

**Gbarnga Methodist Mission Alumni Association**  
**Elected Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary**  
**1:45 – 3:00 PM August 12, 2023**

**Acknowledgements**

Mr. Mason opened the session by thanking the former administration for their contributions over the years, mentioning specifically their success in reviving the organization, being transparent with the financials, and for establishing and maintaining the association's 501(c)3 status. He also acknowledged the support given to the school in terms of scholarships, books, tables and chairs during the duration of their time in office and thanked Harriet Carter for her outstanding financial support to the association through her ticket sales.

**School Overview**

Mr. Mason then provided an overview of the education situation in Liberia, in Gbranga and at the Tubman-Gray School. He spoke briefly about the work his foundation has done at the school since 2017 (covered in previous minutes) and how it related to the current situation. In a nutshell Tubman-Gray has a good leadership in the principal Dr. Anna Labala, is moving in the right direction in terms of growth, facilities and academics as compared to other similar schools in the district. However, there is still a need for substantial financial support for a number of items (see attached W.V.S. Tubman-Gray School Needs Assessment 2023) and for enhancing the level of education for the individual student. He closed by saying that it is up to our association to determine where we want to spend our funding.

Mr. Mason indicated that there were three major items that we should cover in the brief time we had left as follows:

**Growing Our Membership**

A primary issue facing the association is our ability to attract members. We have built a one stop website where dues can be paid, members can register and find out all kind of information about the school. It also provides direct email access to ask questions and receive responses, and to receive text messages on updates or news surrounding the school or the association. It was also acknowledged that we have difficulty attracting older graduates and even less success attracting newer graduates. The floor was opened for discussions and suggestions, with the caveat that we were brainstorming as such ideas were to be put on the table but not analyzed or critiqued.

Miamah Jo Richards informed us that the younger generation will not go to the website, that we needed to use various types of social media to attract and retain them, and spoke of a documentary (we will follow through to get more information). Other suggestions from around the table were state-to-state organizations, and each of us reaching out to others to get them to register on the website.

**Gbarnga Methodist Mission Alumni Association**  
**Elected Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary**  
**1:45 – 3:00 PM August 12, 2023**

**Identifying Projects to Fund**

See attached W.V.S. Tubman-Gray School Needs Assessment 2023. The consensus of the discussion was that our primary focus will be to enhance the education level of the individual student, while still giving a smaller amount of funding to scholarships and some of the other needs.

Mr. Junius asked Mr. Mason that based on Mr. Mason's experience with working with the school how much would it cost to have an impact on raising the level of education? Mr. Mason's response was \$5000 – \$10,000 annually. Mr. Junius suggested we target \$7500 annually and Mr. Mason agreed saying to be flexible we could ask for \$5000 as a minimum, \$7500 as a target and \$10,000+ as a maximum.

Although no decision was made, the consensus of the group seemed to be leaning towards acceptance, with the intent of supplying books as a primary and scholarships and other projects as secondary.

**Fund Raising**

In order to fund \$5000-\$10,000 annually in projects we would need to raise a lot more funds. Suggestions were State-to-State (Mr. Kulah), an endowment (Mr. Knuckles), dedicating a classroom (Ms. Richards), Memorials when someone has passed away. No decisions were made but it was evident to all that we will have to do something different to raise more substantial funds.

**Other Business**

- *2024 Reunion* – Questions were asked about the 2024 Reunion. Mr. Mason indicated that for the time being we should plan to come back to Maryland and that we should keep the reservations for August 17 at Kahler.

He indicated that the date, state and/or venue could be changed based on our membership drive, anticipated attendees and when other schools like LTI and Cuttington were having their reunions. Mr. Mason indicated that they would examine these options in the coming weeks.

- *Bereavement Policy* – Mr. Mason said that his thought was that the association, when provided information from the family, would post the information on the website similar to what was done for the late Roland Harris. He further stated that financial contributions to families could be problematic and gave an example where other organizations made the announcement and that friends of the family coordinated the financial contribution, not the

**Gbarnga Methodist Mission Alumni Association**  
**Elected Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Summary**  
**1:45 – 3:00 PM August 12, 2023**

organization. The group did not have enough time to discuss this so no consensus was reached and the matter will be revisited in the coming weeks.

- *Payment Options* – Jebbeh Wiles requested that we add a credit/debit card option to the payment portal. Mr. Mason agreed and indicated that the issue will be addressed.