

## **19<sup>TH</sup> NUSA ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD IN BLOOMINGTON MN MINUTES**

**DAY 1 JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> 2014:** Present were- Chidi Metu, Chukwuezi Okeke, Elias Okonkwo, Eddy Ukatu, Inno Izundu, Alex Nweji, Emma Nsoedo, Samson Iлека, Selina Iлека, Ethel Momah, Chike Momah, Ruby Nnadi, Ifeyinwa Momah, Ifeyinwa Madubuko, Onochie Maduduko, Chinelo Ejimbe. The president called the meeting to order at 930 pm. and welcomed all the attendees to the convention. He reminded us that we will succeed and fail together. He encouraged all to help in any way possible to make this a successful convention, given the fact that it is only Eddy Ukatu and the family that are on the ground working tirelessly on the logistics of this convention. Chidi stated that this is the National Nusa convention and we have taken over, and at this point Eddy Ukatu and family are only here to help us if needed.

**READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST EXECUTIVES/DELEGATES MEETING:** The secretary Chukwuezi Okeke read the minutes of last teleconference meeting held on 6/22/2014.

**MINUTES OF 6/22/2014 AMMENDMENTS:** Ruby Nnadi said that Atlanta has uniform they are using. The correct name is Emma Agba and not Emma Agbasi that is coming from Nigeria. New York will host the 2015 convention.

**ADOPTION OF 6/22/2014 MINUTES:** The adoption was moved by Emma Nsoedo and supported by Alex Nweji, and was adopted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:** Eddy Ukatu said that per the contract signed with the hotel, we are expected to meet 80% of room bookings in other to avoid paying for the meeting hall. However, unfortunately we did not meet 50% of the agreed number. He reminded us that at the last meeting we talked about paying for the outstanding rooms outright if we come short on our room target. He said that by calculation it will cost us much more if we pay for the rooms. The hotel manager worked it out were we will pay \$1000-1500, which will be better than paying for the remaining rooms. The plaques for our major donors and our last president are ready, and will be presented to Ibeto, Coscharis, Nathan Momah and the Entity that donated some beds shipped to Nigeria. We decided to allocate some time at the convention for the CEO of the group that donated hospital beds to address the convention. Decision was unanimously made not to provide copies of the last convention meeting, since it was already posted on the NUSA web site, and all have had the opportunity to peruse it. The secretary will read from the hard copy at his possession to avoid losing it in the process of trying to find a way to run more copies at this late hour. The president encouraged all to try and be punctual for business, so that things will go smoothly and we can better manage out convention agenda. Ethel Momah and Ruby Nnadi said that Nnewi women are ready for their dance. Eddy Ukatu will try and provide us with some change for the gala night. Eddy told us that the cultural night activities will consist of talent show, fashion show, women dance, drama by kids and adult on

marriage. Ify Madubuko, Ruby Nnadi, Ify Momah were designated as judges, and Nneka Okonkwo who is coming late will assist. The president said that Ifeanacho Okeke will help Ruby Nnadi and Chinelo Ejimbe to present the financial report. Inno Izundu questioned why Ifeanacho Okeke is mentioned in the financial report, and said that in his opinion it is not proper for him to be involved in the report. Chinelo Ejimbe said that at one of the planning committee meeting it was put forward by Ik Ofomata, that Ifeanacho Okeke can read the financial report. We agreed that since Ifeanacho Okeke was the past financial secretary involved when most of the transaction occurred he can assist, Chinelo Ejimbe and Ruby Nnadi in the report. Chinelo Ejimbe will read the report and questions may be referred to Ifeanacho Okeke for clarification if needed. The president said that we have the tee shirts ready, and encouraged all to buy now, rather than wait till we start selling them for \$2 dollars each which defeats our fund raising efforts. He said that we have executive body elected for 3 years term, and we will form a committee to work on possible constitutional amendment to move it back to 2 years term so that it will accommodate the proposed biennial convention if we decide to do that. We also need to look into the time we have convention, which is a holiday weekend resulting in higher cost when compared to non major holiday weekends. The change in time is not a constitutional issue and can be decided at the general meeting. The president said that he spoke to Nnerika Okonkwo who is one of the moderators of Nnewi forum, regarding spamming on our site by ELOMBAH.COM. The president suggested that we write the moderators and request that they remove elomba.com from posting on the site, and if they do not comply with our request then we can decide on the delegates/executive meeting what our other options will be. Eddy Ukatu questioned why we will try to remove elomba.com from our forum given the fact that he is from Nnewi. He said that he blocked elombah postings by making his mails spam. The president requested that authority be granted to the president/secretary to write a letter to the moderators requesting that elomba.com be removed from the forum, and was supported by Emma Nsoedo. Eddy Ukatu opined that we request that elombah only post issues that concern Nnewi, so that it will not appear as witch hunting. Samson Iлека said that it is the heart desire that Human being should work together to achieve a common goal. He said that sometimes it is ok to confront if done in the right spirit. He supports the idea of notifying the moderators to deal with the issue of elombah spamming. The meeting resolved by consensus and authorized the president/secretary to write to the moderators and request that elombah.com be taking off Nnewi forum. Alex Nweji brought up the issue of New York recognition. Onochie Madubuko said that the status quo is not satisfactory to their members, and they will like the delegates/executive decision on what will happen when Ossy Okeke lead faction decides to come back to the fold. Onochie Madubuko and Chinelo Ejimbe would like Nusa to make a decision on the issue by voting. The president sought a motion on the subject, and Eddy Ukatu proposed a motion which states that officially Nusa recognize NNEWI USA NY INC as the only New York and its environ chapter in 2014 and any other chapter that wants to

be a part of NUSA will have to come through them. The motion passed unanimously by all in favor, and non against.

**DAY 2 JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2014:** The president Chidi Metu called the meeting to order at 1050 Am, and requested we observe a minute of silence for all the souls of departed Nnewi people. The opening prayer was by Ify Momah. She thanked God for granting us Journey mercy, and requested that we all be covered by the blood of Jesus when we depart after the convention back to our respective destinations. She petitioned God to help guide our deliberations so that it may benefit our town Nnewi. Eddy Ukatu family presented Kolanut to Nnewi people on behalf of the hosting chapter atlarge. The kolanut distribution was done as demanded by the Nnewi traditions. 1 kolanut to Otolo was received by Chief Chike Momah (Nnabuenyi Nnewi), 1 kolanut to Uruagu was received by Eddy Ukatu, 1 kolanut to Umudim was received by Alex Nweji, and 1 kolanut to Nnewichi was received by Innocent Izundu. Chief Chike Momah blessed and prayed over the kolanut. He prayed that God will help us to depart in peace, and that our deliberations will be guided by God. He prayed that God will protect our Igwe and all the Obi's of Nnewi, and that peace will continue to reign in our home town. Eddy Ukatu, Alex Nweji and Innocent Izundu all prayed over the kolanut. Nnewichi son was charged to distribute the kolanut as tradition demands, and Innocent Izundu (Enyi Nnewi) had the pleasure of distributing the kolanut with the help of Chukwuezi Okeke to all in attendance. The president appeal to all to show dedication for what we came for, by been present and maintain order during meetings, so that we can have a very productive convention.

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY EDDY UKATU (ATLARGE):** He said that the convention is hosted by the atlarge chapter, and welcomed all attendees on behalf of the atlarge chapter. The atlarge chapter comprises of different cities that do not have enough Nnewi people to form a local chapter. He said that they have members in Mississippi, Florida, Oklahoma, Kansas etc, and introduced a member from Mississippi Chidi Agba who is present. Eddy said that they are ready for us and will do all that is possible to make our stay comfortable, and that the convention theme is health and healthcare service improvement system. He believes that one way of helping our people back home will be through health education. The way to know a town is by what they do, and Nnewi is known in history for its long list of accomplishments. Nnewi is known for automotives and other industrial developments. He said that Nnewi USA signifies both our town and our American ties that give us the opportunity to help our people, and that we need to continue our medical missions. He introduced the convention planning committee members present, Ik ofomata, Alex Nweji, Ethel Momah, and others that helped the committee members such as Elias Okonkwo, Nathan Momah etc. He thanked all that helped the

committee in the planning of the convention, and read a proclamation from mayor Gene Winstead of the city of Bloomington, Minnesota declaring July 3-6 2014 Nnewi USA week.

**CONVENTION PREVIEW BY ELIAS OKONKWO (PRO):** He gave a summary of the planned activities of the convention, and encouraged all to be on time. He reminded those who have not registered to please do so, He emphasized on the gala Night which is scheduled to start at 6pm and must end by midnight due to city ordinance, and encouraged all to be on time so that we can be able to accomplish the program for that night, especially in the area of fund raising.

**CHAPTER RECOGNITION:** The following chapters were recognized as been present, Atlanta Atlarge, Boston, California, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New York, and North Carolina. The president Chidi Metu said that he called Washington and they said that they will wait till the end of the law suit before they will come back.

### **CHAPTER REPORTS**

1. Atlanta chapter report was by Ruby Nnadi president who said that they had election last year which was very well conducted. She recognized their recent past President Onyi Ekwegabulu who worked very hard during his tenure to maintain peace and harmony in Atlanta Union. Chief Ekeson visited them and encouraged them to be very proud and happy to be indigenes of Nnewi as he is. They had Nnewi day last year which was very successful, and their membership is growing. They have more than 50 families registered and some of their children recently graduated from high schools and colleges. They are at the top of the list in terms of annual payments to Nusa on registered members regardless of the election year.
2. Boston chapter report was by Peter Onyemelukwe. He said that all that came to the convention last year can testify that they put up a good show. They have been trying to reconcile the convention account which Ifeanacho Okeke helped them to accomplish. He said that since after the convention some of their members felt that things did not go according to how they wanted, and they are still dealing with the aftermath of the convention. He is very hopeful that they will soon recover from that. Ik Ofomata was also very instrumental in pressing that that they complete the accounting. They are still in the process of pulling back to the fold some dissenters who felt that the activities of the convention did not go very well. Boston hopes to have a new election which is due soon, and count on what is in their basket.
3. California chapter report was by Chidi Metu who is the local chapter president and the national president of Nusa. He said that one of their members Chi Uba is still on her way to

join us at the convention. The association had a little set back and had to be reorganized. Chidi said that he is happy to report that things are moving on better now and the union is thriving. They will have new yam festival this year, and they are contemplating on having Nnewi day next year. They are all in support of the National Nusa, regardless of the fact that they have very little money in their reserve right now. He is confident that their financial position will improve soon. They are due to have election sometime this year.

4. Chicago chapter report was by Samson Ileka. He said that Chicago is doing well and that God is good and will help strengthen them. They had Igbo day and Nnewi was well represented. He also said that they have had several meetings, and Chris Ukachukwu their president has been working very hard to move them forward. Samson said that the president Chris Ukachukwu is a little late getting to the convention and will give us more details on the affairs of Chicago chapter. Chris Ukachukwu later spoke and said that Chicago is on board with Nusa. He said that it took them a while to reorganize, and that they will pay their outstanding dues. They are working tirelessly to hold Nnewi indigenes in Chicago together, and things seem to be proceeding very well.
5. Dallas chapter report was by Ethel Momah who is the able president of Dallas. She said that Dallas is doing very well, and well represented at this convention. She named Dallas members present, and thanked them for coming. Dallas is still moving forward to better things. She said that Nnewi recently lost one of its sons in Dallas, and asked that God receive his soul in eternal rest. Dallas members participated greatly in his wake keeping, and his wife is now a member of Dallas chapter. Dallas monthly meetings are scheduled in member homes on rotating bases, and that help them to know each other's residence. She reported that the only challenge in Dallas is lateness to meetings. Constitutionally meetings are supposed to start at 5pm, but usually start at 8pm due to lateness. They are still working to improve that. They continue to have annual picnic and Christmas party, which is usually a fun time for the whole family.
6. Houston chapter report was by Emma Nsoedo (Eze amulu nna nma) who is the president. He said that Houston is a great chapter and that Nusa was started in Houston and produced the first Nusa president. They recently sent a container load of books to Nnewi library. They donated a generator set to Nnewi motherless home, and also donated time to Houston food bank by volunteering. Nnewi day is now a yearly event in Houston, and they are working on developing a library in Uruagu. Houston helped to celebrate Dr Okeke's 88 year birthday, and they had odogwu outing on that day. They enjoy peace in the union, and have life insurance coverage for all their members.

7. New York chapter report was by Alex Nweji who is the president NNEWI USA NY INC. He said that they have 13 families and growing. That they are living in peace, and busy planning on hosting the next National Nusa convention. Alex said that they are working on the plan of inviting a major donor from Nigeria for the next convention.
8. At large chapter report was by Charles Agba who is from Mississippi. He said that he and Leo Okoli are the only Nnewi indigene that lives in Mississippi, and that the atlarge chapter is growing and doing well. Chinwe Enemchukwu is back on board, and has been very strong in the work of Nusa. Dr CJ Odunukwu is scheduled to give the keynote speech. He reminded all that the atlarge chapter is made up of various Nnewi people all over USA that do not have enough members in a locality to form a chapter as mandated by the constitution. He appealed to anybody present who may have come from such a locality to join them.
9. North Carolina chapter report was by Henry Mbonu. He said that since the inception of Nusa, he and Sylvan Ulasi has always represented North Carolina. They had always paid the dues of those who were not much involved. He said that he had been leading them, but it seems like they abandoned the leadership position to him for life. He said that they recently reorganized their meeting and all their members had planned to come, but for some reason some were not able to make it. He said that Sylvan Ulasi is running late but on his way to the convention. He appealed that we accept 2014 as their registration fee and forgive the past outstanding dues, because they had problems at the time in question and were not much involved. He pledged their support for Nusa going forward.

**STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS BY CHIDI METU (NUSA NATIONAL PRESIDENT):** The president said that Nusa is in a great state, irrespective of minor challenges which we are working through. He thanked the executive for all their help in running the affairs of Nusa. Chidi also recognized the delegates and the chapter president for all their sacrifice for the good of Nnewi. He thanked the Nusa general members for coming and reminded all that the executive body is only here to serve them. We have all had what each chapter is doing to benefit our great town Nnewi, and reminded us that our benevolent gestures to the less privilege in our town is helping a great deal. He thanked all for devoting the time for the work of Nnewi and would like us to continue to come to the conventions because it provided us the opportunity to see each other. Chidi appealed to anybody that may have ideas that may be beneficial to our town to please share it with

us. He thanked the convention planning committee for all their hard work, and also recognized the atlarge chapter for hosting the convention. Chidi asked that we all try by all means possible to maintain peace in Nusa and live like brothers and sisters, for the development of our town Nnewi. He also gave a brief history of origin of Nnewi and the people. Nnewi produced the first made in Africa automobile and remains a big automobile parts trading center in Nigeria. Mr. Azuka Ofomata our guest from Nigeria shared a new idea from home with us. He said that a new court was formed in our state Anambra called a child in crisis with the law. They do not call it the delinquent court, and when he returns back to Nigeria they will start public sensitization campaign on that. The court is located at a section of the magistrate court, at a separate area away from the adults.

**READING OF THE 2013 CONVENTION MEETING MINUTES-** The convention minute was read by the secretary Chukwuezi Okeke after which we break for lunch and tour of the convention city Minneapolis Minnesota at 1200 noon.

**AMMENDMENTS/ADOPTION OF THE 2013 CONVENTION MINUTES:** The afternoon session was opened with the amendments to the convention minutes read by the secretary. Bishop Anosike should be corrected to reflect his given name Godson Anosike. Ikechukwu Ofomata pointed out that Igwe consulted Dr David Ofomata. The minute should reflect that it was attorney Chi Uba and not Chi Mbelu as member of the California delegate. Enyi Kwunazu is Chief Goddy Agbasi and not Ejimbe. Igwe Nnewi Kenneth Orizu said that he was disappointed when he had the news of Nusa court litigations. He also said that it was Nusa that brought him first to the USA, and we should not disappoint him. Angela Ezulike was nominated to the office of assistant PRO and she accepted. Chinelo Ejimbe is from Otolu Nnewi and not Umudim. Igwe said that he is ashamed that you pass mmeri na asa mba na asa and sue your people in USA. Ethel Momah said that we should be careful how we communicate in the internet, and that we should desist from insults. Emma Nsoedo said that we should stop pointing non issues because the essence of the minute is to capture key points. The adoption of the minute was moved by Alex Nweji and was supported by Chief Chike Momah. The convention minute of 2013 and amendments as hereby noted passed.

**FINACIAL STATEMENT REPORT-** Was given by Ifenacho Okeke/ Chinelo Ejimbe. Ifeanacho Okeke was involved in presenting the financial statement because most of the expenditures occurred when he was in charge. He said that we had a shot fall of \$10044 from the last convention in Boston. Henry Mbonu opined that if any part of the financial statement does not affect this financial year it should not be part of the document. Chris

Ukachukwu questioned why we have a pay pal account, and opined that Osss lawsuit expense should be deemphasized so that it does not generate problems. The president Chidi Metu responded that the cost of the law suit would have been more if Onochie and he were not helping in some of the legal work necessary to defend the suit. Ruby Nnadi responded that we have to be transparent, and that requires that members should have accurate record of what was spent and for what. Chief Chike Momah opined that we collectively thank the president and Madubuko for their effort in reducing the cost of the suit. The president Chidi Metu said that he taught that we have written off the outstanding debt. Ifeanacho Okeke responded that he suggested in the past convention that we write it off, but that the resounding answer was no from the general members. Emma Nsoedo opined that we make a provision for doubtful account. He will like us to age the debt, by deciding which years to forgive. Ify Madubuko suggested we break it down to Members/outside pledges. Ifanacho Okeke opined that we write them and remind them of their pledge. Ruby Nnadi said that it may not be proper to want people to redeem pledge of door/windows when construction has not started. Ethel Momah said that a committee was set up in the past who contacted the people with the outstanding pledges, but their response was not encouraging. Alex Nweji said that his family paid their pledge and he encouraged all with outstanding pledge to please honor them. Ikechukwu Ofamata said that he will like us to finalize this issue that has been lingering for a long time, and make a decision on a way forward. Elias Okonwo opined that if a pledge is contingent on something then we should wait until the project is started. Samson Iлека questioned if pledge is legally enforceable, and the answer from Chidi Metu is no. Chukwuezi Okeke asked if it will be alright to publish the pledges. Ify Momah asked if we can discount the pledges and not write if off completely. Peter Onyemelukwe said that we should not publish the pledge, but write a letter to the people who made the pledge. Chi Uba opined that we delete probably five years back. Eddy Ukatu asked if we may investigate why people are not redeeming their pledges and see if it may be cured. Azuka Ofomata said that we may not quite understand what is involved in pledging, and reminded us that scriptures say that those who honor their commitment of generosity will be bountifully rewarded. The president sought a motion to decide on this issue. Chike Momah made a motion stating to have committee (president/Ethel Momah) to work with the list of those who pledged and find out if they wish to honor it or not. The motion was supported by Chris Ukachukwu. The result of the vote is 21(twenty one) in support and 0(zero) against the motion. Hence the motion passed. Elias Okonkwo moved a motion to accept and adopt the financial statement, and was supported by Ify Momah. There was no opposition to Elias Okonkwo motion and his motion was adopted unanimously. Please see attached Nusa financial statement for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014.



**DAY 3 JULY 5<sup>TH</sup> 2014:** The meeting started at 1015 am, and the opening prayer was by Ethel Momah. Eddy Ukatu family on behalf of the Atlarge chapter presented kolanut to us. The kolanut was distributed according to Nnewi tradition to Otolo (Chief Chike Momah) Uruagu (Eddy Ukatu), Umudim (Ik Ofomata) Nnewichi (Dr Chukwukadibia Odunukwe) and to Nathan Momah past president of Nusa. Chief Chike Momah (Nnabuenyi Nnewi) blessed the kolanut and thanked God for guiding all our deliberations, and for the success of the convention. The kolanut was broken and distributed for all to enjoy. The secretary gave the recap of the convention for day one and two.

**CONVENTION THEME DISCUSSION:** The theme is healthcare services improvement program in Nnewi (Nkwanite ahuike na mgbochi oria na Nnewi). Dr Ikechukwu Ofomata announced that the health care panel members, lead by Dr CJ Odunukwe will meet to put their thoughts together on how we can help improve the health condition of our people in Nnewi. The members of the panel are as follows- Dr CJ Odunukwe, Dr Ndubueze Okonkwo, Dr Ikechukwu Ofomata, Dr Chinwe Okonkwo, Elias Okonkwo , Alex Nweji, Ify Momah, Ethel Momah, Emma Nsoedo, Chukwuezi Okeke, Nneka Okonkwo. Dr Ikechukwu Ofomata restated that the various health practioners selected will discuss the state of affairs of health in Nnewi and give us a way forward on how to improve health of the people in our town. Dr CJ Odunukwe opened the discussion by comparing the first hospital in USA mass general versus the first hospital in Nigeria Iyenu hospital, which he said look the same at the beginning, but lately there is a great difference. Dr Ndudueze Okonkwo said that health is one of the main important factor that God wishes for all. He said that he was appalled at what he witnessed at the last medical mission in Akwudo hospital. There was a child whose condition was very critical, but the hospital did not have the ability to manage her and kept her there. They wanted to take the child to get a cat scan, but the medical director refused transfer of the patient. He asked the physician why he was not willing to transfer the patient, and his response was that they do not allow patients to leave the hospital for tests outside the hospital, because they may run away without paying their medical bills. He paid the patient hospital bills before the hospital released the patient for transfer to Nnewi general Hospital. Dr Ndubueze Okonkwo said that our problems are deep in nature, and stated that the most common cause of death in women of child bearing age in Nigeria is post partum hemorrhage due to bleeding, and kidney failure which can be easily managed. He has set up a dialysis center that can help in that area in Nnewi. Dr Ikechukwu Ofomata said that every neighborhood in Nnewi has a primary healthcare center, and that the question should be if they have the personnel and equipments necessary to

provide good care to our people. He listed some challenging factors that may hinder providing care, such as patient transportation, communication etc. Dr Ikechukwu Ofomata said that we have to finally decide if we want to set up a brand new health center, or work towards equipping the government provided centers already existing in the community. Alex Nweji said that he is very happy that Nusa is trying to help in this area. He opined that the cost of running a health care center will be very costly, and we may not be able to manage that. We should concentrate on education and health screening in areas of salt consumption, excessive alcohol consumption, breast examination, annual physical examination, prostate cancer screening. Chidi Metu said that at his last visit to Nnewi, he encountered many people with Enyi-ure, and he will like to know what it is and the cause. Dr Ndubueze Okonkwo responded that it is one of the complications of diabetes, and some of our people do not wear shoes, and they also have poor blood circulation to the extremities. They are prone to have injury to their feet without feeling it. He said that by just wearing correct shoes 40% of feet ulcers (enyi-ure) related foot amputation can be avoided. Eddy Ukatu asked about Ukwu-iza (swollen feet). Dr Okonkwo responded that it can be of multiple sources and should be investigated. He listed some medical conditions that may result in swollen feet such as heart failure, liver failure, and kidney failure. He opined that we may borrow Amaichi model, which have a doctor working in their established clinic in Amaich one day in a week, and that primary care is very essential. Elias okonkwo said that we have to look for solutions and suggested we do it in partnership, so that we will have continuity. Emma Nsoedo said that America is good in the healthcare area because they have good diagnostic measures. He said that minor psychiatric issues that can be handled with medications are ignored, and we can help in that area. Dr CJ Odunukwe emphasized on the need for health education for our people. Chukwuezi Okeke spoke on the need for portable water production system to tackle the problem of dehydration which is now a major health issue for our people. Dr CJ Odunukwe supported the idea and narrated how in the past we had a city wide water supply scheme which is no longer in existence. He opined we pursue the idea of water supply and ask our people to help in the project. Dr Chinwe Okonkwo Ob/gyn said that her interest is in the area of women and children, and she will like us to consider working in the provision of prenatal vitamins for women of child bearing age and Pap smear which are easily achievable goals. Nneka Okonkwo said that blood product provision is a known issue, and we have to find a way to make it better. She said that there are no blood banks to handle screening and donation of blood products, and when blood is donated by family members they are not screened for compatibility or disease, and this have resulted in many unnecessary deaths. Dr Ikechukwu Ofomata said that transporting sick people to a hospital is one of the challenges, and that is achievable. Dr Ndubueze Okonkwo said that certain things are

hard to do collectively, but sometimes it is good to do it privately. He said we can convince one person among us to place an endoscope in a hospital, and the person can be paid over time for the provision, and encourage all to try and help in some of these areas individually apart from the organizational project. Azuka Ofomata said that water provision project will be difficult without governmental support. He said that the people's integrity is crucial, and that we have to be careful who we are working with, to prevent them from making money from our community project. Moreover, we must have somebody locally to supervise the project and report back to Nusa, and that will require a person of high integrity for it to work. Emma Agba said that the people at home do not reason in the same line with us. He informed us that the Canadian group already has a health project set up in Okpunoegbu Umudim which provides free medical services to the community, but he will like us to have a direct control of ours if we choose to pursue any project. Hon Chukwudi Orizu thanked all the people in attendance, and said that he was moved by the convention theme. He said that the most important thing we need is massive education in the area of health for our people. He has organized three health education campaigns since he came into office, and has donated money to pay for indigent patient's hospital bills. The government has plans of establishing twenty seven healthcare centers in Nnewi, and it will be a government/community project where the government will help in building and then the community will be required to run it. He said that at present time we have a community health center built by the son of Agu Ofodile in Otolu, one in Agwu hall, and one in Obiofia. Hon Orizu opined that Nusa should undertake in equipping the 3 health centers already on the ground and use it as a platform towards improving the health of our people. He also reminded us that poverty is also a factor that contributes to our people's poor health condition especially within our elderly population. He usually makes 12 home visits to old people monthly, and on one such visit he came to a home of an elderly widow lying in her feces on the only mat she has. Hon Orizu provided some money to the caregiver to buy a spare mat so that it can be changed routinely to avoid the old lady lying in such deplorable state. He encouraged us that such gesture to the less privileged in our community can go a long way in helping ameliorate our people's sufferings. Henry Mbonu opined that based on his recent visit to Nnewi he can conservatively say that about 80% of our people has foot infection. He will like us to try to reorient the thinking of some of our Doctors who now believe that most of the common ailment affecting our people is by iko ogwu. Emeka Ukachukwu believes that self help is the key, and that everybody should think of what they can do individually to help. He opined that what Honorable Chukwudi Orizu said is very important and that we should try and augment and equip the government provided health centers. Emeka will like to know how we can channel our provisions such as oxygen canisters to the place of greatest need. Ethel Momah said that we have

to find a way to reduce the cost of funerals and redirect the resources to health care. Dr Odunukwe said that it is easy to get and donate oxygen concentrators and nebulizers to the health care centers in Nnewi that need it. Dr Ndubeze Okonkwo said that the health care center in Okpungbu had no oxygen to manage a congestive heart patient, and appeal to all to try and do things we can on individual bases by providing this much needed medical supplies to treat the patients. Eddy Ukatu questioned how to regulate to make sure that we have competent hospitals and Doctors handling patients? Dr Ndubueze Okonkwo responded that we have a medical council in Enugu who are supposed to ensure that. He also said that we will need the help of our lawyers to solve that problem, by taking some of these incompetent providers to court. We agreed that the committee will continue to meet and further explore this issue and make a formal recommendation on how Nusa can help and improve the health of our people in Nnewi.

**DR NDUBEZE OKONKWO PRESENTATION:** He thanked all for our efforts in trying to help alleviate the sufferings of our people back home, and reminded us that talk is cheap, and we must back it up with some action. We must dig deep into our soul to know if what we are thinking is real. Our major problems have very simple solutions and very little money can take care of them. We need to concentrate on the lower levels, and basic hygiene is the backbone of good health care. He has worked with Dr Akpakama who has a good integrity and a reasonable ophthalmologist, and opined we seek such providers and hospitals we can partner with to provide primary care for our people. Dr Okonkwo said that if we can each set aside \$3 a day and put it together for 5 years we can have sufficient money with the help of our business men to establish a good hospital to care for our people. He has been contributing to the best of his ability individually, and showed us a hospital he has set up in Nnewi to help. The hospital serves as a dialysis center and can manage urgent care services for the community. They have 5 ambulances in the hospital with a cell phone number people can contact for services. He emphasized that we concentrate on education of basic hygiene practices, preventive medical services either in a solo center or in partnership with trusted providers, and reminded us that we can do all we are saying from within if we are serious and willing to sacrifice for the good of all. He suggested we start at the basic things and work our way up. Attorney Onochie Madubuko asked if lawyers getting involved in medical litigation will help or increase the cost of health care. Dr Odunkwe responded by saying that we must not attach prize to our life, because money cannot replace life. He thinks that lawyers can help by bringing culprits to court. Dr Okonkwo supported the response of Dr Odunkwe and said that litigation is very necessary to get health care providers to do what is always in the best interest of their patients.

**HONORABLE CHUKWUDI ORIZU SPEECH:** He thanked Nnewi people for the opportunity to speak to them, and reminded us that he also came to the last convention in Boston where he intimated us on his contributions thus far in developing Nnewi since he was elected to the Anambra House of Representatives. There are new roads especially the road from Eme court to the new site of the teaching hospital which Honorable Chris Azubogu was also involved in bringing to Nnewi. He is involved in building school blocks in the 4 quarters of Nnewi, and will make sure that all is completed before his tenure ends next year. The issue of security has improved in the state by pursuing the robbers and kidnappers at their hide out, and houses from which they operate are pulled down. The state is trying to work on the issue of banning okada , and given the fact of how it will affect traders and operators he proposed doing it systemically to cushion the toll. He kicked against bringing the bill before the house, unless the executive wants to sponsor it directly. Nkwo triangle has been taking over by Anambra state government, and the state has already started developing the area. The request that was made to the state government is to inculcate afia olu site in the development plan. The state government wants to develop Awka, Onitsha and Nnewi together. He suggested we do not fight the state development for Nnewi. During the era of President Shehu Shagari there was a federal prison construction started in Nnewi and abandoned, but Honorable Chris Azubogu has helped to revitalize and complete the complex. This will bring employment to our youths and have a positive impact on our economy. There is a museum currently been built in Nnewi, and he had explained to some Nusa executives and members that we still have lands in Nnewi where our proposed library can be built. He pledged his support to help Nusa secure a land where the library can be built, and will like us to start the development immediately so that the donors will fulfill their pledges. We need to educate our people on good eating habit to improve their health, and that a diagnostic center is needed in Nnewi. Honorable Orizu will like us to compare between building the library or a diagnostic center to determine which will be more beneficial to our people. He said that Mbuli is so congested, and attempt is ongoing to complete the permanent site and move some services to that site. Power problem is still persistent and the federal government is still working on that. There are some bole holes sited by the government that are functional, but on the issue of Amuko water cooperation there is a lawsuit pending brought by the past employees against the government. The lawsuit was the reason why the government sited bole holes in some areas to help out. He reminded us that we cannot depend on government for everything, and must do certain things on individual bases to help our people. Honorable Orizu encourage us to help out in some of this areas he has been involved such as elderly people advocacy, healthcare and hospital bill payment for the indigent

patients. Elais Okonkwo asked the honorable if the legislators can make laws to compel health care providers to provide adequate information's to their patients.

He responded by saying that they can do that, but they would need help in drafting the bill. The process is usually better served when the administrators drafts the bills and send it to the legislators for debate and passing. Mr Onyemelukwe asked if the government is going to buy up the properties around the triangle to meet the need of developing the entire area. Honorable Chukwudi Orizu responded that he does not think that there is any question as to who owns the triangle and that anybody who may have built at that site was at his own risk. He also said that at one point those who had structures in that area were compensated.

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY DR.CHUKWUKADIBIA ODUNUKWE:** He started by thanking Nnewi people for the opportunity to speak to them on this very important issue. He said that health is wealth but we seem to neglect it, and most of our people treat their cars better than our health. We tend to take our cars for routine check up before we take a long journey with it, but we fail to do the same for our health. He emphasized on the importance of primary care to catch and treat minor problem before they become major issues. He noted that capital investment by states is a factor for health care delivery success, but it is not the only determining factor. "The United states has the best medical care with one of the worst health care systems in the developed world" The United states of America spends \$8508 per capita annually, and Sweden spends \$3925 per capita annually which is far less than the United States but with a better result. Smoking cessation played a very major part in the Sweden's success. Our health care infrastructure has completely collapsed and need to be built up systemically using models that has already proven to work. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. It is now a status symbol to publish in the media that our loved one died in India, because the rich travel all the way to India for medical treatment, and the poor are left behind to deal with a medical system that have completely collapsed. We need to educate our physicians to understand that they need to bring up their standard of care so that they can compete, and our legislators need to make laws that can at least compel them to meet the basic standards. The government needs to have laws that will establish a minimum standard of hospitals both in terms of physical structure requirements and the day to day operations to protect people's well beings. Our people in Nnewi must be empowered to reject the way things are now, and demand better services from their health care providers. The problem of ignorance is a factor, and we can play a role in the area of public education so that our people will be better informed of the need to take better care of their health. He made reference to what our past leader Dr. Nnamdi

Azikiwe did in the 1930's, and suggested we learn from such endeavors. Attached is the full key note address by Chukwukadibia Odunukwe MD.

**TOWN HALL MEETING-** The president Chidi Metu requested that we discuss and decide either to continue or discontinue the library project. Dr Ikechukwe Ofomata echoed the same by saying that for 7 years we have been talking about this project, and we need to collectively decide on a way forward and conclude either to continue or terminate the project. He reminded us that Dr.Cletus Ibeto (Omekanaya) promised that he will help to secure other Nnewi rich people's help in building the library. Honorable Chukwudi Orizu and Emma Agba promised to help find a land in Nnewi where the library will be built. The vice president said that there was a standing committee that was supposed to look into the library project headed by Chief Chike Momah (nnabuenyi Nnewi) and he will like him to continue to chair that committee. Emma Agba said that the major problem we have in Nnewi is izo-nsu, which is a scenario where one who does not agree with a project will work to kill it. He asked that we try to stay in control of whatever project we want to undertake. Chief Chike Momah responded that he was aware that the issue in the past was land acquisition, and respectfully declines to chair the committee. He said that he will consider staying in the committee but will not chair it. Ethel Momah said that years back Anambra state government had the plan of building a library in Nnewi, and she does not think that Nusa have the resources to build the library. She will like us to follow up to find out if the state still has the plan of building a library in Nnewi. Emma Nsoedo said that the only project that Nusa agreed on was to build a library, and that we need to start and complete the project. Elias Okonkwo said that Chief Cletus Ibeto (omekanaya) told us that whatever project we want to undertake, we will get local support to complete it. Alex Nweji said that we should have a defined time frame, and if the project does not materialize, then we need to consider alternatives. Henry Mbonu said that he was at the inception and that what we agreed initially was water/electricity projects for Nnewi. He opined that we may not be able to accomplish what is required for a library. He requested that we consider a diagnostic center and health care issue for now. He was supported by Chi Uba who narrated their conversation with Ernest Obiora regarding this issue in the past. The president opined that we may consider as a compromise to start the library project and designate one area as health care center. Innocent Izundu opined that since we have been discussing on health care we need to secure the land and continue on the health care plan. Peter Onyemelukwe said that we should start the library project, and donations from home will be available to complete it. Charles Agba will like for us to reduce the library building scope so that it will not be elephant project we cannot complete. We agreed and affirmed to secure alternative land outside the initial proposed site in Nkwo triangle and continue with the library

project. It will not be proper to change course in mid stream given the fact that people have already donated towards the project and the alternatives stated by some will cost as much if not more.

**FUND RAISING:** The president Chidi Metu said that Nusa benefited in the past from books donated by Chief Chike Momah for auction. We also received 50% of the proceeds of the books by justice Ubezuonu which was sold at the Boston convention. He appealed for donation toward the benevolent work of Nusa. The following pledges were noted – Chidi Metu \$300, Ikechukwu Ofomata \$500, Chief and Mrs Chike Momah \$500, Emma Agba \$500, Azuka Ofomata \$100, Onochie Madubuko \$500, Nathan and Ify Momah \$200, Emma Nsoedo \$250, Alex Nweji \$250, Eddy Ukatu \$1100, Elias Okonkwo \$1000, Chukwuezi Okeke \$400, Emeka Ukachukwu \$100. We agreed to consider having a music made on behalf of Nusa which will be funded on individual voluntary bases, and the executives will work on the logistics.

**PRESIDENTIAL VOTE OF THANKS-** Chidi Metu thanked his executives for helping to run the affairs of Nusa. He also thanked Dr. Odunuke, Dr. and Dr. Mrs Okonkwo, Honorable Chukwudi Orizu, Mr. and Mrs. Emma Agba, Mr. Azuka Ofomata and all the general membership present for taking time to come to the convention. He also thanked Eddy Ukatu family for been such a great host locally and Onochie Madubuko for his great help with the lawsuit.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Elias Okonkwo moved for the adjournment and was supported by Ify Momah and Ruby Nnadi. The meeting adjourned at 1630pm for members to get ready for the gala night schedule to start at 1800pm.

Recorded by Chukwuezi Okeke

Signed by: -----  
Chidi Metu Esq. (president)      Chukwuezi Okeke (secretary)



NNEWI USA INC FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
For The Period Ended 30th June,2014

		Inflow \$	Outflow \$	Balance \$
A	Balance B/F from 06/30/2013			145,130.23
B	Cash In All Bank Account:			
	Main Account	\$ 5,928.37		
	Library Account	\$54,652.42		
	Emergency Account	\$25,547.31		
	Nnewi Domiciliary Account	\$50,128.87		
	Nnewi Naira Account #561,924.55 @160			
	per dollar =	\$ 3,512.00		
	Paypal Account	\$ 1,618.08		
				141,387.05
C	Revenues:			
	Receipt from Boston Convention	16,598.50		
	Refund from Chinyere Mbelu for Igwe's			
	Medical treatment	669.25		
	Transfer from paypal account	3,500.00		
	Donation from Chukwudi Orizu	1,000.00		
	Dr. Ofomata for Ubezonu' s book Launch	175.00		
	Igwe's Post Convention Fund Raising	1,473.00		
	Eddie Ukatu Convention proceed	3,385.00		
	Eddie Ukatu Raffle tickets	1,135.05		
	Minnesota convention Registration	120.00		
	Other Receipt from Dr Ofomata	100.00		
	Total Revenue	28,155.80		
D	Expenses:			
	Rubby for Igwe's Med Treatment		2,000.00	
	Engnr. Eke Okeke for Igwe's hotel bill		1,518.26	
	Chike Ajene for Igwe's hospitality		277.58	
	Rubby for Igwe and the Obi's		320	
	Ike Mbelu for Igwe's brochure		125	
	Eddie Ukatu for Minnesota Convention		17,000.00	
	Rubby for Gift to Igwe at Ofala		400	
	Onyinyechukwu Osakwe for Obi of Uruagu		100	
	Igwe's ticket Boston to California		1,715.30	
	Paid to Attorney for Ossy Okeke's Lawsuit		8,500.00	
	Total Expenses		31,956.14	
	Net Balance =A+C-D(\$145,130.23+\$28,155.80 -\$31,956.14			
E	SURPLUS			141,329.63
	Unpaid Pledges:			57.42
	2003-2013	\$166,208.70		
	Note: Total Money Spent For Ossy Law suit it			
	From June 24 To July 03 2013 was \$6,800			
	From Sep.11,2013 to Feb 14,2014 \$8,500			
	Total	\$15,300.00		

*Today*