

**General Meeting Minutes Summary**  
**Gbarnga Methodist Mission Alumni Association**  
**8 – 10 PM Eastern - August 31, 2023**

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**Acknowledgements**

- A warm thank you to everyone for the robust turnout, we had 30 participants in the meeting! A very encouraging start!!
- Thanked the Executive Committee for the time and effort put in to make this first meeting happen in such a short period of time.
- We thanked Mr. Kofua Kuhal and the previous administration for their contributions to the organization and school. They obtained our non-profit status, contributed books, tables, chairs, scholarships and teacher salaries. Were financially transparent and left over \$12,000 in the Associations bank account. Hats off and thanks again for your commitment and contributions.
- A special thank you was given to Harriet Carter for her outstanding contribution a a mega fund raiser. Harriet has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the organization....and we look forward to her continual support!!

**Association Officers**

- Mr. James Venn was introduced as our Founder and Advisor to the Association to the Body and thanked him for his vision and support.
- The current leadership team was introduced: President- Fulkra Mason; VP – Natalie Stewart; Secretary – Mabel Kennedy; Treasurer – Valarie Goashan; Financial Secretary – Ida Watts-Harris; Chaplain – Robert Knuckles

Officer selections and elections were made in accordance with established parliamentary procedures:

- A proposal was made and the General Body agreed to name an acting Parliamentarian until a constitutional amendment can be initiated. Mr. Issac Junius was nominated and voted into office. Mr. Junius has informally helped us in this area over the years and brough a lot of order and value to the Association. The position will become a part of the Executive Committee. Congratulations to Mr. Junius and thank you for taking on the task!
- Board of Directors: For Board Members we were looking for independent thinkers and flexible individuals who understand the value of teamwork and have demonstrated an interest in the Association over the years.

The General Body agreed to the following selections to serve on the Board of Directors: Chair – William Kromah; Members – Edwina Williamson-Sheldon, Joe Williams, Nester Duncan.

Per the Constitution a past President shall serve on the Board and Mr. Kofua Kulah agreed to serve in that capacity. Welcome to our new board and we look forward to working together to achieve the Association objectives!

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- Dr. Ansu Mason was named as Chair of the Education & Research Committee. Dr. Mason's background is in Instructional Design and he has extensive experience in this area of curriculum development and working in school systems. He also has a lot of external resources that he can tap into. A committee will be formed in the upcoming weeks. Chairs for the other positions, Membership & Social; Budget & Finance and Planning & Implementation will be addressed at a later date.

**Bereavement Policy**

The discussion on the bereavement policy was put on hold. It is not covered in the updated constitution. According to Mr. Junius it was removed from the constitution because it was deemed to be problematic. The Executive Committee's position is aligned with that philosophy.

**Financial Report**

A financial report was presented and adopted.

**School Support Program For 2023-24 (\$6500)**

The Executive Committee provided the following vision for the Association's School Assistance Program which was approved by the General Body.

**GMMAA Education Enhancement Initiative**

Implement a comprehensive education enrichment program at Tubman-Gray School to ensure it's students achieve the highest academic standard in the Republic of Liberia.

**Strategy**

Primary focus is to begin at the elementary level (focus on early childhood education) starting with Grades 1-3 and build a base of high achieving students by developing a system that will rival that of top performing schools worldwide. We will start by providing books, teacher support and other essential educational tools/needs as identified by the Education and Research Committee.

- Provide two 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Scholarships and Books \$800
- Teacher Salary Supplement for Larry Mulbah, Phonics teacher- \$250 (\$25 a month)
- Provide Books Grades 1-3 - \$4500
  - Grade 3 – 15 students = \$1185
  - Grade 2 – 15 Students = 1260
  - Grade 1 – 25 Students = \$2055
- Provide Scholarships for Grade 1 in an attempt to create a base of 25 students. Grade 1 normally has 8-15 students. - \$1900

**Going Forward**

- Approval given for \$6500 to be given to the school on an as the need arises, it will not be a lump sum distribution.
- Funds are for the first semester Books, Registration Fees, and first semester tuition and ½ year salary supplement for Larry Mulbah. An additional \$1000 will be needed for the second semester for tuition.

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- Concerns about funding were addressed. Executive Committee indicated a fund raising effort will start in the current year and that based on last years data we should be able to raise enough funds to replenish what we use. The financial systems have been upgraded to allow dues to be paid on a year-round basis and they intend to start that soon.
- The General Body made several other suggestions for fund raising that will be addressed and incorporated into this initiative. They included raising funds locally, encouraging outsiders to donate to the scholarships, paying dues early (Executive Committee committed to pay theirs prior to the end of the year)

**Appeal to Register & Use Website**

Registering on the website gives us an indication of interest in the Association and provides us a means of communicating with you through text messaging. All of your data is confidential and will not be shared.

- Attendees were asked to reach out to friends and classmates and ask them to register on the website. Registration has increased from 26 the week of August 21 to 42 as of August 31 with most of those occurring this past week.
- Since the inception of the website there have been over 2800 visits to the site but very few registrations.
- Attendees were encouraged to visit the website as there is a wealth of information on it and that the Executive Committee intends to keep it, WhatsApp, Messenger and Facebook updated.

**New Business**

- Discussion about the 2024 Convention will be held in the upcoming weeks. The Executive Committee want the general plan to be completed before Thanksgiving.
- The Executive Committee will be working towards finalizing the strategy for the organization moving forward. This includes membership drives and fund raisers.