

ICHS Alumnae Association, Washington DC Chapter

Minutes of the November 7, 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 food provided by Asabi and others.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Asabi Banjoko-Knorr, president, who welcomed all attendees.

Minutes of the March 2009 meeting were read, amended and accepted.

All members introduced themselves with name and year of graduation. All new members were heartily welcomed.

Report from the Treasurer

The report from the treasurer was not presented as Nicola was delayed due to commitments to her job. It was agreed by all that the report will be acceptable via email.

ICHS Website Report & Content Requests

Asabi reported that the ICHS website is serving the purpose of attracting new members as 10 contacts were made through it. New member, Debi Pusey-Joyce noted that she was linked to the website after going on the ICHS Miami website. Asabi also asked that all members become familiar with the site by checking it out to see links to other alumnae chapters. She also requested someone act as a helper in the administration of the site and will take any suggestions from members.

Report from the President and Vice President

- Asabi reported that she contacted Natalie Campbell-Rodriques regarding the possibility of our chapter securing a booth at the independence celebrations and was informed that there would be no cost involved. Margaret voiced her opinion on the disadvantages of even having a booth at such an event: the OAS where the event is now held has limited space and the current ambassador is unable to get sponsors for the event.
- Sr. Angella Harris – Diane said she was asked to contact Sr. Angella regarding communications with the chapter but decided to postpone it due to the death of St. James Vincent. She will send an email after the funeral. There is approximately \$11,000 in the account but we have not yet sent a check for 2009 as we were hoping for some communication from Sr. Angella or the vice principal on how the funds we sent are being distributed. After some discussion, Asabi's suggested we make contact by telephone. New member, Carla Goring-Madden offered to get a military phone card for calling Jamaica. The question was asked later in the meeting if we should still send money to the

nuns at ICHS in Jamaica and it was clarified that we decided not to continue upon the advice of Sr. Maureen Clare.

- Ideas for New Membership – Diane noted that outreach efforts so far at Howard University have not been successful. New member, Tiphani Burrell-Piggott offered to try making some contacts at the university.

New Business/Comments

Voting of & Transition for new officers

1. Asabi reviewed the election policies as stated in the ICHS bylaws, i.e. elections will be held each year for three officer positions. Elections for President, Vice-President and Corresponding and Assistant Corresponding Secretary will be held on odd numbered years (e.g. 2007) so these positions are up for election now.
2. The officers up for re-election are Asabi Banjoko-Knorr, President; Diane Forbes-Berthoud, Vice President; Bessie O'Connor, Corresponding Secretary and Lee-Ann Pinkard, Assistant Corresponding Secretary.
3. Asabi in asking for volunteers interested in taking her position or being nominated listed some traits she deems helpful in becoming president of the chapter: 1) need to be communicative; 2) be very well organized; 3) not be quick to take offense; 4) have a good relationship with supporting staff; 5) be able to balance personal and ICHS chapter life.
4. Diane talked about traits of a vice president: 1) provide good support to president; 2) give lots of advice and suggestions; 3) be able to handle events, such as the brunch fundraiser; 4) be available and ready; 5) if visiting Jamaica, check in with the principal.
5. Lee-Ann noted that the main trait for the assistant corresponding secretary is to be sure to have lots of contact information.
6. Several people were nominated for the role of president but all declined.
 - a. New member Saschane Stephenson agreed to take on the position by working alongside Asabi and to gradually transition fully to the role by March 2010.
 - b. New member Carole Excell was nominated for and agreed to the vice president position also working along with Diane and gradually transition fully by March 2010.
 - c. Lee-Ann Pinkard will be corresponding secretary.
 - d. New member Lorraine Williams agreed to take on the role of assistant corresponding secretary as well as be backup administrator for the website.
 - e. Current treasurer Nicola Martin is unable to continue due to work constraints, hence assistant treasurer Yolanda Lewis will take over for the rest of the term.
7. Lee-Ann suggested that an executive meeting with officers be held prior to the transition and it was agreed on for some time early January 2010.

Sr. James Vincent

Asabi reported that the mass for the late Sr. James Vincent will be held on Monday, November 9, 2009 and additional information can be received by sending email to ichsalumnae@hotmail.com. It was mentioned that a Facebook group has been formed for her.

NY Chapter Dinner Dance Fundraiser

Asabi informed members that the NY chapter has sent tickets to both her and Verna. Members interested in attending should contact Lesley-Ann Samuels. The flyer for the event was circulated for members' review.

Our Vision

Monica reminded the group of the initial vision when the chapter was first formed. She noted that Sr. Maureen Clare had asked us to not just focus on the financial aspect of the organization, but to make it a sisterhood, know what's going on with each other and be supportive of each other and to have fun.

Next meeting will be **March 6, 2010** at Leslie Hansley's home in Silver Spring, MD.

Asabi concluded the meeting with a prayer and adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Members present were (17):

Verna Byfield, Leslie Hansley, Yolanda Lewis, Asabi Banjoko-Knorr, Suzanne James, Diane Forbes-Berthoud, Lee-Ann Pinkard, Marguerite Chinn, Tiphani Burrell-Pigott, Saschane Stephenson, Carole Burgess-Fongsam; Debi Pusey-Joyce; Carla Goring-Madden; Carole Excell; Lorraine Williams; Sharain Ward; Monica Weaver.