

**MINUTES OF 8TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF NNEWI UNION USA, INC
(NUSA)**

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD TO SUNDAY JULY 7TH, 2003

**VENUE:
HARVEY HOTEL-DFW AIRPORT 4545 W. JOHN CARPENTER FREEWAY,
IRVING, TX.**

THEME:

CRITICAL ISSUES FACING NNEWI DEVELOPMENT

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003

**CONVENTION MINUTES
AND
KEYNOTE SPEECH**

5:30 p.m. Members and guests arrive and are registered.

8:00 p.m. Welcome by Dallas Chapter and housekeeping matters.

Opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu. Thereafter Nnaerika Okonkwo on behalf of Dallas Chapter thanked everybody for attending the 8th Annual NUSA Convention. Nnaerika Okonkwo called on Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu to give a brief opening remarks on behalf of Dallas Chapter. Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu implored the youths for aspiring to know their background and culture. He also acknowledged guests who came from Nigeria especially Senator Onyeabo Obi.

The president Dr. Mike Obiora also welcomed the members and the guests from Nigeria and expressed appreciation for the effort of Dallas Chapter for hosting the convention. Nnaerika Okonkwo finally reminded everybody about the registration and the attendant fee. He stressed that the convention will offer maximum enjoyment for everybody and more importantly the youth and children and therefore urged them to take advantage of the programs. There was formal introduction of members and guests. Sylva Odobulu also welcomed the members and guests and later presented kolanut on behalf of Dallas Chapter. The kolanut was shared according to Nnewi tradition and custom.

9:00 p.m. Dinner/Networking

10:00 p.m. EXECUTIVE AND DELEGATES MEETING.

In attendance were: Mike Obiora, Ossy Okeke, Ugo Uzodike, Ofili Uba, Leo Okoli, Ike Ofomata, Dennis Ekwuatu, Ugo Okeke, Emma Nsoedo, Chris Ulasi, Stanley Anya, Chike Odunukwe, Mbadiwe Okongwu, Achebe Anosike, Ike Mogbo, Sylva Odobulu.

Mike Obiora informed the meeting that two issues necessitated the need for the meeting. He informed the meeting that though the election was scheduled for tomorrow, however, if the attendance is not substantial, the election may be moved to Saturday. He reiterated the fact that all the positions are open for election. That no person has been pre-determined to contest or win any position. That all members

in good standing are eligible to contest the election. Ugo Okeke inquired as to the number of members in Michigan chapter. Mike answered that there are six members.

Annual Due

Ofili Uba voiced opposition to the idea of individuals paying annual due outside of their local chapter. He stated that chapters ought to pay annual due for their members instead of members making the payment directly to NUSA. This he stated has support in the constitution where membership is through the local chapter. Regarding the recommendation that the meeting shall present to the general assembly on the issue of annual due.

Mbadiwe Okongwu opined that NUSA should raise money through donations and de-emphasize annual due and levy. Dennis Egwuatu echoed Okongwu's view above. Ofili Uba opined that funding for NUSA should be directed through the chapters and also expressed support for the view of Okongwu. Other members expressed support for the idea that NUSA should devise means of raising revenue from donations instead of reliance on levy or annual due. Chris Ulasi stated that he is unaware of any organization that annual due is not an integral part of its revenue base. He stated that donations are usually voluntary in all associations and therefore annual due should be part of NUSA funding. Achebe Anosike and Emma Nsoedo expressed support to the above view by Chris Ulasi. Ugo Uzodike proposed that we pay the annual due for Washington Convention and waive one year due annual due.

He also proposed that the annual due be reduced to \$25.00 per person by an amendment. Ofili Uba expressed further opposition to the issue of annual due. He cited the free teleconference that he helped NUSA to obtain with a view to save money that would have otherwise been utilized to pay for teleconferences. He stated that there are additional revenues that NUSA can raise so to make the association self-sustaining and less reliant on dues and levies from members. Stanley Anya opined that in view of the fact that none of the chapters has paid for the annual due in two years, the Dallas chapter is urging that the annual due be waived for the two years. He stated that Dallas chapter want the convention to be a huge success and that implementation of the annual due may present some problem. Sylva Odobulu lends supports to the view expressed by Stanley Anya. Chike Odunukwe proposed that we pay \$50.00 for Washington Convention and reduce the amount to \$25.00 for Dallas convention.. Ike Mogbo proposed that we recommend to the assembly that the annual due be waived and for the incoming executives to review the issue. Motion by Stanley Anya supported by Mbadiwe Okongwu that we waive the payment of annual due as a basis to vote or be voted for at the general election.

Votes:

Atlanta-yes

Boston-yes

Dallas-yes

Los Angeles-yes

Michigan-yes

Houston-yes

NY/NJ-yes

Washington-yes

Mississippi-No.

By 8 yes votes and 1 no vote it was resolved that the general assembly be presented with a resolution that we suspend the provision in the bye-law that makes eligibility

to vote and be voted for dependent on good financial standing.

DAY TWO: FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2003

Bus Tour by the children and youths left the convention venue at 9:30 a.m. Meeting called to order by NCC Chair Ugo Uzodike at 9:40 a.m. Opening prayer by Arunne Momah. The assembly observed one minute silence for Ajene's son. Dallas chapter presented kolanut by its president Sylva Odobulu. He used the opportunity to thank the members and the guests for attending the 2003 convention. He also expressed special thanks to in-laws of Dallas chapter. He presented the kola to Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu. The kola was shared according to Nnewi tradition and custom. Chike Momah blessed the kolanut and prayed for God's guidance in the course of the entire convention, and thanked all for their attendance.

Welcome Address by Dallas Chapter President. Sylva Odobulu expressed the happiness and gratitude of the chapter to all for the attendance at Dallas 2003. He expressed the sacrifice and commitment by the chapter to ensure that the convention is a huge success. He urged that the convention should co-opt the youths and the children effectively. He also urged that members to show truthfulness and honesty to each other. He stressed the need to ensure that fundraising be paramount in the convention, noting that money is the key to the success of any association or endeavor. He appealed for ways to ensure that Nnewi people living in cities where there is no association be allowed to associate and join the chapter of the association nearby. He pointed out that NUSA shall be inclusive and should embrace all Nnewi people in America.

ROLL CALL

Atlanta
Boston
Dallas
Houston
Michigan
North Carolina
New York/New Jersey
Washington DC.
Los Angeles
Florida
Minnesota
Kansas City
Colorado-Denver

Dignitaries from Nnewi and/or Nigeria were recognized. Ginger Egwuatu, Senator Onyeabo Obi. Chief George Moghalu was also recognized in absentia.

Minutes of last year convention was presented and some highlights of the minutes explained. Amendments: Grace Anosike pointed out that page 8 of the minutes failed to show the reluctance expressed by some members of Boston chapter including herself on the setting up of the Resolution Committee. Furthermore, Chike Odunukwe pointed out that he accepted the setting up of the Resolution Committee grudgingly or with reservation. Additionally, page 9 of the minutes reference to Grace Odunukwe-amended to reflect Grace Anosike. Arunne Momah pointed out that Funding Committee should have been underlined. Chike Odunukwe also pointed out that the summary of fundraising committee report is too thin and did not contain some of the essentials of the report- though no particular essential was mentioned.

Chike suggested that the report of the committee could have been attached by reference to the report itself. Motion to adopt the minute subject to above amendments was moved by Izuchukwu Oraka and supported by Ike Mbelu. The said minutes with the amendments was adopted by affirmative voice vote.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Ossy Okeke informed the assembly about the letter that was written to Nzuko Ora Nnewi following the resolution at last year's convention that NUSA shall expend \$1000.00 to co-sponsor (with Nzuko Ora Nnewi) a political debate and public enlightenment amongst various office contestants at Nnewi. He informed the assembly that no response has been received regarding the request that Nzuko Ora provide NUSA with modality for said political debate. He also informed the assembly that the said letter to Nzuko Ora Nnewi contained request for provision of blue print/feasibility study for the setting up of the Technical/Vocational College at Nnewi. He informed the assembly that the need for the blue print arose from the meeting between Igwe Orizu and Governor New Jersey and information from Chuck Linton that NUSA should obtain blue print for the project and then present to the governor.

The assembly was informed that no response to this issue has been received from Nzuko Ora Nnewi. Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu suggests that we assist that Nzuko Ora Nnewi write the blue print. Mike Obiora informed the assembly that he visited and discussed with Igwe on this matter (the building of technical/vocational college at Nnewi), but was informed that there is no land at Nnewi to build the school. Mike also informed the assembly that he was assured that an effort was underway to procure a piece of land for this project. Ebube Odunukwe suggested that the content of the letter be read to the assembly. Whereby the letter was read to the assembly. Mbadiwe Okongwu suggests that we send a reminder to Nzuko Ora Nnewi. Mike Anazodo and Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu lends support to the idea that we send a reminder as soon as possible. Izuchukwu Oraka suggests that we form a committee to deal with this issue. Ike Mbelu stated that NUSA can come up with a feasibility study for the project. Chris Ulasi opined that we can put something together and present to governor of New Jersey. He also argued that we should discuss this matter further at the town hall meeting. It was resolved that this issue be discussed further at the town hall meeting.

Arunne Momah inquired about the meeting of the committee set up to deal with NUSA funding of future conventions and the report that was presented on behalf of that committee.

Mike Obiora explained that the committee was set up to determine the modality for NUSA funding of future conventions, but that the committee was unable to meet and in view of the exigency required of the work of the committee, that some members of the committee met with members of reconstituted committee. He apologized for any shortcomings of the committee especially to the members of the original committee. He informed the assembly that he had sent out apology for failure to co-opt all the original members of that committee. He again expressed apology to members of the old committee that did not take part in formulating the report or take part in the meetings. Arunne Momah expressed disappointment at the way the original committee members were treated. That she has sent an email expressing her displeasure at the said treatment. That failure to allow the original committee members the opportunity to partake in the work of that committee was wrong. Isaac Emefo pointed out that the delegates at a meeting has mandated Mike Obiora to

apologize to members of original committee who were left out of the work of that committee. He urged those members to accept the apology tendered by Mike Obiora. Chike Odunukwe expressed concern at the premise upon which the apology was tendered by Mike Obiora. Isaac again urged that said apology be accepted so that we can move on. Mike stated that he never intended to sidetrack any body in the work of that committee. Ike Mbelu accepted the apology and urged that we move on. Arunne Momah accepted the apology but urged that same thing should not be repeated.

Chike Odunukwe inquired about the status of the fundraising committee.

Ossy Okeke explained that the committee was supposed to be either reconstituted or abrogated at 2nd day of last year's convention, but we did not discuss the committee and its fate on the 2nd day of said convention and that the committee and its membership is still in limbo. Benji Anosike stated that he is not aware of the report of said committee. Chike Odunukwe expressed frustration at his inability to obtain the names of that committee members from Mike Obiora and the frustration that the committee encountered from Sylva Odobulu when the committee wanted to set up teleconference for its meeting. Sylva Odobulu disputes that he refused to set up the teleconference for the committee. Ofili Uba also lends support to the fact that Sylva Odobulu did not cooperate with the committee in setting up teleconference for its meeting.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mike Obiora expressed his thanks to the members and guests for attending the 2003 convention. He recognized dignitaries from Nigeria especially Senator Onyeabo Obi, Chief George Moghalu, Dr. J.O.S. Okeke, Ginger Egwuatu. He traced the formation of NUSA. That he became the president in 1999. That the activities of NUSA has always been approved or agreed upon by either the membership or the delegates. He expressed the fact that NUSA has been hampered by lack of funds. He informed the assembly that NUSA has spent 2.5 million Naira on school rehab project in the course of his tenure. That in collaboration with Rotary Club of Romulus, NUSA shipped some computers to Nnewi. That NUSA in collaboration with New St. Paul Tabernacle Church in Detroit shipped some hospital equipments to Nnamdi Azikiwe University. That NUSA has continually invited prominent Nnewi people to the conventions. Urged all Nnewi people in United States to join NUSA and urged for continued financial support for NUSA. He also thanked everyone who helped in the course of his tenure and members who attends the conventions on a regular basis. He urged that NUSA look for ways to generate funds so as to embark on new or additional projects. He also thanked the members of the trustee board for their support and assistance to NUSA. Nnabuenyi Momah thanked Mike Obiora for his service to NUSA and the report. Dennis Egwuatu on behalf of Washington Chapter thanked Mike for his service to NUSA.

CHAPTERS REPORTS:

Washington DC. Dennis Egwuatu introduced the members of the Chapter in attendance and thanked everyone for attending the 2003 convention. He informed the assembly that the chapter has resolved that the executive and delegates must be separated to enhance and implement checks and balances in NUSA operation. That the chapter resolved that annual due be revisited and revised to \$25.00 per person.

Boston Chapter Mbadiwe Okongwu thanked NUSA and the assembly. He informed the assembly that the chapter suffered the tragic loss of the son of its member

(Ajene family). Urged that whenever a committee is set up that the members of that committee be given a mandate and time frame to submit its report. Pointed out the need for NUSA to endeavor to relate to members. That using internet as a medium of communication is insufficient. That we need written communication to the members. He opined that office seekers should inform NUSA members about their interest. Mike Obiora in response to the issue of announcing interest in offices pointed out that current practice has been consistent with prior precedent and is consistent with the bye-law. That it may be necessary to review the bye-law in this regard and determine possible area/s for a amendment.

Atlanta Chapter Ugo Okeke thanked the assembly. Expressed support of NUSA by the chapter. Lends support to the idea that person/s interested in any office should notify the members in advance so that members should interact with their delegates on who to vote for. That the chapter will undertake fundraising event this year and that the chapter will be ready to assist NUSA. He urged that NUSA undertake projects that are visible and meaningful.

Houston Okey Egbuna thanked the assembly and expressed support of the chapter to NUSA. He informed the assembly that three members of the chapter will contest for political offices in Nigeria. He also informed the assembly that the president of the chapter is Josiah Azubogu and that the chapter is working so as to ship some computers to Nnewi.

Los Angeles Ofili Uba thanked the assembly and explained the absence of the chapter president. He introduced the members of the chapter in attendance. He stated that NUSA always disregards the chapter in arranging for delegates meeting. He proposed that delegates meetings be held on a Saturday or late Sunday evening. Expressed support that persons who are interested in contesting for any office should announce their interest in advance and their intended goals for NUSA. That chapters should have the opportunity to discuss a candidate and his/her goals before coming to the convention to vote.

Dallas Nnaerika Okonkwo thanked the assembly. He recognized the Patron of the chapter-Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu. He informed the assembly that the convention is also the inaugural ceremony for the Chapter. Introduced the executive members of the chapter. Informed the assembly that the chapter has a policy to the effect that once you are a member of that chapter, you automatically belong to NUSA and the dues are remitted to NUSA. He also informed the assembly that in-laws of Ndi Nnewi belong to the chapter, and may contest election in the chapter. That the delegates for the chapter are: Ike Ofomata and Stanley Anya.

New York/New Jersey Ugo Uzodike thanked the assembly and the Dallas Chapter for organizing the convention. Introduced the members of the chapter in attendance. Informed the assembly that at the end of the convention, the chapter will introduce Dr. Benji Anosike and Arunne Momah as the new delegates of the chapter. Explained that the chapter will continue to support the Nnewi Public Library. He urged NUSA to look into developing or building a modern library at Nnewi. He urged that NUSA should have an annual due. Proposed that an executive of NUSA shall not be a delegate for that chapter.

North Carolina Sylva Ulasi on behalf of the chapter urged that NUSA stress the importance of bringing our children and youths into NUSA and conventions. Proposed that the annual due issue be revisited. He also thanked Mike Obiora for his service to

NUSA.

2ND STAGE AFTERNOON SESSION NUSA FOCUS

Chris Ulasi moderated the NUSA Focus. Chris Ulasi opined that 4 proposals be formulated to be based on the Theme of the Convention to wit: Critical Issues facing Nnewi Development. Chris Ulasi called on some eminent Nnewi sons and daughters to lead this discussion.

Dr. J.O.S. Okeke.

He opined that the money to develop Nnewi is within Nnewi. He stated that we need to refocus our attention so that the little amount of money that we raise should be properly directed. He opined that NUSA should be a catalyst for Nnewi development. Suggested that we should approach Igwe Orizu and the rich people to explain to them that the direction of things at Nnewi is improper. That we should de-emphasize the thinking that we can do everything for Nnewi from America.

Senator Onyeabo Obi

Stressed the need for Nnewi development. That development should be accompanied by planning. He suggested the need for NUSA to create family session to last for about 30 minutes-1 hour. He urged for unity amongst all Nnewi people and decried division. He also urged Nnewi people to get involved in politics. He also deplored environmental degradation at Nnewi and suggested that NUSA assist in obtaining environmental impact assessment of future projects. He also stressed the need for accountability by Chairman of Nnewi North Local Govt. Area.

Mike Obiora

Expressed support to the issues raised by Senator Onyeabo Obi. He opined that NUSA should emphasize political participation by Nnewi people and by so doing development will follow. He suggests that NUSA continue the school rehab projects. Supports the need for environmental impact assessment on future projects at Nnewi as well as the unity of Nnewi people. He stated that Nnewi should continue to be one indivisible unit.

Chief George Moghalu

He stressed the need for honesty, truth and sincerity amongst Nnewi people. He deplored the statement to the effect that there is no land at Nnewi to build the Technical/Vocational College at Nnewi and stated that such statement is not sincere and truthful. Urged NUSA to take the lead and pioneer this issue.

Dr. Nlogha Okeke

Reminded the assembly that NUSA had promised two years ago to take from him the copy of the environmental impact study on Nnewi and that till date NUSA is yet to take possession of said environmental study. Stressed the need to ensure that Nnewi people occupy office of governor of Anambra State and various ministerial positions at the federal level.

Comments on Issue raised at Nnewi Focus

Elias Okonkwo expressed support for the idea of blue print to educate Nnewi people as well as awareness on the part of NUSA. Izuchukwu Oraka expressed support to the idea that biggest problem that NUSA must deal with is unity. Expressed support for awareness on the part of NUSA and Nnewi people.

Chris Egbuna opined that NUSA cannot raise enough money to develop Nnewi.

Rather we should consider awareness program especially to educate the rich people at Nnewi on the need to help in developing Nnewi.

Benjamin Anosike echoed the fact that the biggest problem facing NUSA and Nnewi people is disunity. Advocated the need for NUSA to set up a think thank committee. He also advocated the need for a master plan for Nnewi and the need to proceed with awareness of Nnewi people on the erosion problem at Nnewi.

Ofili Uba Suggests the need to set up 501(C)(4) and the need to amend the constitution so as to establish PAC. Highlighted the need to speak Igbo to our children and directed the assembly to the website Igbonet.

Dozie Ikedife Stressed that we ought to ask questions from political office holders and demand answers and if none is forthcoming we may commence litigation.

Mike Anazodo Stressed the need to revisit what was resolved at Washington Convention regarding political office holders at Nnewi and how to hold them accountable.

Dennis Egwuatu Suggests the need to de-emphasize annual due but rely on fundraising to run the association.

Udoka Odunukwe

Advocates good and strong leadership. Stressed the need to utilize Obi's and Nzuko Ora Nnewi for development purposes. He opined the need to ensure proper laws to correct the environmental decay at Nnewi. Proposed setting up Think Thank Committee and need to embark on fundraising outside NUSA.

Chukwuka Odunukwe

Lends support to the idea of establishing effective fundraising so as to be able to carry out the programs of NUSA

Arunne Momah

Urged that NUSA pay attention to ways to help its members instead of over-reliance on projects at Nnewi.

Ike Mbelu

Asked the question whether NUSA has a long term projection plan for the future. Stressed the need for long term plan by NUSA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

School Rehab: Nnaerika Okonkwo on behalf of the committee highlighted the progress of the committee. He introduced the members of the committee namely: Chike Odunukwe, Tony Ndum, Benjamin Anosike, Henry Mbonu . He thanked NUSA for the opportunity given to the committee to work on the school rehab project. He also thanked the board of trustee headed by Ajulu Uzodike for their role in the school rehab project.

He highlighted the fact that at North Carolina convention NUSA resolved to embark on school rehab project as the first project.

Recommendations: (1) That the committee recommends that phase 2 project at

Nnewi High School has not been completed. That NUSA expend 200,000.00 Naira for the completion of the project. **(2)** That upon completion of phase 2 school rehab that NUSA should consider the work of the committee complete. **(3)** That erosion issues as requested by Okongwu Memorial Grammar School should be continued.

The entire report of the committee as distributed at the convention is hereby attached by reference.

Comments on the report of the committee

Ike Mbelu suggested that NUSA devote some money for the maintenance of these projects. Nnaerika answered that the projects are not new projects but a rehab of existing schools.

Dennis Egwuatu expressed regret at the way the committee handled the issue of erosion at Okongwu Memorial High School. Nnaerika explained that the mandate of the committee did not include erosion. Ossy Okeke proposed that we accept the report of the committee minus the third recommendation. Ugo Uzodike moved a motion that NUSA accept the report of the committee. Supported by Elias Okonkwo. Said report is accepted by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

EROSION CONTROL Chike Odunukwe highlighted the need for NUSA to take leadership position on the issue of awareness regarding erosion control at Nnewi. He opined that the money to control erosion is readily obtainable at Nnewi. He stated that NUSA should instead concentrate on awareness.

Comments on the report of the Committee

Dennis Egwuatu expressed strong support for the erosion control issue. He stressed the need for legislation to deal with erosion at Nnewi. Nnaerika Okonkwo urged the assembly to endeavor to obtain the World Bank report on the erosion control at Nnewi and other towns. He stressed the need for NUSA to embark on awareness campaign regarding erosion at Nnewi.

Motion to accept the report of the committee moved by Izuchukwu Oraka. Supported by Emma Nsoedo. Motion to accept the report was accepted by unanimous affirmative voice vote.

The report of the committee as distributed at the convention is attached by reference and form part of this minute.

RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

Chike Momah presented the report of the committee that was set up to resolve the problem between Boston chapter and NUSA arising from the Boston Convention

Recommendations of the committee:

- 1) that Boston chapter should refund all monies which donated to NUSA, which Boston Chapter has in its possession;
- 2) that NUSA should assist Boston chapter to the tune of \$3750.00, being half of the \$7,500.00 requested by Boston chapter;

That the committee in essence, seeks an amicable settlement of the thorny issue between brothers and sisters.

The committee further recommends:

- (a) all decisions between NUSA and the host chapter must be recorded, in order to

avoid unnecessary controversies in the aftermath of a convention;
(b) That NUSA executive committee should document and distribute to the chapters all decisions that may be binding on them;
(c) In view of extreme lack of courteousness between NUSA executive and Boston chapter in their exchange of correspondence, the committee recommends that in any future interactions between NUSA and the chapters, particularly when there is disagreement, a serious effort must be made to maintain a decent level of cordiality and civility.

The committee thanks NUSA and Boston chapter for the opportunity to serve. The report of the committee in its entirety is hereby attached by reference. Mike Obiora informed the assembly that the matter with Boston Chapter has been resolved. Motion to adopt the report and recommendation of the Committee moved by Ike Mbelu. Supported by Sylva Odobulu. The report and the recommendation is accepted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The report of the committee as distributed at the convention is hereby attached by reference.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Henry Mbonu presented the financial report. He expressed disappointment that collection of donations from members have been virtually impossible. Urged that donations to be made at the fundraising in this convention be accompanied by cash or check. He stressed the fact that fundraising is the most important part of any association.

Actual cash in bank as at 7/1/02-\$4,403.18.

Donations/receipts from Washington Convention: Donation at the convention-\$12,026.00

Total revenue-\$16,429.18

He paid tribute to Ofili Uba for his effort that enabled NUSA to have free teleconference. The assembly also thanked Ofili Uba for the said free teleconference initiative. Finally, he informed the assembly that net income at the bank as at today is \$1,936.03

The financial report is attached by reference as part of this minute.
The financial report as distributed at the convention is hereby attached by reference.

CONSTITUTION-BYE-LAW AMENDMENT

Proposal by Ogo Orizu for amendment of the constitution was presented by Dr. Ebube Odunukwe. The proposal seeks to amend Article 3.03 of the constitution so that any delegate intending to run for an office in NUSA shall cease to represent that chapter as a delegate and the chapter shall substitute that person as a delegate. It was clarified that the aim of the amendment was to empower the chapters.

Votes for the proposed amendment

Atlanta-yes in favor of amendment

Boston-yes

Dallas-yes

Los Angeles-yes

Houston-yes

Michigan-yes

North Carolina-yes

New York/New Jersey-yes

Washington-yes

By eight (8) unanimous yes votes the proposed amendment is adopted to replace the existing Article 3.03 of the NUSA constitution and the said amendment is effective immediately.

Proposal to amend Section 4.05 and introduce Section 4.04(b) to enable the delegates to have the opportunity to call meetings, etc. Opposition was expressed to the effect that the provision will create a competition between the delegates and the executives.

Votes on new section 4.05(b)

Atlanta-Yes in favor of the amendment

Boston-Yes

Dallas-Yes to the amendment

Houston-No

Los Angeles-Yes in favor

North Carolina-No

Michigan-No

New York/New Jersey-No

Washington-Yes in favor

Mississippi-No

By five (5) yes votes and five (5) no votes the proposal is defeated for failure to obtain necessary 2/3 majority to amend the said section. The entire proposals for amendment as distributed at the convention is hereby attached by reference.

ANNUAL DUE

Ossy Okeke informed the assembly that the executive and delegates had at a meeting held on Thursday July 3, 03 had resolved that the provision in Article 3.05 of the constitution that makes eligibility to vote and be voted dependent on being financially up to date be suspended for the purpose of the convention. Motion to suspend Article 3.05 was moved by Nnabuenyi Momah. Grace Anosike also proposed that we should suspend the provision in the constitution that deals with weighted average in the votes. Dozie Ikedife stressed the need for NUSA to ensure that all means are utilized to raise funds for the association including annual due. He deplored irresponsibility by failing to pay annual due. Opposed the idea of waiving the payment of annual due. Achebe Anosike also objected to the proposal to waive or suspend annual due. Ebube Odunukwe proposed the reduction of the annual due to \$25.00 per person and to grant extension to chapters to pay for their members. Ogo Orizu expressed opposition to the waiver or suspension of annual due. Stanley Anya stressed the need for NUSA to be inclusive and lend support to the idea expressed by Ebube Odunukwe regarding the reduction of annual due and granting extension to chapters to pay. Chike Odunukwe and Grace Anosike pointed out that members have made payments individually but urged that payment should be made by the chapters instead. Ofili Uba voiced serious concern at the idea that some members are paying directly to NUSA instead of the chapter. He opined that membership is derived from the chapters, therefore no payment ought to be received from the members directly. He cited the constitutional provision to the effect that membership of NUSA is through local chapter.

Ugo Uzodike stated that NY/NJ chapter would oppose the proposal to suspend weighted average in view of the fact that the chapter has been making substantial payments to NUSA based on the number of its members registered with NUSA and consistent with the provisions of the constitution including the provision on weighted average. Izuchukwu Oraka also expressed support for the suspension of weighted

average. Mike Obiora urged the assembly to insist on the payment of annual due and to oppose the call for the suspension of the constitutional provision in connection thereto. Ebube Odunukwe informed the assembly that Article 7.01 (b) of the constitution allow the general assembly to change the annual due if it deem it necessary. Ebube Odunukwe in conjunction with Dennis Egwuatu stated that Washington Chapter was originally opposed to the \$50.00 per person annual due and recommends that the annual due be reduced to \$25.00 per person. They both opined that the progress of NUSA is at stake in this matter. Difeo Ojukwu proposed that the annual due be amended to \$25.00 per person Resolved that \$50.00 is not to much to pay as annual due. Further resolved that all chapters must pay their annual due for Washington and current convention between now and election time tomorrow.

DAY THREE-SATURDAY JULY 5, 2003

Meeting called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Mike Obiora. Opening prayer was said by Nnabuenyi Momah. There was a recap of highlights of day 2 by Ossy Okeke.

Sylva Odobulu on behalf of Dallas chapter presented kolanut. It was handed over to Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu who in turn presented same to NUSA. Kolanut was distributed according to Nnewi tradition and custom. Thereafter the kola was blessed by Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu. The kolanut was broken and shared to the members.

TOWN HALL MEETING

The Town Hall meeting was presided over by Chris Ulasi. He stressed the need for the assembly to come up with Issue/s that Critically Affect Nnewi Development. He opined that NUSA should look inward so as to be relevant in affairs of Nnewi.

POLITICAL RELEVANCE

Ginger Egwuatu. Opined that NUSA should endeavor to involve the government in its effort to develop idea/program for the development of Nnewi. He stressed the need to have lobbyist to ensure that our interests are protected and to obtain government patronage. On the establishment of Technical College at Nnewi, he stated that there is land to build the school at Nnewi. Dr. Nlogha Okeke. Urged that Nnewi unity is important-unity of all the villages. Proposed the formation of Nnewi Community for Unity and Progress. Urged for caution in criticizing those in power because it may forestall effort to obtain any favors from the person.

Sylva Azubogu. Stated that NUSA ought to ensure that next chairman of Nnewi North local government area or governor of Anambra State takes us seriously. Ebube Odunukwe. Highlighted the provision of Article 5.02 which provides in pertinent part that NUSA is a non-partisan association. Stressed that NUSA should not be involved in politics in view of the foregoing and the fact that we are tax exempt association. He however opined that we should ensure that multiple candidates from Nnewi do not contest for same political office in a statewide election. That elimination of multiple candidates for any state-wide office will maximize the chance for the election of that candidate.

Benjamin Anosike. Proposed that in order to avoid the problems associated with tax exempt status that NUSA form Chapter 501(1)(c)(4). Stressed the need for unity among Nnewi people. He also proposed that NUSA build a library at Nnewi as well as the formation of Think Tank Committee. He stressed the need to maintain independent body at Nnewi to forestall multiple candidates from Nnewi for state-wide election. Don Okoli. Urged that NUSA lease or rent an office space at Nnewi to serve as the venue to operate the Think Tank Committee. He urged for constructive

criticism of political office holders and the need to maintain direct contact between NUSA and office holders at Nnewi.

Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu. Stressed the need for integrity by NUSA officers. He opined the need for linkage between NUSA and Nzuko Ora Nnewi and the need to establish goodwill with people at Nnewi.

UNITY OF NNEWI

Dr. J.O.S. Okeke. Expressed support on the need to establish goodwill with people at Nnewi. Stated that himself and other people will be willing to act as medium for that linkage between NUSA and people at Nnewi especially Nzuko Ora Nnewi and office holders at Nnewi. Urged that zoning of political offices be abolished at Nnewi. Grace Anosike. Expressed the need for unity of Nnewi. She also stressed the importance of money to carry our NUSA's goals. Ike Mbelu. Expressed dismay at the lack of honesty amongst some Nnewi people. Urged for change of heart amongst Nnewi people and the need to maintain honesty and transparency. Opined that NUSA ought to publish a communiqué after every convention with local newspapers at Nnewi. He opined that NUSA should write to Igwe Nnewi and other Obi's to express our position on issues that affect Nnewi. IZUCHUKWU ORAKA. Expressed the need for unity of Nnewi and that NUSA shall take a stand on the unity of Nnewi. ACHEBE ANOSIKE. Inquired whether NUSA has set parameters on the issue of Nnewi unity. Stressed the need for strategy to overcome the division amongst us. CHUKWUKADIBIA ODUNUKWE. Stressed the need to establish penalties and/or the need to hold political office holders accountable for acts that are offensive or violate the common trust of the people.

CHILDREN OR YOUTH PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Questions were posed on ways to effectively co-opt our youths and children. The need for the youths to be proficient in Igbo was also highlighted.

ETHEL MOMAH. Proposed that NUSA set up women forum whereby women will address their own issues. That the said forum will equally develop program for the youth and children.

DENNIS EGWUATU. Opined that NUSA ought to be seriously involved or devote substantial time to youth and children activities at every convention.

IFEOMA OKEKE. Expressed happiness at seeing our youths and children at the convention. However she urged that NUSA ought to create awareness in the children to know their culture and background. Opined that we ought to speak Igbo to our children when they are young because they are capable of speaking many languages at the same time. Stressed the need to raise our children to know right from wrong and good from evil. She proposed yearly contest in Igbo for our children including use of Igbo idioms.

LIZZY NWOSU. Stressed the need to create a separate forum for the youth so that they will feel that they belong to NUSA.

OMELEBELE NWANGWU. Informed the assembly that our children are normally ridiculed at school because their parents are from Africa. Stated that in view of the ridicule the children are subjected to most of them are compelled to disown the fact that they are from Africa. Opined that we should endeavor to create a middle ground

for our children. That as a school teacher she experiences first hand the negative stereotype that our children suffer at school in view of the fact that they are from Africa.

CHIOMA MUOGHALU. Lends support that we should start from young age to educate our children about our tradition, custom and language. Opined on the need for us to be proud of our culture and to impart same to our children so that the children will feel proud of their parents.

EMMA NSOEDO. Opined that our children be taken back to Nigeria to undergo their elementary and secondary schools. Alternatively he proposed annual vacation at Nigeria with our children.

LEO OKOLI. Urged that we maintain an inclusive agenda for our children. He maintained that cultural issues to benefit our children should be pursued. Support the idea of Igbo language test/quiz for our children and urged that NUSA form a committee to deal with our culture.

SYLVA ULASI. Re-echoed the need to take our children back to Nnewi so that they will know their background and culture. Proposed an award of scholarship to the winner of the test or quiz in Igbo.

UCHE ODILATU. Stressed the need to educate our children and youth to understand the importance of marrying our people so as to ensure the continuity of our custom and tradition. She also suggested: (1) education forum at local chapters on our culture; (2) presentation by children on cultural issues; (3) long term goal by NUSA in area of education of our children on Igbo tradition and custom-committee to be set up by NUSA to coordinate with chapters on ways to deal with these issues. She also expressed support for the text/quiz in Igbo for our children.

DAVID OKONKWO. Inquired whether the members even speak Igbo language to their children at home. He stressed the importance of speaking our language to our children at home. That men and women must be involved in making sure that our children know their language and culture.

ADA EIGBODO (Ethel/Chike Momah's daughter). Urged for caution in sending our children to Nigeria for education because of lack of proper medical care, etc. She stated the need to explain to our children every aspect of our culture and that by so doing our children will be proud of the culture.

EMMA OBIERIKA.

Re-echoed the need to speak our language to our children at home. Proposed that we devote \$500-\$1000 from NUSA funds to promote our culture/language. Opined that the promotion of our culture should start from the local chapters. She also lends support to the test/quiz and opined that it start from local chapters culminating in the final at the convention.

MIKE OBIORA. Expressed support to the immediate setting up of cultural committee. Also proposed the need to invite marriage counselor at next convention to speak to us because so many marriages are having problems. He pointed out that where the marriage is having problems, the children are usually affected thereby and opined that we ought to work hard at strengthening our marriages.

SECURITY

CHIEF GEORGE MOGHALU. He stressed the fact that security is a function of good governance and that security in Nigeria is a responsibility of the Federal Government. Opined that people should be educated to understand the role of the police. Expressed displeasure at the fact that people of Anambra State are more prone to offer bribe to police officers. He stated that people should be educated to understand that bribe should not be offered to the police. He also lamented the conditions of work of police officers in Nigeria and expressed support for the work of vigilante groups as a means to support the police in combating crime in Nigeria. He stated that the issue of security in Nigeria and Nnewi should be addressed with issue of moral decadence in Nigeria.

IKE MBELU. Stressed the fact that education is the key to security problems in Nnewi and Nigeria. Stated that if people are educated they will know the dangers associated with giving bribes to police officers. That lack of education will make security elusive in Nigeria and Nnewi.

DR. J.O.S. OKEKE. Expressed support for the local vigilante to enhance security at Nnewi.

IFEOMA OKEKE. She pointed out that most crimes committed at Nnewi are by people from outside Nnewi. She deplored the fact that our people fester or encourage corruption by giving the bribes. She proposed that we educate our people on the need to discourage bribery and corruption that is prevalent at Nnewi.

FUNDRAISING Isaac Emefo moderated the fundraising event and members donated generously. The actual figures are reflected on the record of the treasurer and financial secretary. Suffice to say that substantial amount was raised at the convention.

AFTERNOON SESSION

YOUTH PROGRAM

The Youth program was moderated by Chika Oraka. She paid tribute to Chinwe Enemchukwu for her effort to put together the youth program. The youths were split into groups and they discussed ways and/or means to get youths and children involved in conventions. The various groups also highlighted the need for parents to bring their children and youths to the convention and the need to create separate forum for the various groups to discuss issues and present their own communiqué to the general assembly.

CHRIS ENEMCHUKWU. Opined that youths and children are not represented in NUSA deliberations. He deplored the language barrier between the youths/children and adults and the inability of parents to take their children to Nigeria/Nnewi.

EKENE ENEMCHUKWU. Stressed the need for youths to know what is going on in NUSA because the youths will eventually take over from adults. He also stressed the need for parents to speak Igbo to their children at home. He wondered why many parents speak Igbo to other adult Igbo people but turn back to speak English to their children.

ELECTION

The assembly elected an election committee charged with conducting the election. They are made up of: Dr. J.O.S. Okeke, Chika Oraka, and Dr. Ebube Odunukwe.

Financial Secretary-Okey Egbuna-elected unopposed
Provost-Grace Anosike-elected unopposed
Assistant Public Relations Officer- Emma Nsoedo-elected unopposed
Public Relations Officer-Ugo Uzodike-elected unopposed
Treasurer-Henry Mbonu-elected unopposed
Assistant Secretary-Chinwe Enemchukwu elected unopposed
Secretary-Two candidates contested for the position to wit: Achebe Anosike and Ossy Okeke.

Ossy Okeke is elected the secretary general.

Vice President-Two candidates contested for the position to wit:

Dennis Egwuatu and Ethel Momah. Ethel Momah is elected the vice president.

President-Isaac Emefo-elected unopposed.

The new president elect Isaac Emefo gave an acceptance speech. He thanked the assembly for the election. He thanked Mike Obiora for leading the association for the last four years. He pointed out that NUSA need new focus and that chapters would be engaged and ideas from chapters would be taken into consideration. He pointed out that a fundraising committee would be set up to raise money for NUSA. He also stressed the need to articulate the abundant talent and knowledge amongst our members for the good of the association and Nnewi. That he will engage the chapters and members alike. That he will visit chapters as resources permits. Urged that chapters de-emphasize engaging in projects without consulting with NUSA. Stressed the need to pull resources together so as to undertake greater projects. He also stressed the need to involve the youths and children in affairs of NUSA and the conventions. He promised that the administration would be transparent and that the delegates would be listened to regarding the concerns of their chapters. He promised that a database of Nnewi people would be set up. He called for support from everybody

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Chika Oraka performed the swearing in ceremony. All the newly elected officers took the oath of office and the convention was adjourned for the gala night at about 6: 30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Ossy Okeke General Secretary

THEME:

CRITICAL ISSUES FACING NNEWI DEVELOPMENT DAY ONE: THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2003 5:30 p.m.

Members and guests arrive and are registered.

8:00 p.m. Welcome by Dallas Chapter and housekeeping matters.

Opening prayer by Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu.

Thereafter Nnaerika Okonkwo on behalf of Dallas Chapter thanked everybody for attending the 8th Annual NUSA Convention. Nnaerika Okonkwo called on Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu to give a brief opening remarks on behalf of Dallas Chapter. Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu implored the youths for aspiring to know their background and culture.

He also acknowledged guests who came from Nigeria especially Senator Onyeabo Obi. The president Dr. Mike Obiora also welcomed the members and the guests from Nigeria and expressed appreciation for the effort of Dallas Chapter for hosting the convention. Nnaerika Okonkwo finally reminded everybody about the registration and the attendant fee. He stressed that the convention will offer maximum enjoyment for everybody and more importantly the youth and children and therefore urged them to take advantage of the programs. There was formal introduction of members and guests. Syla Odobulu also welcomed the members and guests and later presented kolanut on behalf of Dallas Chapter. The kolanut was shared according to Nnewi tradition and custom.

9:00 p.m. Dinner/Networking

10:00 p.m. EXECUTIVE AND DELEGATES MEETING.

In attendance are:

Mike Obiora, Ossy Okeke, Ugo Uzodike, Ofili Uba, Leo Okoli, Ike Ofomata, Dennis Egwuatu, Ugo Okeke, Emma Nsoedo, Chris Ulasi, Stanley Anya, Chike Odunukwe, Mbadiwe Okongwu, Achebe Anosike, Ike Mogbo, Syla Odobulu.

Mike Obiora informed the meeting that two issues necessitated the need for the meeting. He informed the meeting that though the election was scheduled for tomorrow, however, if the attendance is not substantial, the election may be moved to Saturday. He reiterated the fact that all the positions are open for election. That no person has been pre-determined to contest or win any position. That all members in good standing are eligible to contest the election. Ugo Okeke inquired as to the number of members in Michigan chapter. Mike answered that there are six members.