be forwarded to those who did not receive it. Asabi responded to Sr. Angela and now has a number to reach her if needed. She will continue to ensure the communications lines are kept open.

NEW BUSINESS

1. UJAA Raffle in New York – Asabi will be attending using the complementary ticket provided to us. She asked for additional attendees but no one committed.
2. Summer social event – the date of June 27, 2009 was chosen, however no location designated.
3. Facebook – we had a discussion on creating an ICHS DC Chapter Group on Facebook. It was agreed that this would be a good means of communication and for inviting new people. It would be a closed group which means that all invitees would have to be approved entry by the creator. The group’s page would include current events, our website, what we’ve done and future projects and events. The initial invite would be to our current list. Lee-Ann Pinkard will research security issues.
4. Assistant Corresponding Secretary – Juliet will be relocating to Texas this year. Asabi asked for a volunteer to take on this role and Lee-Ann offered.
5. Next meeting: Asabi suggested setting up an E-vite for the November meeting. This would make invitation reminders and keeping track of RSVP’s easier.

Next meeting will be November 7, 2009 at Asabi’s home in Bowie, MD.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27PM.

Members present were (12):

Verna Byfield, Leslie Hansley, Nicola Martin, Yolanda Lewis, Asabi Banjoko-Knorr, Gillian Carter-Guy, Heather Chinn, Suzanne James, Diane Forbes, Karen Johnson-Mills, Lee-Ann Pinkard, Marguerite Chinn and Alicia Thomas.