

ICHS Alumnae Association, Washington DC Chapter
Minutes of the March 1, 2008 meeting.

The meeting was held at the home of Leslie Hansley in Silver Spring, MD.

Members arrived at intervals and mingled and caught up with each other while enjoying some delicious refreshments provided by Leslie. The president began the meeting with a prayer at 4:45pm. Minutes of the November 2007 meeting were read and one minor modification was noted - The spiritual event coordination was assigned to Monica and Rose. Verna was asked to research the possibility of attending mass at the church we worshipped at in the prior year; Minutes were then accepted.

Our president, Asabi welcomed new member Lee Ann Pinkard, a 1993 graduate who had contacted the association through the website. The new officers were also introduced and gave brief overviews of themselves.

Nicola Martin presented the treasurer's report beginning with a reminder to the members that dues of \$60 were due at this time. Heather was asked to update us on the letter the DC chapter sent to the school last year regarding our donation for a needy student. No response was received from Sr. Angela, but in February an email was sent to Heather from a school board member indicating that money was still needed for the school itself versus for a student. Specific areas of need highlighted in the email were: a \$2 million insurance; and the library. It was suggested that our chapter get together with other chapters to decide how to best support the school, which Asabi took as an action item. It was agreed that in the meantime, we should send the \$5,000 to the representative of the school board, with a check made out to the insurance company. We will keep Sr. Angela and Ms. Pinto involved via email.

Bessie O'Connor who attended one of the 150th anniversary events in Jamaica gave an overview of her visit. The mass was wonderful and was attended by the Scottish nuns who were actually the ones who started ICCHS. The summer house is in dire need of repair and sheets are needed for the hostel beds. It was suggested that those of us attending the 150th anniversary events and are able to, contribute sheets to the convent. Monica will contact the convent to find out how we can make contributions and Lee Ann will research the wholesale cost of sheets.

Asabi noted that Bessie brought back pictures from the JA event she attended and they were circulated. Also circulated were pictures of Diane with presidential candidate, Barack Obama. Asabi asked that members supply pictures of ICCHS events to Madge McLaren for the scrapbook. It was stressed that only pictures of alumnae events should be put in the scrapbook and on the website.

In her 'report from the president', Asabi reminded the group to sign up to get information from the Jamaican Embassy if they had not already done so, so that we can be made aware of upcoming events. There was a discussion on possible outreach opportunities, namely other Jamaican alumni associations and local women's group. She also gave us a brief report of the successful get-together at mass at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Silver Spring in December '07.

In addition to contacting Howard University, Diane reported that she also created a flyer which she will email to all. It was also suggested that we consider placing a free announcement in the community events section of the Maryland Gazette.

Regarding the website, Asabi reported that there is a need to have the website registered in the name of the association versus in the name of a member. This will eliminate having to transfer ownership to new officers. She suggested a \$12.95 per month package. Other suggestions from members were for us to have an email account on either Yahoo or Hotmail. No final decision was made on this issue.

The by-laws were reviewed and several revisions were incorporated and will be updated by Verna and sent to everyone for acceptance and final approval.

There was extensive discussion about opportunities for fellowship and fundraising. Madge and Rose have already done some preliminary investigation on the cost of having an event and reported on the possibility of using a church hall at a cost of \$65 per person or a hotel for \$90 per person, both prices include food. Asabi suggested we all do a survey to see how many tickets we think we can sell for such an event. Bessie was asked to send a reminder to us to report on our findings. Later on in the meeting Marguerite proposed organizing a Jamaica brunch in October as a combined fellowship and fundraising opportunity. Tickets for such an event could cost \$35 per person and a possible location was suggested by Verna at her community clubhouse. She will investigate the cost and availability.

Verna reported on the information provided by the New York chapter on the mega raffle sponsored annually by UJAA and we discussed how our chapter could profit by joining forces with them. All were agreeable that this is an idea for us to proceed on in September. This would negate us having the local raffle we've had in the past, however, with no raffle for 2008 our treasurer noted that revenue for 2008 would decrease. We discussed other possible fundraising activities including the proposed yard sale and a Jamaica brunch. Verna will report to the membership when she receives information regarding a date for the yard sale in her complex.

The contact list was circulated for sign-in and will be updated by Verna.

Our next general meeting will be held once again at the home of Leslie Hansley on November 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Members present were (15):

Asabi Banjoko-Knorr, Lee-Ann Pinkard, Yolanda Lewis, Monica Weaver, Nicola Martin, Verna Byfield, Diane Forbes-Berthoud, Bessie J. O'Connor, Sharain Ward, Leslie Hansley, Madge McLaren, Marguerite Chinn, Elaine Chew, Pauline Lindo, Heather Chinn