

UPPER EAST COMMUNITY OF GHANA - USA (UPEC)
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
JANUARY 28TH, 2024 VIA ZOOM.

Opening: The meeting opened at 8:36pm with Vice President Francis Abanga chairing. Ms. Veronica Danso said the opening prayer.

Welcome Address: President Sam Amoah thanked all for entrusting leadership of UPEC in the executive committee. He was excited to see all present and prayed that God protects everyone and give us the wisdom to hold a successful meeting.

Agenda:

1. End of Year Party Report
2. Dues Payment Matters
3. The Passing of Mad. Jemila Adams
4. AOB

Reading of Previous Minutes: Joe read minutes of the meeting held on November 19th, 2023.

Corrections:

1. Replace '*mother*' in the sentence, "Mr. Babs Sillim thanked everyone for coming out in their numbers and supporting them during the funeral of their mother" with '*father*'.
2. Minute of silence was observed in memory of Mr. Sillim's mother, not father.
3. Cut-off date for party RSVP is 12/10/24, not 12/15/23.
4. Aduko's responded to Joe's complaint to be added to AOB.

Mr. Christiana Sillim moved to accept the corrected minutes as the true record of the previous meeting and was seconded by Mr. Sulemana Samare.

Matters Arising Out of the Minutes:

David wanted to know what action has been taken on Joe's complaint regarding Mr. Aduko Anasene's postings. Francis explained that the EC has resolved the issue after meeting separately with Aduko and Joe. Ms. Rachel Atule wanted the welfare calls to members to begin earnestly. Francis said it will be combined with the Dues Drive calling when that starts.

End of Year Party Report: Atule presented the party report:

- 1) Total party expenses = \$7,906.94.
- 2) Cash in hand (surplus) = \$293.96 to be returned to coffers.
- 3) Amount realized from contributions = \$1,890.00.

- 4) Some drinks left over to be handed over to the EC.

All awards given at the party were sponsored by the planning committee - No UPEC money was used therefore, no refunds necessary.

Challenges:

1. The hall was too small for the party.
2. The DJ arrived late and played music unfamiliar to members.

Recommendations:

1. Members to wear smocks when 10 or more are attending similar functions.
2. Next end of year party to be organized between October and November.
3. Member contributions to be collected as one is confirming attendance.
4. Opt to pay for after-party hall cleaning to avoid risking forfeiture of downpayment.

Dues Drive: Messrs. Boutrose Agana, David Mbang and Douglas Ayombisa and Ms. Rukaya Bukari, Rachel Atule and Sylvia Aduko volunteered to form the Dues Drive Team. Atule to inform Sylvia since she is not present at the meeting. They were advised to begin calling by 2/1/24 or as soon as they received the updated dues payment list. Joe to provide the list.

Ms. Jemila's Funeral: Francis and Joe explained the viewing and burial arrangements. Ms. Jemila hails from the Builsa District and was visiting the US when she met her untimely death. She was on her way to JFK to fly home when she was suddenly taken ill and was rushed to Jacobi Hospital, Bronx where she passed. Since she had no immediate relative in northeastern America, UPEC was contacted to assist. The program is as posted on the UPEC Whatsapp platform. Updates will be provided through the platform. All members were encouraged to come out to pay their last respects during the viewing and burial ceremonies.

Elections: The electoral commissioner, Mr. Anasene to announce his team and positions available at next GM.

AOB: Atule suggested regularizing UPEC payment system such that payments are made directly into UPEC accounts rather than a person's individual account. She stated that the current practice could adversely affect the individual or the organization. EC to look into the possibility of creating a payment system for UPEC.

Atule also spoke about the posting of politics and graphic pictures or videos on UPEC platforms. Joe agreed but said political information or satire was allowed on the Baobab platform but not the official one. He noted that such postings also provide useful information on current issues in Ghana.

Atule wanted to know what happens to party contributors who fell sick and couldn't make it to the party. It was decided that party contributions are non-refundable.

Atule wanted the EC to revisit the idea of posting quarterly statements to inform members of the financial standing of the Association. It was stated that the constitution requires this too. EC to look into it.

New Members: Ms. Alberta Ayamga introduced herself. She was welcomed to join UPEC.

Closing: In the absence of any other business, Prof. Clement Alo moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ms. Felicia Mbabila. The closing prayer was said at 10:57pm by Christie.

Present: Joe Atanga (Mr./Mrs.), Sam Amoah, Felicia Mbabila, Francis Yakubu, Francis Abanga (Mr./Mrs), Aduko Anasine, Raymond Agerimah, Babs Sillim (Mr./Mrs.), David Mbang (Mr./Mrs.), Samuel Kwadan-Naab (Mr./Mrs.), Ramatu Baba, Rachel Atule, Ramat Jambeidu, Edina Awuri, Clement Alo (Mr./Mrs.), Vitus Atuah (Mr./Mrs), Kaba (Mr./Mrs), Sulemana Samare, Emma Ayimbila, Veronica Danso, Paulina Morton-Bruce, Marian Ayambire, Ayelah Ayinebisah, Rukaya Bukari, Boutrose Agana, Jane Serweh, Alberta Ayamga (Mr./Mrs).

Minutes Recorded By:
Joe Atanga
Secretary