



Alliance of Nigerian Organizations in Georgia

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Minutes of the Last Meeting (A.N.O.G)

Held on Saturday, April 21th, 2012

Venue: 2412 Park Central Blvd., Decatur, GA. 30035

Titus O. Olowokere
President

Ndubueze Alaka
Vice President

Yakubu Azi
General Secretary

Kayode Adekunle
Assist. Gen. Sec.

Mike Nsuk
Treasurer

Carol A. Aki
Financial secretary

Sir Chima Njoku
PRO

Alice Osunde
Social Secretary

Sam Fagbohun
Chief Whip

Ezekiel Macham
Ex-Officio

Chairperson - Mr. Titus Olowokere

Minutes taken by: - Ms. Faith Olowokere

Attendance:

Executives:

- 1) Engr. Titus Olowokere - *President*
- 2) Ms. Carol Aki - *Financial Secretary*
- 3) Sir Chima Njoku - *PRO*

A.N.O.G Organization Rep Members:

1) Ms. Faith Olowokere	Esan Leadership Forum of GA.
2) Dr. Ike Okosun	Esan Leadership Forum of GA.
3) Ms. Nkem Nwizu	Umuada Igbo, Atlanta Branch
4) Ms. Dorothy Orizu	Umuada Igbo, Atlanta Branch
5) Ms. Meg Agbontean	Esan Progressive Assn. of Atlanta
6) Ms. Meg Akhabue-Onabanjo	Esan Progressive Assn. of Atlanta
7) Dr. Omoh Ojior	ONIMA Institute
8) Ms. Stella Ejikeme	Otu-Umuokpu Anambra State
9) Ms. Comfort Obi	Nnewi Union
10) Ms. Hope Okotie- Efeyini	Nigeria Women Association of GA.
11) Mr. Emmanuel B. Olaleye	Yoruba's of Atlanta
12) Ms. Nkechi Amaeze	Nigeria Nurses Association
13) Ms. Patricia Ahanotu	Igbo Union of GA.
14) Mr. Adewale Dawodu	Ekinmogun Social Circle
15) Mr. Christopher Ekpoudom	NTO Foundation Inc. - Observer
16) Mr. Eddie Okwaraoha	Isiekenesi Union

Absent with Apology

Mr. Sam Fagbohun
Mr. Yakubu Azi
Ms. Alice Osunde
Mr. Ndubueze Alaka
Mr. Kavode Adekunle

1.0 Call to Order:

Mr. Titus Olowokere called to order **A.N.O.G** April organization's representative general meeting at 11:35am. Opening prayer by Mr. Emmanuel B. Olaleye. Mr. President announced that we might be having few organization member reps. in attendance at the meeting due to various Nigeria activities held a day before. To avoid much delay, the president requested for the move on the agenda, which was accepted and agreed upon by Mr. Olaleye and seconded by Mrs. Margaret Onabanjo. Introduction of all in attendance was done and Mrs. Faith Olowokere was asked to take the minutes of the last meeting since the secretary and assistant secretary were both absent with apologies.

2.0 ANOG Up-to-date Briefing by the President

- The present (Engr. Titus Olowokere) announced that more organizations have in recent weeks decided to join and be part of **ANOG**, after visitations with some **ANOG** members. The organizations that have accepted to join **ANOG** are:

- * **Owerri Family Organization**
- * **Enugu Women Association of Georgia**
- * **University of Ife Alumni Association of Georgia**
- * **Umouda Igbo Association**

The president requested that all in attendance show their loving support to these organizations and make every effort to assist and attend their events when called upon. **ANOG** currently has a total of 43 member organizations. We still have in the pipe line four (4) other organizations hoping to be part of **ANOG** family. The vice president and other executives are working on this and will bring this to your knowledge as they're unfolded. Please remember that this is a one-united-**ANOG**. No organization stands a chance of being known when it remains on its own, not widening out. **ANOG** will continue to do all it can to assist in the growth of all Nigeria organizations here in Georgia and also give its support to each and every respectively organizations.

- **ANOG** also has a **Meet & Greet** event in March. There were over 50 in attendance. The event was a way to showcase **ANOG** and introduce the organization to others that are still not aware of its existence and what it's all about. In attendance were people of all walks of life, including a former sheriff from Clayton County. The event was very successful and it showed the spirit of camaraderie and warmth among attendance. Though the meeting was scheduled for 7pm to 9pm, most in attendance lingered and waited till past 11pm.

- **ANOG** executive paid an official visit to the office of the Consulate General of Nigeria here in Atlanta. As some are now aware, the current Consul General in Atlanta (Hon. Godfrey Teneilabe) has been promoted to an Ambassador position. The president mentioned that, though the consul general has been promoted an Ambassador, we only have one Ambassador to the U.S. here in America from Nigeria, and that's Ambassador Adefuye based in Washington D.C. By law, we can't have two serving Ambassadors within the same country or nation. He clarified that Consul Teneilabe is an ambassador by designation, while Ambassador Adefuye is the current Nigeria Ambassador to the United States of America. Thus, the correct reference to the Head of the Nigerian Consulate in Atlanta is "The Consul General of Nigeria, Atlanta, Amb. Geoffrey Teneilabe"

- The president also announced that in June, **ANOG** is organizing a health initiative program called "**Walk for Life**" where-by we have the chance of participating in a one-day walk program. This is in collaboration with the **Nigerian Nurses association of Georgia**. Last year 2011, **ANOG** had the first ever leadership Training. But this year, we should be having a **Walk for Life**. Please come dressed in comfortable

attire, and don't forget to also arrive with some refreshment of your choice. The walking trail will only be for 2 to 3 miles early in the morning. This would also help encourage interaction among members on the trail. More information to be disseminated regarding the **Walk for Life**.

Mrs. Nkechi Amaeze (Nigeria Nurses Assn.) concur what the president said and mentioned how important the walk is. More and more Nigerians are falling prey to unknown and on diagnosed illness just because some have decided not to put their health first. It's about time we put our health first and foremost, and not rather social events. Let's plan for all to show up in groups because this can really be motivating in some ways. Dr. Omoh Ojior with ONIMA Institute agreed, saying in conjunction with ONIMA Institute, it would be great if **ANOG** looks into and familiarize itself with **natural herbal remedies** which is much better than most of today's prescriptions from the various hospitals. We've all been conditioned to look away from this natural herbal remedies as fallacies, and have allowed and accepted the westernized way of curing as the best procedure or solution. He requested that we look into that and see how this can benefit **ANOG**. Dr. Ojior further mentioned such countries as China, Koreans etc. have invested in herbal remedies and are doing great based on the statistics given. This can also be of great benefit to us all here in Georgia despite far from our mother land. In addition, let's work on 'Counseling' one another especially married couples.

Ms. Stella Ejikeme added, requesting that we get our children involve in the **ANOG Walk for Life** event. Some have children that are directly and indirectly affected with the situation and this can be of great benefit to them. Such issues like Childhood Obesity can be eradicated if the children are taught what to do. Lay examples, let your child see you doing the same thing, and they will follow through. Example can also be taken from the first lady of America (Michelle Obama) who is also running and participating in such programs called "Let's Move". Ms. Nkem Nwizu (Umuada Igbo, Atlanta Branch) agreed with Ms. Ejikeme, adding that we also need to watch what we eat, and what we as parent are allowing our children to inhale. It's advisable that all our women (Nigerian women) learn to cook so our kids will have the opportunity to learn and taste variety of dishes. She mentioned per taking a walk in the park, her husband and kids do that on a more regular basis. The fear mostly is the security on the trails based on what we've heard on the news lately and over the years; none the less, it is advisable that all participate in group and stay close together during the 'walk'.

Ms. Meg Akhabue-Onabanjo from **E.P.A.A.** used the opportunity to announce to all that based on the illness affecting some Nigerians here in the States and the rate of fatality, **E.P.A.A.** is organizing an event along that line. This will be held in September of this year.

Mr. President (Engr. Titus Olowokere) agreed with all that have been said and added that the **ANOG Walk for Life** event is focus on Nigerians and group oriented, and not individuals. **ANOG** will reach out to other Nigeria doctors and nutritionist for further assistance toward the event. He also mentioned that **ANOG** will definitely get our children within the community involve in the **Walk for Life**. All were encouraged to have their entire family out on that day. Let's get our children involve, let's learn to transfer what we are doing now to them and not leave them behind. As we are doing all we can to take care of our health, let's do the same with our children. There is also a need to reach out to Nigeria Youth Alliance (**NYA**) so they can join in the walk also. This will help in creating awareness and more exposure to the association.

The president also advised that in terms of the counseling mentioned by Dr. Omoh Ojior, it would be better if ONIMA institute takes up this role and then communicate feed back to **ANOG**. ONIMA institute will be in charge of the Counseling; more so, since Dr. Ojior is also **ANOG** chairman for Cultural Committee. This will be in two folds. The first based on Children Integration and second on Couple Counseling. This adult program should be channeled toward reducing the unnecessary mortalities happening among Nigerians due to failed

relationships or marriages among Nigerian couples. All in attendance agreed and accepted that Mrs. Comfort Obi work with Dr. Ojior and be part of the **ANOG** Cultural group. Ms. Obi concurred.

- **ANOG Coat Drive:-** This year 2012, **ANOG** will be organizing a coat drive, and this will be headed by Mr. Kayode Adekunle (ANOG Assist. Sec.). This is the first for **ANOG**; hence more hands will be needed in this project. So, if called upon by Mr. Adekunle, please endeavor to assist as much as possible.

Ms. Comfort Obi advised that we need to target children that are younger. Let's look for programs that can target such young ones that are less than 13 years of age, not just rely only on Nigeria Youth Alliance (**NYA**). Much we know **NYA** age and admission starts from 13 and above. Why not target kids with less than that age, train them and nurture them so we don't just rely on **NYA**. Mr. Banji Olaleye advised that we need to be careful not to duplicate other organizations events. Let's know what other organizations participate in, encourage them to do more and avoid duplicates. What **ANOG** is set up for is so clear and distance from duplicating any other organization's activities. Ms. Carol Aki commented that **ANOG** is not duplicating any organizations event. But rather collaborating with the various **ANOG** organization involved in such activities.

3.0 Update on 2012 ANOG Parade & Banquet

The president (Engr. Titus Olowokere) announced to all that a community has been set up per the upcoming **ANOG Nigeria 52nd Independence Parade** taking place this year 2012 here in Atlanta. Ms. Alice Osunde is this year's chair person. She is also **ANOG** Social Secretary. She will be leading this year's committee for the Parade, Banquet and picnic event. And as most are already aware, **ANOG** turns 10 (ten) this year. We have lined up some dignitaries coming from Nigeria. Names to be announced as we get closer to the event. Our special guest of honor and exceptional in nature (Ambassador Prof. Adefuye) with his wife has agreed and accepted our invitation to be our special guests of honor. More hands are needed for this event to be successful. The committee will keep you updated as things unfold.

4.0 ANOG Final Report

Ms. Carol Aki (Financial Secretary) gave a briefing on the financial report. All in attendance requested that the financial secretary create the list of paid and unpaid **ANOG** member organizations and email to all. This will help recognize those that are yet owing. She encouraged all organization reps in attendance to speak to their respective organization so they can have the 2012 yearly due paid and on time.

5.0 Any Other Business (AOB)

- ✚ Send update of changes to **ANOG** sec. if your organization has undergone a new administration.
- ✚ Dr. Ojior will be having a book signing in April. Please make plans to attend and support.
- ✚ **Imo State Congress of America Atlanta Chapter Inc.**, Inauguration, - **Saturday, April 28th, 2012**
- ✚ **Esan Leadership Forum of Georgia (E.L.F.G)** Fundraising & Inauguration, - **Saturday, May 19th 2012.**
- ✚ **Otu-Umuokpu Anambra State USA Atlanta** Fundraising & Inauguration, - **Saturday May 19th 2012.**
- ✚ National Association of **Isiekenesi** convention event on **Saturday May 26th, 2012.**
- ✚ **Nnobi Abalukwu Union, Atlanta, Georgia** Gala nite – **Saturday, June 23rd, 2012**
- ✚ **Nigeria Women Association of Georgia (NWAG)** Fundraising Event – **Saturday, June 30th, 2012**
- ✚ **Esan Progressive Association of Atlanta (E.P.A.A)** picnic, Banquet, walk in September.

6.0 Closing and Adjournment

Closing prayer by Ms. Comfort Obi. Meeting adjourned on a motion by president. Meeting ended @1:22pm.

Mrs. Faith Olowokere
ELFG Delegate to ANOG

Mr. Titus Olowokere
ANOG President