

CHICAGO CONVENTION 2005

**MINUTES OF 10TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF NNEWI USA INC. (NUSA)
HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 1-4, 2005**

VENUE: MARRIOTT HOTEL 8535 W. HIGGINS ROAD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

THEME:

“BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE, OUR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND EDUCATION”

DAY ONE: FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2005

5:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Arrival and Registration
6:00-9:00 p.m. Welcome by Chicago and Housekeeping
6:00-9:00 p.m. Dinner and Networking
10:00 p.m.- Executive and Delegate Meeting

The meeting opened at 11:20 p.m. with opening prayer by Mrs. Gladys Oramasionwu.

Delegates in attendance:

Atlanta-Ben Uzuegbunam, Chika Oraka
NY/NJ-Alex Nweji and Mike Anazodo
Washington-Difeo Okonkwo & Ebube Odunukwe
Chicago-Emeka Ukachukwu & Mike Agina
Dallas-Sylvan Odobulu, Sam Azubogu
Mississippi-Leo Okoli

Executive Members:

Isaac Emefo, Ossy Okeke, Ugo Uzodike, Grace Anosike, Chinwe Enemchukwu.

Pamela Mojekwu on behalf of Chicago chapter presented kolanut to Isaac Emefo. Isaac then handed the kolanut to Chief Chike Momah. Chief Chike Momah blessed the kolanut and prayed for the success of the convention. He also prayed that members may travel back safely to their respective cities at the end of the convention. At the end of his prayer, he broke the kolanut. Thereafter the entire kolanut was broken and shared amongst the members. Pamela Mojekwu on behalf of the Chicago chapter thanked all the members for attending the convention. She informed the members that the convention is loaded with activities and urged everyone to enjoy their stay in Chicago. Subsequently, the members introduced themselves.

Chapter Registration:

Dallas-Sylva Odobulu, Sam Azubogu
NY/NJ-Alex Nweji, Mike Anazodo
Mississippi-Leo Okoli
Florida-Ike Ezulike & his wife
Minnesota-Eddie Ukatu
Kansas City-Innocent Anya
Atlanta-Ben Uzoegbunam, Chika Oraka
Washington-Difeo Okonkwo & Ebube Odunukwe
Chicago-Emeka Ukachukwu, Mike Agina

A preview of the agenda for the convention was presented by convention chair Ugo Uzodike. He called for the special thanks for Chicago chapter. He also acknowledged other members who worked hard for the convention. Thereafter, Ebube Odunukwe moved that the constitution amendment preview be moved to Saturday in view of the fact that all the chapters must have discussed the constitution amendment and taken a decision. Ugo Uzodike expressed support for the said view of Ebube Odunukwe. Chief Chike Momah opined that the delegates are required to vote the opinion of their chapter and not theirs.

Issues around the chapters:

Ugo Uzodike inquired whether the two delegates lists that NUSA received from Dallas chapter has been resolved. He stated the need to ensure that NUSA adopts and implements a resolution on this matter. Isaac informed the meeting that the executive issued a position on this matter. Leo Okoli stated that he was surprised that the executive took a position on this matter. He opined that NUSA ought to discuss this issue at the general meeting instead of the executive or delegates taking a position on it. Isaac pointed out that the opinion expressed by Leo Okoli is incorrect. He pointed out that the Dallas issue was never discussed at the general meeting last year convention, but was discussed at the delegate meeting at the said convention. Ebube Odunukwe urged that when discussing this matter we must rely on facts. Isaac appealed to members who have proposals to solving Dallas chapter problem to put same forward. Several members namely Chidi Metu, Leo Okoli, Eddie Ukatu and Stanley Anya opined that NUSA should suspend the entire Dallas chapter instead of one faction. Sam Azubogu, Mbadiwe Okongwu and Ebube Odunukwe opined that NUSA should take the right decision on Dallas issue rather than suspend the two factions. They pointed out that even if the majority of Dallas chapter members took a decision, the same decision may still be flawed. They stated that the report of the arbitration committee should be accepted and implemented. The meeting ended at 1:25 a.m. with a

prayer by Mrs. Chika Oraka.

DAY TWO: SATURDAY, JULY 2, 2005

Meeting was called to Order at 10:00 a.m. central standard time by convention committee chair Ugo Uzodike, Esq. Opening prayer was said by Rev. Dr. Ernest Oramasionwu. Members introduced themselves. Thereafter, Pamela Mojekwu, the president of Chicago Chapter presented kolanut on behalf of the chapter to Isaac Emefo, NUSA president. Isaac directed that the kolanut be distributed in accordance with Nnewi tradition and custom. Chief Chike Momah (Nnabuenyi Nnewi) blessed the kolanut and prayed for the success of the convention.

He also prayed that the deliberations at the convention be fruitful and that the Lord protect all the members in the course of their travel back to their respective cities. After the prayer, the kolanut was broken and shared amongst the members. The convention committee chair Ugo Uzodike previewed the highlights of the convention. He requested for special applause for Chicago chapter for hosting the convention. He also requested for applause for NUSA executive as well some members of the convention committee who played special roles to make the convention a reality. Ossy Okeke, the secretary general introduced Mrs. Mercy Odunukwe and Mrs. Mojekwu as the guests from Nnewi.

Welcome Address by Chicago President:

Pamela Mojekwu, the president of Chicago chapter welcomed all the members to Chicago. She introduced the members of the chapter. She credited Atlanta chapter as well as some NUSA members with the inspiration to host the convention. She urged all the members to endeavor to take active part in the convention. She also appealed to members to enjoy their stay in Chicago and promised that the chapter has planned so many fun-filled activities for the convention.

Minutes of 2004 Orlando Convention

Page 1 of the minutes-Roll call- Washington-change Difeo Ojukwu to Difeo Okonkwo. Page 13 line 1 of the minutes-change Chibudom to Chiwuzie. Motion to adopt the minutes with the foregoing amendments moved by Chief Chike Momah and supported by Leo Okoli. The said minutes with the amendments adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. Sylvan Odobulu moved that the members thank the secretary general for the good job of writing a comprehensive minutes covering all the issues discussed at Orlando convention.

Matters Arising from the Orlando Convention Minutes

Leo Okoli inquired about the status of the resolution passed at Orlando

convention to write a letter to Igwe Nnewi, and other prominent Nnewi people as well as various age grades on the issue of our opposition to autonomous community at Nnewi. Ossy answered that the letter was written to Igwe Nnewi, other prominent Nnewi people, as well as various age grades. Leo Okoli requested that the said letter be published to NUSA members through Nnewi Forum. Ebube Odunukwe suggested that NUSA send letter of appreciation to Nnewi People's Association of Great Britain in appreciation of the donation they made to NUSA. Ebube also inquired whether NUSA obtained the erosion report as contained in the minutes of the Orlando convention. Ossy answered that the report is yet to be obtained. Isaac clarified that NUSA had resolved at Boston Convention that NUSA is incapable of handling the erosion issue at Nnewi, rather NUSA resolved to embark on awareness campaign.

STATE OF NUSA ADDRESS BY ISAAC EMEFO, NUSA PRESIDENT

Isaac used the state of the NUSA address to thank Chicago chapter for hosting the 2005 convention. He requested for an applause for the Chicago chapter. He also extended his gratitude to the members of the executive starting with Mrs. Ethel Momah, Ossy Okeke, Ugo Uzodike, Emma Nsoedo, Henry Mbonu, Chris Egbuna, Chinwe Enemchukwu and Grace Anosike for their dedication and hard work in the course of the year. He also thanked all the members for attending the convention. He stated that NUSA is strong today. He stated that when he took office in 2003 he had several goals for NUSA. Amongst the goals are fundraising and youth/children activities.

He acknowledged the concern from some members that NUSA may not be on the right path. However, he called for constructive dialogue and discussion on the proper path for NUSA. He expressed concern that a situation whereby some chapters are richer than NUSA does not augur well for the association. He therefore called for aggressive effort at ways and means to raise funds for the association. He opined that this goal was the motive behind the formation of the fundraising committee with Eddie Ukatu as the chairperson. He stated that it was important for NUSA to have the resources to back up its programs. He requested for applause for Eddie Ukatu and the fundraising committee.

He informed the members that the report of the committee will be presented at the convention so as to determine the best way to implement it. On the Direction of NUSA he pointed that the simple fact that some chapters may have taken a different path or direction from NUSA does not make the path taken by the chapter or NUSA wrong or misdirected. He explained that the rationale for the formation of the

youth/children committee was to enlist more participation from the youth.

He stressed the need to recognize and appreciate the work of people nominated to serve on various committees. He also stressed the need for NUSA to build a monument at Nnewi. He stated that it is important to support the library project. He informed the meeting that he discussed the library project with Igwe Nnewi. He stated that Igwe Nnewi assured NUSA that the land would be made available to it when it is ready to commence the library project. He also informed the meeting that Igwe directed his personal assistant to show him a building that could be rehabilitated by NUSA for the library project. He applauded the chapters that have expended some money for the library. However, he stated that it is now time to embark on the construction of the library because the current library is too small. He informed the meeting that the architectural plan for the library has been completed and would be shown to members. He urged the members not to entertain fear for the project.

He informed the members that they will be called upon to approve the construction of the library at this time. That it is important to approve a resolution for the library project in the course of the Nnewi Focus. On 2007 Home Coming. He stressed the need for the members to start preparation for the 2007 Home Coming. He stated that the members need not be negative about the homecoming but resolve to make it a success. He stated that the detail on the homecoming would be discussed at the Town Hall meeting. He stated that a committee would be appointed to handle the homecoming. He called for support and sacrifice from the members who will be members of the committee in view of the fact that their work may entail traveling to Nnewi. On Computers at Nnewi.

He informed the meeting that as a result of the resolution of the association, the board of trustee distributed the computers that NUSA had shipped to Nigeria amongst the schools at Nnewi. He informed the members that the recipient schools expressed great deal of appreciation to NUSA for the computers. He showed the members five clippings from five newspapers that published the computer donation to the schools. He stressed the need for NUSA to make it bigger next time around. He informed the meeting that some of the schools that received the computers have written letters of appreciation to NUSA.

He read the letter of appreciation from Dr. Alutu on behalf of his school. He informed the meeting that the computer donation was a good way to make an impact at Nnewi. He also appealed to NUSA to endeavor to donate printers to these schools so as to complement the computers. He informed the meeting that NUSA would work with Washington Chapter to expand the assistance to the motherless babies home at Nnewi. He appealed to members to consider adopting a child from the motherless babies home at Nnewi. In conclusion the president thanked the Chicago chapter for hosting the convention as well as the members for attending the convention. Isaac also commended the Atlanta chapter for its effort in obtaining life insurance for its members. He stated that in the course of the investigation for the life insurance it was determined that the life insurance could be written through NUSA but paid from the local chapters. He stated that based on the foregoing, NUSA constituted a committee to determine the modality and practicality of the life insurance. That the constitution review committee was also requested to review the impact of the life insurance to the byelaw and our status as not-for-profit association. He informed the meeting that NUSA had signed the application to obtain life insurance to be administered through the local chapters. He informed the members that NUSA would not spend any money for the life insurance, but the local chapters would be responsible for its implementation and management. He stressed the need for NUSA to pay particular attention to the incorporation of our youths/children into NUSA programs because they are the future of NUSA. He appealed to members of Dallas chapter to bury the hatchet. Members gave the president thunderous ovation for his speech. At the conclusion of the president's speech Chidi Metu inquired why the items donated by Los Angeles chapter to motherless babies home was not mentioned in the course of the president's speech. He expressed concern whether the motherless babies home did not receive the items or they are unwilling to acknowledge the items. Difeo Okonkwo acknowledged that some of the items donated by Los Angeles chapter to the motherless babies home at Nnewi was still visible at the center and the members of Washington chapter saw those items during their visit.

CHAPTER ROLL CALL

Atlanta
Boston
Chicago
Dallas
Houston
Michigan
North Carolina

New York/New Jersey
Florida
Ohio
Tennessee
Austin-Texas
Washington
Mississippi
California
Minnesota
Kansas City

CHAPTER REPORT

Atlanta: Somto Egbuna on behalf of the chapter thanked the members for attending the convention. He informed the meeting that the chapter has completed its reorganization under IRS Code 501(3)(c). He proceeded to introduce the members of the chapter. He also stated that the chapter started the life insurance project and that it is proceeding successfully. He encouraged other chapters to take part in the life insurance. He informed the meeting that the chapter will be holding Anaedo day this year and the revenue generated therefrom would be used for AIDS awareness project at Nnewi.

Boston: Mbadiwe Okongwu informed the meeting that the chapter is at peace among its members. That the chapter is up to date on its annual due including 2005 annual due and expressed the willingness and commitment of the chapter to NUSA. He also informed the meeting that the chapter donated money to Pine Street Inn in Boston. That the chapter has sent ultrasound machine to Nnewi. He introduced the members of the chapter.

Los Angeles: Chidi Metu informed the meeting that Dan Mogho is the new president of the chapter. He thanked the national executive for their relentless work in keeping the association strong and focused. He stated that the chapter undertook a fundraising event recently but regretted that the returns was not substantial. He also informed the meeting that the chapter lost an opportunity to obtain a dialysis machine from a company when the chapter was unable to present evidence of 501(3)(c) status of NUSA. He urged NUSA to look into purchasing portable AIDS testing machine. He suggested that members exchange their phone numbers to enable constant phone contact and interaction.

Houston: Emma Nsoedo thanked the members for attending the convention. He informed the meeting that the chapter president was

unable to attend the convention as a result of a message that he received from Nnewi on the death of his sister. He informed the meeting that the chapter normally undertakes annual picnic as well as scholarship for talented children of the members. He also stated that the chapter is planning to ship additional 210 computers to Nnewi and to procure and send to Nnewi portable dialysis machine. He introduced the members of the chapter.

NY/NJ Tri State: Nathan Momah thanked the national executive for its work and dedication to NUSA. He introduced the members of the chapter. He paid special tribute to Chief Chike Momah and Arunne Momah. He also commended members of the chapter who are NUSA executive members. He stated that the chapter is planning to hold a fundraising event in 2006. He also expressed the support of the chapter toward homecoming in 2007 as well as the library project. He also expressed the interest of the chapter in connection with the life insurance.

North Carolina: Henry Mbonu pointed out the long-standing support the chapter has always given to NUSA. That the chapter will continue to support NUSA. He introduced the members of the chapter. He expressed the concern of the chapter regarding the Dallas chapter dispute and urged that the matter be resolved in the spirit of brotherhood. He also expressed the hope of the chapter that Dallas chapter should be unified and be represented as a unified chapter at the 2006 convention.

Dallas: Sam Azubogu thanked the members for attending the convention. He also thanked the Chicago chapter for hosting the convention and NUSA executive for the great job they are doing. Expressed long-standing support of the chapter to NUSA and that the support would continue. He introduced the members of the chapter. Stanley Anya appealed for help from NUSA to solve the crisis in the chapter.

Washington D.C. Ebube Odunukwe introduced the members of the chapter. He stated that the chapter is strong and growing and that the chapter would always support NUSA.

Michigan: Mike Obiora thanked everybody for attending the convention. He also thanked Chicago chapter for hosting the convention. He stated that Michigan chapter would host the 2006 convention and is already planning for it.

Mississippi: Leo Okoli thanked the members for attending the convention. He introduced Chidi Agba. He appealed to NUSA for patience and stressed the need for the formation of cultural committee and the need to ensure that our culture and tradition form integral part of the convention.

Comments from Designated Personalities Outside U.S.

Ossy Okeke read a goodwill letter from Igwe Orizu to NUSA. Igwe thanked NUSA for its continuing effort to help Nnewi and the schools. He also informed the meeting that he has been made the chairman of traditional rulers council in Anambra State. He also invited NUSA to his Ofala festival as well as 80th birthday celebration. Ossy also read another letter from Umudim Library project whereby help is sought from NUSA toward the library project.

Committee Reports:

Fundraising: Eddie Ukatu on behalf of the committee thanked NUSA. He stated that Dallas convention was his first convention and that the president of NUSA at Dallas convention requested that he chair the committee. He introduced the members of the committee. He stated that the committee presented its report to the president some months ago. He stated that the committee recommended various modalities for raising funds. He expressed the need for NUSA to undertake projects that will benefit Nnewi people. He called for honesty in implementing the fundraising report reiterating the fact that the committee called for accountability in the implementation of the report.

He also stated that the committee recommended that the 2007 homecoming be memorable for our children. Upon Sylvan Odobulu's proposal the meeting accepted the fundraising report. It was resolved that further debate on the implementation of the report be deferred to Sunday, July 3, 2005. The report of the committee is hereby incorporated by reference and form part of the minutes of this convention.

LIBRARY Isaac presented a proto-type of the proposed Nnewi Library. He informed the meeting that Ike Mbelu would have undertaken the presentation, but that Ike traveled to Nnewi as a result of the death of his sister. Isaac urged NUSA not to be afraid of the project. He stated that many rich people at Nnewi have been requested and in fact have agreed to help toward the library project. Mike Anazodo inquired as to the cost estimate of the project. Isaac answered that the project is estimated to cost \$200,000.00. Nonso Mojekwu suggested that an

opportunity be created so that wealthy donors may name a wing or section of the library after themselves or name of their choice for donating specified sum of money. Isaac answered that incentives like the one suggested by Nonso Mojekwu is already part of the formula for the project. He informed the meeting of the Library Committee that he has constituted to actualize the said project. Ebube Odunukwe moved a motion that NUSA adopt the library project as its project. Supported by Sylvan Odobulu. Motion adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The Library committee is to start work on the library project. Mbadiwe Okongwu urged that the committee be expanded to include the youths.

BYE- LAW AMENDMENT

Ebube Odunukwe and Nnaerika Okonkwo moderated the Byelaw amendment

(1) Article 1.02(b)(c): Aims and Objectives

Submitted by Arunne Momah- It is sought to amend Section 1.02(c) of the constitution to wit:

“Encouragement and promotion of the industry, welfare, education, healthy, environment and advancement of Nnewi”.

Votes:

Atlanta-opposed to the amendment

Boston-opposed

L/A-Opposed

Houston-opposed

Washington-opposed

Dallas-opposed

Chicago-opposed

North Carolina-opposed

Mississippi-opposed

Minnesota-Abstain

Michigan-support the amendment

NY/NJ-support the amendment

Florida-abstain

Ohio-opposed

By 10 votes in opposition, two votes in favor and two abstentions the amendment fails.

(2) Article 2.01 Membership-

Submitted by constitution review committee-The committee is seeking to amend Article 2.01 by adding paragraphs 2.01(b) and 2.01(c), and

revising paragraph (a) as follows:

(a) MEMBERSHIP to NUSA shall be open to all Nnewi person, twenty-one (21) years of age or older, through local chapter.

(b) A local chapter shall be recognized and acceptable for registration with NUSA when a minimum of ten adult Nnewi persons within a geographic locale, physically distant by seventy-five miles or more from another established chapter has applied for chapter membership.

(c) Membership to YOUTH WING of NUSA shall be open to all Nnewi persons below the age of twenty-one (21) years. Any Youth Wing member and his parent/s constitute a FAMILY as designated in Article Two Section 2.04, below 2.05

The meeting resolved to defer the vote on the proposal to amend Section 2.01(a)

Section 2.01(c) Votes

Atlanta-support the amendment

Boston-support the amendment

Dallas-support the amendment

North Carolina-support the amendment

NY/NJ-support the amendment

Chicago-abstain

Houston-support the amendment

Washington-support the amendment

Michigan-no vote

Mississippi-abstain

L/A-abstain

Minnesota-abstain

Ohio-no vote

Tennessee-No

Vote By seven votes in support of the amendment, three abstentions and three no votes the proposed amendment fails to garner the required two-thirds affirmative votes.

Article 3.04-Election submitted by Arunne Momah The proposal is seeking to amend the section so as to provide that: "

Except that prospective candidates can use Nnewi-forum, or a similar medium sanctioned by NUSA to announce their candidacy, agenda for the office, and provide some information about them. The announcement shall be limited to NO MORE THAN 250 WORDS.

Negative statement(s) on an opposing candidate(s) is prohibited

Votes:

Atlanta-support the amendment
Boston-support the amendment
Dallas-support the amendment
Chicago-opposed to the amendment
Houston-support the amendment
Michigan-No vote
Mississippi-support the amendment
NY/NJ Tri-State-support the amendment
L/A-opposed to the amendment
North Carolina-opposed to the amendment
Minnesota-support the amendment
Ohio-no vote
Tennessee-No vote
Florida-support the amendment
Washington-support the amendment

By nine votes in support, three votes against and three no votes the proposed amendment failed to obtain required two-third affirmative votes. The proposal therefore fails.

Article 5.01 WEDDING: Submitted by Arunne Momah

The proposed amendment seeks to amend said section to read as follows:

5.01 SOCIAL EVENTS

Announcement for social events such as weddings, births, baptisms, graduations, birthdays, deaths, etc. may be made through the Organization.

Votes

Atlanta-support the amendment
Boston-support the amendment
Dallas-support the amendment
Houston-support the amendment
Chicago-support the amendment
L/A-support the amendment
Mississippi-support the amendment
NY/NJ Tri-State-support the amendment
Michigan-no vote
Minnesota-support the amendment
Ohio-no vote
Tennessee-No vote

Florida-support the amendment
Washington-support the amendment
By eleven votes in support and three no votes the amendment is adopted.

Article 4.1 The House of Delegates

The proposal intends to Amend Article 4.01 by adding the phrase "subject to the oversight role of the House of Delegates" at the end of first sentence to read:

The Council shall be the governing body of NUSA, subject to the oversight role of the House of Delegates. **The Council shall consist of all elected officers of NUSA. The members shall work jointly and mutually coordinate the policy and program of NUSA**

Votes:

Atlanta-Yes to the amendment

Boston-Abstain

Dallas-Yes

Houston-Yes

NY/NJ Tri-State-Yes

Los Angeles-Yes

Washington-Yes

Michigan-Yes

Mississippi-Yes

Chicago-Yes

Florida-No vote

Minnesota-Yes

Ohio-No vote

North Carolina-Yes

By 11 yes votes, 2 no votes and 1 abstention the amendment is adopted

Article 4.04

The proposal seeks to amend Article 4.04 by deleting the last phrase "forty-five (45) days" and replace it with "ten (10) days" so that the sub-paragraph reads as follows:

The Council shall have power to act on behalf of NUSA in emergencies such as death of a Members, immediate family member, or relatives, etc. The Council shall, however, notify the House of Delegates of such action within ten (10) days

Votes:

Atlanta-Yes to the amendment

Boston-Yes

Dallas-Yes

Houston-Yes

Los Angeles-Yes

NY/NJ Tri-State-Yes

Chicago-Yes

Washington-Yes

Michigan-Yes

Mississippi-Yes

Florida-No Vote

North Carolina-Yes

By 11 yes votes and 1 no vote the amendment is adopted.

Article 4.05

The proposal seeks to amend Article 4.05 by adding sub-paragraphs 4.05(b) and 4.05(c) as follows:

4.05(b) The House of Delegates shall elect a presiding officer and a recording officer, shall meet quarterly and at the conventions to deliberate on substantive issues of concern to NUSA and NDI-Nnewi. The House of Delegates shall meet jointly with the executive council at the convention to deliberate on NUSA issues and on agenda for the coming year.

4.05(c) The House of delegates may at its discretion invite the president and/or the general secretary and/or any executive member with information that would help the house in its deliberation. The invitation shall be issued at the same time the notice of meeting of the house of delegates is issued. The invited officer is obligated to honor the invitation.

Votes:

Atlanta-Abstain

Boston-Yes to the amendments

Dallas-Yes

Houston-No to the amendments

NY/NJ Tri-State-No to the amendments

North Carolina-No to the amendments

Michigan-No to the amendments

Los Angeles-Yes to the amendments

Chicago-Yes to the amendments

Washington-Yes to the amendments

Mississippi-Yes to the amendments

Florida-No vote

Minnesota-No to the amendments

By 6 yes votes, 5 no votes and 1 abstention the amendment is defeated

FIRST GUEST SPEECH

Pamela Mojekwu introduced Mrs. Lillian Mojekwu. Mrs. Lillian Mojekwu started her speech by thanking all the members for attending the convention. She proceeded to explain her background, upbringing and marriage. She devoted her speech to the role of women in Nnewi. She highlighted the fact that she is privileged to present the speech in view of the fact that she lived and/or experienced the old days and currently experiencing the modern trend. She opined that the ways to raise a female child may be slightly different from ways to raise a male child.

She also highlighted the fact that although female child cannot inherit from her father's estate. However, when an Nnewi man did not have a male child, the man may put his female child to bear children for the family so as to maintain the lineage. She also pointed out that a female child has some leverage that she brings to the husband's house by way of gifts that her father gives her when he is getting married. She pointed out that the arrival of missionaries led to changes to the roles of women in Nnewi. That in the traditional Nnewi custom and tradition, when a man wants to get married his family will look for a wife in the nearby villages. That upon finding a suitable wife, the family of the man perform all the traditional rites including paying the bride price. That in most cases the place of the wife is secured within her husband's house upon delivering a male child. She stated that the arrival of the missionaries changed most of these practices in Nnewi and other traditional societies. That the arrival of the missionaries led to the establishment of schools and churches and ultimately brought about the ability of the women to work outside the home.

She ended her speech by quoting from the music of late Fela Anikulapo Kuti . . . "If you call an African woman . . . she go say I be lady o . . .

Upon conclusion of her speech, Pamela Mojekwu introduced the entire Mojekwu family in attendance. The members gave Mrs. Lillian Mojekwu as well as the entire Mojekwu family standing ovation.

Rev. Dr. Ernest Oramasionwu on behalf of NUSA thanked Mrs. Lillian Mojekwu for the inspiring and challenging speech.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL REPORT

Henry Mbonu and Okey Egbuna presented the statement of income and expenses for the year ended 6/1/04-6/30/05

Cash in the bank as at 5/31/04 was-\$22,812.61

Current Revenue

Donations/Receipts/Annual Dues-\$21,680.23

Total Revenue-\$44,492.84

Current Expenses

Orlando Convention Expenses-\$17,284.06

Chicago Convention Expenses paid so far-\$3,000.00

Return check and fees-\$723.00

Computer Expenses to Nnewi via Board of Trustee-\$1,072.00

Total Current Expenses-\$22,079.06

Net Income as at this convention-\$22413.78

Henry Mbonu also presented the annual budget for 6/1/05-6/30/06 and the said budget is hereby attached by referenced and form part of the minutes for the convention.

Chief Chike Momah inquired as to the financial year for NUSA. Henry answered that financial year for NUSA is July 1-June 30 next year.

Motion by Leo Okoli to adopt the Statement of Income and Expenses as well as Annual Budget presented by Henry Mbonu. Said motion supported by Sam Azubogu. The motion is adopted by unanimous affirmative voice vote. The Statement of Income and Expenses as well as the Annual Budget is hereby attached by reference.

NUSA FOCUS - NUSA 2007 HOME-COMING

Time for the 2007 Home-coming-Eze Okonkwo suggested 1st week of August and 3rd week of August as a result of long summer vacation for children in school. Sam Azubogu-suggested early July.

Ifeyinwa Momah-suggested December so as to attract large turnout of Ndi Nnewi.

Alex Nweji expressed support for December.

Henry Mbonu-opined that the home-coming should be held at the same time that we normally hold the convention (June-July).
Chinwe Enemchukwu-suggested early or middle of December
Ugochukwu Anya-expressed the need to ensure maximum advertisement for the home-coming.
Eddie Ukatu-suggested that the medical mission be arranged to take place at the same time as the home-coming.
Emma Nsoedo-expressed support for December.

Leo Okoli moved a motion that the home coming be held in December 2007. Supported by Alex Nweji.

Eze Okonkwo moved that the home coming be held in July-August 2007.Supported by Sam Azubogu.

Votes

Boston-December
Atlanta-December
Houston-December
Los Angeles-December
Dallas-July/August
North Carolina-December
NY/NJ Tri-State-December
Washington-Abstain
Michigan-December
Chicago-December
Kansas City-December
Florida-December
Minnesota-July/August

By 11 votes in favor of December, 2 votes in favor of July/August, and 1 abstention the assembly hereby adopt December 2007 as the month for the 2007 home coming.

Leo Okoli opined that NUSA should invite Nnewi Association of Great Britain to join the home coming. Mbadiwe Okongwu, Innocent Izundu and Ebube Odunukwe expressed support to the idea.

Resolved that NUSA should notify and/or invite associations of Nnewi people living in other parts of the world to the 2007 home coming.

NUSA FOCUS-OUR CHILDREN

Chinwe Enemchukwu expressed the need to ensure that our children become part of NUSA and the convention in order to make sure that

they appreciate and show interest in our culture and tradition. She proposed that the next generation be sub-divided into youths and the children groups. She stated that the need to incorporate our youths/children into NUSA convention/activities must remain our top priority. She informed the meeting that the young adults of NUSA are interested in rehabilitating Nnewi sports club and organize tennis tournament with other youths at Nnewi. Margaret Anaba-opined that it may be necessary to sub-divide the youths into college grade, high school grade, etc. for effective participation in NUSA affairs. Chika Oraka-suggested that members who are unable to visit Nnewi should explore the option of obtaining help from members who normally travel to Nnewi. Chidi Agba-opined that parents should endeavor to speak Igbo to their children at home.

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

The house appointed three (3) member electoral committee in charge of conducting election on July 3, 2005. They are:

- (1) Mbadiwe Okongwu
- (2) Chief Chike Momah
- (3) Chika Oraka

The event on the second day (July 2, 2005) ended at 6:30 p.m. NUSA Dinner at Nonso Mojekwu's house.

DAY THREE, JULY 3, 2005

Meeting called to order at 10:35 a.m. by NCC chair Ugo Uzodike. Opening prayer said by Mrs. Ifeyinwa Momah. Ossy Okeke gave a recap of day two activities.

Pamela Mojekwu presented kolanut to Isaac Emefo. Isaac in turn presented the kolanut to Chief Chike Momah. Chief Momah gave direction on sharing the kolanut in accordance with Nnewi custom and tradition. The kolanut was offered to the most elderly person from each of the four quarters of Nnewi starting with Otolo and ending with Nnewichi. Thereafter, Chief Momah blessed the kolanut and prayed for the success of the last day of the convention.

By 11 votes in favor of December, 2 votes in favor of July/August, and 1 abstention the assembly hereby adopt December 2007 as the month for the 2007 home coming.

Leo Okoli opined that NUSA should invite Nnewi Association of Great

Britain to join the home coming. Mbadiwe Okongwu, Innocent Izundu and Ebube Odunukwe expressed support to the idea.

Resolved that NUSA should notify and/or invite associations of Nnewi people living in other parts of the world to the 2007 home coming.

NUSA FOCUS-OUR CHILDREN

Chinwe Enemchukwu expressed the need to ensure that our children become part of NUSA and the convention in order to make sure that they appreciate and show interest in our culture and tradition. She proposed that the next generation be sub-divided into youths and the children groups. She stated that the need to incorporate our youths/children into NUSA convention/activities must remain our top priority. She informed the meeting that the young adults of NUSA are interested in rehabilitating Nnewi sports club and organize tennis tournament with other youths at Nnewi. Margaret Anaba-opined that it may be necessary to sub-divide the youths into college grade, high school grade, etc. for effective participation in NUSA affairs. Chika Oraka-suggested that members who are unable to visit Nnewi should explore the option of obtaining help from members who normally travel to Nnewi. Chidi Agba-opined that parents should endeavor to speak Igbo to their children at home.

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

The house appointed three (3) member electoral committee in charge of conducting election on July 3, 2005. They are:

- (1) Mbadiwe Okongwu
- (2) Chief Chike Momah
- (3) Chika Oraka

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Nnewichi. Thereafter, Chief Momah blessed the kolanut and prayed for the success of the last day of the convention.

He also used the opportunity to thank the Chicago chapter for hosting the convention. He also prayed that the Lord protect the members in the course of their journey back to the respective homes at the end of the convention. Upon conclusion of the prayer, the kolanut was broken and shared amongst the members.

PRESENTATION FROM YOUNG ADULT FORUM

Uche Enemchukwu on behalf of the young adult forum shared their mission statement to wit:

- (1) Preserve Igbo culture within U.S.
- (2) Mobilize young people to preserve our culture.

Ubachukwu Odunukwe informed the meeting that the youths are embarking on plans to get a lot of youths involved by setting up a website with a view to understand Igbo culture. He stated the need for the youths to know who is an Igbo man in general instead of concentrating in one's own town. He stressed the need to organize Igbo general convention whereby other towns would be involved. Expressed support to the idea to separate the youths from the children based on the age and to ensure that each group has specific project.

Nduka Enemchukwu-spoke on the down the road vision for the youth forum. He highlights the issue of unity with each other. He stressed the need to rehabilitate the Nnewi sports club as well as the AIDS awareness program in Nigeria. Chibuzo Enemchukwu-expressed the need to preserve Igbo culture in America. She expressed the need to recruit other youths to join the forum and the need to expand the recruitment to non-Nnewi youths. She appealed that NUSA endeavor to organize its convention in the same town hosting the general Nigerian convention in any particular year.

At the conclusion of the presentation by the Young Adult Forum they were commended for their initiative to preserve Igbo culture and tradition. Ebube Odunukwe corrected the youths by informing them that the word "Ibo" is incorrect. Rather it is "Igbo" Isaac Emefo commended the Young Adult Forum and stressed the need for the young adult forum to work together with NUSA to achieve a unified goal.

Grace Anosike stated that the goal of the Young Adult Forum should be

limited to Nnewi. Isaac reechoed the same opinion that the goal of NUSA is to connect the youths to Nnewi, and not to Nigeria or other Igbo people.

Nduka Enemchukwu stated that the convention ought to have more culture and tradition content. He stated that the convention should have great deal of cultural programs in the agenda. **The Young Adult Forum also stressed the need for parents to speak Igbo to their children at home.**

TOWN HALL MEETING

Gladys Oramasionwu stressed the need to include our culture and tradition as an integral part of the convention. Alex Nweji-opined that our youths endeavor to learn Nnewi culture before getting involved with general Igbo culture.

Nnaerika Okonkwo-urged that NUSA ensure that our youths learn, understand and appreciate our culture and tradition. He also stated that parents ought to attend Igbo meetings with their children. He reiterates the need to incorporate our youths into NUSA affairs and activities.

Linda Uzodike-urged that parents take their children to Igbo or local chapter meetings. She also stressed the need for parents to speak Igbo to their children. Mbadiwe Okongwu-appealed that email exchange between members on Nnewiforum should be civil and devoid of abusive and obscene language because our kids read the emails.

Isaac Emefo opined that inappropriate emails on the forum should lead to some sort of sanction or suspension from the forum.

Nnaerika Okonkwo expressed concern about censorship on the forum. Isaac answered that offending email on the forum should lead to removal of the author of the email from the forum.

Eke Okeke suggested that NUSA should have a long term plan/goal like 20 year goal or project. He opined that NUSA should endeavor to set a goal and aim to accomplish it within a set timeline.

Pamela Ulasi-opined that our children may help to paint a school or render some sort of help to some widows at Nnewi in the course of the 2007 home coming.

Innocent Izundu-suggested that NUSA embark on recruitment drive to bring in Nnewi people who are yet to join NUSA instead of relying on

the youths because their views are different from ours.

Madu Azubogu-expressed the need for parents to show courtesy to each other at their local meetings. He also urged that we should bring in Ofo so as to teach our children what it represents.

Mike Anazodo-suggests that NUSA ban offensive or personal attack on the forum. He also opined that NUSA include cultural events as part of the convention and that the convention be extended to 3 days.

Leo Okoli-suggests the formation of Cultural Committee Igwemadu Anyaegbunam-suggests that NUSA assist in establishing primary health clinics in the four villages of Nnewi.

Achebe Anosike-stated that we ought to give our youths the room to expand their views. He also called for tolerance amongst members as well as respect for views of other members.

Chidi Nsoedo-opined that boys should stay with men at the convention so as to be taught our culture by the men whereas girls stay with women who would teach them our culture.

Elias Okonkwo-proposed that NUSA have a cultural director who would be responsible for all cultural activities.

Virginia Anekwe-urged that we help our youths to learn our culture

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE TOWN HALL MEETING

(1) Leo Okoli moved that NUSA establish a Cultural Committee and that culture form part of every convention-supported by Gladys Oramasionwu-

Resolved that NUSA shall establish Cultural Committee and that Culture shall form part of every convention.

(2) Emma Obierika moved that one day at every convention be set aside to enable members have the opportunity to visit the city hosting the convention. Supported by Mike Anazodo Resolved that one day at every convention be set aside to enable members have the opportunity to visit the city hosting the convention

(3) Madu Azubogu moved that NUSA adopt Nnewiforum as its own. Supported by Mike Anazodo-

Resolved that NUSA adopt Nnewiforum as its own.

(4)

(a) Emma Nsoedo moved that any member who writes a derogatory email on the forum be suspended for six months from the forum-supported by Madu Azubogu.

(b) Counter motion by Uju Odobulu-that a committee be set up to review an alleged derogatory email and issue warning to the writer if it determines the email to be derogatory. That second derogatory email from same writer shall result in 1 month suspension from the forum. Supported by Ifeyinwa Momah.

(c)Uju Uzuegbunam-That derogatory emails shall result in 3 months suspension-supported by Ebele Ikedife. (d) Mile Anazodo-that personal insults on the forum shall result in 3 months suspension- Motion did not receive any support.

Votes on the Motions

Emma Nsoedo motion-5 votes

Uju Odobulue motion-30 votes

Uju Uzuegbunam-8 votes

By 30 votes in favor, NUSA hereby resolve to set up a committee to review emails deemed to be derogatory and upon determining that the email is indeed derogatory to issue warning to the writer of the email. That second derogatory email from the same writer shall lead to 1 month suspension.