

ICHS Alumnae Association, Washington DC Chapter

Minutes of the November 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 4:53PM. Minutes of the March 2008 meeting were read by her as the secretary was developing laryngitis; minutes were accepted.

Our president, Asabi, welcomed us all and noted that we had four new members who contacted us via email and will be added to our mailing list.

Nicola presented the treasurer's report and shared a copy of the dues and brunch details. She noted that a total of 55 tickets were sold for the brunch and to date the profit totaled \$813.00. Everyone agreed that it was a fabulous brunch. In addition the yard sale held in May gained us \$90.00.

Asabi then presented us with Diane's (VP and Chair of the ICBS Brunch) inputs received from members regarding lessons learned from the brunch:

- We should consider a guest entertainer while still minimizing expenses
- Consider more volunteers to provide entertainment
- If we have more people we should have access to a microphone and/or a podium
- Find a location that freely allows for fundraising, i.e. money exchange via a raffle
- Have access to facility at least 2 hours prior to set-up of main area and kitchen

Verna also suggested adding to the list - Acknowledge guests from other Jamaican high schools.

Asabi's report on the website included the web address: <http://www.ichsaa-dc-area.com> and the email address: [ichsalum@ichsaa-dc-area.com](mailto:ichsalum@ichsaa-dc-area.com). She will ensure the set up is accurate, transfer all information and monitor the account. The president and vice president of the chapter will be the ones monitoring the account.

In the Report from the President, Asabi, who attended the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary event in Jamaica shared the following items with the members: commemorative post cards, an article from the Jamaica Observer and an award certificate for the DC Chapter. She noted that, at several events, there was more visibility from Sr. Maureen Clare than from Sr. Angela. Both her and Diane had a meeting with Sr. Angela and Ms. Polson in July and were given the following information about the current school situation:

- The government contribution per student is \$10,500 per year (approximately \$145 US per student).
- ICBS fee is \$8,000 per student, which is voluntary for parents, but not all parents are cooperating. This puts a strain on their budget.

- Other schools, such as Ardenne and Campion charge \$16,000 and \$20,000 per year respectively. ICHS' principle is not to keep raising it as other schools do or to change mid-year, because of economic reasons and to maintain integrity. In the 2009/2010 year they would consider a raise.

Additionally, here's what the school needs from us as we consider future fundraising activities:

- A School Management System for parents to view grades online and to allow increased and easy interaction with parents and the ministry would cost \$500,000 (approx. \$7,000 US).
- There are also other continuous cost increases during the year.
- The school also recently received 40 new computers for the library that require maintenance and must have A/C in the rooms, increasing electrical costs.

Asabi circulated a letter of thanks from Yasmin Chong, chairperson of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning committee, expressing their thanks to the DC chapter, Bessie O'Connor and the Samuel sisters for "their very kind contributions to the Music Department of ICHS through the purchase of the music stands". The letter further stated that the music stands were scheduled to arrive ahead of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Gala on December 7, 2008.

In a report on updating the membership list, Bessie indicated she will be checking emails and will remove those that are kicked back. Carol Fong Sam's is one that keeps kicking back and Bessie is trying to find a correct email address for her. She requested that if anyone knows of her current working email address to share it with her.

In her follow-up on ideas for new membership, Asabi offered to follow up with Diane regarding the flyers to Howard University. Nicola suggested we send an email to the international student association asking them to post the flyers. Other suggestions were to send flyers to the Jamaican embassy in DC; possibly secure a booth at the independence festival and maybe even solicit other alumni to share the booth. Asabi delegated the Jamaica Embassy action item to Yolanda L. and Leslie H. to investigate further.

Information was shared on Carla Goring-Madden whose daughter Merissa was diagnosed with cancer and is going for genetic testing. Family is asking for our prayers for her. We were approved to give out the following contact information, should any member need to encourage Carla: 703-440-5191, email: [gormadd@earthlink.net](mailto:gormadd@earthlink.net).

Also noted was the death of Dotty LaCroix who was Head of the Girl Guides Association.

Verna provided a brief overview on the UJAA raffle as we are now re-visiting it as a possible fundraiser for 2009, but suggested it would be better to speak with Karlene Largie, president of the New York chapter to get the first hand details on coordinating this effort. Asabi offered to set up a conference call to include Verna and Nicola.

Lastly, Bessie asked for input for the bulletin and it was suggested that the raffle will be a good item to include.

The meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

Members present were (9):

Verna Byfield, Bessie O'Connor, Madge McLaren, Leslie Hansley, Nicola Martin, Elaine Chew, Pauline Lindo, Yolanda Lewis, Asabi Banjoko-Knorr.