

## **ORLANDO CONVENTION 2004**

### **MINUTES OF 9TH ANNUAL CONVENTION MINUTES AND KEYNOTE SPEECH OF NNEWI USA INC.(NUSA) NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD ON FRIDAY JULY 2-SUNDAY JULY 5, 2004**

**VENUE: EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

**THEME:**

**NNEWI SOLIDARITY AND HER FUTURE GENERATION  
(NJIKO AKA NA ODI-NIRU UMU AYI)**

**DAY ONE: FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2004**

**5:30 p.m.**- Arrival of Members and Registration

**10:30 p.m.** Formal Welcome/Delegates/Executive Meeting

Ugo Uzodike formally welcomed all the members to the 2004 convention. He highlighted the programs for Saturday and Sunday. The president Mr. Isaac Emefo also thanked the members for attending the convention. He reminded the delegates to be ready for deliberation and vote on the computers that NUSA shipped to Nnewi. He also indicated that the delegates will be looking into the problem being experienced by Dallas chapter. He stated that NUSA is being tested and hoped that NUSA will withstand the test. Kolanut was presented by Ike Mbelu. Chief Chike Momah blessed the kolanut. The kolanut was broken and presented to members.

#### **Roll Call**

Atlanta-Ugo Okeke  
Boston-Mbadiwe Okongwu  
California-None  
Dallas-None  
Houston-Chris Ulasi  
North Carolina-None  
New York/New Jersey-Mike Arizechi  
Washington-Difeo Ojukwu  
Mississippi-Leo Okoli  
Florida-Rubi Nnadi  
Chicago-Pamela Mojekwu  
Michigan-Chief Mike Obiora

Chicago chapter was officially registered and recognized as a full-fledged chapter. Isaac Emefo recognized Pamela Mojekwu as the representative of Chicago Chapter. Isaac also recognized the presence of Chief Ajulu Uzodike (chairman of Board of Trustees). He stressed the need for NUSA to take a decision on the computers at Nnewi. Arunne Momah suggested that we give the computers to schools that will benefit from it. Leo Okoli proposed that the computers be distributed only to public schools at Nnewi with electricity and that 2 or 3 be donated to the library. Chief Ajulu opined that the computers be donated to the schools that will make the best use of them as well as repair them when they break down. Ugo Uzodike wondered whether we have enough or necessary information to make the decision regarding the distribution of the computers. Ossy Okeke moved a motion that we give Chief Ajulu Uzodike and the Board of Trustees the mandate to make decision on the distribution

of the computers including the modality and actual distribution of the computers. Motion supported by Steve Ojukwu. The motion was adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. After the vote Rev. Dr. Oramasionwu appealed to the board of trustees to ensure that at least 4 computers are donated to one school so as to be of benefit to the school.

### **ARBITRATION REPORT**

Chief Chike Momah presented the report of the arbitration committee appointed to look into the problem being experienced by Dallas chapter. He informed the members that Dallas chapter had some problems leading to some members of the chapter purportedly impeaching the president Mr. Sylvan Odobulu. He informed the members that there were accusations and counter accusations by the two factions. He stated that the committee appointed Dr. J.O.S. Okeke to act as the point man between the committee and the two factions in an attempt to resolve the dispute. That Dr. Okeke was requested to arrange a meeting with the factions. That Dr. Okeke indeed requested for a meeting with the factions. However, the faction led by Stanley Anya expressed its non-recognition of the committee and its mandate. He informed the meeting that the other faction led by Sylvan Odobulu presented the committee with written response on the genesis of the problem. He also stated that Stanley Anya and his faction refused to cooperate with the committee, or wanted to cooperate only on its terms and conditions. He stated that Sylvan Odobulu faction offered unalloyed and unfettered cooperation to the committee. That based on the lack of cooperation from Stanley Anya led faction the committee hereby recommended that NUSA continue to recognize Sylvan Odobulu as the legitimate president of Dallas chapter and that no recognition be afforded to Stanley Anya led faction. He also informed the meeting that the committee still left open the issue of reconciliation between the two factions. Isaac thanked the committee for its work. Leo Okoli moved that NUSA accept the report for discussion. Supported by Ugo Okeke. The committee's recommendation was accepted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The report is hereby attached as part of the minutes by reference. Leo Okoli wanted to know whether Dr. Okeke made any attempt to meet with the factions together. Arunne explained that Dr. Okeke wanted to receive written response or facts from the two factions regarding the dispute and thereafter schedule a meeting with both sides, but that Stanley Anya led faction failed to submit any written response to Dr. Okeke. Chief Momah also explained that Stanley Anya led faction was arrogant and unwilling to cooperate with the committee. He encouraged NUSA to continue to leave the door open for reconciliation between the two factions. Okey Chidolue expressed disgust that some members of Dallas chapter refused to cooperate with the committee. Nnaerika Okonkwo informed the meeting that some members orchestrated an illegal plan to remove the president of the chapter Sylvan Odobulu. He commended the effort by Dr. Oramasionwu to resolve the matter.

Ossy Okeke moved a motion that the preliminary or interim report of the committee be accepted at this time and that NUSA abhor the lack of cooperation from one of the faction and the same committee be given fresh mandate to last no more than three (3) months to present final report to NUSA. Motion supported by Mike Anazodo.

Leo Okoli moved a second motion that NUSA reject the report and that a new committee be formed. The motion was supported by Elias Okonkwo.

Okey Chidolue moved the third motion that the report be accepted and the same

committee be given fresh mandate to present final report within two (2) months. Supported by Ugo Uzodike.

Innocent Izundu moved the fourth motion that NUSA reject the report and the same committee be mandated to go back and do their work. Supported by Chukwuezi Okeke.

#### **Votes on the motions**

1st motion by Ossy Okeke- three (3) votes

2nd motion by Leo Okoli-no vote

3rd motion by Okey Chidolue-two (2) votes

4th motion by Innocent Izundu-two (2) votes

By three (3) votes the 1st motion by Ossy Okeke is hereby adopted.

At the end of the voting Isaac appealed to the two factions in Dallas to offer maximum cooperation to the committee. He urged the members in Dallas to embrace peace and unity noting that we are brothers and sisters.

#### **DAY TWO: SATURDAY JULY 3, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the convention committee chair Ugo Uzodike. Opening prayer by Mbadiwe Okongwu. Kolanut was presented by Nduka Enemchukwu to NUSA president Isaac Emefo. Isaac then presented the kolanut to Chief Chike Momah. Chief Momah directed that the kolanut be shared to most elderly person from each village in accordance with Nnewi tradition and custom. Kolanut was also presented to other people with chieftaincy title. Thereafter Chief Momah blessed the kolanut. He prayed for the success of the convention amongst others. He also prayed that God guide all our deliberations and decisions. The kolanut was broken and shared to members.

**Brief welcome address by local host chapter-** Nduka Enemchukwu welcomed the members for attending the convention in Florida. He pointed out that he has attended many conventions, but this is the first time he has had the opportunity to observe and appreciate the convention. He appealed to NUSA to endeavor to incorporate the youths in all things or proceedings to enable them understand what is going on within NUSA. He stated that the youths being the future of NUSA underscores the need for them to know what is going on within NUSA. He urged all members to take active part in the convention. Upon the conclusion of brief remarks by Nduka Enemchukwu, the convention committee chair Ugo Uzodike undertook a brief preview of the program for the day.

#### **Roll Call**

Atlanta

Boston

California

Houston

Dallas

Chicago

Michigan

New York/New Jersey Tri-State

North Carolina

Washington

Mississippi

Florida

Oklahoma

### **MINUTES OF 2003 CONVENTION**

Sylvan Odobulu moved that the minutes be adopted. Supported by Ugo Uzodike. Minutes of 2003 convention is adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. Matters arising from the Minutes were deferred till Sunday, July

### **STATE OF NUSA ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT**

The president Isaac Emefo started his speech by introducing the members of the executive. Highlighted the problem that the association encountered after last year convention in securing a host for this convention. He applauded Chinwe Enemchukwu for putting together the convention. He urged everybody to take active part in the convention and the deliberations. Opined that the idea being proposed by some members to have the convention every other year will kill the spirit of the convention. He proposed that NUSA adopt a long term schedule of venues to host the convention. He restated the view that he expressed in 2003 that NUSA form a Think Tank Committee. He stressed the need for NUSA to ensure that our children and youths are involved in the affairs of the association in view of the fact that they will take over affairs of the association one day. He proposed that NUSA embark on a project to build a Monument at Nnewi. He also proposed that NUSA hold its convention at Nnewi in the form of homecoming. He also proposed that NUSA spearhead the construction of library at Nnewi. On Nnewi solidarity he proposed that NUSA actively take part in the debate on autonomous communities at Nnewi. That NUSA should take a position on the autonomous community issue. Stressed the need to ensure unity of NUSA and Nnewi in general. Stated that NUSA must demand for peace at Nnewi. He applauded the Arbitration Committee for their efforts to resolve the problem within Dallas chapter. He urged the members of Dallas chapter to cooperate with the arbitration committee so as to resolve the problem within the chapter because there is everything to gain from unity and peace. He informed the members that the website by which the members may communicate with the executive is now functional. That the Nnewi database is being developed and upon completion will provide valuable information. He applauded the formation of Chicago chapter. Opined that Miami/Orlando should endeavor to form a chapter and would be happy to welcome Miami/Orlando chapter at next year's convention.

On fundraising, he informed the members that after last year's convention a fundraising committee was established. He stated that the committee is important because of the need to raise funds outside the membership for the various programs of NUSA. He informed the meeting the fundraising committee may be presenting a report at the convention.

On collection of donations from past conventions he deplored the failure and/or neglect by some members to redeem their pledge. Urged those members who are yet to redeem their pledge to endeavor to do so without further delay, even it means paying by installments. He appealed to the chapters to assist in collecting past pledges. He opined that it is important for the chapters to come under a unified tax exempt status thereby taking advantage of NUSA 501(c)(3) status.

On the establishment of benefits committee he highlighted the basis for the formation of this committee. He informed the assembly the benefit committee recommended that the benefit program be administered by the local chapters.

On the establishment of Technical Committee, he informed the meeting that the Anambra State government have designated National Secondary School as a Technical College. He stated that the project committee will ensure that the Technical College is fully functional.

On the computers at Nnewi he informed the meeting that delegates had voted on

Friday to authorize the Board of Trustee to devise a modality for the distribution of the computers as well as distribute them. He called for and the meeting observed one minute silence for members who died within the past one year. He appealed for the support of all members to ensure the progress of NUSA and Nnewi. Upon conclusion of his speech the assembly gave a rousing ovation to the president. Chief Chike Momah and Chief Mike Obiora informed the members that Igwe Orizu conferred chieftaincy titles on them. Chief Chike Momah was given the title of Nnabuenyi Nnewi while Chief Mike Obiora was conferred with the title of Ifekanma Nnewi. They jointly presented six bottles of wine plus two cases of soda to thank NUSA. Jointly, they informed the assembly that the chieftaincy was conferred on them as a result of their work and or contribution through NUSA. They also thanked the members for their support.

## **CHAPTER REPORTS**

**Atlanta Chapter:** Somto Egbuna informed the members that Atlanta chapter is continuing to grow. That the chapter is currently trying to re-evaluate its original purpose. That in the light of death of one of the member of the chapter last year, they are attempting to develop benefit program. He proceeded to introduce the members of the chapters.

**Southern California Chapter** Chidi Metu informed the meeting that the chapter is interested in shipping dialysis machine to Nnewi in view of high death rate from kidney disease at Nnewi. That the chapter is currently working on this project, as well as shipment of personal effects to be donated to Motherless Babies Home at Nnewi. That the chapter is also working to develop benefit program for the members of the chapter.

That the effort to increase the membership of the chapter is ongoing. He also informed the meeting that the chapter will organize fundraising activity in October with a view to raise some funds for the chapter and support of NUSA. He introduced the members of the chapters.

**Boston** Mbadiwe Okongwu informed the members that the chapter has earmarked some money for motherless baby's home at Nnewi. That the chapter is working to ensure that its members are taken care of as well as to support NUSA. He introduced the members of the chapter.

**Houston** Josiah Azubogu on behalf of the chapter thanked NUSA executive. Stated that the chapter embarked upon a fundraising in November 2003 so as to raise funds to open an internet café at Nnewi. He informed the meeting that the chapter normally undertakes two functions every year namely the memorial day picnic and thanksgiving get together. That the chapter recently changed its name to NUSA-Houston chapter and that the chapter is continuing to grow. He introduced the members of the chapter.

**New York/New Jersey** Nathan Momah informed the meeting that the chapter conducted a fundraising activity and it was successful. That part of the funds realized at the fundraising will be used for the Nnewi public library. He expressed support for the Public Library project. He expressed the sadness that the members of the chapter experienced upon the death of Dr. Nnamdi Nwajide and prayed that God grant him eternal rest. He introduced the members of the chapter.

**Washington** Uche Odilatu introduced the members of the chapter. She informed the meeting that the chapter is currently involved in health awareness program and that members of the chapter are being introduced to CPR. That the chapter is working to obtain life insurance for its members. That the chapter is also working on educating the members of diabetes. That the chapter resolved that the NUSA computers at Nnewi be donated to public schools at Nnewi and that the Motherless Baby's home

be given at least one computer.

**Chicago** Pamela Mojekwu thanked Dr. Mike Obiora and others for their efforts in bringing about the formation of the chapter. She applauded Atlanta chapter for the inspiration that enabled her to form the chapter. Urged all Nnewi people at Chicago to join the chapter.

**London** Chief Ben Etiaba thanked NUSA. He used the opportunity to recognize Chief Mrs. Julie Alale, the Matron of the London Chapter and Chief Senator Onyeabo Obi. He stressed the need for Nnewi unity. He informed the meeting that the London chapter resolved that it is against autonomy at Nnewi. That the chapter will host Afia Olu in August and every other year. That the Igwe Nnewi will be the guest at this year's Afia Olu festival. He read a letter from London chapter to NUSA accompanied by 200.00 pounds donation from the chapter to NUSA. The letter was signed by Frank Nzewi.

**Mississippi** Leo Okoli thanked NUSA and the members for attending the convention. He introduced Charles Chidi Agba.

### **COMMENTS FROM INVITED GUESTS AND DIGNITARIES**

Chief Senator Onyeabo Obi urged the members to always remember their background and culture. He appealed for coordination in developmental projects so as to avoid duplication. Urged that NUSA continue its efforts toward development at Nnewi. He stressed the need for older chapter to inspire the new ones. Urged that NUSA website be completed so as to be functional. That NUSA website could act as a guide to Nnewi associations in other parts of the world.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Fundraising Committee:** Innocent Izundu presented part of the report of the committee. The committee proposed several means to raise revenue for NUSA, namely: (1) grants, (2) Raffle draw, (3) Donations and Nnewi Homecoming, (4) other events and (5) Medical Mission project. The committee proposed both long term and short term goals in any of these ideas. Leo Okoli hinted that the committee required a direct and reliable NUSA contact, phone number, etc. to embark on effective fundraising. He stressed the need for NUSA to generate a mission statement that is consistent with the NUSA goals as well as goals of prospective grant givers. That NUSA should also provide a history of the association, submit a written narrative of what the association has done and what it intends to do, provide verifiable name and address of NUSA for grant applications, provide evidence of tax exemption, submit the IRS determination letter, the budget of the association. That these items are required to embark on effective fundraising. Susan Odunukwe informed the meeting that the goal of the medical mission was to enable members in the medical field to give something back to Nnewi. She informed the meeting that the committee recommended that a coordinator be appointed to work with the advisory committee and members of the medical mission. She also stated that the committee recommended that NUSA organize the medical mission. That two coordinators one at Nnewi and one at U.S. be appointed to lead the mission. That the committee also recommended that the medical mission be planned to coincide with the homecoming. Motion to adopt the report of the committee moved by Mike Anazodo. Supported by Edward Nnadi. The report is hereby adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The report is hereby attached by reference and form part of the minutes.

**Technical College Committee:** Nathan Momah on behalf of the committee informed the meeting on the formation of the committee. That the committee was formed as a result of the letter that Igwe Orizu wrote to Governor of New Jersey when Igwe visited the governor. That in the letter Igwe requested for the assistance of the governor to establish a technical college at Nnewi. That the governor impliedly

was unable to help in establishing the technical college. Consequently, it was determined that the committee look into ways that NUSA may cooperate with Nzuko Ora Nnewi to see that a Technical college is established at Nnewi. He read a letter from Nzuko Ora Nnewi addressed to NUSA to the effect that Anambra State government have approved the establishment of Technical College at Nnewi.

**Benefit Committee :** Ebube Odunukwe informed the members that the committee was established to determine death benefit to a family of a deceased member or life insurance program that NUSA could operate to benefit the family of deceased member.

He stated that the committee reviewed the Not-for Profit status of the association vis-à-vis the modality for the death benefit. He stated that the committee determined that it would be difficult for NUSA to obtain and operate life insurance program as a result of the fact that the association is classified as a cultural association and that delay or failure to make payment on the premium will lead to its cancellation. That as a result of the foregoing problems the committee recommended that NUSA should not be involved in setting up or to operating any benefit program for the members. Rather the committee recommends that local chapters and individual members be encouraged to obtain life insurance. Motion to adopt the report of the committee moved by Chuck Linton and supported by Leo Okoli. The report is hereby adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The report is hereby attached by referenced and form part of the minutes.

**Nnewian Journal:** Benjamin Anosike explained his proposal and acceptance by NUSA to form a journal to be published by the association. That the journal will be named Nnewian. That it will feature commentaries, articles, etc. about Nnewi and its people. He therefore called on members for support to ensure the actualization of the journal. He also appealed for writers, editors, as well as articles for the journal.

**Budget and Financial Report:** Okey Egbuna appealed to past donors to redeem their respective pledges. He urged chapters who made donations toward medical bill for Igwe to fulfill the pledge. He presented the income and expense report for the next year. Motion to adopt the report moved by Ugo Uzodike and supported by Ebube Odunukwe. The income and expense account report is hereby adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The report is hereby attached by reference and form part of the minutes. The budget for the year was also presented by Okey Egbuna. Motion to adopt the budget moved by Leo Okoli. Minor amendment to reduce the executive travel to \$250.00 was made. Motion to adopt the budget with the minor amendment supported by Tony Ndum. The budget with the minor amendment is hereby adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The report is hereby attached to the minutes by reference.

On long term venues for hosting the convention Ugo Uzodike presented the following five year convention hosting venues:

- 2005-Chicago chapter
- 2006-Michigan
- 2007-Nnewi Homecoming
- 2008-New York/New Jersey
- 2009-Atlanta

#### **Focal Issue for the Convention**

Isaac Emefo opined that the association should endeavor to debate and thereafter present a position on the issue of autonomy that is being proposed by some communities at Nnewi. He stressed the need that the convention is about planting seed for our future, the future of our children. He also stressed the need to ensure that 10 years from now the association will continue to grow stronger and involve our youth/children.

The proceeding for the day was adjourned on a motion by Chuck Linton and supported by Ogo Orizu. Closing prayer said by Rev. Ngozi Obi. The meeting adjourned at 5.37 p.m.

### **SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2004**

Convention was called to order by NCC Chair Ugo Uzodike at 10:55 a.m. Opening prayer was said by Rev. Ngozi Obi. She also led the meeting to few minutes of devotion and a brief sermon entitled "Forgiveness". Saturday, July 3, 2004 recap by Ossy Okeke.

### **Matters Arising from The Minutes of 2003 Convention**

Ebube Odunukwe urged that NUSA endeavor to obtain the environmental report on Nnewi that Dr. Nlogha Okeke had indicated was available as well as World Bank report on erosion control. Leo Okoli suggested that NUSA form a committee on culture and tradition with a view to enable men, women and the children present a program on culture at every convention. Chinwe Enemchukwu highlighted the progress made by the Children/Youth/Cultural Committee. She also informed the meeting of the various efforts made by the committee to introduce our children to our culture and tradition. Nathan Momah suggested that by joining the last day of the convention (gala night) our children will be able to learn certain things about our culture. Benjamin Anosike expressed support for the earlier request by Ebube Odunukwe that NUSA obtain copy of the report on the erosion control at Nnewi. He opined that the erosion control committee liaise with the government of Anambra State to obtain the report.

### **AFTERNOON SESSION TOWN HALL MEETING**

Chris Ulasi moderated the town hall meeting entitled "Njiko Aka Nnewi" "Odi Niru Umu Ayi"

### **Nnewi Solidarity**

Ebube Odunukwe proposes a motion that NUSA adopt a resolution stating its objection to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi. Ogo Orizu opined that those who support the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi should be given the opportunity to be heard. Joseph Aralu deplored the divisive tendencies prevalent at Nnewi. He stated that there is only one Nnewi instead of four. Benjamin Anosike stated that the agitation for the creation of more local government from Nnewi is now obsolete because the Federal Government of Nigeria refused to acknowledge creation of new local government areas. He also stated that the agitation for the creation of autonomous community is now muted at Nnewi. He proposed the formation of Solidarity Committee.

Robert Azubuikwe cautioned on the division of Nnewi, pointing out that we should continue to be one indivisible entity.

Tony Ndum expressed the opinion that it is important to advise those that foment trouble at Nnewi to desist from doing so.

Chidi Metu proposed that we buy an advert in a national daily to express the view that NUSA objects to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi.

Leo Okoli expressed the same opinion that NUSA should express its opposition to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi.

Robinson Okwosa opined that members call their family members at home with a



view to express their opposition to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi. Okey Chidolue expressed the view that the main cause of problem at Nnewi is the failure to recognize minority rights and interests. He stated that the quest for division or autonomous community is not limited to Uruagu but affects other villages at Nnewi. He urged that we look ourselves in the mirror to see whether we have done what we are supposed to do. He encouraged members to attend town hall meeting whenever they visit home so as to make their voices to be heard. He stressed the need for Nnewi to adopt a formula to recognize minority rights at Nnewi.

Chief Ajulu Uzodike contended that the issue of autonomy is yet to be brought before the general assembly or forum at Nnewi for discussion. That if it is brought up for discussion and an agreement is reached on autonomy then the agreement would be acceptable to Nnewi people. He contrasted that with the quest for more local government at Nnewi. That the quest for more local government was brought before Nzuko Ora Nnewi where it was debated and agreement reached on the creation of more local governments from Nnewi. He stated that it is important that issues that affects Nnewi should always be brought up before Nzuko Ora Nnewi for discussion and whatever the assembly agree should be accepted. He deplored the creation of autonomous community because it will be unhelpful to our people.

Rev. Oramasionwu expressed opposition to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi. Urged that we conduct internal assessment of our lives to determine our direction. He opined that our ancestors will be annoyed at the idea of division of Nnewi. Ike Mbelu expressed opposition to the creation of more local government areas from Nnewi. He contended that additional local governments will not be viable. He expressed support for the unity of Nnewi.

Ebube Odunukwe then moved the motion that NUSA is opposed to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi-The motion is supported by Leo Okoli. No counter motion was offered. The assembly by affirmative voice vote resolved that NUSA is opposed to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi. Ebube Odunukwe also proposed a motion that NUSA write a letter to Igwe Orizu, the three Obi's and Nzuko Ora Nnewi on NUSA's position regarding autonomous community.

Chief Uzodike stated that the letter should also be copied to prominent Nnewi people. Joseph Aralu opined that NUSA publish the letter or resolution in the newspapers. Ogo Orizu expressed the view that in addition to writing the letter to Igwe, three Obi's and Nzuko Ora Nnewi, prominent Nnewi people that NUSA publish it in the newspapers.

Okey Chidolue opined that in addition to writing the letter to Igwe, with copies to Obi's, Nzuko Ora Nnewi, prominent Nnewi people that it should be copied to various age grades at all the quarters of Nnewi.

(1) Motion by Ebube Odunukwe that the letter be written to Igwe and copied to three Obi's, Nzuko Ora Nnewi, prominent Nnewi people and various age grades-Supported by Tony Ndum

(2) Second Motion by Joseph Aralu that in addition to copying to people mentioned in Ebube's motion that the letter be published with Link Newspaper-supported by Chuck Linton. Votes on the Two Motions Ebube Odunukwe's motion-32 votes Joseph Aralu's motion-23 votes. By 32 votes in support the motion by Ebube Odunukwe is hereby adopted to the effect that NUSA should write a letter to Igwe Nnewi, copied to the three Obi's, Nzuko Ora Nnewi, prominent Nnewi people, and various age grades stating that NUSA is opposed to the creation of autonomous community at Nnewi.

#### **FUTURE GENERATION-ODI NIRU UMU AYI**

Arunne Momah opined that the issue of our children should start from our various

homes. That parents should also think about themselves. She urged that all parents speak Igbo to their children. She opined that NUSA may not solve this problem because the solution lie with the parents.

Bessy Okoye-Okafor proposed the idea of formation of Igbo class amongst our children as well as formation of dance groups for our children. She stated that it is important that men join this initiative thereby bringing our male children along. Mercy Odunukwe expressed the need for parents to teach their children that man is the head of the family and not vice versa. She also stated that the man should be the bread winner of the family as well as the need to teach our male children about responsibility and their role in the house. She also stressed the need to teach our children their background. That parents should endeavor to take their children to Nnewi to see and know their background.

### **YOUTH PRESENTATION:**

Ekene Enemchukwu informed the assembly about the meeting that the youths had and their resolution. She informed the assembly that the youths agree on the need for them to connect with their culture. She stated that most times the youth observe that the parents are more concerned about material things rather than being concerned with introducing their children to their culture. She stated that it is important for parents to bring their children to the convention so that they will meet and know each other. She informed the assembly that the youth are considering establishing international pen pal so as to maintain some contact with each other. Oge Ndum stressed the need for parents to teach and speak Igbo to their children. That few hours communication between a parent and child in Igbo will go a long way to enable the child to learn the language.

Chibudom Odunukwe urged parents to speak to their children about sex, etc. He urged parents to bring their children along for the convention so that they may meet and know each other. He urged parents to know how to speak and dress properly. Ubachukwu Odunukwe urged parents to speak to the children about their background as well as about their personal lives. At the conclusion of the presentation by the youths the assembly gave them standing ovation. Nnaerika Okonkwo stated that it is important to amend the bye-law to indicate the age limit to join NUSA. He also expressed support to the idea that parents should bring their children to the convention. He proposed that young adults be incorporated into NUSA.

Chief Ajulu Uzodike stated that the problem with us is the problem with Ibo people as a whole. He urged that we should always stay together with a view to finding solutions to problems that face all of us.

Achebe Anosike opined that the reason why men appear unwilling to assert more positive roles in homes had to do with the society in America. He stated that our young males are faced with clash of two cultures.

Chris Ulasi in summing up the town hall meeting posed the question "Why speak English to our children when we can comfortably speak Igbo to them?". He urged that parents show strong interest in speaking Igbo to their children.

Ugo Uzodike on behalf of the convention committee moved a motion that five year convention venue plan that was presented on Saturday, July 3, be adopted.

The convention venue plan is

2005-Chicago

2006-Michigan

2007-Homecoming

2008-New York/New Jersey

2009-Atlanta

Delegates Votes on convention venue plan

Atlanta-yes

Boston-yes

Southern California-No vote

Dallas-yes

Houston-yes

Chicago-yes

Michigan-yes

Mississippi-yes

North Carolina-yes

NY/NJ-yes

Florida-yes

Washington-yes

Oklahoma-yes

The five year convention venue schedule is hereby adopted.

Chief Chike Momah updated the assembly regarding the efforts that an ad-hoc committee of himself, Chief Ajulu Uzodike and Chief Mike Obiora have been making to resolve the problem within Dallas chapter. He stated that the work of the committee can be characterized as work in progress. He stated that although some progress were made, however some issues are yet to be resolved. That the work of this ad-hoc committee is still ongoing and that it is hoped that the matter will be resolved.

Motion to adjourn the 2004 convention was moved by Chuck Linton-supported by Nathan Momah.

Closing prayer said by Rev. Ngozi Obi. The 2004 convention adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ossy Okeke General Secretary