

**MINUTES OF OAA YEAR GROUPS' REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007 AT THE ACHIMOTA SCHOOL STAFF CLUB HOUSE**

| | ITEM | ACTION |
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| 1.0 | <p>PRESENT:</p> <p>AKORAS 1. Sarah-Lynn Mansaray (S-LM) - 1965 Year Group, President - Chairperson 2. K. Erskine-Graham (KE-G) - 1940 Year Group Representative 3. Charlotte Brew-Graves (CB-G) - 1953 Year Group Representative 4. C. W. Sam (CWS) - 1956 Year Group Representative 5. E. Larry Auguste (ELA) - 1971 Year Group Representative 6. Victoria Lugey (VL) - 1982 Year Group Representative 7. Philip Delali Zumanu (PDZ) - 1993 Year Group Representative 8. Mary Kwadzodza (MK) - 1999 Year Group Representative</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: Marian Crabbe (MC) - Admin Asst. / Recorder (AA)</p> | |
| 2.0 | <p>OPENING The meeting started at 6:39 p.m. with an opening prayer by Akora C. W. Sam.</p> | |
| 3.0 | <p>ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA The Agenda for the day was adopted.</p> | |
| 4.0 | <p>APOLOGIES The following apologies were received: Akoras Kofi Ampomah, (1952), Kwame Afriyie (1960), Harold Richardson, (1976), and Eunice Quarcoopome (1975)</p> | |
| 5.0 | <p>ACCEPTANCE AND CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES Corrections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1, item 4.0 "Akora K. Erskine-Graham's name was inserted under "apologies". • Page 2, 2nd paragraph, line 2, "would also not charge any gate fees" was corrected to read; "will also not be a fundraising activity" • Page 2, item 7.2.1, 2nd paragraph line 4, "as a starting was deleted". • Page 4, item 8.5, bullet 4, "Nine Lessons and Carols" was corrected to read; "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols". <p>After the corrections above, Akora Sarah-Lynn Mansaray moved for the acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes, and was seconded by Akora Victoria Lugey.</p> | |
| 6.0 6.1 | <p>MATTERS ARISING Delegation to Minister of Health</p> <p>The Executive Secretary and Akora George Dako who were supposed to report on this topic were absent. Since Akoras present did not know anything about the topic the President seized the opportunity to brief them on the need to meet the Minister of Health.</p> <p>Akora Zumanu thought there was no need to meet the Minister of Health, instead he suggested that the delegation rather meet the Hospital Administrator to find a way to ensure that the students are given better service.</p> <p>The President added that the good news was that the 1958 Year Group had chosen to expand the School Clinic. Akora Augustte supported Akora Zumanu saying that while the 1958 Year Group will be working on the expansion, the delegation can go ahead and meet the Hospital Administrator on the issue.</p> | |
| 6.2 | <p>National Service Personnel</p> <p>The President informed the meeting that the Executive Secretary had been unwell, and the Admin Assistant is the only staff in the Office. She said a letter had been written to the National Service Secretariat to request 2 personnel to assist.</p> | |
| 6.3 | <p>Broadband - Free installation</p> <p>At the previous meeting, Akoras discussed a proposal from Ghana Telecom (Broadband) offering 40%</p> | |

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| | <p>discount installation for Institutions that can provide 50 clients. Akoras decided that Akora Harold Richardson get in touch with the management of the Broadband to see the possibility of rather offering free installation to the members of the OAA should it become possible for the OAA to provide the 50 clients. Unfortunately, Akora Richardson was not present to brief the meeting.</p> <p>Members also agreed that the first 50 Akoras who had fully paid up their dues could benefit from the facility. The President encouraged Akoras to take advantage of the offer.</p> | |
| 7.0 | BUSINESS FOR THE DAY | |
| 7.1 | <p>Update - 80th Anniversary</p> <p>As Akoras were already aware, the 80th Anniversary celebrations was on-going, the President confirmed that some events had been planned as part of the celebration.</p> | |
| 7.2 | <p>School Play</p> <p>She told the meeting that the idea to organize a School play was suggested by Akora Charlotte Brew-Graves who had already contacted Prof. Owusu for assistance. The play (Sons and Daughters) would be performed jointly with the Ghana @ 50 Secretariat on 25th October 2007. Since it will not be a fundraising activity, the School will organize a separate play afterwards to raise money.</p> | |
| 7.3 | <p>Speech and Prize Giving Day</p> <p>This year's Speech and Prize Giving day will take place on 10th November 2007, and it will be hosted by the 1982 Year Group. Akora Patrick Awuah will be the Guest Speaker. The Group was the first to use the Form one block, and so they have chosen to renovate the block.</p> | |
| 7.4 | <p>Medical Out-reach</p> <p>A Medical Out-reach had been scheduled for 17th November 2007 at Anumle Cluster of Schools. The activity is being coordinated by young Akora doctors with the support of the senior doctors. The President appealed to Akoras who have contacts at the Pharmaceutical Companies to ask for drugs and consumables such as gloves, plasters, etc. on behalf of the OAA.</p> | |
| 7.5 | <p>Dinner Dance</p> <p>Akoras were informed that a Dinner Dance had been scheduled for 1st December 2007. The Banquet Hall was initially planned to be used but it appears the place had been earmarked for state activities only. The Foyer of the Conference Hall is the only alternative. Akora Norkor Duah will be piloting the organization of the event.</p> | |
| 7.6 | <p>Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Night</p> <p>The President told the meeting that she had suggested that the day of the event be changed from a week day to a week end. The new date would be communicated to Akoras at the next meeting.</p> | |
| 8.0 | <p>Annual Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Deceased Akoras</p> <p>The above event would take place on 11th November, 2007 at the Aggrey Memorial Chapel at 9:30 a.m. The President commended Akora K. Erskine-Graham for his assistance in the preparation of the programme. She informed the meeting that Akora Rev. Dag. Heward-Mills of Light House Chapel would preach the sermon. She also encouraged Year Groups especially those who had lost members to donate towards the arrangements of the event.</p> | |
| 9.0 | <p>Talk on Educational Reforms</p> <p>Akora Philip Dela Zumanu gave a talk on the new educational reforms. He started by informing Akoras that most of the developing countries are changing their educational system to catch up with China, Japan, Korea, etc.</p> <p>Ghana, he said has over the past 20 years repeated the same things without any improvement in its educational system. Ghanaians are good at proposals, it is in the implementation that we fall short.</p> | |

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| | <p>In 1987, there was a change which phased out the "O" and "A" Level system. It set out to train students to use their hands. This system has also failed due primarily to poor implementation.</p> <p>The new Educational Reforms is looking at basic things, such as compulsory kindergarten. Formerly kindergarten was under Social Welfare, now it had been placed under the supervision of the Ghana Education Service with a syllabus. Akora Zumanu welcomed the idea for compulsory kindergarten, saying that it is good and will help children to love learning. Teachers in the kindergarten would be trained to understand the children, psychologically, socially, and physically.</p> <p>Akora Zumanu also informed the meeting that research had shown that Ghanaian kids have poor numeracy skills and so see maths as very difficult. The new reform will cut down the number of subjects in the Junior High School and concentrate on numeracy and literacy. There will no longer be examinations in Religious and Moral Education as a subject, rather it will form part of other subjects. Agric had been added to Science. Since the country is seeking to become the gateway to West Africa, French had become a compulsory subject which would be taken seriously so that in 5 to 10 years the kids will speak French. ICT is now a subject on its own.</p> <p>The duration for the Senior High had been increased from the effective two and a half years to 4 years and the syllabus had only been expanded to fill the longer span. Akora Zumanu commented that it is good because it will give the students time to learn socially.</p> <p>Technical and Vocational Schools had been merged, and they would be expected to do the core subjects as is being done in the secondary schools. Because the Technical and Vocational students are not taught the core subjects, they are not able to progress into the Universities. The need to showcase role modules of people who have excelled in trade such as carpentry, mechanics etc. for the kids to see was emphasized.</p> <p>In order that the new reforms succeed, District Panels (Inspectors) will be introduced to visit the various schools and supervise the work of teachers.</p> <p>It is also known that each year about 40% of pupils do not get access into the secondary schools. To address that Government is introducing apprenticeship with certification. After the training, the Government will provide machines and working tools to enable them set up businesses. This will cut down the number of street children who eventually become thieves in society.</p> <p>Akora Zumanu however, pointed out that Government may face some financial constraints; he said the new reform will need to print new text books, build about 9 classrooms for all Senior High Schools to accommodate the 4th year students, and also provide motivation for teachers. Generally, Akora Zumanu commented that the reform is a good programme.</p> <p>After Akora Zumanu's talk, the President thanked him for the very instructive lecture and suggested that a bigger forum be organized perhaps in town, so that more people could benefit from his talk.</p> | |
| 10.0 | <p>Funeral Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The death was reported of Akora Brenda Fafa Leketey of the 2003 Year Group. She will be buried on 20th October 2007. • The death was also reported of Akora Kafui Mawuli Kpetse of the 2006 Year Group. She was buried on 6th October 2007. | |

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| 11.0 | <p>CLOSING A minute's silence was observed for the two departed Akoras, and the meeting closed at 8:45 pm after which Akoras shared the Grace.</p> <p>Recorded by Mrs. Marian Crabbe</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Akora Sarah-Lynn Mansaray President</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date:.....</p> | |



OLD ACHIMOTAN ASSOCIATION

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5th November 2007

Dear Akora,

INVITATION TO 9th MEETING OF THE YEAR GROUP'S REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

The 9th meeting of the 2007 Year Group's Representative Committee will take place as follows;

DATE - FRIDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2007 **TIME:** 6:00 P.M.
VENUE - ACHIMOTA SCHOOL STAFF CLUB HOUSE

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Confirmation of previous meeting's minutes.
4. Matters Arising:
 - i. National Service Personnel
 - iv. Broadband - Free installation - HR
 - v. School Play
 - vi. Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
 - vii. OAA Annual Memorial and Thanksgiving Service For Departed Akoras
5. Business for the Day:
 - i. Update - 80th Anniversary
 - ii. Reports from Year Groups' Reps
6. Any other business
7. Closing.

Sincerely Yours

Eunice Quarcoopome
Executive Secretary

